

BWCCADV

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



1407 Commercial Street, Bellingham, WA 98225
360.312.5700 | www.dvcommission.org

2012 Meeting Minutes

Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence
 DV Commission Meeting
 Thursday, January 26, 2012 from 10:00-11:30 am
 @ Bellingham Police Department

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, Mary Dumas, Sheri Emerson, Bill Elfo, Gary Jensen, Rebecca Johnson, Mike Knapp, Todd Ramsay, Becky Skaggs, Linda Storck, Kirsten Hammer, Joan Hoisington, Jon Komorowski, Dave McEachran, Sherry Mallory, Linda Quinn, Dan Story, Bruce Van Glubt, Greg Winter, Darla Woolman

Members Absent:

Pat Buchinski, Nikki Finkbonner, Manuel Reta, Cherie Stutesman

Staff Present:

Susan Marks
 Sue Parrott
 Stacy Miller
 Meaghan Connell

Guest:

Jack Louws, Whatcom County Executive
 Ty Schroyer, Perpetrator Treatment Provider; Sea Mar
 Nicole Goodman, Internal Controls/BFA Policy Coordinator; Western Washington University
 Mika Greathouse, Disability Medical Leave Administrator; Western Washington University
 Marcy Hammer, Training & Development Specialist; Haggen, Inc.
 Flo Simon, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services Board Chair
 Sheri Sanchez, Certified Municipal Clerk and Human Resource Officer; City of Blaine
 Police Chief Mike Haslip; City of Blaine
 Lorna Klemanski, Human Resource Director; City of Bellingham

Agenda Item	Discussion
1. Welcome and Introductions	Welcome and introductions were made by everyone and the meeting began.
2. Domestic Violence in the Workplace	
Recognition Ceremony, <i>Presented by Executive Jack Louws</i>	Executive Louws presented Certificates of Recognition to businesses and organizations for implementing comprehensive Domestic Violence Policies and Procedures in their workplace. Thank you, City of Bellingham, City of Blaine, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services, DSHS Community Service Office, Haggen Inc., Sullivan Plumbing, Western Washington University, and Whatcom

	County.
Kick-off for 2012 DV in the Workplace Challenge, <i>Presented by Chief Mike Knapp</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Domestic Violence is an ugly and invisible crime done in the home behind walls and without witnesses. We commend the businesses for implementing these policies, showing that employers recognize victims. This year Susan, along with the DV in the Workplace Committee, want to have 50 additional businesses add these policies and procedures to their business and/or organization. We are asking that each member commit to bringing in two businesses by the end of the year. We also encourage the employers here today receiving the awards to encourage others to adopt these policies. This challenge is highly achievable. - Each Commission Member was given a packet with outreach information to provide businesses, including information of the impact of DV on the workplace, a hard copy of the policies, and Susan’s business cards for follow-up. The DV Policy is available online in a word format so an employer can adapt it as needed; we want this to be as easy as possible. - It is important to have Commission Members encourage businesses throughout the community to adopt these policies and procedures. - Each Commission Member was given a commitment card to turn in at the end of the meeting with the names of two businesses they will be contacting by and reporting back about at the March Commission Meeting.
3. Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There was no public comment.
4. Consent Agenda	<p>MOTION: Approval of Minutes from October 4, 2011 DV Commission meeting and Approval of the 2012 DV Commission Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mike Knapp made a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Todd Ramsay seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.
4. Strategic Plan projects update	
Children Impacted by Domestic Violence Committee Chair - Laurie Alexander, Members – Nikki Finkbonner, Mary Dumas, Sherry Mallory, Rick Qualls, Darla Woolman, Kami Kruzich, DSHS, Dani Johnson, DVSAS, Ty Shroyer, SeaMar, Stacy Malone-Miller, Gail Tierney, Child Advocacy Center, Jeralyn Heil, Catholic Community Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Laurie reported out on the Children Impacted by DV Workgroup. So far the workgroup has met twice and looked at who was still missing from the Committee. The group is very excited about looking into updating the Response Protocol: Domestic Violence, Children, and Child Maltreatment Handbook: http://dvcommission.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/Whatcom-County-Court-DV-CPS-Protocol-Oct-2007.pdf - Next steps for the Workgroup are: connecting with Judge Snyder who was a part of the creation of the protocol, making the appropriate updates, and looking at starting to train on it. The protocol was created in 2007 but there was never any training done on it. - An additional idea is to create education and training for other community stakeholders. The hope with the training is to also piggyback off of the Darkness to Light Trainings http://www.brigidcollins.org/index.php?display=32&expand=13 and include trainings to Faith Based Organizations, along with reaching out to community stakeholders and educating them on this issue.
Perpetrator Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Susan reported out on the Perpetrator Response Workgroup. One of the

