

# BWCCADV

**Bellingham - Whatcom County  
Commission Against Domestic Violence**



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360.312.5700 | [www.dvcommission.org](http://www.dvcommission.org)

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## 2013 Meeting Minutes

Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence  
 DV Commission Meeting  
 Thursday January 24, 2013 from 10:00-11:00 am  
 @ Ferndale Police Department

*The mission of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence is to provide leadership in the community's effort to reduce and prevent domestic violence.*

**Members Attending:**

Sheri Emerson, Laurie Alexander, Manuel Reta, Gary Jensen, Regina Delahunt, Jolie Matkowski, Mike Knapp, Mary Dumas, Bill Elfo, Mike Sledge, Kathy McNaughton, Darla Woolman

**Members Absent:**

Nikki Finkbonner, Jon Komorowski, Dave McEachran, Linda Quinn, Cherie Stutesman, Dave Reynolds, Peter Ruffatto, Karen Burke, Mike Riber, Rick Qualls, Linda Storck, Bruce Van Glubt, Greg Winter

**Guests:**

Jack Louws, Whatcom County Executive  
 Jenn Mason, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services  
 Dave Finet, Opportunity Council  
 Kathy Washatka, Opportunity Council  
 Gordon Merritt, Ferndale Ace Hardware  
 Karen Merritt, Ferndale Ace Hardware  
 Erin Fischer, Family Care Network  
 CJ Seitz, Employment Security Department  
 Jackie Saul, Whatcom Alliance for Health Advancement (WAHA)

**Staff Present:**

Susan Marks, Stacy Miller, Meaghan Connell

Agenda Item	Discussion
<b>1. Welcome and Introductions</b>	- Welcome and introductions were made by everyone and the meeting began.
<b>2. Remembering Chief Erik Ramstead</b>	- Sheriff Elfo spoke about Chief Ramstead and his efforts throughout the small cities and the county on the issues of domestic violence and child abuse. Chief Ramstead was a community leader throughout the county and will be greatly missed. This community lost a real leader.
<b>3. Consent Agenda</b>	- <b>MOTION: Approval of Minutes from October 4, 2012 and November 15, 2012 DV Commission Meeting</b> - <b>MOTION: Approval of 2013 DV Commission Budget</b> There was not a quorum present to approve the meeting minutes and the 2013 budget. These will be presented again at the March Commission meeting.
<b>4. Firearms in DV Civil OFP's</b>	- Susan updated the group on the Firearms in DV Civil OFP's which was discussed at the November meeting. All Commission Members should have received an electronic or hard copy of the recommendations. The Firearms Recommendations came directly from the Protection Order Safety Audit Sue

	<p>Parrott completed in 2011.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The timeline for beginning the recommendations looks to be March 1, with all law enforcement agencies and the courts ready to go at that time.</li> <li>- Darla asked if staff members and volunteers at DVSAS had been informed about this, and are they ready to begin this process when working with victims. Susan said that she will check in with DVSAS.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Domestic Violence Benchmark Report Highlights</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Susan discussed the Commission's Benchmark Report: Domestic Violence in Whatcom County 1998-2011</li> <li>- <b>Increases</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number and rates of domestic violence offenses reported</li> <li>- Number and rates of domestic violence felonies filed</li> <li>- Domestic-violence related jail bookings*</li> <li>- Probation referrals for domestic violence*</li> <li>- Domestic Violence Protection Orders filed*</li> <li>- Number of victims receiving services from WWU CASAS, DVSAS, and LVOC*</li> </ul> </li> <li>* <i>Could be partially attributed to rising population in Whatcom County</i></li> <li>- There was one intimate partner homicide (Murder of Kriston Peterman-Dunya by Keayn Dunya on July 3, 2011 in Bellingham)</li> <li>- 17% of those counted in 2011 Whatcom County Homeless Count listed domestic violence as a cause of homelessness</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. DV in the Workplace Recognition Ceremony</b></p> <p>DV in the Workplace</p> <p>Welcome County Executive Louws</p> <p>Presentation of Certificates of Recognition</p> <p>Presentation of Commission Member Awards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Susan presented on the DV in the Workplace project, and the DV in the Workplace Policy &amp; Procedure</li> <li>- Developed by Whatcom County DV Commission members and human resource professionals</li> <li>- Comprehensive and specific policies, procedures, and guidelines for employers</li> <li>- Promotes victim safety and confidentiality, coworker safety, and perpetrator accountability</li> <li>- Encourages workplaces to connect victims and perpetrators to local resources for assistance</li> </ul> <p>DV in Workplace Challenge 2012 – Gold stars were awarded for outreach to agencies that adopted policies &amp; procedures to the following DV Commission members:</p> <p>Laurie Alexander – ★★</p> <p>Regina Delahunt – ★★</p> <p>Mary Dumas – ★</p> <p>Sheri Emerson – ★</p> <p>Gary Jensen – ★</p> <p>Mike Knapp – ★★★★★</p> <p>Darla Woolman – ★</p> <p>Additionally, several Commission members had done outreach to agencies that have their Policies &amp; Procedures in Progress for 2013:</p> <p>Laurie Alexander</p> <p>Kathy McNaughton</p> <p>Linda Quinn</p> <p>Cherie Stutesman</p>

- Susan talked about the overall impact on victims, and listed the workplaces that have policies and procedures either adopted in 2012, in past years, or in progress.

**Impact for DV Victims - Present**

*2012 DV in the Workplace Challenge*

- Chihuahua’s Restaurant
- City of Ferndale
- DSHS Children’s Administration, Bellingham Office
- Family Care Network
- Ferndale Ace Hardware
- Ferndale True Value Hardware
- Opportunity Council
- Samuel’s Furniture
- Washington State Employment Security Department
- Whatcom Alliance for Health Advancement (WAHA)

**Impact for DV Victims - Past**

- City of Bellingham
- City of Blaine
- Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services (DVSAS)
- Haggen, Inc
- DSHS Community Service Office, Bellingham
- Sullivan Plumbing
- Western Washington University
- Whatcom County

**Impact for DV Victims – Future**

- Brigid Collins Family Support Center
- Catholic Community Services of Western Washington
- City of Lynden
- Ferndale School District
- Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood
- United Way of Whatcom County

- Regina welcomed Executive Louws and thanked him for his support of the DV Commission and the DV in the Workplace initiative.
- Executive Louws passed out certificates of recognition to the workplaces that adopted policies and procedures in 2012 (listed above).
- Executive Louws passed out a certificate of appreciation to Chief Knapp for recruiting the most workplaces, and to Darla Woolman for recruiting the workplace with the most employees.

**2. Adjourn**

- Chief Knapp announced that photos would be taken in the press room.
- Sheri Emerson encouraged people to stay for the refreshments and a tour of the Ferndale Police Department.

