

BWCCADV

**Bellingham - Whatcom County
Commission Against Domestic Violence**



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2010 Meeting Minutes



**Meeting Minutes from
April 22, 2010**

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: Laurie Alexander, Karen Burke, Anna Carey, Regina Delahunt, Bill Elfo, Sheri Emerson, Kirsten Hammer, Joan Hoisington, Rebecca Johnson, Mike Knapp, Joy Monjure, Todd Ramsay, Cherie Stutesman, Becky Skaggs, Linda Storck, Bruce Van Glubt

Members Absent: Nikki Finkbonner, Jon Komorowski, Dave McEachran, Linda Quinn

Guests: None

Staff Attending: Andrea Cary-Grant, Director
Sue Parrott, Program Supervisor
Juliet Thompson, Program Coordinator
Linda Ward, Administrative Assistant

Rebecca Johnson, Chair, called the April Meeting of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence to order at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, April 22, 2010 at the Whatcom County Courthouse, room 513, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, WA.

BUSINESS MEETING

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Public Comment

None

3. Staff Announcement

Andrea announced that she would be resigning as Commission Director, effective May 20, 2010. Rebecca thanked her for her hard work and dedication.

4. Consent Agenda

MOTION #10-1 Mike Knapp made the motion to accept the November 17, 2009 Commission Meeting minutes. Todd Ramsay seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

5. Annual Budget

Commission members reviewed the 2010 proposed budget.

MOTION: #10-2 Joy Monjure made the motion to accept the 2010 budget. Sheri Emerson seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

6. Adjourn Business Meeting

Adjourned the Business Meeting at 10:20 a.m.

ANNUAL MEETING

1. Staff Annual Work Report

Sue Parrott, Program Supervisor

Sue reported that she is overseeing the Community Defined Solutions Grant (formerly Grants to Encourage Arrest). She presented the Commission members with a handout outlining the Commission's responsibility for the grant which involve two projects as well as grant management. Sue will be overseeing a Domestic Violence Safety and Accountability Audit of the civil domestic violence protection order process, to include seven agencies involved from victim initiated application to law enforcement service and civil stand-by. Sue will also be responsible for grant management.

Juliet Thompson, Program Coordinator

Juliet stated that she is working on the second project funded by the Community Defined Solutions Grant which is to increase victim safety and offender accountability in domestic and dating violence cases in the small cities of Whatcom County with a particular focus on underserved populations. She will support the DV Specialist and coordinate education and technical assistance. Juliet noted that she will be developing an outreach program for the underserved population and foreign speaking DV victims for the Everson/Nooksack area.

Andrea Cary-Grant, Director

- Andrea reported that she has been attending the DV Resource Network (formerly DV Task Force) meetings.
- Peter Jensen of the Bellingham Herald, interviewed Andrea for an upcoming Sunday feature focused on domestic violence in our community.
- Andrea provided an update on the discussion the Law and Justice Committee. Members are not interested in doing a full Whatcom County fatality review at this time, however, they

expressed an interest learning more about the process which determines whether or not a homicide is considered domestic violence homicide in Whatcom County.

- Andrea announced that Whatcom Triple Play's third forum will be held May 10th, 11:30 a.m. to 1p.m. at the YWCA. The focus will be on domestic violence. Previous forums focused on chemical dependency and mental health providers.

2. Committee Annual Reports

Law and Justice Committee – report by Karen Burke

Karen announced that Shannon Meyer has resigned as chair of the L & J Committee and as a Commission member.

The committee's completed work includes:

- Wrap up of the second GTEA grant
- Application for third GTEA grant
- DV and firearms forum
- Defense and Prosecution forum
- Benchmark report
- Update on court watch program
- Fatality Review Presentation & Small City Forum

Ongoing work includes:

- Community Defined Solutions Grant (formerly GTEA 3)
- Benchmark
- PO and firearms
- LE risk assessment check-ins
- Follow up on implementation of recommendations from previous audits
- Review of national and state plans re: no contact orders

Education-Outreach / Victim and Children Support Committees – report by Sheri Emerson

The committee's completed work includes:

- DV in Workplace tools – 4 phase process 1) develop (done), 2) promote (in process) 3) Recruit (all Commission members), 4) Recognize (2010 DVAM)
- Selected DVAM Outstanding Achievement Award recipients
- Review and recommendations for web site updates
- Participation in Whatcom Triple Play meetings
- Completed four focus groups

Ongoing work includes:

- Promote DV in Workplace
- Develop procedures for Meridian School District policy
- Assess the Commission's role in supporting implementation of DSHS's Social Worker's Guide to DV and the related protocol

Executive Committee – report by Rebecca Johnson

The committee's completed work includes:

- Annual Report
- Planning Commission meetings

- Focus on engagement of Commission members
- City and County presentations

Rebecca stated that it has been very challenging to get a quorum at Commission and committee meetings.

