

**MINUTES FOR THE
BELLINGHAM-WHATCOM COUNTY COMMISSION
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

June 12, 2007

Members Attending: Cynthia Bauleke, Karen Burke, Anna Carey, Regina Delahunt, Bill Elfo, Sheri Emerson, Cindy Enger, Nikki Finkbonner, Rebecca Johnson, Chi Na Kim, Mike Knapp, Byron Manering, Dave McEachran, Shannon Meyer, Joy Monjure, Candy Petersen, Linda Storck, Karen Summers, Bruce Van Glubt

Members Absent: Randall Carroll, Burton Dickerson, Joan Hoisington, Janice Holt, Jon Komorowski, Steve Oliver, Todd Reutlinger

Guests: Larry McKnight, Domestic Violence Liaison and Investigator, CFS from the Attorney General's Office.

Staff Attending: Sue Parrott, Domestic Violence Commission Director
Joyce Gertler, Domestic Violence Commission Program Coordinator
Betsy Gross, Domestic Violence Commission Program Coordinator
Linda Ward, Administrative Secretary

Regina Delahunt, Chair, called the June Meeting of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence to order at 10:05 a.m., Tuesday, June 12, 2007 at St. Luke's Community Health Center, 3333 Squalicum Parkway, Bellingham, WA.

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Public Comment

None

3. Consent Agenda

MOTION: #07 – 06 Joy Monjure made the motion to approve the April 24, 2007 Commission Meeting and Retreat minutes. Cynthia Bauleke seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

4. Strategic Planning

Regina reported that the Strategic Planning Committee has brainstormed on how to gather input from a wide variety of community groups and stakeholders. Betsy Gross has taken the lead in accessing these groups and individuals and she reported that there will be 10 focus groups held during June and July as part of the strategic planning process. They include:

- 3 victim/survivor groups - DVSAS, Womenscare and Dorothy Place
- 1 youth group - Northwest Youth Services (GLBTQ)
- 1 batter treatment group
- 1 DV Commission

- 2 multi-disciplinary groups
- 1 DV Service Provider group
- 1 DCFS staff

Betsy Gross facilitated a “trial run” focus group with the Commission, using the questions that key stakeholders will be asked. Following are the results of the focus group.

1) Imagine the “ideal world” scenario in which Whatcom County is providing the most effective coordinated community response system possible to domestic violence: i.e. victims achieve maximum safety, their children are effectively protected, and abusers are always held accountable. What, specifically, would this look like?

- Family Justice Center
- Large Jail
- Integrated DV Court
- Fluency about DV in general population
- Money (systemic capacity)
- Interpreters for most commonly occurring languages with resources for others, including assistance to those who are not literate. Both spoken and written
- Perpetrator placement center (alternative to jail)
- Capacity in Prosecutor’s Office
- Comprehensive youth education programs (male and female)
- Healthy relationships K-12
- Capacity for probation, law enforcement, CPS, etc. - all systems to fully respond (i.e. firearms removal)
- Best practices across systems
- Systems held accountable
- Specific services for Dual diagnosis/ vulnerable populations (substance abuse/ mental health)
- Subsidized perpetrator treatment
- DV policies in place – businesses, schools
- Integration/ collaboration/ communication among all players
- No tolerance for DV in community
- Basic understanding of stalking and response w/ legislative support
- Effective DV lobbying effort
- Easy access to DV services throughout county
- Advocate present (on-scene) at law enforcement response
- Religious community awareness
- Good wrap-around services/ supervision/ accountability – offenders (e.g. peer monitoring)
- Support for victims on parenting and child safety
- Visitation centers
- Adequate support networks and services – both prevention and for at risk pops.
- DV Team (like CPT) established for staffing cases
- Adequate economic options for victims – long term support (housing, health/ mental health, jobs)
- Assistance for pets of victims
- Safer court (i.e. use of videos, etc)

- 2) From this list, identify what we do well now; what's already in place and working effectively.

Partially:

- Religious community awareness
- On-call but not yet on-scene advocacy with LE
- Access to DV services in many, but not all, places in county
- Healthy relationships – middle school only
- Safer courts (a few new procedures implemented)

In full:

- Assistance for pets of victims

- 3) Think about all that we do well currently in Whatcom County, i.e. what works well. Why does it work well? What are our strengths?

- “Commitment to Community”
- DV Commission – commitment, cooperation, “everyone is at the table”
- Support of local policy makers
- Excellent DV programs in Bellingham, throughout county, Lummi, Nooksack
- Transitional housing
- Collaboration with all Whatcom County stakeholders
- Education/commitment to communicate
- Rich history of activism
- DV stakeholder networks – connections throughout the county

Look at what we want and what we have. What is missing?

- 4) Immediate fix: what could we strengthen now or in the near term?
Commission members voted for 3 projects they felt were most important.
The results were:
() represents number of votes

- (12) Educational programs through programs such as Healthy Families, WIC, DSHS, BTC, First Steps, Parenting after Violence, Mother/baby Center (BCFSC-PCIT available)
- (12) Begin process to explore Family Justice Center as evidence / outcome-based best practice model
- (10) Expand on-call to on-scene advocacy with additional \$\$
- (9) Promote DV services through county (first id barriers to services)
- (8) Explore existing DV prevention curricula for young children
- (3) Regular meetings - DV Team
- Audits (?)
- Determine the best practices that are already established

5) Long term: what could we strive for as a long-term objective?

- (24) Family Justice Center
- (15) Communitywide education
- (5) Perpetrator placement center
- (5) Evidence-based practices across all systems
- (4) Treatment center for dual diagnosis population
- (1) Quality Assurance– monitoring outcomes /compliance
- Commission-driven leadership on holding partners accountable

5. Guest Speaker Presentation

Larry McKnight, Domestic Violence Liaison and Investigator, CFS, from the Office of the Attorney General of Washington State talked about his work in the newly created position of DV Liaison. Larry stated that he became involved with domestic violence as a police officer in Marion County, Oregon, where he had the opportunity of working on a DV task force. After working for many years in the WA State Attorney General's Office, he made a proposal to create a half time DV Liaison position. With Attorney General McKenna's support, Larry has set the following goals and priorities for this position:

- Establish statewide standards for the collection of domestic violence data and initiate some type of statewide data collection system.
- Raise the awareness of DV and associated issues to include: developing public service announcements, setting a "no tolerance" standard supported by the highest officials and leaders in Washington, creating a DV Policy for the Attorney General's Office with training on the policy for all management staff
- Work with Native and military communities
- Work with law enforcement on the domestic violence training provided through the Criminal Justice Training Commission
- Meet with DV Task Forces and Councils around the state
- Identify domestic violence legislative issues that the Attorney General's Office can help support and establish an Attorney General's DV Advisory Group
- Host an annual domestic violence network and training summit (hopefully in March 2008)
- Get men more involved by helping establish groups of men around the state working to prevent domestic violence.

6. Committee Reports/Motions

Regina reported that the annual presentation to City and County Councils went well. The Finance Committee of the Whatcom County Council asked the Commission to report back on implementation progress on the safety audit recommendations in six months.

Due to time constraints the committee reports were not given.

Adjourn: 11:55 a.m.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 25, 2007, 10:00 a.m. until Noon
St. Luke's Community Health Education Center**