

**Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence**  
**DV Commission Meeting**  
**Thursday, November 30, 2017 from 8:30am-10:00am**  
**@ Bellingham Police Department Training Room**

*The mission of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence is to provide leadership in the community's effort to reduce and prevent domestic violence.*

**Members Attending:** Alan Artman; Riannon Bardsley; Beth Boyd; Regina Delahunt; Chief David Doll; Sheriff Bill Elfo; Christina Kobdich; Ken Levinson; Dave McEachran; Jon Mutchler; Katie Olvera; Darlene Peterson; Linda Quinn; Mike Riber; Peter Ruffatto; Sharon Rutherford; Garrett Shelsta; Kevin Turner; Mary Welch; Michelle Zlotek

**Members Absent:** Karen Burke; Lorayne Dennis; Silvia Johnson; Jon Komorowski; Kathy McNaughton; Moonwater; Dave Reynolds; Bruce Van Glubt

**Staff Present:** Susan Marks; Liz Stuart; Melissa Lacki; Elizabeth Montoya

**Guests:** Chris Roselli, Western Washington University; Asia Fields, Western Washington University

Agenda Item	Discussion
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reminder to complete meeting evaluations</li> <li>Introduce DV Commission members</li> </ul>	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DV Commission members introduced themselves and their agencies.</li> <li>DV Commission members were reminded to complete their meeting evaluations and commitment forms at the end of the meeting.</li> </ul>
<b>MOTION: Consent Agenda</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes from September 28, 2017</li> <li>Social media policy</li> </ul>	<b>MOTION: Consent Agenda</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members were provided with copies of the minutes from the 9/28/2017 meeting for review. <b>Regina Delahunt</b> made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting. <b>Alan Artman</b> seconded. The motion passed unanimously.</li> <li>Members were provided with copies of the DV Commission's newly adopted social media policy. Members reviewed the procedure.</li> </ul>
<b>DV Commission 2018</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Calendar of meetings</li> <li>Commitment form</li> </ul>	<b>DV Commission 2018</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members were provided with the DV Commission meeting calendar for 2018. Chris noted that in May 2018 is the Annual Meeting and the time is extended.</li> <li>Members were provided with their 2018 commitment forms and were asked to complete the forms and turn in to Elizabeth.</li> </ul>
<b>DV Homicides</b>	<b>DV Homicides</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Susan shared an update regarding the DV Commission’s role in responding to local domestic violence homicides.</li> <li>• KC McClanahan was killed by her husband Anthony in Utah, but they had previously lived (and met and married) in Bellingham. According to media reports, she was actively leaving him when she was killed. He has been charged and is in custody. Her family and friends say that there is a history of abuse and she was fearful of him. He has past civil custody cases in Whatcom County.</li> <li>• The most recent homicide in the community was that of Tanya and Benton Rowe by her husband, Kevin Rowe. This is currently under investigation by BPD.</li> <li>• Chief David Doll noted that BPD has reached out to the Bellingham School District because of their connection to Tanya, for support and to inform them of the investigation process. BPD is also supporting their officers through support groups and debriefing. The officer support program in the community is also an important resource for families, and the team of support officers work with families 24/7 to help them through trauma.</li> <li>• Sharon shared that the recent victims were her neighbors and mentioned that she may try to approach Tanya Rowe’s mother to talk about the impact, and what is needed.</li> <li>• Susan noted that our role as a Commission may include completing case reviews on the offender and victim and their contact with local systems. We may ask if we can we learn from this, and discover if there are things we can do differently in the future. The Law and Justice meeting will be meeting next week and will discuss this further.</li> <li>• Susan also noted that we are available to reach out to local media for accurate data on domestic violence statistics locally, DV dynamics, and resources. We are also available if requested to talk with employers, faith communities, health care providers.</li> <li>• Susan noted that the Bellingham City Council reached out to us last week about doing a vigil for Tanya and at this point we are not going to move forward. We haven’t heard of this being a desire from the family and people who are close to Tanya at this time, but if it is requested, the DV Commission can support it.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2017 DV Commission Project Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full Faith and Credit in DV Protection Orders</li> <li>• Toolkit for Faith Communities</li> <li>• Safe Futures</li> <li>• Sexual Assault National Demonstration Audit</li> </ul>	<p><b>2017 DV Commission Project Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full Faith and Credit in DV Protection Orders, presented by Ken Levinson. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ “Full Faith and Credit” refers to the issue of protection orders being honored in jurisdictions other than the one in which it was issued. It is a protection guaranteed by the Violence Against Women Act. It has come up in our community largely due to jurisdictional issues between the county court and the tribal courts. Protected individuals may travel from tribal to city communities, and need to ensure that they are protected wherever they choose to go.</li> <li>○ In a panel of local providers, it was noted that there are challenges with enforcing tribal protection orders. City and county</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

law enforcement have experienced challenges in determining whether protection orders are valid if they are not entered into the county data system.