3. Future Commission Roles & Assignments

Rebecca asked Commission members what they thought is the role of the Commission. The following comments were made:

- Includes key players from the community
- A coordinating agency
- Keep conversations alive and to look forward
- Looking at evolution
- Getting grants

It was suggested that there be more in-depth news reporting. It may be beneficial to have a law enforcement representative and a Commission spokesperson talk about the growing problem of domestic violence.

Suggestions to improve the Commission include:

- Reduce number of Commission members
- Reduce number of police officers on the Commission
- Add WWU student and a press representative to the Commission
- Commission meeting include short committee reports and spend rest of meeting discussing topics
- Have Commission do big picture (Commission work is getting blurred with DV service providers)
- Compile a local fatality review
- Reduce number of committees

Commission members noted that Whatcom County is ahead of the nation in addressing DV issues.

Next Steps

- Identify Commission goals and how to accomplish them (form to follow function)
- Meet in a month or two to elect a slate of officers and discuss moving the Commission forward.

Rebecca asked for volunteers to serve on a workgroup to discuss how to help the Commission move forward. Karen Burke, Joan Hoisington, and Becky Skaggs volunteered to serve on the workgroup.

4. Adjourn 11:40 a.m.



**Meeting Minutes from
Thursday, October 26, 2010**

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:

Laurie Alexander, Karen Burke, Anna Carey, Regina Delahunt, Bill Elfo, Sheri Emerson, Nikki Finkbonner, Kirsten Hammer, Joan Hoisington, Rebecca Johnson, Mike Knapp, Joy Monjure, Linda Quinn, Todd Ramsay, Becky Skaggs, Linda Storck, Dan Story, Cherie Stutesman, Bruce Van Glubt

Members Absent:

Jon Komorowski, Dave McEachran, Todd Ramsay

Guests:

Kathy Washatka

Staff Attending:

Susan Marks, Domestic Violence Commission Director
Sue Parrot, Program Supervisor
Juliet Thompson, Program Coordinator
Meaghan Connell, Interim Administrative Assistant

Rebecca Johnson, the Commission Chair, called the October Meeting of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence to order at 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, October 26, 2010 at St Luke's Community Health Center, 3333 Squalicum Parkway, Bellingham, WA.

Business Meeting

1. Welcome – Introduction of Susan marks, new Director for BWCCADV

- Susan Marks, the new Commission Director, introduced herself to everyone. Susan discussed her experience working in the field of domestic violence and sexual assault which has included working at a shelter and a rape crisis center before getting her Masters Degree in Sustainable Communities. Susan described a sustainable community being connected to ending DV. While completing her Master's Degree she became an Executive Director of a non-profit in Flagstaff, Arizona working with children and youth. Susan closed her introduction saying that there are

things the Commission can do at a community level to end DV within the Whatcom County community.

2. Public Comment

- No Public Comment

3. MOTION: Approval of Minutes from April 22, 2010 Commission Meeting

- Karen Burke made a Motion to accept the April 22, 2010 Commission Meeting minutes. Sheri Emerson seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

4. MOTION: Approval of Slate of Officers

Chair: Rebecca Johnson

Vice Chair: Todd Ramsay

Treasurer: Anna Carey

Secretary: Kirsten Hammer

- Susan asked the Commission if there were any nominations on the floor.
- Nikki Finkbonner made the motion to approve this Slate of Officers until the Annual Meeting next May, Joy Monjure seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

5. Transition News

- Kathy began her discussion about the Transition Report.
 - There were nine key questions with all answers being very consistent.
 - Some of the concerns centered around Orientation and people's understanding of the Commission's role.
 - Orientation in the past was not that helpful to some
 - There was a disconnect with the role of the Commission and what the Commission will be doing in the future.
 - Some also felt it was difficult to come into a large group and understand one's own personal role within that group.
 - There has been a lack of attendance – it has been difficult to meet a quorum.
 - Mostly people were happy to come to meetings when there was a clear purpose and if they felt engaged.
 - Resoundingly everyone is very committed and wants to have work that feels impactful for the Commission.
 - Safety Audit and Benchmark Reports thought of as very positive within the Commission.
 - Everyone was also asked what they wanted to see in the new Commission Director.
 - Job was posted – 39 people applied for the position – Narrowed it down to 7 – Did phone interviews with those 7 (applicants were nationwide) – Narrowed it down to 2 who were then brought to Bellingham and who were interviewed by a committee consisting of Kathy Washatka, Rebecca Johnson, Sheri Emerson, Becky Skaggs, Todd Ramsay and Karen Burke – Susan was unanimously approved by the interview committee for hire.
- Rebecca J. discussed how beneficial it was, having Kathy work with BWCCADV.

