

**MINUTES FOR THE
BELLINGHAM-WHATCOM COUNTY COMMISSION
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
April 28, 2009**

Members Attending: Sheila Brillson, Karen Burke, Anna Carey, Cindy Enger, Kirsten Hammer, Joan Hoisington, Mike Knapp, Byron Manering, Joy Monjure, Todd Ramsay, Becky Skaggs, Karen Summers

Members Absent: Regina Delahunt, Bill Elfo, Sheri Emerson Nikki Finkbonner, Rebecca Johnson, Jon Komorowski, Dave McEachran, Shannon Meyer, Kathy Ramsay, Linda Storck, Gary Tomsic, Bruce Van Glubt

Guest: Don Staal, Waterfront Counseling

Staff Attending: Andrea Cary-Grant, Director
Sue Parrott, Program Supervisor
Linda Ward, Administrative Secretary

Byron Mannering, Secretary, called the April Meeting of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence to order at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 28, 2009 at St Luke's Community Health Center, 3333 Squalicum Parkway, Bellingham, WA.

1. Welcome

Byron welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Consent Agenda

~~**MOTION #09-01 Joy Monjure made the motion to accept the November 25, 2008 minutes and the February 3, 2009 retreat minutes as corrected. Todd Ramsay seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**~~

NO QUORUM

4. Nominations of 2007-2008 Officers

Andrea reported Cynthia Bauleke has resigned from the Commission. Regina has agreed to serve another year as past chair.

The Executive Committee recommended approval of the following slate of officers:

Chair: Rebecca Johnson
Vice Chair: Todd Ramsay
Secretary: Byron Manering
Treasurer: Anna Carey
Past Chair: Regina Delahunt (no vote required)

Byron asked for other nominations from the floor. None were made.

~~**MOTION: #09-02 Karen Summers made the motion to accept the slate of officers as presented. Sheila Brillson seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**~~
NO QUORUM

5. Training

Topic: DV Perpetrator Treatment

Presenter: Don Staal, Waterfront Counseling

Don stated he is one of two state-certified DV perpetrator treatment providers in Whatcom County. He explained treatment at Waterfront Counseling usually consists of 32 to 52 sessions determined by a lengthy evaluation process. Most referrals come from probation.

He makes a point of making victim contact. The victim may contact him with concerns, comments questions or observations.

As a reference book Don recommended the book: *Preventing Partner Violence* by John R. Lutzker and Daniel J. Whitaker.

After the presentation Byron thanked Don and suggested that any more questions the Commission has should be sent to the Executive Committee. It was suggested the conversation be continued and the other perpetrator treatment provider be invited to present at the next Commission meeting.

NOTE: Due to a prior commitment Bryon asked Anna Carey, Treasurer, to continue conducting the meeting.

6. Committee Reports/Motions

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Andrea gave report.

Andrea reported that Cynthia Bauleke has chosen to resign from the Commission; however, she is willing to be a resource for the Commission's work regarding outreach to schools and faith communities.

The Commission members reviewed the Executive minutes in the packet.

EDUCATION – OUTREACH and VICTIM & CHILDREN SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Andrea gave the report.

Andrea stated the DV in the Workplace Task Force is just finishing the procedures for the DV in the Workplace Policy they developed. They will present their policy and procedures at the next EO/VC meeting. The policy and procedures will then be presented at the June Commission meeting and the October SHRM meeting.

Karen Burke commented that the joint committees are working well together since their goals fit together well.

LAW & JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Andrea stated relevant items from the L & J committee will be discussed as part of the GTEA update.

No report was given.

7. GTEA Update

Sue Parrott gave the report.

Sue referred to the GTEA January – March Quarterly Activity report. She reported that the GTEA grant is scheduled to end at the end of June, however, the Commission will ask for an extension. She commented that the Domestic Violence Specialist (DVS) position continues to be very successful. Sue reported many of the DV forms and information given to victims have been translated into Spanish. The DVS will be sharing appropriate translated forms with Bellingham, Superior and District courts. The five small cities have each passed an ordinance that fines domestic violence perpetrators \$100 which can go towards funding the DVS position.

The Commission held a successful forum in early March on the Whatcom County Domestic Violence and Firearms Protocols. The next forum to be scheduled will focus on strangulation. The Commission will also be holding a day-long forum on June 5th for defense and prosecution “Considering Context in Domestic Violence Cases”.

Sue reported there are still funds available if anyone would like to attend the Battered Women’s Justice Project national conference June 22-24 in St. Paul, MN. She is compiling a list of those interested in attending.

8. Director’s Report

Andrea gave the report.

Andrea referred to the 2009 Key Activities, the 4th Quarter Report and the Annual Report included in the packet and asked if members had questions or comments.

Andrea stated she became aware of a grant which could potentially continue to fund the DVS position a few days prior to the deadline. An application was developed and submitted. Sue, Rebecca and Andrea will be meeting to strategize funding for the DVS in case grant funds are not awarded. Commission members with an interest will be encouraged to join the conversation.

Julie Helling will be developing a community DV court watch program. Karen Summers suggested that she give a Commission topic presentation.

The Commission members agreed to change the quarterly Commission Meetings date to 3rd Tuesday.

9. Adjourned: 12:00

Next Meeting **Tuesday, June 16, 2009, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
St. Luke’s Community Health Education Center