**Meeting adjourned @ 11:00 AM**

Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence

DV Commission Meeting

Thursday March 28, 2013 from 8:30 am-10:00 am

@ Bellingham Police Department

*The mission of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence is to provide leadership in the community's effort to reduce and prevent domestic violence.*

**Members Attending:**

Laurie Alexander, Karen Burke, Regina Delahunt, Mary Dumas, Sheri Emerson, Gary Jensen, Mike Knapp, Kathy McNaughton, Rick Qualls, Linda Quinn, Jolie Rhinehart, Peter Ruffatto, Manuel Reta, Dave Reynolds, Cherie Stutesman, Bruce Van Glubt, Darla Woolman

**Members Absent:**

Bill Elfo, Nikki Finkbonner, Jon Komorowski, Dave McEachran, Linda Storck, Greg Winter

**Guests:**

Chief John Bates, Blaine Border Patrol  
 Angie Gogerty, Department of Corrections Victim Liaison  
 Terra Nevitt, Law Advocates

**Staff Present:**

Susan Marks, Sue Parrott, Meaghan Connell

Agenda Item	Discussion
<b>1. Welcome and Introductions</b>	- Welcome and introductions were made by everyone and the meeting began.
<b>2. Consent Agenda</b>	<p><b>MOTION: Approval of Minutes from October 4, 2012; November 15, 2012; and January 24, 2013 DV Commission meetings and Approval of the 2013 DV Commission Budget</b></p> <p>Darla Woolman made a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Laurie Alexander seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.</p>
<b>3. DV Commission Member Commitments</b>	<p>- Commission Members reviewed the 2013 Commission Commitments</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p><i>Note: Numbers 1, 2, and 3 are required as part of DV Commission membership.</i></p> <p>1) ___ I will attend at least 4 of the 6 regularly scheduled DV Commission meetings in 2013.</p> <p>2) ___ I will serve on the following committee(s) and attend at least 75% of the committee meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Child Witnesses Work Group</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Executive Committee</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fatality Review Work Group</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Law &amp; Justice Committee</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Perpetrator Response Work Group</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> GTEA Grant Risk Assessment Team</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> STEP Grant CCRT</li> </ul> <p>3) ___ I will attend at least one of the following Domestic Violence Awareness Month event(s) in October:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vigil and Healing Labyrinth</li> <li>- Interfaith Prayer Service</li> </ul> <p>4) ___ Other (Optional)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> I will consider taking additional leadership as the opportunities arise.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>_____ Committee Chair</li> <li>_____ Officer</li> <li>_____ Other (please specify):</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> I will seek additional training on domestic violence with a focus on the following topics:</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):</li> </ul> </div>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Commission Members reviewed their 2012 attendance. Susan said that if there are barriers preventing anyone from attending to discuss that with her to see if something can be worked out.</li> <li>- Regina noted that it can be difficult to make all of the required meetings.</li> <li>- Darla said she thought the updated time will help with attendance.</li> <li>- Susan suggested that if someone cannot attend to send someone in their place.</li> <li>➤ Peter will find out if that person can vote on behalf of the Commission Member.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Department of Corrections: Domestic Violence Victim Services</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Angie Gogerty works for the DOC in the Victim Services Department as a Corrections Specialist, before that Angie said she was monitoring offenders.</li> <li>- Currently she covers the NW region in seven different counties.</li> <li>- Angie said that her unit has six corrections specialists in the state with some having larger areas.</li> <li>- The Victim Service Program's purpose is to mitigate risk of victims and community members. Cases are assigned based on a victim contacting the department when a prisoner is being released from prison. Most are violent crimes, sexual assault, domestic violence and child assaults. If a person feels threatened by an offender we can work with them; Angie said that her job is trying to mitigate risk, should that offender be released back in the community they were sentenced under. Often they will try to release them where they most recently offended. If it is determine it is not a safe place for the victim, we can request an out of county release so they are not released into that county. Very important focus on victim and community safety. We also deal with offenders by telling them where they can and cannot go, can put boundary restrictions on them.</li> <li>- We make a lot of referrals, we try to assist the victim. Angie said that you can put them in touch with advocates in the community. The advocates will stay with those victims of crime longer then we can. Community advocates are a great resource.</li> <li>- There are limitations on things that can be done before an offender is released. The Victim Services Program can assist victims with safety planning when an offender is about to be released. The "Victim Wrap Around" process brings community resources together to assist the victim in developing a safety plan around the offender's reentry into the community.</li> <li>- The victims can tell you about the offender; they are the experts on this offender and we need to listen to these victims. Another resource we have is the class counselor of the prison on the phone, what kind of programming the offender has attended, if they have mentioned the victim or made threats; offenders are manipulative and skilled and generally know not to mention that person, doing a lot of training with class counselors and CCOs to listen to the offenders when they are talking.</li> <li>- Someone can get enrolled in this program by filling out a form, we can always talk with them, we do not necessarily get assigned to the case but Angie said that she can work with them and will try to assist them if she can.</li> <li>- If someone is not on supervision we do not have any say of where they go or what they do. When they are on supervision they cannot move unless they have notified DOC.</li> <li>- This process came out of the Charles Campbell murder. At that time nobody</li> </ul>

	<p>had notified this victim and she along with her child and a neighbor were murdered upon his release. After this the legislature said we have to do something about this, to the best of our ability we are making sure this does not happen again, there are cases where work release is not appropriate, and there is a lot we can do to mitigate risk. We do not promise safety to anyone, we just promise we will do the best we can.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Anyone can go online to register; not all crimes are eligible, but most of us will work with people even if they do not qualify.</li> <li>- Mike Knapp asked, the first two categories are a witness and a concerned citizen so anyone can apply? Angie said absolutely, say you are the neighbor of someone who was murdered, there have been calls from those where maybe they worked with someone who was murdered, family members are concerned citizens. Make the referrals to family and friends, it is a broad range, we encourage people to call in and we will screen them, anyone can go online and look up the offender and find out where they are located, I take calls all of the time, do not mind giving people information. If they are a sex offender we can notify the address, if not we can notify people about the area. Mike Knapp said that the Ferndale Police Department has an MOU with the DOC and the relationship could not be more healthy, very grateful for your services. Angie said that she very much believes that the position of the DOC is to work with the court system and prosecutors office, it is good to hear that feedback.</li> <li>- Bruce VanGlubt asked if this would be for any offender that has a felony conviction, what in a sense is the criteria. Angie said that any offender that is on active supervision or in prison, within our jurisdiction.</li> <li>- Mary asked if their jurisdiction also included training citizen's academies. Angie said that the six of them do trainings and are in the community a lot, if anyone wanted us to talk about the program we can. Currently we are revising and setting a DV protocol within the DOC, it has been a long time coming, needs to be consistently appropriate when we are working with offenders and it is important to not get our own vices in, we are trying to look at the big picture when setting policy. Look at having full disclosure of a new relationship with these domestic violence cases and have them tell their new partner what they did. Laurie noted that most of the fatality review cases had prior domestic violence; do not know if the new partners knew about that. Angie said we need to be honest and upfront, department is going towards transparency.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Fatality Review Reflection &amp; Next Steps</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Susan sent an email to Commission Members who have been a part of the Fatality Review and asked if they would be willing to share what their experience was.</li> <li>- The Fatality Review Panel has completed three intimate partner cases, from 2009-2010. All of the public records and CPS history from those cases was reviewed and we had the opportunity to have spoken with people from the family. After all of the information was collected it then got put into a chronology of everything that lead up to the homicide.</li> <li>- The final report will be complete in May with the recommendations.</li> <li>- Susan said that WSCADV led this process, the panel had between 35 and 50 people and the chronology packets were around 50 pages with the review meeting being four hours long. Darla asked if there was a review of medical records. As a medical provider this could be where we have failed these</li> </ul>

women, where did we fall short to getting them to services. Susan said the victims were deceased would have had to get information from next of kin, we decided not to pursue it because it seemed too sensitive to ask for.