6. Moving Forward: Commission Initiatives

- Rebecca asked the Commission to complete the following initiatives by launching them and taking them into the community so they can become adopted by various organizations and institutions.

- Commission members signed up to work on one or more of the following initiatives.
- The Chair of these new Committees will have a seat at the Executive Committee meeting. Sheri Emerson has agreed to chair the DV in the Workplace committee; Becky Skaggs has agreed to chair the DV Fatality Response Committee.
- The Commission will specifically work on the following initiatives and SUSPEND all other standing Committee meetings.
- There are also other projects that the Commission Staff is currently working on, including the Benchmark Report, the Safety Audit, and the Small Cities Projects.
- There is also interest on the Commission to continue to have speakers at Commission meetings, as long as the speaker is relevant, as a source of on-going education.

- DV in the Workplace –
 - The guidelines are set for DV in the Workplace – the next step is how do we get these guidelines and tools out into the community?
 - The templates for policies and procedures are still posted on the website.
 - There was discussion about implementing the DV in the Workplace policy. Ideas included:
 - Society of Human Resource Managers (SHRM)
 - Western Washington University’s Human Resource Management program – Could they do a service learning project from the perspective of liability?
 - Inform the community that DV victims are eligible for unemployment benefits.
 - Health Department has promoted breastfeeding in the workplace, and could similarly assist with the DV in the Workplace policies.
 - Businesses talking to businesses – using one’s own experience will be useful.
 - Sustainable Connections had been approached.
 - Contact businesses who had dealt with protection orders; they might be likely to adopt the DV in the Workplace policy.
 - Important for advocates need to understand and be educated about these policies as well.

- DV Fatalities Response by Commission
 - Rebecca stated that there was an interest in reviewing the Commissions role and response to fatalities.
 - There was discussion about the Commission’s response to DV fatalities. Ideas included:
 - There has been concern about coverage in the press and how homicides are labeled as DV-related. One challenge right now is the amount of information and all of the sources that this information comes from.
 - Some people are confused when there is a fatality involving a parent and child and why that was considered DV.
 - The Commission could look at different publications to spread the news; one example is The Weekly.
 - When information is given to the Herald there seems to be discrepancies with the original statement that was made. The Sheriff’s Office is looking at other media outlets such as facebook so they can release the press release in its entirety.
 - KVOS is trying to become our local channel

- King TV always puts the National Domestic Violence hotline number when there is any report on violence against women.
 - The Herald has said in the past that they will provide information as long as they can fit it in.
 - There will no longer be a three year State Fatality Review but there may be some funds for small communities through DSHS.
- School Policy
 - There was discussion about the Commission's model school policy to respond to DV. Ideas included:
 - This policy has been completed – we may need procedures and to be implemented in other school districts.
 - This policy had been adopted by the Meridian School District – the Commission is looking to make it county wide.
 - It would be very important and would be helpful if this policy was adopted by ALL school districts.
- Long-Range Plan
 - The Executive Committee is interested in creating a plan similar to the 10-year plan to end homelessness. The plan could be a 10-year-plan to end domestic violence. This committee will explore the feasibility of such a plan.
 - The plan will be broad and create overall goals, not specific objectives and activities like the most recent strategic plan.

7. Director's Report

- 2010 & 2011 Meeting Schedule
 - Meeting schedule will be consistent. The Commission will meet every other month and it will always be the 4th Thursday of the month at the Bellingham Police Department. Executive Committee will meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.
 - The day and time was based on a matrix Linda did, and these times were the ones that most people could attend.
 - The new schedule will start in November 2010; we will meet Thursday November 18 at the Bellingham Police Department. The Executive Committee will meet on November 16 at the Opportunity Council from 11-12:30.
- Transition Report
 - Susan said that since she has started her position as Director she has moved offices, met with Sue and Juliet, and has been learning about people's roles within the Commission along with what her role is.
 - Susan is currently working with DVSAS to better understand the Commission's budget.
 - Susan is composing an introduction letter to various community members – including Mayors, Superintendents, Prosecutors, Police Chiefs, Judges and Commissioners, City and County Council Members and several others.
 - Susan will forward this letter to all Commission members so they can pass the letter along to other contacts. Please CC Susan in those emails to other contacts so she has their contact information.