<p>Committee Members: Kirsten Hammer, Becky Skaggs, Bruce Van Glubt, Cherie Stutesman, Ty Schroyer</p> <p>Follow-up on past projects</p>	<p>items in the Strategic Plan is to conduct a Perpetrator Response Systems Review. When people began signing up for the various committees this one in particular had quite a bit of overlap with every participant currently being involved in another committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When the Perpetrator Response Workgroup met in December 2011, the group agreed to reconvene in the fall. Doing this will allow time for the DV in the Workplace Group to get the DV in the Workplace 2012 Challenge going. - Susan met with the DV in the Workplace Workgroup and everyone agreed that it was important to continue on to recruit more businesses and organizations for the policy and procedures. Continuing this Work Group stays true to the Strategic Plan in the Action Step of <i>Ensure follow-up on Past DV Commission Projects</i>.
<p>Fatality Review</p> <p>Committee Chair - Becky Skaggs, Members – Greg Winter, Dan Story, Mary Dumas, Laurie Alexander, Karen Burke, Regina Delahunt, Pat Buchinski, Jo Justesen, Sue Parrott, WSCADV – Jake Fawcett</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Becky reported out on the Fatality Review Workgroup. The Fatality Review was a Strategic Initiative that was identified last year. At the first Workgroup Meeting Jake Fawcett from WSCADV walked the group through this process, figured out what it would take to complete it, and if we had the resources to do it. - Becky wanted to make it very clear to the full Commission that if we do a Fatality Review it is about moving forward with the recommendations, not about blaming. - The completed Fatality Review will be both an internal document as well as an external document providing recommendations. - This is a very involved process; a lot of preparation work will be done by Jake and Susan. The Fatality Review Team will be around 20-30 people. The 1st meeting would be an orientation on the process, the 2nd would be a summary of findings, and the 3rd would be smaller groups getting together to develop an implementation plan. - After the Fatality Review Meeting, the group came out of the meeting feeling like this fit well with our Strategic Goals. We also have an opportunity with the current GTEA 4 grant to fund this initiative. - The group will likely meet again in February. - Susan said that it is important for the Commission to work with WSCADV. They would provide legislative immunity for everyone involved in the Fatality Review Process. The timeline on when this will begin depends on the contract between WSCADV and DSHS, which they will need to modify. This could happen as early as February, or as late as July. Susan said that earlier in the week she had spoken with Jake and they both agreed that if they are sure that this contract will be completed, they can go ahead and begin the process of building the team, and gathering case files. Mary agreed saying that it will be important to get on people’s agendas and budgets before the proposed July contract completion so it does not set us back another year.
<p>5. Grant project updates</p>	
<p>STEP grant update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Linda Quinn introduced Stacy Miller, the newest Commission Staff person and the STEP Grant Supervisor. Linda said that the Ferndale School District is very excited that they will be in the center of this work. - Linda and Stacy, along with several others from the Ferndale School District, attended a conference on the STEP Grant in Washington DC. This program was initiated by the Department of Justice and the Office of the Vice