- Susan asked members of the Fatality Review Panel to share what their experiences were and what their challenges were with the review.
- Kathy McNaughton said that she found the process fascinating and difficult. Each case had a massive amount of information to go through. Some of the information was taken from sources that were not familiar to some panel members, it was good to have experts there to translate. Was unsure in the beginning with the large group of people how it was going to work. From the orientation and all of the way through, the review was conducted with a lot of respect. Having all of those people in the room is the only way to get from here to there, the panel needed all of those experts and perspectives to pull out the themes and go back and review those themes in a more organized way. Pulling out recommendations on what to work on in the future will be a helpful exercise in the future for qualitative data.
- Regina said that one thing that struck her was the social and legal complexities of the issue. It is easy to see why it is so difficult to make headway in stopping domestic violence. All of the entities around the table are trying their hardest to address the issue but it is so complex we have a long way to go, a lot of things to fix starting way back to when they are babies.
- Karen Burke said that as service providers the easy place to go is asking why she does not leave, through the reviews you see that they did leave and it was not until the batterer decided to leave them alone that the abuse stopped. We have a lot of services in place but we need to shift some of the focus over to the perpetrators.
- Mike Riber said he thought about the surviving children and what is being done to make the world better so this does not happen again. The process was very educational.
- Laurie Alexander said significant changes will need to come from up the chain of command, a lot of things we saw were beyond our level, seeing our commitment in our county is hopeful.
- Mary said that she echoes what Karen Burke had said. After going through this process, the preponderance of the questions were framed as victim red flags. Important to maintain a consistent focus on the perpetrator, that is the piece we do not have a message about, a lot of bystanders without accurate options, how early can they assert that in the process so they can intervene at lower and lower levels, really want to encourage this Commission to be braver. Who are these people that are perpetrating, even with fifty people it was still difficult to stay focused on the perpetrator, we can do something so much better with our social resilience because we cannot expect the victim to do everything. This process has awoken, discouraged, and motivated.
- Terra Nevitt said that she enjoyed seeing all of the different people come together and all of the interconnectedness. Felt we needed more of that. Terra said that she was excited to potentially join the Commission and continue this work.
- John Bates said that all of these people who had a piece of the puzzle, getting that knowledge together so it could be acted on, the weakness of law

	<p>enforcement to be able to act on behalf of the victims. Want to act on the perpetrator but there is a need to focus on the victim and their children. Need to bring the law makers into this, if people walk through a protection order constantly and nothing happens what can be done. If you look at the arrests and counted up the DVs it is very sad. It was a great group, very emotional, and a great start.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Susan said the next step will be working on the final Summary of Issues that everyone will read and give input on. In May the panel will come back together and the recommendations will be presented to see if we are on the right track. If a recommendation relates to an existing task force or group the next step might be to go to them to discuss the recommendations. There will be a workgroup of Commission members to implement change.</li> <li>- Sheri Emerson said that she had not had the opportunity to participate but can imagine it would be very emotional. There will be a lot will to come out of this.</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. US Border Patrol &amp; Domestic Violence</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Susan said John Bates from Border Patrol is on the Fatality Review Panel. He is here today to discuss Border Patrol's role and to discuss the recent changes now that Border Patrol no longer provides translation services.</li> <li>- John Bates said that the Border Patrol's headquarters are located in Blaine Washington. The Border Patrol's primary focus is patrolling the border; Whatcom County is the second busiest of ports of entry.</li> <li>- Since the 1950s Border Patrol has been supporting law enforcement in Blaine, Lynden and Sumas. Border Patrol also dispatches for free. All of us are on the same frequency so our officers hear when a 911 call comes in. Border Patrol agents do not respond to domestic violence calls per se, but we will respond with local law enforcement as back up and we do everything we can to not be the first ones in unless it is life threatening.</li> <li>- The new policy is when if local law enforcement calls us because they need us for translation, we are not going to go. If they call because they need backup or if one of our officers sees another law enforcement officer pulling someone over by themselves, we will pull over for officer safety.</li> <li>- During a domestic violence incident we are there to support, which is why you will see Border Patrol in reports. We are law enforcement and back up, and we will not be the primary agency.</li> <li>- There are three hundred Border Patrol agents in Whatcom County. Border Patrol has grown immensely in the last twelve years, we are committed to being good partners in the community. There may be a report saying we may have done translation but we are there for backup, with all of the cities in Whatcom County having the potential for us to be there for this assistance. Border Patrol also has the ability to stop a vehicle if someone is doing unsafe acts or to be a first responder in an emergent or life-threatening situation if they are closest to the scene.</li> <li>- Terra Nevitt asked when Border Patrol is responding as backup, what is the general requirement for asking about immigration status. John Bates said that the policy has always been that they have never asked someone their immigration status as part of the translation service. If someone is being cited as the offender, the officer may ask, but they will not ask the victim.</li> <li>- Laurie asked if they would we be able to assume that the victim would not be asked that. John Bates said that this is a national policy to no longer translate because of the overwhelming concern in these communities and</li> </ul>