- The letter is about letting the Whatcom County community know that we exist and what we are currently working on.
- Susan also has read through the employment and school policies.
- Quarterly Report
 - Ongoing work that has been continuing in regards to the CDS/GTEA grant includes the Safety and Accountability Audit and Small Cities Projects. Juliet has been setting up meetings for the Everson Outreach Project. This project will look different than originally proposed but will still satisfy the grant.
 - Four people were funded by the Commission to attend conferences – Karen Burke attended the Fatality Review Conference; Laurie Alexander along with two others attended a conference on DV and Children.
 - The 2008-2009 Benchmark Report should be released by the end of next month.
 - Sue gave an update on the Safety Audit as it continues to look at the Civil Process along with the Court Response. There is a nine member audit team, and it has been a very time consuming process. The team has been divided up to audit seven agencies.
 - Currently the Safety Audit is at the point of data collection, observing and gathering
 - The team is looking for gaps and how each institution is responding
 - Right now there is a lot of information and currently they are deciding on what area the team needs to focus on.
 - There is still at least two months left of data collection, and the report will likely be done in early spring.
 - This project has been more complicated than others in terms of observations. One of the challenges they have had on the audit team was that people will file a Protection Order and then do not follow up; this in turn makes it difficult to find a complete case to follow through all of the stages in the Safety Audit.

8. DV Awareness Month and Outstanding Achievement Award Report

- Becky recapped DV Awareness Month events, and discussed the DV Vigil. The Outstanding Achievement Award was presented to Molly Masland – her nomination was brought to the DV Commission by the Opportunity Council. Molly was nominated by Veronica Cortez. Molly started a creative writing club for children called Kid Tales at Dorothy Place (the Opportunity Council’s transitional housing for women and children who are survivors of DV). Molly started the group, which meets every Monday afternoon. Molly also recognized the need for a children’s library at Dorothy Place and has solicited hundreds of books – she also created a check out system and has reading time with them. Molly has also been working with the moms to understand how important it is to read to their children.
- Kirsten said that she did not feel the vigil was very well attended, and wanted everyone to think about how the word gets out about DV Awareness Month events. Kirsten also asked if any of the family members from the DV fatalities were ever contacted, perhaps they would have liked to attend some of the events.
- Susan said that the Labyrinth was not very well attended with only three people in 3 hours.
- Bill Elfo thought that perhaps there were too many events – he suggested we combine events next year.

9. Updates Concerning Domestic Violence in Whatcom County

- Rebecca stated that is a very challenging time with the budget for many of the departments and organizations represented on the Commission.
 - This topic will be discussed further at the next Commission meeting.
- Currently in regards to the budget the City of Bellingham will continue to fund \$54,500 but the county has been reduced by \$10,000 to \$35,000. There is a budget hearing at 2:00 pm on Thursday October 28th regarding the County funding. If people want to come and talk about why this funding is important for the Commission they are welcome to do so.
 - Under the ordinance the Commission is financially supported by the County.
- For Next Meeting
 - Think about the economic impact in terms of budget cuts and how that has impacted agencies and services.
 - The RFP for the federal CDS grant will be coming out in December – we will talk about potential projects.
 - Next month the three individuals who went to the DV and Children conference will report on what they learned.

10. Adjourn at 9:30



**Meeting Minutes from
Thursday, November 18, 2010**

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:

Laurie Alexander, Karen Burke, Regina Delahunt, Bill Elfo, Sheri Emerson, Kirsten Hammer, Rebecca Johnson, Mike Knapp, Jon Komorowski, Dave McEachran, Joy Monjure, Todd Ramsay, Becky Skaggs, Linda Storck, Cherie Stutesman

Members Absent:

Anna Carey, Nikki Finkbonner, Joan Hoisington, Linda Quinn, Dan Story, Bruce Van Glubt

Guests:

Liz Stuart from DVSAS
Jana Bozak from the Bellingham Police Department.

Staff Attending:

Susan Marks, Domestic Violence Commission Director
Sue Parrot, Program Supervisor
Juliet Thompson, Program Coordinator

Rebecca Johnson, the Commission Chair, called the November 2010 Meeting of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence to order at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, November 18, 2010 at Bellingham Police Department, 505 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, WA.