<p>STEP grant update (cont)</p>	<p>President.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is a Pilot Grant Project that will pay out around half a million dollars for activities within the Ferndale School System. We are 1 of 9 national sites selected to participate in this project. - The first year of the STEP Grant is a needs assessment and strategic planning year. - This grant is clearly focused in sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking in secondary schools, and cannot be diverted into other areas. - Statistically 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 10 boys are impacted by DV by the age of 18. - It is very difficult to educate kids when this is happening either in their household or in their personal lives. This project is vital to our core mission and exciting for the country; the FSD is very thankful to Susan for including us. - Stacy said that she was very excited to be on board and excited to be getting to work with everyone involved. - Stacy, Linda, and/or Susan will be providing updates as the project progresses.
<p>GTEA 4 grant: Risk Assessment Project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Susan discussed the GTEA 4 Grant. The Commission will be responsible for the Risk Assessment section. Last year in January, the Commission discussed including a risk assessment to the grant. Currently, all Law Enforcement Agencies use risk assessment tools. - Over the past year in a half the Commission has sent various stakeholders in the community to several Risk Assessment Conferences with everyone coming back and saying how great the information was from them. Two of those participants, Lonnie Bauman from the Sheriff's Office and Shannon Webb from Womenscare Shelter, presented on at the March 2011 Commission meeting about their experience at the Risk Assessment Conference and discussed specifically the Safety First Program being instituted in Massachusetts. With this grant, we can look at ways to fit what is being done successfully in other communities and adapt it to our community. - We are looking to add Sexual Assault and Stalking to the Risk Assessments for law enforcement. People are currently not asked about this and both of these are high lethality indicators. - The Commission hopes to begin the Risk Assessment process in February. Sue will be coordinating the Risk Assessment project; this will include bringing together a Risk Assessment Team, and coordinating a conference. Through this project we will be updating tools, providing training, and supporting implementation, along with increased communication through agencies. - We understand that people are very busy and resources are tight and it is difficult for people to commit to an extra meeting, but we strongly believe that in doing this upfront we can see where to best use our resources while making sure we are keeping victims and their children safe while holding perpetrators accountable. In the end it will be best for our community. - Sue said that she thought the Risk Assessment Team would be around 12 people. This team will be working with her for the first year and will be the brains and ideas of what will be developed. - The team will include Law Enforcement, Prosecution, Probation, DCFS, DV

	<p>Advocates, a Prosecution Based Advocate, Perpetrator Treatment Provider and if possible someone from the courts. Sue will be looking for people from those fields that are both on the frontlines and those that are making the decisions and those who can think systemically. Sue will be calling to discuss possible recommendations on who might be a good fit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The team will meet monthly for a couple of hours. - So far there have been a few call backs from the Risk Assessment letter that was sent out by Sheri and Todd in the beginning of January about the project. - Sue asked if anyone has any ideas to let her know; we very excited to begin this project.
<p>6. Verizon Wireless Hopeline Campaign</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mike Knapp discussed the Verizon Wireless Hopeline Campaign. Any cell phone can be donated. Last year was the first year Whatcom County participated and our biggest competitor was the LA Police Department. Thanks to Dr. Mallory and Chief Ramsay for their final push, Whatcom County won last year by 500 phones and received the \$10,000 grant. - We can do it again, we are a little behind this year but the Hopeline boxes have just arrived and can be delivered anywhere. - Ferndale Police processes and ships the phones from there they are counted. - Last year we collected 1500 cell phones. Regina said we can double that this year. - This year, LA County is on alert after being beat by a small county in the NW. - It was decided by the Whatcom County Sheriff and Police Chiefs Association that the money would go to fund the Domestic Violence Specialist position, which is the prosecution based advocate in the small cities. This year the DVS position is fully funded, next year only half of it will be funded, and after that it will not be funded at all by the GTEA Grant. The DVS provides a service to an underserved population of people in all five of the small cities. All of the money is going to support that position. This allows victims in the small cities to have a voice in the criminal justice process, which is a service offered by the City of Bellingham and the County. <p>➤ Susan will email the full Commission about the Hopeline Campaign.</p>
<p>7. DV Commission Membership</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sheri, along with the full Commission acknowledged Joan Hoisington, Rebecca Johnson, and Becky Skaggs for their service on the Commission and to the community over the years. Each of them will be missed for their unique skills, contributions, and dedication.
<p>8. Adjourn</p>	<p>@ 11:10 AM</p>

THANK YOU for your time and dedication to ending domestic violence in Whatcom County!

Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence
 DV Commission Meeting
 Thursday March 22 , 2012 from 10:00-11:30 am
 @ Bellingham Police Department

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, Shane Brady, Pat Buchinski, Regina Delahunt, Bill Elfo, Sheri Emerson, Gary Jensen, Mike Knapp, Todd Ramsay, Sherry Mallory, Manuel Reta, Dan Story, Bruce Van Glubt, Darla Woolman

Members Absent:

Karen Burke, Mary Dumas, Nikki Finkbonner, Kirsten Hammer, Jon Komorowski , Dave McEachran, Linda Quinn, Linda Storck, Cherie Stutesman, Greg Winter

Staff Present:

Susan Marks, Sue Parrott, Stacy Miller, Meaghan Connell

Agenda Item	Discussion
9. Welcome and Introductions	- Welcome and introductions were made by everyone and the meeting began.
10. Consent Agenda	- MOTION: Approval of Minutes from January 26, 2012 DV Commission Meeting - Regina Delahunt made a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mike Knapp seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.
11. Domestic Violence in the Workplace	
Prize for most businesses recruited	- This year the Commission wanted to focus on recruiting 50 businesses to implement the Domestic Violence Policy and Procedure in their workplace. The full Commission has been recruited to help with the recruitment of these businesses. - The Commission Member who recruits the most businesses will be given a prize. - Susan said that we are looking at holding a recognition ceremony in October for Domestic Violence Awareness Month, but depending on how many scheduled events, there are in October we may wait until November. - The businesses that will be recognized are those that have officially adopted the Policy and have sent Susan a copy of their policy. It is very important that there is information on the Domestic Violence Leave Law in the business's Domestic Violence Policy. - Susan said that she will be there for support if anyone has any questions.
Commission Member Reports	- Commission Members reported out on the contacts they had made so far. For each contact made a Commission Member will receive an open silver star

by their name, for each business a Commission Member recruits adopts the policy the Commission Member will receive a solid Gold Star.

Laurie Alexander

1. Peace Health
2. DSHS (There is a policy manual that new hires are trained on)

Pat Buchinski – Excused

Karen Burke – Excused

Regina Delahunt

1. Mallards Ice Cream (Interested in exploring the policy)
2. Whatcom County Public Utility District
3. Lynden School Board

Mary Dumas

1. Whatcom Alliance Healthcare
2. Peace Health (Have Laurie and Mary coordinate)

Bill Elfo

1. BP (Looking at setting up a meeting in late April with Mike Abotoff)

Sheri Emerson

1. Opportunity Council
2. Conoco Phillips (Currently in the process of changing their name)

Kirsten Hammer

1. Womencare (Currently only have information on the DV Leave Law)
2. Kids World (Interested in taking a look at the policies and procedures)

Gary Jensen

1. Baron Heating (Waiting to insert them now)
2. City of Ferndale

Mike Knapp

1. True Value
2. Ace Hardware
3. Chihuahuas
4. Samuels Furniture

Sherry Mallory

1. Bellingham Technical College (Currently does not have an HR Director)
2. Whatcom Community College (Contacted Becky Rollins)

Rick Qualls

1. Oldman Insurance (looking to adopt it into their insurance package)
- 2-3. Christ the King Church (Multiple Sights)
4. Barron Communications
5. RESources