	<p>how it might discourage people from coming forward, this was in the best interest of the community. If there was an emergent situation and we needed to know where the perpetrator was for safety reasons, we would do our job to help with translation in that situation. All of the in-depth interviewing would not be from us, nor the in-depth translating.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mary Dumas asked if you are raising a question in an emergent situation will it enlist a response. John Bates said law enforcement would be responsible for getting that information.</li> <li>- Manel said in regard to U Visas; that there are a lot of individuals being abused and have gone through the police department and a lot of individuals who have that problem, have seen and heard that a lot of times officials say no in regard to signing the U Visas and that they do not want to write it off because it is a federal issue, my understanding is they have to file it through the police. John Bates said that Border Patrol has nothing to do with that. Suggested to have USCIS come speak to the Commission about this, do not know that process because Border Patrol has nothing to do with that, if we had any kind of an arrest report we are not a deciding official there would be an interview with USCIS.</li> </ul>
<p><b>7. Staff Report</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Whatcom County DV Risk Assessment Project Update &amp; Next Steps</li> <li>- U.S.D.O.J., Office on Violence Against Women, GTEA 5 Grant</li> <li>- Firearms and Domestic Violence Protection Orders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sue said that she has been working on the DV Risk Assessment project for about a year.</li> <li>- The Risk Assessment Team is a group of fourteen people. Commission Members were given draft recommendations. The team is scheduled to finalize its recommendations in May. After that time the focus will be community buy-in and preparation for implementation of recommendations in the fall.</li> <li>- The focus of the risk assessment project is to better identify domestic violence cases at high risk for lethality and/or very serious assault. The team is recommending a focus on domestic violence and stalking cases.</li> <li>- The team has spent a good deal of time on a needs assessment. Eight members of the team went to a national conference last fall and received more background on different risk assessment models. OVW has identified some models that they are promoting as best practices for homicide reduction. The Risk Assessment team is very interested in those models.</li> <li>- The DV Risk Assessment Team would like to see more consistency is how risk assessment is conducted throughout the county, with a shared language and understanding of risk.</li> <li>- Currently there is not a mechanism to talk county wide about these cases. Right now there is a meeting on Wednesday morning, however the group is not talking about high risk offenders specifically. Currently we are missing a mechanism for sitting down and reviewing a list of offenders we have grave concerns about. We do not always know who these high risk victims are, and we want to do a better job of linking those high risk victims with the services and resources they need. If we identify a case as high risk, we want to know that partner agencies will use all of the resources they can to either monitor and contain the offender or serve the victim.</li> <li>- There is a conference in Boston next month that both Karen Burke and Warren Page will be attending. This has stopped the process a bit as the team is waiting for them to go to the conference and return with information.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sue reviewed the LAP (lethality assessment program) and HRRT (High Risk Response Team) – two projects that will most likely be recommendations from the DV Risk Team once finalized in May.</li> <li>- The community is implementing a version of the LAP with BPD and WCSO, which is a field screen done in DV cases. If a victim screens in, the officer is directed to make a call to the 24 hour DV helpline. The Lethality Assessment screen is attached to the Police Report and prosecutors can use this. Sue said that she believes one of the recommendations will be to see this adopted by all law enforcement agencies in Whatcom County.</li> <li>- The DV Risk Team is also likely to recommend implementing the lethality assessment screen at St Joes in the Emergency Room, as well as with DCFS and possibly the Civil PO process. The goal is to identify high risk victims who are not in the criminal legal system, and link them with services.</li> <li>- The High Risk Response Team is a group of stakeholders that through an MOU will set up a screening process to identify high risk cases. A referral would be made, then the team makes a determination on if it is screened in. Once screened in, the team meets monthly to update the case and take whatever action is needed to monitor the offender and support the victim.</li> <li>- Manuel asked how we will we address the gaps with children. Sue said that currently the Commission has a workgroup focusing on that. Susan said that the Child Witness Work Group, and the STEP Grant both have the goal of identifying kids as bystanders and also kids who are victims.</li> <li>- Susan updated the Commission on USDOJ Office on Violence Against Women, GTEA 5 Grant. Susan said that the current GTEA 4 Grant has funding through March 2014. We would like to see the Risk Assessment project institutionalized and the GTEA 5 Grant would allow for a half time Program Supervisor to fully implement this project and a half-time High Risk Legal Advocate at DVSAS to respond to high risk victims identified.</li> <li>➤ Susan will email a link to an article on firearms and domestic violence, from the New York Times, to the Commission. This article discusses the issue that we recently worked on in Whatcom County, with ordering the surrender of firearms in domestic violence protection orders when the court has authority.</li> </ul>
<b>8. Adjourn</b>	<b>@ 10:00 AM</b>

Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence  
 DV Commission Meeting  
 Thursday May 23, 2013 from 8:30-10:00 am  
 @ Bellingham Police Department

*The mission of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence is to provide leadership in the community's effort to reduce and prevent domestic violence.*

**Members Attending:**

Regina Delahunt, Bill Elfo, Sheri Emerson, Kathy McNaughton, Terra Nevitt, Rick Qualls, Linda Quinn, Manuel Reta, Jolie Rhinehart, Mike Riber, Peter Ruffatto, Mike Sledge, Cherie Stutesman, Bruce Van Glubt, Darla Woolman

**Members Absent:**

Laurie Alexander, Karen Burke, Cliff Cook, Mary Dumas, Nikki Finkbonner, Gary Jensen, Mike Knapp, Jon Komorowski, Dave McEachran, Dave Reynolds, Linda Storck, Greg Winter

**Staff Present:**

Susan Marks, Sue Parrott, Stacy Miller, Meaghan Connell

**Guest:**

Michael Berres, Director of Special Services, Ferndale School District  
 Peggy Zoro, Interim Director, Womenscare Shelter

Agenda Item	Discussion
<b>1. Welcome and Introductions</b>	- Welcome and introductions were made by everyone and the meeting began.
<b>2. MOTION: Consent Agenda</b>	- <b>MOTION: Approval of Minutes from March 28, 2012 DV Commission Meeting</b> Rick Qualls made a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Kathy McNaughton seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.
<b>3. MOTION: DV Commission Officers</b>	- <b>MOTION: DV Commission Officers</b> <b>Chair: Sheri Emerson</b> <b>Vice Chair: Laurie Alexander</b> <b>Secretary: Darla Woolman</b> <b>Treasurer: Rick Qualls</b> Past Chair: Regina Delahunt (no vote required) With no other nominations Peter Ruffatto made a Motion to approve the slate of officers as presented. Mike Sledge seconded the motion. It passed unanimously
<b>4. STEP Project with Ferndale School District</b>	- Stacy gave background information on the STEP Grant. - The STEP Grant was awarded a year and half ago for the amount of \$549,000. The STEP grant came from OVW with a focus on preventing teen

- dating violence, sexual assault and stalking in secondary schools.
- Over the past year a Needs Assessment has been done. Through the Needs Assessment process Stacy said that there have been over 1,100 people interviewed. Last summer the Ferndale School District sent out a community wide survey that we were able to tag on five questions. This survey was the first run of what the community's feedback on these various issues. From that survey we heard back from 400 parents. From the survey, the community felt the biggest concern was cyber stalking and wanted to have more information on steps to protect their children. From the survey parents did not believe that sexual assault or dating violence was an issue at that time. Staff knew that kids were being bullied and 80% felt it should be addressed. Staff also felt that cyber stalking was an issue and that it was happening and coming back in to the school.
  - A focus group with service providers was done. NW Youth Services, Lummi Nation Victims of Crime, DVSAS, and others came together and talked about where they thought the gaps were. From that meeting the group felt that a primary gap was that they did not know how to access the correct people at the schools in order to provide services, while the schools felt a gap in communication from the service providers. What we were hearing was that service providers wanted to deliver services and staff wanted the service providers there; we just needed to bridge that gap.
  - Stacy said that over the past year she had been meeting with a Youth Advisory Group of students from each school. The largest group was twelve the smallest was five. Stacy said that they used the Youth Advisory Groups as focus groups for the Needs Assessment; in getting information from them, once one was brave enough to answer a question, everyone joined in. What we found from the focus groups at the schools was in middle school 60% of the kids said they would not speak to their parents or teachers if they had an issue. By high school 85% would not tell anyone a parent, teacher, or friend. Students were worried that their information would get out as gossip. The kids felt largely overwhelmed, and a lot of pressure. The students talked about having seen other students being picked on or bullied but they did not know what to do. Some also experienced adults turn away and not address it.
  - Darla asked the specific question that was asked about disclosing to adults. Stacy said the question was *"If you were in an abusive relationship, would you tell your parents; if you were being bullied, who would you talk to."*
  - Stacy said that the students felt there was a lot happening on campus that was out of their control; and teachers were not sure about the correct procedure for addressing the issues of dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Linda, Michael, and Elvis were already taking steps to address those issues.
  - Stacy said that she went through several parent groups and did a survey through them. There was not a large response from that survey but there was a better response talking to them in person.
  - Also as part of the Needs Assessment, observations were done of times between classes and when busses were dropping kids off and picking kids up.
  - Stacy said that she held a meeting at the Ferndale Resource Center and had about 30 to 40 people attend. During the meeting time was spent coming up with what people thought were issues related to dating violence, sexual