Business Meeting

1. **Welcome and Introductions** were made by Rebecca Johnson.
2. **Public Comment:** No Public Comment
3. **MOTION: Approval of Minutes from October 26, 2010 Commission Meeting**
 - Mike Knapp made a Motion to accept the October 26, 2010 Commission Meeting minutes. Cherie Stutesman seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

4. Orientation and Membership

- During the transition interviews conducted by Kathy Washatka, many people expressed a need for the Commission to have a better orientation process, and to have a mentorship process for new members. The Exec Committee decided to move forward with this. Rebecca Johnson will be the mentor for Cherie Stutesman, Sheri Emerson will mentor Dan Story, and Susan will find a mentor for Linda Quinn before the next Commission meeting.
- There are several vacancies on the Commission, including human service provider and community at large positions for both the County and the City. In addition, some Commission members have terms that will be expiring.
- Rebecca will move into Community at Large position for the City, which will also create a vacancy in Health Care.
- The Commission is looking for leaders to fill vacancies. Proposals will be vetted at the Executive Committee meeting in December. If selected, nominees will be contacted by Susan for interest, fill out an application, and then be approved by either the Mayor (for City appointments) or the County Executive (for County appointments).
- Suggestions were made for potential new members, including Alcoa and the Lighthouse Mission. Commission members will send their thoughts and ideas to Susan.

5. Presentation: Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment

- Laurie Alexander, Liz Stuart, and Jana Bozak presented on a conference that they attended in Rhode Island in September on Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment. All three expressed gratitude to the Commission for paying them to go to the conference through the CDS grant.
- They attempted to show the short DVD presentation Rachael produced by Praxis, but there were technological difficulties. The video is available through the Family Justice Center Alliance and at the DV Commission office.
- Highlights of the conference as it related to our work here in Bellingham, as reported by Liz, Jana, and Laurie, included:
- The way our work is organized often has a bigger effect than we realize on how services are provided.
- We can regularly step back and look at how we work together and whether those systems are meeting our goals or not.
- Actual 911 recordings were used at the conference, and analyzed to determine for each case: How well was this done? What else could have happened? How is the agency's work organized, what does their paperwork look like? In Bellingham, a multi-disciplinary team meets once a week to talk about cases. Perhaps this could be a forum for discussion the overall systems response to domestic violence. This may mean disrupting a part of the status quo.
- Kids are witnesses to DV, they also live and breathe it. If a child was involved in the incident in any physical way, then the CPS can step in; but if children are only part of the incident as witnesses, there is not anything CPS can do.
- Batterers learn how to play the game, work the system, often right up to edge of an assault through the use of emotional abuse. Shorter swifter consequences have a better impact on keeping families safe.
- CPS case workers need to make reasonable efforts to get the family back together if that is the desired resolution. But if an offender doesn't go to batterer's treatment first, then offenders they basically learn how to adapt power and control to the other issues using a philosophy of entitlement as they learn new parenting skills, for example.
- Whatcom County's services for batterers are extremely limited.

- Ideally Batterer service providers would work side by side with advocates to provide services.
- Peer review is needed of our existing Community Coordinated Response Protocol – to make an effort to revive and use it.
- They observed that Whatcom County is ahead of the curve, that we already have many systems in place that were being discussed at the conference.
- The law enforcement response when children are present was a good session. Questions arose during the conference such as: When law enforcement searches the house for children should they take the non-offending parent with them?
- The opportunity that Liz, Laurie, and Jana had to interact with each other and discuss issues while attending the conference together was very valuable.
- After the conference, Laurie arranged for Liz to train CPS staff on domestic violence, 3 CPS case workers calling the DVSAS advocate line the following week.

6. Commission Initiatives & Committees

- Both Commission and non-Commission members can serve on the committees. If a Commission member has staff, coworkers, or colleagues that they would like to recommend to sit on the committee, they can make the recommendation to Susa, who will follow up to see if they are willing.

DV in the Workplace

- Sheri Emerson, Chair of the DV in the Workplace Committee, suggested that we use the clout of the members to get the DV in the Workplace policy out into the community.
- Mike Knapp reserved a time for a presentation to the Ferndale Chamber of Commerce in March. Susan will arrange for Commission members to be there to present to the Chamber.
- Sheri made an invitation and call to action to Commission members to investigate their own DV in the Workplace policies, and to promote the policies at their own workplaces. She said that it will be easiest for us to convince others to take on the policies if Commission members have also done so. Any Commission members who currently have policies will send them on to Susan and Sheri.
- The County has a violence in the workplace policy that they believe covers DV also. They need to compare the DV Workplace policy w/ the existing policy.
- The Sherriff's office also has a DV policy that has been molded to fit their particular situation – and this is what will essentially need to be done with every workplace.

