

**MINUTES FOR THE
BELLINGHAM-WHATCOM COUNTY COMMISSION
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
RETREAT
January 25, 2005**

Members Attending: Cynthia Bauleke, Regina Delahunt, William Elfo, Sheri Emerson, Cheri Kilty, Kathleen Marshall, Dave McEachran, Erin McIlhany, Candy Petersen, Todd Reudlinger, Michael Sledge, Linda Storck, Karen Summers, Bruce Van Glubt, Kathy Washatka

Members Absent: Mary Elizabeth Bisese, Randy Carroll, Burton Dickerson, Mike Haslip, Joan Hoisington, Rebecca Johnson, Shannon Meyer, Jon Ostlund

Guests: Nikki Finkbonner, Lummi Victims of Crime; David Webster, NINE & Executive Director of Northwest Youth Services

Staff Attending: Sue Parrott, Director
Linda Ward, Administrative Support

Kathy Washatka, Chair, called the January Meeting of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence to order at 8:05 a.m., Tuesday, January 25, 2005 at the Municipal Court Fireplace Room, 2014 C Street, Bellingham, WA.

1. Presentation of Agenda and Introduction of Facilitator

Kathy welcomed David Webster as the Retreat Facilitator

2. Introduction of new Commission members

Candy Petersen, DSHS Bellingham CSO, Social Services Supervisor

Todd Reutlinger, ConocoPhillips, Commercial Planning Manager

Nikki Finkbonner, Coordinator, Lummi Victims of Crime (recommended for appointment, but not "official" yet)

3. Review of 2004 Accomplishments

Education/Outreach Committee

Mike Sledge reported the following accomplishments:

- 2003 Annual Report
- City and County Council Presentations
- Presentations (Safety Audit, Service Groups, Healthcare, co-sponsor of 2 workshops)
- DV trainings to Whatcom County Sheriff's Office
- DV Awareness Month
- First Annual DV Outstanding Achievement Award

Community Projects Committee

Cindy Bauleke reported the following accomplishments:

- Conducted 5 focus groups
- Hosted 2 DV Provider Meetings
- Formation of Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse Coalition
- Healthcare Project
- Arrests of women – reviewed case files
- Developed policy on victim input

Executive Committee

Kathy Washatka reported on the work of the Executive Committee.

- Financial decisions and budget planning and oversight
- Annual Retreat
- Formation of Business Plan Committee
- Filled Commission vacancies
- Reworded the ordinance concerning the Small Cities Commission representative
- Discussion on the Commission's involvement in legislative issues
- Sue Parrott and Randy Carroll participated in a national safety audit "think tank"
- Pursued the "Grants to Encourage Arrest"

Grants to Encourage Arrest Update

Sue reported that the Commission's application for the Grants to Encourage Arrest has been submitted. The Commission asked for \$313,000 for 2 years to complete Safety Audit I recommendations and to do Safety Audit II. The grant would:

- Provide funding for overtime expenses for law enforcement training on risk assessment and jail staff training on domestic violence
- Expand the 24 hour on-site advocacy service provided by DVSAS to all of Whatcom County
- Provide 10 specialized deputies in WCSO with video camcorders and lap top computers
- Fund a .75 FTE Safety Audit Coordinator within the DV Commission
- Provide funding to send project participants to 16 national trainings

We will not hear about the grant until August

Law and Justice Committee

Sue Parrott reported that the committee:

- Had to postpone the Safety Audit that was scheduled for 2004 due to lack of funding

Benchmarking Report

Sue reported that the 2003 Benchmarking Report includes new data, including disposition of misdemeanor and felony cases and DV perpetrator treatment provider data. Shannon Meyer edited the report and ran a statistical analysis on all longitudinal data. The Law and Justice Committee will review the final draft report at their next meeting. A few questions were asked about the meaning of the analysis.

#05-01 MOTION: Kathleen Marshall made the motion to adopt the report *Domestic Violence in Whatcom County, January 2005*. with the provision that the Law and Justice Committee make the necessary revisions. Bill Elfo seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

4. Business Plan Committee and Selection of Option

Regina Delahunt gave the Commission an overview of the work of the committee. She presented the Commission with the 5 options (A, B, C, D, E) that the committee explored, each based on differing funding levels and organizational structure.