assault, and stalking with the students in Ferndale. Those at that meeting did not think that dating violence was an issue but they were concerned about sexual assault.

- All of this information can be found in the Needs Assessment. Stacy said that once the Needs Assessment has been approved by OVW, then our site will have access to our additional funds to start providing services in the schools.
- The Youth Advisory Groups this year were a nice cross section of students. Next year, the students said that the groups should be opened up to everyone with an even larger cross section of kids.
- February was Teen Dating Violence Month, and each Youth Advisory Group led an informational campaign. One of the schools did a poster campaign and had an information fair. Another school did the In Her Shoes presentation. In Her Shoes was very interesting and caused a lot of conversation after. Ferndale High School wrote a letter to President Obama inviting him to visit, and had the letter available for students at all of the schools to sign. Windward High School wrote a letter to Ellen to come to raise awareness about dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. They also read aloud at a school assembly a letter from Haley Judson, the daughter of the Tacoma Police Chief who shot and killed himself and her mother Crystal Judson Brame.
- Project Us is a anti-violence campaign created by one of the students in one Youth Advisory Group. The student who developed it discussed how she had been bullied all through elementary school and how she carried all of that inside her from that experience. One of the boys who participated in the bullying was there and apologized to her. To see those kind of changes has been really powerful.
- Stacy said that they are going to be kicking off next year with Project U,s along with hopefully having Dr Dorothy Edwards who leads the Green Dot Initiative, which is a bystander campaign.
- Manuel asked if there was certain month that will concentrate on bullying. Stacy said that the schools are doing a lot with bullying and they will find a way to incorporate that. Manuel noted that bullying is a big issue and teaching students to be engaged hopefully this will stop the violence.
- Stacy said that the students went to the teacher staff meeting and told them what they would like to do is incorporate these principles related to ending dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking in all of the areas of their school experience. Teachers are really overwhelmed so instead of adding something new they suggested trying to come up with something that will enhance what is already being done. An example was, since a certain book is already being read in class, the students could have some discussions around the issue and talk about it that way.
- Linda Quinn said what she liked about this project was that it was taking a systems approach and that she was proud of the fact that Ferndale was one of nine sites to receive this grant. The reason Ferndale was chosen was because of the readiness factor, because of the work of the Commission, and the fact that Ferndale Schools already are working on many issues that are related to dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, including bullying.
- Linda Quinn noted that through her experience there is a paradoxical effect when you focus on a problem; it looks like it gets worse because you have

actually educated people to what it is, the further we go the more it will look like the incidents are rising.

- Linda said that one of the things that has happened in the last four years is that resources have shrunk which means that there is more of a need to work together. Everyone has the same goals as we continue to figure out how to make it all work so these related issues do not become just separate pieces.
- Linda said that changes to policies have begun. Susan came to the April School Board Meeting and talked about the policy of DV in the Workplace along with their Title IX and other policies. Doing this gave the board a chance to have a conversation about these policies, and they want to continue improving and modifying their policies.
- Michael Berres said that Stacy had gone to a conference and had come back with information from attorneys from the Office of Civil Rights that the Ferndale School District's policies were not adequate. Michael said that at the time he was not very receptive, but after looking at those policies it did turn out that they were not adequate. Michael said that this grant has been very helpful; the School District is trying to change the culture in regard to school, cyber, and community. The grant work on dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking fits under the same umbrella as this work to change the culture, along with other issues such as bullying. Michael said that he had learned a lot of things through this grant. He said that during this process he has been helping Stacy understand that the school district system is very complicated. So far, there has been learning a lot of what we had done not so well in the past but also what we have done well. As we look to change the culture, we all have to work together, I hope that our biggest focus is not what schools have focused on the past but it is the vast middle ground of bystanders. Every group of forty participants has one bully and two victims so from that there are thirty-seven bystanders. We need to find one, two, three, or four of those bystanders to speak out so that it becomes ok.
- Darla asked if was an effort to share these messages with other schools. Some of these things could be set up in the other schools now. Stacy said that when she is at these meetings, there are parents from all over, and she encourages them to talk to their school districts about doing similar work. If Dr. Dorothy Edwards is able to come to Ferndale, we would invite other schools to come, and we may also try to invite her to a Commission Meeting. DV education has been around for fifty years but the numbers are the same, where they have seen real change is when the bystander becomes a part of it. Stacy said that there has been a real movement to get different groups involved, people are more and more interested, and it is important at this point to have parents talk to their principals and teachers at their child's school.
- Linda said that the first year of grant funding was only for the Needs Assessment, not for any direct services. Part of the plan for next year is letting the other superintendents know what the STEP grant is accomplishing, and getting them on board.
- Susan said that in the Fatality Review Report, one of the recommendations is to replicate what is already being done with the STEP grant in all of the other districts in the county.
- Sheri asked Stacy what a successful project will look like. Stacy said that