Todd Ramsay

1. Whatcom Construction
2. Boys and Girls Club
3. MR Lawncare

Dan Story

	<p>1.Worksource 2.Department of Corrections</p> <p>Cherie Stutesman 1.Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood</p> <p>Darla Woolman 1.Family Care Network (Will be going to the board) 2.SPIE (currently comparing what they have)</p>
Total number of new workplaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0 new workplaces have adopted the policy so far. - Susan thanked all of the Commission Members and said that it will be great to see the policies and procedures implemented throughout the community. - Sheri said that at the beginning of every meeting we will take a look at everyone’s progress. It will be such a large impact having this amount of businesses adopting these policies and procedures.
12. Staff Report	
Presentations to City and County Councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Every spring the Commission presents to all of the City Councils along with the County Council. - The Commission receives funding from Ferndale, Bellingham, and Whatcom County. All cities within Whatcom County have passed ordinances of support. - Susan asked Commission members to let her know if anyone would like to attend, especially those presentations happening in the cities they live in.
Fatality Review Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Commission was still planning on moving forward with the Fatality Review as long as WSCADV and DSHS are able to sign a contract. Having this contract would provide all organizations involved with the review legislative immunity. - As of last week the contract was approved between WSCADV and DSHS and the Commission’s Fatality Review Committee will be meeting April 16 and moving ahead on the prep work for the full Fatality Review. The Committee will be responsible for selecting the cases that will then be presented to the full Fatality Review Panel. - The Fatality Review Panel will be larger than the Commission’s Fatality Review Committee. - The goal is to have the full Fatality Review completed by February 2013 and then use the information from the review to help develop our Risk Assessment.
4. MOTION: DV Commission Work Plan for May – July 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Todd discussed the Work Plan during Susan and Meaghan’s Family Leave. - The work plan being proposed while Susan and Meaghan are out is to bring Kathy Washatka in. - During this time Kathy will provide staff support and supervision with Sue, Stacy, and Meaghan. Kathy will also be the point person if anything should come up during Susan’s absence. She will also be meeting with Sheri and Todd on any Executive issues, along with various other administrative duties. - Kathy’s contract will be for three months and will not exceed \$3000. - We currently have an operating reserve that more than covers the cost for this. There will also be cost savings in the salary item while Susan and Meaghan are on Family Leave. - Todd said the Kathy had been a part of the Commission for some time, and has worked with all of the Commission Members during the transition time.

	<p>This is a good idea that allows us to maintain the structure of the Commission.</p> <p>MOTION: Approval of entering into a contract with Kathy Washatka for three months, not to exceed \$3000.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mike Knapp made a Motion to approve the MOTION. Gary Jensen seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. - Susan noted that during this time Committee Chairs will be asked to take the lead on their committee meetings and working around projects. We will also revisit at our May Commission Meeting possibly canceling July's Commission Meeting.
<p>13. Presentation</p>	
<p>Child Protective Services: Screening and Referrals for Domestic Violence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Last year, over 300 community members participated in a survey of the Commission's. One of the things that came up from the survey was the concern of how DSHS screens for Domestic Violence. - From this input we developed one of our initiatives for our Strategic Plan. - From this initiative a committee was formed and has met four times. - The Committee has decided that they will not make how DSHS screens for Domestic Violence a priority, since it sounds like people are more unaware of what is being done; therefore, instead we are going to start by educating on the role of the Children's Administration in screening for DV. - Laurie Alexander began her presentation on Child Protective Services: Screening and Referrals for Domestic Violence. - Children's Administration is under the umbrella of DSHS. Under Children's Administration is Child Protective Services (CPS) who handles the investigative part if a case screens in. There are also people that do adoptions there. - Laurie handed out a Policy Summary: Co-Occurring Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment July 2009. - Laurie noted that she has been working with DSHS for twenty-one years and in the beginning there was not any training on Domestic Violence. This caused some conflict with DV advocates since there was not an understanding of the dynamics of DV because they were not trained on it. - Laurie said that it has been great partnering with the Commission. - A statewide workgroup came together in 2008. Pulled together information from a lot of different states. Now today when someone calls they are always asked if anyone has used violence in the home, if the answer is yes they will be given a different round of screening questions. This process began in 2009. - The new policy also includes everyone being interviewed separately, including partners, so that people are free to talk about DV. - Domestic Violence assessments are done before court hearings with the same domestic violence questions asked again. This is done in case they may have not been ready to discuss in the beginning. Domestic Violence is also screened throughout the life of the case. - Staff at DSHS is now trained, before when the staff was not familiar with domestic violence there were times when the victim as well as the perpetrator was being blamed.