The Business Plan Committee recommended Option C, which involves maintaining the current structure, but raising between \$50,000-\$100,000 per year to achieve the strategic plan and considering a 501(c)(3) structure in the future depending on the funding success. Commission members raised questions and comments about how money would be raised as well as about the merits of considering 501(c)(3) status.

- ◆ The Commission members decided to discuss funding strategies before voting on the recommendation of Option C.

David Webster led the Commission members in an exercise to determine where each of them stood on fundraising strategies by having them select options to various funding questions. The questionnaire and the results are as follows:

If _____ is needed to make the Commission succeed, I am....(ready, unready/willing, unwilling, opposed)

1. Providing names and contact information of potential donors from my personal and work databases. N=16

Ready	Unready/willing	Unwilling	Opposed
37.5 % (combined ready and unready/willing)		25%	37.5%

2. Authorize Commission to apply to corporate foundations, including local corporations such as Target, ConocoPhillips. N=16

Ready	Unready/willing	Unwilling	Opposed
81% (combined ready and unready/willing)			19%

3. Authorize Commission to apply to local foundations such as WCF N=16

Ready	Unready/willing	Unwilling	Opposed
68% (combined ready and unready/willing)			32%

4. Testifying in front of government panels or foundation selection committees. N=16

Ready	Unready/willing	Unwilling	Opposed
94% (combined ready and unready/willing)			6%

5. Raising funds to hire by contract a fund development firm. N=17

Ready	Unready/willing	Unwilling	Opposed
29%	6%	18%	47%

6. Selling memberships as part of a "Friends of the DV Commission". N=15

Ready	Unready/willing	Unwilling	Opposed
13%		34%	53%

7. Making an annual personal financial contribution that is relative to my means. N=16

Ready	Unready/willing	Unwilling	Opposed
81%			19%

8. Pursuing regional and national foundation funds with DV focus. N=16

Ready	Unready/willing	Unwilling	Opposed
100%			

As a result of the exercise, Commission members agreed to the following ranking of funding sources (#1 as highest priority/agreement):

- 1) Federal, State and Local Government
- 2) National and regional foundations
- 3) Corporations/businesses – including local
- 4) Local foundations
- 5) Unsolicited individuals

#05-02 MOTION: Regina Delahunt made the motion to adopt Option C. Linda Stork seconded the motion. The motion passed with one abstention.

5. Planning to Operationalize Selected Option

The Commission members decided on the following standing committees:

- Education-Outreach Committee
- Community Projects Committee
- Law and Justice Committee
- Resource Committee
- Executive Committee

Committee Work Plans

The Commission members divided into committees and prioritized the following strategies for implementation in 2005.

Resource Committee

Chair: Not determined

- Find funding
- Forecast what the Commission will look like in future
- Educate
- Connect with and educate legislative lobbyists
- Bring together service providers and coordinate efforts

Education-Outreach Committee

Chair: Mike Sledge

- DV Awareness Month
- Educational presentations
- Work with Resource Committee to educate the community
- Web site
- Decide the target group for presentations

Community Projects Committee

Chair: Cindy Bauleke

- Work with NW Regional Council on Elder Abuse Coalition
- Coordinate issues around CPS, Courts and DV victims
- Impact of DV on children
- Focus groups
- Arrests of women
- Look at Washington State Coalition Fatality Report

Law and Justice Committee

Chair: Shannon Meyer

- Benchmark report – finalize and distribute
- Look at Washington State Coalition Fatality Report
- Safety Audit II
- Review DVPT Provider standard evaluation
- Arrests of Women

Each committee gave staff a list of members, proposed meeting times and strategies.

- ◇ Sue will work with the Executive Committee to finalize a “doable” 2005 work plan on the above priorities.

6. Next meeting:

The next meeting will be April 26, 2005, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at St. Luke’s Community Health Education Center, 3333 Squalicum Parkway, Bellingham, WA