- The Full Faith and Credit Task Force identified that tribal members had several obstacles to overcome to get their orders entered into the state system, and worked to lessen the burden on survivors by improving the way systems can interact with one another regarding these orders.
- Sandy Kiele from Superior Court noted that tribal members could come to the courthouse and could fill out paperwork to have their order stamped into the state system. However, we learned that this was not an easy process for survivors who may be experiencing trauma, crisis, and lack of transportation. We identified that it would be helpful if the courts could talk to each other directly.
- Now any time an order is put into place in a tribal court, it is automatically emailed to superior court and entered into the state system. Anytime a tribal court order is modified or dismissed, it's also sent to county courthouse. Now the burden is not on the petitioner, but on the systems.
- Riannon asked if there has been any follow up on how this process has been working. Susan noted that what we have heard from the tribal courts has been positive, but we have not run any data at this time. Susan will try to gather data in January 2018.
- Beth asked if there have been any issues after hours or over the weekend. Ken noted that the process is as immediate as any other process can be in the courthouse, and is limited to weekday hours. The tribal orders are sent to the county court immediately, so there should not be a delay there.
- Darlene commented that the wheels of justice ride exceedingly slow and that she finds it amazing that the task force was able to implement a change in such a short time.

- Toolkit for Faith Communities, presented by Garret Shelsta.
  - Garret presented an activity about the importance of relationships. The toolkit attempts to hone in on the importance of relationships—faith communities are one of the largest social gathering places in the county and it's where relationships are formed. That's where we want to infuse this knowledge. These are familiar relationships and there is a feeling of safety there that we can harness to have difficult and important conversations.
  - Faith communities are often trusted with the aftercare of DV situations. There have been horror stories about how faith communities have perpetuated harm, so giving them the tools to address good aftercare is something the DV Commission wanted.
  - Some of the Commission's goals include reaching youth, and faith communities are one of the largest points for reaching youth, outside of school and sports.

- One of the primary challenges is competing needs inside of a community. There are many social interests within the community, and it can be difficult to make time for this topic.
- Wins: Being connected to the DV Commission and to the faith communities helps the DV high risk team. There was an incident with a high-risk case and because we knew that the family was involved with a faith community, we were able to reach out and get this on their radar. Every time the toolkit gets into someone's hands, we have the opportunity to have conversations about it and they are very thankful for it. It has very actionable items that they can use. Not just issues of DV, but also building healthy relationships and other preventative measures.
- One challenge that we ran into was developing presentations, sermons, lectures, and workshops—all of which required extensive time and planning. We were able to get the toolkit into the hands of small group leaders, and we are working on giving the leaders the tools they can use to inform their congregations through their own means.
- Garret shared a clip from a sermon addressing DV that reached 3500+ people in the community.
- Safe Futures, presented by Linda Quinn
  - Linda asked the group to think about what they would hope young people in their lives would gain from school. The group listed confidence, safety, belonging, community, health, kindness.
  - Linda pointed out that it is very difficult to measure how well our young people have attained these things by using standardized testing. With the Safe Futures project, we want to reframe the way we look at prevention. When the No Child Left Behind act was adopted, it was framed as an achievement gap—teachers and youth had to work harder. Teachers and youth were to blame if they didn't succeed. The way we frame an issue is the way we solve it, so we are now moving to identify opportunity gaps. What do teachers and students bring to the classroom, and what are the gaps?
  - The DV Commission and the Ferndale School District received the STEP grant several years ago to increase prevention, services, and systems in the middle and high schools. Because of the STEP project, the Ferndale School District now has mandatory trainings on responding to domestic violence and sexual assault for all school staff. Youth prevention programs were also developed.
  - The group transformed after the grant ended, and became the Ferndale Community Coalition. A year ago, the Ferndale school board was asked to present on the Ferndale Community Coalition at the annual school board conference and it was so well-received that it's become a state model.
  - The Safe Futures grant now includes the Mt Baker and Blaine school districts and has expanded to address elementary school. It has also brought several additional partners to the team: Brigid Collins and Northwest Youth Services.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Safe Futures project: supports a whole child frame for addressing the way schools work with children and youth; promotes a systems approach to developing healthy relationships; fosters strong partnerships because schools can't do it alone; moves the focus from "all youth" to each individual young person, placing particular emphasis on those most vulnerable and/or marginalized; and acknowledges and amplifies the power of student voice and youth activism.</li> <li>● Sexual Assault National Demonstration Audit, presented by Katie Olvera <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Earlier this year, Katie and Melissa attended a training with Praxis International on conducting institutional audits. A local Audit team was formed, which includes a diverse group of representatives from various systems, and the team also attended a day-long audit training.</li> <li>○ The goal of the community audit project is to assess, strategize, and answer the question: How is the Bellingham-Whatcom County criminal legal system organized to meet the justice needs of sexual assault victims, particularly those of young adult and Native victims?</li> <li>○ The focus is on improving our systems together, not critiquing.</li> <li>○ We completed a one-week intensive data-collection process and within a week we collected data from 30 interviews, several focus groups, observations, and case reviews.</li> <li>○ Findings are very limited so far, but we are beginning to identify strengths and gaps. We also heard from survivors about what is helpful and not helpful in systems responses. One broad conclusion that we are seeing is that there are delays in responses in the criminal legal system and this is discouraging for victims.</li> <li>○ Next steps: we have more data to collect, we will narrow down strengths and gaps, make our recommendations and bring them to the community and the DV Commission.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>1. Adjourn</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Turn in your meeting evaluations and commitment forms to Elizabeth</li> </ul>	<p><b>@ 10:00am</b></p>