

**MINUTES FOR THE
BELLINGHAM-WHATCOM COUNTY COMMISSION
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
November 25, 2008**

Members Attending: Cynthia Bauleke, Sheri Emerson, Cindy Enger, Nikki Finkbonner, Kirsten Hammer, Rebecca Johnson, Mike Knapp, Byron Manering, Dave McEachran, Shannon Meyer, Joy Monjure, Kathy Ramsay, Todd Ramsay, Becky Skaggs, Karen Summers, Gary Tomsic, Bruce Van Glubt

Members Absent: Sheila Brillson, Karen Burke, Anna Carey, Regina Delahunt, Bill Elfo, Joan Hoisington, Jon Komorowski, Linda Storck

Guests: None

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

Cynthia Bauleke, Chair, called the November Meeting of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence to order at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, November 25, 2008 at St Luke's Community Health Center, 3333 Squalicum Parkway, Bellingham, WA.

1. Welcome

2. Public Comment

None

3. Check-in

Kathy Ramsay reported that her office is working with DVSAS to get an advocate.

Dave McEachran noted that court security has not been cut yet.

Nikki Finkbonner stated that the Lummi half marathon was very successful.

4. Consent Agenda

MOTION #08-08 Dave McEachran made the motion to accept the April, June (as corrected) and September Minutes. Todd Ramsay seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. By-Laws

MOTION #08-09 Karen Summers made the motion to accept the changes to the By-Laws adding a DSFS member to the Commission. Rebecca Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Proposed 2009 Budget

Byron Mannering, in the absence of Anna Carey, had the Commission members review the Proposed 2009 Budget. Commission members discussed the possibility of asking the Lummi Casino and rotary clubs for donations.

MOTION #08-10 Shannon Meyer made the motion to accept the Proposed 2009 Budget. Sheri Emerson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Next GTEA Discussion

Commission members reviewed a GTEA Program Scope handout provided by staff. The list of possible projects included:

- Court Audit
- Civil Protection Order Process
- DV Specialist (weaving in immigration and non-English speaking victims)
- Training Series (possible focus on legal advocacy for underserved populations (elderly, individuals with disabilities and/or immigration issues))

It was noted that audits are not listed as an area of focus for the grant, however, and audit could be used as a project within another focus area.

Dave McEachran and Gary Tomsic both stated how beneficial the audits were to their agencies.

MOTION #08-11 Karen Summers made the motion to give Executive Committee authority to approve the GTE grant proposal. Joy Monjure seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Meeting Schedule

MOTION #08-12 Dave McEachran made the motion to approve the 2009 Meeting Schedule. Gary Tomsic seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Membership Reappointments

MOTION #08-13 Sheri Emerson made the motion to reappoint Shannon Meyer and Cindy Bauleke for another term. Rebecca Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Committee Reports/Motions

Executive Committee

Cindy Bauleke gave the report.

Cindy thanked Commission members for their input on Andrea's evaluation.

Victim & Children Support Committee and Education-Outreach Committees

Sheri Emerson gave the report.

Sheri stated that the Victim and Children Support Committee and the Education-Outreach Committees would be meeting together. Their next meeting will be December 18th. Sheri reported that the DV in the Workplace Task Force have developed a draft DV in the workplace policy.

Law & Justice Committee

Shannon Meyer gave report.

Shannon reported that the benchmark report will be out in December. Sue Parrott is helping to organize a training on the DV and Firearms Protocol. Dave Nelson approached the committee about a Domestic Violence Presentation to the Whatcom County prosecutors, public defenders and victim advocates as a pilot for a Battered Women's Project national presentation.

Family Justice Center (FJC) Ad Hoc Committee

Shannon Meyer gave the report.

The Executive Committee is reluctantly recommending the disbanding of the FJC Ad Hoc Committee. The committee has determined that this is not the right time to proceed with the feasibility of a FJC for Whatcom County. This may be picked up again in the future.

MOTION #08-14 Shannon Myer made the motion to table the discussion of a FJC and disband the FJC Task Force. Dave McEachran seconded the motion. The motion passed with one opposed.

11. Director's Report

Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM)

Andrea reported that the vigil attendance was low due to the Vice-Presidential debates. Two high school students worked on DVAM as part of a school project.

Summit

Andrea stated that over 60 domestic violence, mental health and chemical dependency providers attended the summit. Staff sent out a follow-up email to see if there is any interest in further discussions.

Membership

Andrea noted that she as oriented Sheila Brillson as the newest Commission Member. Sheila will be replacing Candy Peterson.

Committee Structure

Andrea asked the members how they would like to be more involved in the work of the Commission. Would a project oriented structure be preferred to the committee structure? Andrea encouraged the members to review what would best meet their talents and passions.

Focus Groups

Andrea asked for participation in developing the focus group questions. Kirsten Hammer and Todd Ramsay volunteered to help develop focus group questions with Andrea.

12. Retreat Date

Commission members agreed to change the Commission Retreat to Tuesday, February 3rd. Time and place to be determined.

13. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.