

**MINUTES FOR THE
BELLINGHAM-WHATCOM COUNTY COMMISSION
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
January 29, 2008**

Members Attending: Cynthia Bauleke, Karen Burke, Anna Carey, Randall Carroll, Regina Delahunt, Bill Elfo, Sheri Emerson, Cindy Enger, Joan Hoisington, Rebecca Johnson, Mike Knapp, Jon Komorowski, Byron Manering, Shannon Meyer
Joy Monjure, Candy Petersen, Linda Storck, Karen Summers, Bruce Van Glubt

Members Absent: Dennis Carlson, Nikki Finkbonner, Chi Na Kim, Dave McEachran

Guests: Pete Kremen, County Executive; Dan Pike, Mayor of Bellingham; Kathy Washatka, Washatka Group; Kirsten Hammer, Womenscare Shelter; Andrea Cary-Grant, Commission Director finalist

Staff Attending: Sue Parrott, Domestic Violence Commission Director; Caryl Dunavan, Domestic Violence Specialist; Linda Ward, Administrative Secretary

Regina Delahunt, Chair, called the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence January Retreat to order at 8:15 a.m., Tuesday, January 29, 2008 at St Luke's Community Health Center, 3333 Squalicum Parkway, Bellingham, WA.

Regina welcomed the Commission members to the retreat and offered a special welcome to Mayor Dan Pike and County Executive Pete Kremen. Regina recognized that this was Randy Carroll's last meeting as the Bellingham Police Chief, and Sue Parrott's last meeting as Commission Director.

Pete Kremen thanked the Commission for its continued efforts in educating the community about domestic violence. He thanked Sue Parrott for her service as Commission Director since the Commission's inception. Pete stated that the Commission has been in existence now for 9 years and he would like to see the efforts taken to an even higher level, and offered his support.

Bellingham Mayor Dan Pike stated that he is aware that domestic violence affects everyone in the community. He recognized the efforts of the Bellingham Police Department in improving its response to domestic violence. He commented that he is looking forward to providing continued support to the Commission.

Randy Carroll talked about what the Commission has meant to the community, what he has learned about what it means to be a leader in addressing domestic violence, and what he believes it will take to truly reduce domestic violence. He noted that historically women have been the property of men, and that the criminal justice system was originally designed for property rights and not for victim rights. He emphasized the importance of men of all ages taking action to address domestic violence because women will not be able to solve the problem alone. He shared steps he took to address cultural change within the Bellingham Police Department and the impact of the David Brame homicide-suicide on his commitment to the issue. Randy emphasized the need to socialize men and children on the importance of healthy and equal relationships. Randy challenged the Commission to continue its work in systemic change, to set the standard, and to hold each other accountable. He stated that citizens in

Whatcom County look to the DV Commission as leaders who promote consistent messages, policies, and values that are not victim blaming or revictimizing. Randy indicated he would be interested in continuing his work with the Commission in a new capacity.

Small Group Exercise: DV Commission History

Kathy Washatka divided the members into groups and asked them to draw a river depicting the historical path of the Commission by using features of a river, such as waterfalls, rapids, or rocks to represent the activity of the Commission. Each group shared their representation and reported on how they saw the 9 year path of the Commission.

2008 – 2010 Strategic Plan Prioritization

Kathy Washatka led the Commission in a discussion and prioritization of the proposed 2008-2010 Strategic Plan. Each member was asked to select 3 new initiatives they thought most important. The tally of 16 Commission members is as follows:

- [14] Convene a summit of (or series of events with) service providers (mental health, drug & alcohol, CPS, domestic violence and housing) to discuss coordination and integration of services across all disciplines and to set the foundation for a more coordinated and integrated service delivery model.
- [2] Provide training and technical assistance to mental/behavioral health, drug & alcohol services providers and CPS to align their approaches with demonstrated best practices for working with DV victims/survivors.
- [10] Conduct a feasibility study of the Family Justice Center model for our community.
- [10] Increase awareness and improve the skills of employers to offer consistent, appropriate responses to employees who are at-risk and/or victimized by DV. Increase awareness and improve the skills of area employers to offer consistent and appropriate responses to identified perpetrators of domestic violence within their employee base.
- [4] Develop an ongoing mechanism to ensure there is regular identification and resolution of gaps in the coordinated response to domestic violence.
- [4] Convene local children's and youth service providers to assess needs and existing service strategies around issues of DV.
- [3] Complete at least one additional Safety Audit in an area of need indicated by the community-wide approach.
- [1] Work with DV service providers to support and/or develop strategies to overcome barriers to increasing DV prevention education in all county school districts.
- [0] Identify a lead entity for maintenance of the Commission's achievements in increasing DV awareness and improved practice among medical providers.