DV Fatalities Response

- Becky Skaggs – Chair of the Fatality Response Committee – reported that the Committee has formed, and Becky and Susan has set agendas for the first 2 – 3 meetings. They will explore the recent fatalities, the fatality response protocol, and the media's response.
- The biggest question for this Committee is: What is the Commission's role when a fatality occurs?

Long Range Plan

- Karen Burke will Chair the Long Range Plan Committee.
- This Committee will begin to meet in January to create a plan for Whatcom County to respond to domestic violence, rather than just a strategic plan for the Commission.
- Susan has done some research on the 10-year plan to end homelessness that she will share with the Committee when they meet.

School Policy

- No one volunteered for this committee.
- Susan will move forward with this initiative, as it may not even need a full committee to implement the school policy. She will consult with Commission members and enlist their assistance as needed.

7. CDS Grant Discussion

- Susan referred Commission members to a hand-out that discussed current grant guidelines, priority areas, and prohibited activities, as well as suggestions for projects for the next grant.
- Sue gave overview of the grant, which is part of the Violence Against Women Act. We are in the middle of our 3rd award, and they are competitive awards. The City of Bellingham has traditionally been the applicant, and they are required to have partnerships with the DV service agencies. Over the 3 years, Commission has brought in over a million dollars. Other entities have always been involved and received funding as well. The grant has also been the main vehicle for Audits.
- New ideas for the next grant application period included:
- Domestic Violence Specialist (DVS) – systems based advocate in the small cities. The Commission originally developed the idea of supporting the small cities, and law enforcement and prosecutors wanted a prosecution based advocate. The Commission supervised the position for the first year. It was hoped that the cities would begin to fund the position themselves eventually. Now, Ferndale has a contract with the DVS, but she continues to serve all five small cities at a slightly reduced ¾ time. The Cities are currently not contributing funds to the position. Each city now has an ordinance that allows them to assess a \$100 fine for DV, but it is still only about \$5000 per year. Ferndale has been contributing \$2700 to the Commission, and Blaine has been contributing \$1500 to the Commission, but next year it will most likely be only Ferndale. The DVS position is valued, and more victims are accessing services. The Commission expressed support for continued funding for the DVS position through the next CDS grant.
 - Orders for Protection – During an Audit, nothing is public information until the audit is completed, so Sue could not share all of the information with the Commission at this time. Also, the current grant funds Sue to continue working with the audited agencies to work with implementation of proposed changes. Key areas that could be addressed in the next CDS grant include: the need for petitioners to work with someone on behalf of them throughout the process; safety and security in the courthouse; compliance issues with violations that are not criminal such as orders to attend batterer’s treatment and turning over firearms – stronger policies can be created around any one of these issues. There was support for having a legal advocate to assist all petitioners with protection orders.
 - DV and other related crimes i.e. stalking and sexual assault. It was suggested that this could involve risk assessments, creating a stalking kit, more policies and procedures, and training. There was support for this initiative as well.

- Greater outreach to underserved populations – including immigrants, legal advocacy, perhaps by using the Kendall Resource center. It was stated that this might fit the least within the Commission’s mission, and there was the least support for this idea.
- Clearly there is need in all these areas. We want to make sure we are covering the gaps that are being created by the funding cuts. We also have to ensure that we are not supplanting funds, because that is not allowed.
- One thing we could do is communicate to the public that when government funding is cut – this is what the results are.
- We have MOUs with cities about training for contacting advocates at the scene of the crime, but they are falling by the wayside. Karen Burke expressed interest in continuing the MOUs and training.
- To get grant money, we have to have a good idea that will grab the readers’ attention, and one that can show results.
- Getting through batterer’s treatment is problematic – mostly because of affordability. The courts can order treatment, but they know that it will be extremely difficult for people to comply.
- Karen Burke expressed interest in the DVS position, the legal advocacy position, the MOUs and training related to contacting advocates at the scene of the crime, and risk assessments, which could include stalking, sexual assault, and firearms. There seemed to be general support for these ideas.
- Susan will convene a meeting with anyone who is interested after the grant guidelines come out, to better flush out, prioritize, and structure the ideas.

8. **Impact of Economy on Domestic Violence** – This will be discussed at the January meeting.

9. **The meeting adjourned** at 11:30