	<p>success for her will be a continued agreement from DV Commission, DVSAS and the School District that this work will continue. Stacy said that in the smaller world it is about the Youth Advisory Groups continuing to meet and raise awareness in their schools; these kids own it. During Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month he Mayor Jensen came and spoke at the basketball game and read a proclamation that Ferndale was going to stand against dating violence. The kids were so excited to have him there and felt like they had some power and their voice really mattered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Michael said that there are different umbrellas around this work and that the umbrella in regard to domestic violence also fits around the larger issue of bullying and how kids get along with each other, the whole ethos in the district is around student engagement and helping students find their voice and that is happening. We do have different groups of people who define our work in different ways and give kids the power to say something, this is why it will be successful .</li> <li>- Sheri said that this is a great and exciting project.</li> <li>- Manuel asked if there was a way to track those kids that are going to juvenile detention, to figure out which Districts they come from, and therefore which District could be our next focus for this work on teen dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Domestic Violence Risk Assessment Project</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sue reported out on the Domestic Violence Risk Assessment Project</li> <li>- This grant is through GTEA (Grants to Encourage Arrest). The Commission has been receiving this funding for eight years.</li> <li>- Currently this grant supports a half time legal advocate to work with clients on civil protection orders, continued funding for the Domestic Violence Specialist (DVS) position who works for the small cities, and trainings for the small cities. Sue noted that at the end of the grant cycle, the DVS position will not have any further funding through this project; Susan is working on finding funding for that position from other sources, with a focus on funding from the small cities.</li> <li>- The third project that has been a part of this grant has been the Risk Assessment project. Over the past year, a multi-disciplinary team of about 15 professionals came together to look at our DV Risk Assessment process and protocols, with the particular focus on those cases that are at a high risk for lethality.</li> <li>- Sue said that a Fatality Review was also added as a grant project.</li> <li>- The first year was spent doing a needs assessment and trying to get a holistic perspective on risk assessment. The Commission has always valued connecting with victims/survivors of DV to find out from them what is working and what we can do better, so victim focus groups were a part of this information gathering process. With Risk Assessment there is research out there of validated risk factors for lethality, but we still wanted to take the time to talk to survivors on their risk. The focus groups were done by going to different support groups and talking to the participants on how they identified risk. Sue said that from those conversations she had come up with six different recommendations. Sue said that when the Risk Assessment Team made their final recommendations, she re-read the notes from the focus groups and was pleased to see that at least five of the six were being addressed. In talking with victims Sue said that she was reminded that the</li> </ul>

definition of high risk is not always what the system defines as risk, and what one victim views as high risk for them may not show up as an indicator for lethality. It might be a look, a sexual assault, being assaulted in front of children; these can all be indicators of high risk for a victim. One recommendation is any risk assessment tool should always be asking an open-ended question.

- A recommendation is for law enforcement to use the Risk Assessment tool for domestic violence verbal calls for service, following a protocol.
- It is important to hold that offender accountable and contain them during that time; this is our responsibility as a community. This led to the recommendation to create a High Risk Response Team (HRRT) to identify and monitor high risk offenders.
- The last recommendation is around victims who are extremely isolated and controlled, and who may need additional resources including housing and financial assistance. There is still a question as to how do we identify those victims if they are not reaching out, and meet their needs.
- The first recommendation is to implement the Maryland Model Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) in all Whatcom County law enforcement agencies, with DVSAS as the 24 hour helpline responding to screened-in cases. The LAP is a field screen to identify a victim that is high risk for lethality. Law enforcement is trained to call DVSAS and trained to do this a certain way. This LAP becomes a part of the police report so the prosecutor and prosecution based advocate have access to it. This tool is being recognized as a best practice model, we will be contracting with Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence for them to assist us using a train the trainer model.
- The other compliment to this will be DVSAS and Womenscare using Dr. Jackie Campbell's Dangerousness Assessment Tools. Agencies will use this screen in an effort of having a shared language. Therefore if someone screens in through the LAP, DVSAS will be doing a more detailed risk assessment with them to determine how to best provide the victim with services and safety.
- We are trying to find additional ways to reach victims who are not in the criminal justice system. We are also looking at a way that CPS workers can use this LAP tool with families that have been screened in, with the idea giving the social worker a better idea about risk and a formal way to link high risk victims to a DV Agency. Victims will have to give consent for DCFS to give their information to the DV Agency. The goal is to see if ER staff will do this LAP screen as well. The third area will be for those seeking civil protection orders and possibly using this screen with them as well.
- The High Risk Response Team model was developed by the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center in Massachusetts. The HRRT will design some working protocols and a criteria to define high risk members offenders. A referral would be made to the HRRT, which would then look at the case and decide whether or not to accept it. If a case is accepted, then that individual would be monitored by the group, with the focus being on the offender. Only what is discoverable will be discussed in the HRRT meeting. From the Fatality Review, we found there was so much information on these offenders and cases, but no one was seeing the whole picture. The HRRT will hopefully help us to see the full picture. In a sense, we are asking each of the partners to have a shared understanding of risk and to refer cases when someone is

	<p>identified as high risk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Part of the HRRT will be our partner members; these people would not attend a monthly meeting, but each month before the meeting report out or if they are involved they may be invited to join. Sue said that the goal is to keep the core group small and manageable.</li> <li>- The DV Commission and DVSAS are applying to Jeanne Gieger to provide technical assistance for the HRRT. This does not involve any money but it is training and technical assistance from them and it would be a great bonus for our site. That application will go out next week; if we are not accepted for the technical assistance, we will still implement an HRRT in our County.</li> <li>- In the future, there will also be training with judicial officers; many of the judicial officers were interviewed as part of the risk assessment project, and all of those interviewed said it is important information.</li> <li>- Bill Elfo said that he was very excited about moving in this direction and focusing on those high risk offenders to get them off the streets.</li> <li>- Terra asked if the people on the HRRT, the core group and the partner group would they be the ones monitoring the high risk offenders. Sue said that the next step is to get the core group together and start talking about these things. Terra said that she would like LAW Advocates to have a list of the high risk offenders, so they don't screen in and access services through LAW Advocates or other agencies.</li> <li>- Manuel asked about victim defendants and how do we provide the tools to those individuals. Sue said that is also part of the Fatality Review, and there are some recommendations that relate to that issue.</li> <li>- Sue said that once the grant is completed look at having DVSAS and the Commission work together to try to sustain the HRRT.</li> </ul>
<p>6. Staff Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Quarterly Report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Susan referenced the updated roster and quarterly report given out at the beginning of the meeting. She noted that currently there is an almost full roster.</li> <li>- Susan asked the full Commission that anytime there is a presenter, this meeting is a point of dissemination and to please go back and share what was presented with their staff or others who may find the information useful.</li> <li>- Susan thanked both Sue Parrott and Stacy Miller; she said that these projects never would have gotten to where they are without them. There is a reason we keep getting these grants from OVW.</li> <li>➤ When the STEP Community Needs Assessment gets approved and finalized, Susan and Meaghan will send the final version to the full Commission.</li> </ul>
<p>1. Adjourn</p>	<p>@ 10:00 AM</p>

Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence  
 DV Commission Meeting  
 Thursday July 25, 2013 from 8:30-10:00 am  
 @ Bellingham Police Department

*The mission of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence is to provide leadership in the community's effort to reduce and prevent domestic violence.*

**Members Attending:**

Laurie Alexander, Karen Burke, Regina Delahunt, Mary Dumas, Bill Elfo, Sheri Emerson, Nikki Finkbonner, Mike Knapp, Gary Jensen, Dave McEachran, Kathy McNaughton, Terra Nevitt, Rick Qualls, Linda Quinn, Manuel Reta, Peter Ruffatto, Linda Storck, Cherie Stutesman, Bruce Van Glubt, Greg Winter, Darla Woolman