[0] Identify a way to maintain the Commission's achievements in increasing DV awareness and improved practices among the criminal/civil legal system.

Kathy asked the members to sign off on which ongoing (current) strategies they would be willing to put time and effort into. The members expressed interest in the following:

Explore with the Whatcom County Coordinated Response Leadership Team any additional role for the Commission in overseeing the implementation of the "Whatcom County Coordinated Response Protocol: Domestic Violence, Children & Child Maltreatment.

Byron Manering
Bruce Van Glubt
Cindy Enger
Karen Burke

Publish an annual benchmark report.

No name noted

Conduct annual focus groups of victims/survivors to remain in touch with current issues.

Candy Petersen
Joy Monjure
Karen Summers

Assess the Commission's role in DV Awareness Month in order to balance plan-identified initiatives within available staff and volunteer hours. Whatever role the DV Commission assumes in DV Month, as much as possible, parallel DV Month activities with strategic plan initiatives.

Sheri Emerson
Rebecca Johnson

Implement Grants to Encourage Arrest Award (July 2007 – June 2009) and enhance the domestic violence response of the criminal justice system in the five small cities of Whatcom County by hiring and overseeing a system-based advocate, and by increasing linkages with community-based domestic violence services.

Regina Delahunt
Joan Hoisington
Karen Summers

Complete the initiative on school DV policies and procedures model.

Joy Monjure
Sheri Emerson

Conduct periodic stakeholder informational presentations on trends and local progress to maintain financial support for Commission operations.

Rebecca Johnson
Anna Carey

Kathy asked for input on pros and cons of a standing committee or project based committee structure. Commission members noted the following:

- Encourage more mix in committees
- Standing committees allow for better time management (even workload)

- Standing committees provide for regular contact among members

Kathy stated that the Executive Committee will review the input and recommend a Commission structure.

Andrea Cary-Grant, the finalist for the Commission Director position, gave a short presentation. She discussed the eight key activities of a coordinated community response to domestic violence as developed by Ellen Pence.

- Philosophical approach – victim safety – abuser accountability – community education
- Developing “best practices” (policies and procedures)
- Reducing fragmentation in systemic response
- Undoing harm to children
- Evaluating the system’s response from the stand point of victims
- Building monitoring into system
- Ensuring support community infrastructure
- Intervening with abusers

Andrea stated that in reviewing the Commission’s strategic plan she saw all these elements present. She commended the Commission for its efforts to build a true coordinated community response to domestic violence and the ways it has already integrated the above key activities into its work. Andrea stated that she believes a solid foundation is in place and that she will work to ensure that foundation is maintained as the Commission moves forward in implementing its Strategic Plan.

BUSINESS MEETING

Executive Committee

Due to the resignation of Todd Reutlinger, the position of Domestic Violence Commission Secretary is vacant. This unexpired term will run until April 22, 2008, at which time an election for all officers will be held at the Commission’s Annual Meeting.

MOTION #08-01: Randy Carroll made the motion that Byron Manering be elected to fill the position of Secretary. Shannon Meyer seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

MOTION #08-02: Karen Summers made the motion to adopt the September 25, 2007 Commission meeting minutes. Randy Carroll seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Strategic Planning Committee

MOTION #08-03: Joy Monjure made the motion to adopt the 2008-2010 Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence Strategic Plan. Randy Carroll seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Regina made a presentation to Sue Parrott for her unparalleled service to the Commission. The Commission members gave Sue a standing ovation.

Executive Session

Commission members met for a short Executive Session.

MOTION #08-04: The Search Committee recommended that Andrea Cary-Grant be recommended for the position of Commission Director. The Commission members voted unanimously to recommend Andrea Cary-Grant as the Commission Director.

ADJOURN: Noon