**Members Absent:**

Cliff Cook, Jon Komorowski, Jolie Rhinehart, Dave Reynolds, Mike Riber, Mike Sledge

**Staff Present:**

Susan Marks, Sue Parrott, Meaghan Connell

**Guest:**

Cheri Kilty, Executive Director, YWCA  
 Mara Snyder, Board Member, Womenscare Shelter  
 Flo Simon, Deputy Chief, Bellingham Police Department sitting in for Chief Cook

Agenda Item	Discussion
<p><b>1. Welcome and Introductions</b></p>	<p>- Welcome and introductions were made by everyone and the meeting began.</p>
<p><b>2. MOTION: Consent Agenda</b></p>	<p>- <b>MOTION: Approval of Minutes from May 23, 2013 DV Commission Meeting</b>          Karen Burke made a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Kathy McNaughton seconded the motion.  <b>19 Voted to Approve</b>  <b>1 Abstention</b></p>
<p><b>3. Domestic Violence Awareness Month</b></p>	<p>- With the Commission's focus in several committees being around bystander intervention and community education, this year one of the October events for Domestic Violence Awareness Month will be Downtown Bellingham's First Friday Art Walk. Doing this will be a way to reach general community members about domestic violence. Art created by survivors of domestic violence will be displayed and there will be hand painting on a mural for kids. There will also be one domestic violence resource table with DVSAS, LVOC and Womenscare information available for people to learn more about our local resources. The hope is that we will draw community members in that would otherwise not attend the Commission's annual awareness event during October.</p> <p>- The awareness event (formerly the vigil) will be Remember, Celebrate,</p>

	<p>Connect: Our Community United Against Domestic Violence which will be on Wednesday, October 16 from 6 – 7 pm at the Mt Baker Theater Encore Room this year. This will be another opportunity for a local DV resource table with DVSAS, LVOC and Womenscare. Susan asked that each Commission member commit do doing outreach to one group that they interact with (workplace, civic club, church, etc) to encourage the other members of that group to attend the event. Susan will follow up with everyone via email in September.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is a Health Fair at the East Whatcom Regional Resource Center in October that will provide another outlet for outreach, using a format similar to the Art Walk.</li> <li>a. Meaghan and Susan will continue to keep the Commission updated on Domestic Violence Awareness Month.</li> </ul>
<p>4. DV Commission Messaging</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. There was a small group discussion around messaging with groups discussing the following questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Why is it important for our community to address DV?</b></li> <li>2. <b>What is important about the work of the DV Commission that people need to know?</b></li> <li>3. <b>What would DV in Whatcom County look like without the DV Commission?</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>b. It is important that there is a clear and concise message around what we do and why it is important to address DV. Commission Members will be the ones driving this message. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Susan will compile the information from the small groups and bring it back to the full Commission in September.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>5. Impact of Whatcom County Jail on Domestic Violence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sheriff Elfo reported that currently the Whatcom County Jail is operating at twice capacity and is currently facing a shortage of space along with structural issues. The jail was designed for around 150 people with its peak being over 300. Two years ago a jail task force came up with some recommendations to replace the current facility. The task force unanimously agreed on the following proposal. The new building will have 500-700 beds. The jail will also be built in an area that could be expanded if needed and good access to I-5. The current proposal is endorsed by all police chiefs. The Whatcom County Jail has the most robust rehabilitation program in the state, but there is not space in the current facility, there is also a lot that can be done socially and in regard to mental health. Currently the Sheriff's Department lobby is 12x12. At anytime there can be sex offenders, DV victims, child victims, and people getting their pistol concealment license all in the same area at one time. Sheriff Elfo noted that 24 percent of the jail bed days are DV.</li> <li>- Susan noted that Commission Members could endorse this project personally but not on behalf of the DV Commission.</li> </ul>
<p>6. Womenscare Shelter and YWCA Bellingham</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sheri Emerson introduced Cheri Kilty.</li> <li>- Cheri Kilty said that several months ago the YWCA was approached by Womenscare Shelter to see if there was an interest in having Womenscare Shelter as a program of the YWCA. The due diligence process has been completed and the attorneys are drafting the documents now to complete a merger between the agencies. The YWCA has a real interest in resource sharing as they already work closely on issues related to DV from women</li> </ul>

	<p>coming to the YWCA; often those women coming from Womenscare. There is still a lot of work to be done in regard to how the programs will work together. Cheri stated that this is a huge benefit to both organizations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There will be an official reception in September to celebrate the merger.</li> </ul>
<p>7. Staff Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Quarterly Report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. Commission Members received the Staff Quarterly Report.</li> <li>c. There were not any questions regarding the report.</li> </ul>
<p><b>8. Adjourn</b></p>	<p><b>@ 10:00 AM</b></p>

Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence  
 DV Commission Meeting  
 Thursday September 26, 2013 from 8:30-10:00 am  
 @ Bellingham Police Department

*The mission of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence is to provide leadership in the community's effort to reduce and prevent domestic violence.*

**Members Attending:**

Laurie Alexander, Regina Delahunt, Bill Elfo, Sheri Emerson, Gary Jensen, Mike Knapp, Jon Komorowski, Kathy McNaughton, Terra Nevitt, Rick Qualls, Manuel Reta, Dave Reynolds, Jolie Rhinehart, Mike Riber, Peter Ruffatto, Mike Sledge, Linda Storck, Cherie Stutesman, Bruce Van Glubt, Greg Winter

**Members Absent:**

Karen Burke, Cliff Cook, Mary Dumas, Nikki Finkbonner, Dave McEachran, Linda Quinn, Darla Woolman

**Staff Present:**

Susan Marks, Sue Parrott, Meaghan Connell

**Guest:**

Cheri Kilty, Executive Director, YWCA

Agenda Item	Discussion
<b>3. Welcome and Introductions</b>	- Welcome and introductions were made by everyone and the meeting began.
<b>4. MOTION: Consent Agenda</b>	- <b>MOTION: Approval of Minutes from July 25, 2013 DV Commission Meeting</b> Mike Knapp made a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Terra Nevitt seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.
5. Domestic Violence Awareness Month 5.22 Friday, October 4, 6 pm - 10 pm, Bellingham Art Walk at Crowne Plaza Building Lobby 5.23 Wednesday, October 16, 6 – 7 pm, Remember, Celebrate, Connect @ Mt. Baker Theatre 5.24 Publicity	- Each Commission Member was given information on the upcoming events for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. - Womencare has donated several doors that have been painted by survivors of domestic violence. This will be the display for the October 4 Art Walk. There will also be an interactive children’s mural during the art walk along with resource materials from Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services, Lummi Victims of Crime and Womencare Shelter. - It was announced that Dr. Rev. Eric Finsand will receive the Commission’s Domestic Violence Awareness Month Outstanding Achievement Award. Rev. Eric was a part of the Fatality Review Panel and has been an excellent advocate for awareness around domestic violence. Rev. Eric will be receiving his award at the October 16 Event, Remember, Celebrate, Connect. - Susan again asked that each Commission member commit to doing outreach to one group that they interact with (workplace, civic club, church, etc) to encourage the other members of that group to attend the event.
<b>6. DV Commission Messaging Draft</b>	6.22 Regina asked the group to look over the DV Commission Messaging Draft for thought and input from the full Commission. 6.23 The last time the Commission met there was a lot of powerful information collected around the work we do together as a group. That

	<p>information was then turned into a messaging statement.</p> <p>6.24 Staff translated all of the messages and thoughts at our last meeting into statements that are designed to deliver a clear and succinct message for the community. This would be a way for us to talk about the Commission in a simple way around what the Commission does.</p> <p>6.25 Regina noted that this will be an internal document and not for distribution.</p> <p>6.26 Commission members discussed the messaging statement. There were recommendations made around word modifications for several of the bullet points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Susan will make the appropriate updates to the messaging statement and present it at a later date.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>7. Whatcom County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Presentation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Susan reported out on the Domestic Violence Fatality Review (DVFR).</li> <li>- A primary finding from the DVFR was that, Domestic violence homicide is preventable in Whatcom County.</li> <li>- The reason why it has not been prevented stemmed from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abusers consistently were not held accountable</li> <li>• Domestic violence cannot be solved by victims alone</li> <li>• Many people knew about the abuse, but did or said nothing to stop it</li> </ul> </li> <li>- The report prioritizes twelve of the over seventy recommendations.</li> <li>- What can you do? Everyone in Whatcom County has a role to play in preventing domestic violence.</li> <li>- There are recommendations for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Family, friends, neighbors</li> <li>- Faith based communities</li> <li>- Neighborhood associations</li> <li>- Civil and criminal justice agencies and personnel</li> <li>- Mental health, health care, and social service providers</li> <li>- Employers and co-workers</li> <li>- Housing, property management, and real estate professionals</li> <li>- Schools and colleges</li> <li>- Child protection</li> </ul> </li> <li>- What can you do? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Read the report</li> <li>- Identify recommendations that apply to you</li> <li>- Implement those recommendations in your life and your spheres of influence</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Susan asked everyone to let her know what they plan to do.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Adjourn</b></p>	<p><b>@ 9:30 AM</b></p>

Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence  
 DV Commission Meeting  
 Thursday November 21, 2013 from 8:30-10:00 am  
 @ Bellingham Police Department

*The mission of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence is to provide leadership in the community's effort to reduce and prevent domestic violence.*

**Members Attending:**

Laurie Alexander, Mary Dumas, Mike Knapp, Cheri Kilty, Dave McEachran, Terra Nevitt, Rick Qualls, Manuel Reta, Peter Ruffatto, Mike Sledge, Cherie Stutesman, Bruce Van Glubt, Greg Winter, Darla Woolman

**Members Absent:**

Karen Burke, Cliff Cook, Regina Delahunt, Bill Elfo, Sheri Emerson, Nikki Finkbonner, Gary Jensen, Jon Komorowski, Kathy McNaughton, Linda Quinn, Dave Reynolds, Jolie Rhinehart, Mike Riber, Linda Storck

**Staff Present:**

Susan Marks, Stacy Miller, Meaghan Connell

**Guests:**

Jeff Parks, Whatcom County Sheriff's Office for Sheriff Elfo  
 Isaac Schoenfeld, Western Front

Agenda Item	Discussion
<p><b>1. Welcome and Introductions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcome Cheri Kilty, City of Bellingham DV Victim Service Provider</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Laurie welcomed the newest Commission Member, Cheri Kilty, Executive Director of the YWCA. Cheri will be filling the position of DV Victim Service Provider for the City of Bellingham. Introductions were made by everyone and the meeting began.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. MOTION: Consent Agenda</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minutes from September 26, 2013 meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>MOTION: Approval of Minutes from September 26, 2013 DV Commission Meeting</b>            Rick Qualls made a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Darla Woolman seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. DV Commission Talking Points</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The DV Commission Talking Points is for Commission Members and staff, and is a guide for how we can talk to the others about the Commission and its work.</li> <li>- Input around this was given in July as part of a small group activity in a Commission meeting, a draft was presented at the September Commission meeting for input, and this is a final draft.</li> <li>- This is an internal document for Commission Members.</li> <li>- These talking points about the Commission can also serve to inspire us to live up to what we hope to be.</li> <li>- This document will also be a part of new members' orientation folders as a way for them to understand the work of the Commission; it will be distributed to Commission members so they can use it as a way to talk to others about why they are on the Commission; and it will be used by staff as</li> </ul>

	<p>a way to talk about the Commission's work.</p> <p>➤ <b>Susan will make the appropriate updates suggested by Commission Members.</b></p>
<p><b>4. DV Commission Message Response Team</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Message Response Team was an idea that grew out of the work and discussions of the Fatality Review Committee.</li> <li>- The Message Response Team was developed as a way to highlight the findings and high level messages from the Domestic Violence Fatality Review (DVFR). They will also be activated in the event of a high profile DV incident. Having this team will provide different sectors the opportunity to weigh in and speak out around these messages, to show community members that this is important on many levels.</li> <li>- The Commission Staff will continue to take the lead in the media responses as requested by local law enforcement and outlined in the DV Commission's Guidelines for Response to High Profile DV Incidents, but will now also be supported by the Message Response Team.</li> <li>- The Message Response Team would not meet monthly. There would be an initial training and occasional meeting to review the process.</li> <li>- Signing up for the Message Response Team would count as meeting the committee commitment for Commission members.</li> <li>- Other publications to provide messaging were suggested for the Message Response Team.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Bystander Interventions with Abusers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Small groups</li> <li>- Scenarios</li> <li>- Report Out</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There are currently not a lot of resources around bystander intervention with abusers for family and friends.</li> <li>- The Abuser Response Committee has been working on piloting a Bystander Intervention for Abusers project within the faith based community. The hope is to work with pastors and church leadership to integrate this into their work and with their congregation.</li> <li>- Interviews were done with faith leaders throughout the summer along with focus groups with survivors. There also has been outreach to national leaders around bystander intervention to get information on research and best practice ideas.</li> <li>- On October 16 the Commission hosted a round table discussion on bystander intervention. Participants responded to various scenarios around bystander intervention. There was a lot of great feedback and information from this.</li> <li>- The same activity was replicated with the full Commission at this meeting as a way to learn from the expertise and experiences of Commission members, as applied to their everyday lives.</li> <li>- Commission Members formed small groups to discuss the assigned scenarios and reported out their findings.</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Staff Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2014 DV Commission Member Commitments</li> <li>- 2014 DV Commission Calendar of Meetings</li> <li>- DV Commission Report, 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2013</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Commission has been awarded the GTEA 5 Grant for the fifth time in a row.</li> <li>- The GTEA 5 Grant will be a continuation of the work around our risk assessment project, including the lethality assessment program and the high risk team.</li> </ul>
<p><b>7. Adjourn</b></p>	<p><b>@ 10:00 AM</b></p>