- Before the training the advice given would be to tell them to go get a protection order or tell them they need to leave. Having the awareness of the dynamics of domestic violence has been very beneficial since they now know that a protection order is not always best, and in also not removing the children from the home of the victim/non-offending parent.
- There is careful attention paid to cases where there is a protection order in place, workers are careful with what is documented since it can be disclosed to the perpetrator, an example of this would be, we would not write the exact safety plan out so the perpetrator will not know the details.
- Laurie went over the **Questions to Assist with determining Risk of Imminent Harm when DV is Present (page 11)**. CPS does not investigate for specifically a child witnessing domestic violence, for a case to screen in a child must be involved in what is going on (called 911, was being held when an attack took place . . .).
- Looking at the volatility of the perpetrator would help to screen a case for investigation.
- According to legislation a child witnessing domestic violence is not considered child abuse.
- Being engaging with people to talk about domestic violence, not be judgmental, find out who is perpetrating the violence and then take the next step.
- Social Workers needed to have that understanding so they could be better supporters; we now know where to refer to the right places.
- Anytime domestic violence is involved DSHS Children's Administration has an advocate there with them at the table, and can suggest in the field for them to connect with Womenscare or DVSAS. It has been a great resource being able to send an advocate to those meetings with parents.
- Laurie discussed the **Safety Assessment/Safety Plan page**. The questions on this page are completed while always keeping domestic violence in mind as they work the case. If any question is answered yes in regard to domestic violence they have to do a safety plan. The safety plan done with CPS is different than one that is done at a domestic violence agency. The CPS safety plan will be what the individual and the family need to work on for safety including domestic violence.
- Dan asked if they ever used the address confidentiality program. Laurie said that they do not but they do refer, they do work with people who are part of that program.
- Laurie said that one issue when people go into shelters is when CPS needs to interview the children; the shelters cannot tell us if they are there but they are able to notify the family.
- Mike asked if the legal child meant that the child did not necessarily have to be biologically yours. Laurie said yes, if there is a child in foster care with a relative or a friend and something comes up related to domestic violence, a safety plan would not be done, CPS would remove that child from the home immediately.
- Laurie reiterated that CPS does not investigate based on a domestic violence call unless the child is an active participant, then it would screen in.
- Susan asked where CPS got the majority of their referrals. Laurie said that the majority of the referrals come from schools, in the summer it comes from neighbors.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mike asked when a call is received that does not screen in will the caller be notified. Laurie said that yes that is what they are supposed to do. Every call is recorded and will build in the system, if we begin to see a progression then it could screen in. - Sheri said that her first call would be to 911. Laurie said that CPS and Law Enforcement fax information back and forth and are in frequent communication. - Susan asked if CPS screens foster parents for domestic violence. Laurie said that they do background checks, fingerprints, and have a 72 hour training, along with a home study where this might come up.
<p>14. Verizon Hopeline Campaign</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mike told the Commission that Todd had already distinguished himself by donating 150 phones, and a superb job had been done organizing the phones to be shipped out. - Dr. Mallory has also been a huge support in the collection of cell phones on campus. - Mike said that we are well on our way and in very good shape. - Mike told the Commission how much he appreciated everyone's efforts in this. - In regard to coverage, there was an article written in the Bellingham Business Journal and Susan was interviewed on KGMI. People are very interested. - In January Nicole from Western told her daughter about the Hopeline collection and that it went to support victims of domestic violence. Her daughter then created a strategic plan and began collecting cell phones at her school, daycare, church, Super Bowl party at her home. She even had her aunt from another state sending out her cell phones. The Ferndale Record did a story on this. - Sherry suggested reaching out to the girl scouts, boy scouts, campfire, along with Whatcom Community College, Bellingham Technical College, and NW Indian College. - Susan let the Commission know again that the money from the Hopeline Grant will go to fund the Domestic Violence Specialist Position, which is a position that is very much needed for those victims living in the small cities.
<p>15. Adjourn</p>	<p>@ 11:30 AM</p>

THANK YOU for your time and dedication to ending domestic violence in Whatcom County!

Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence
 DV Commission Meeting
 Thursday May 24th, 2012 from 10:00-11:30 am
 @ Bellingham Police Department

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, Sheri Emerson, Kirsten Hammer, Mike Knapp, Kathy McNaughton, Linda Quinn, Peter Ruffatto, Cherie Stutesman, Bruce Van Glubt, Greg Winter, Darla Woolman

Members Absent:

Mary Dumas, Bill Elfo, Nikki Finkbonner, Gary Jensen, Jon Komorowski, Jolie Matkowski, Dave McEachran, Linda Storck, Rick Qualls, Todd Ramsay, Sherry Mallory, Manuel Reta, Dan Story

Staff Present:

Sue Parrott, Stacy Miller, Meaghan Connell

Guest:

Angela Gogerty - Department of Corrections – Community Corrections

Agenda Item	Discussion
16. Welcome and Introductions	- Welcome and introductions were made by everyone and the meeting began.
17. Consent Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MOTION: Approval of Minutes from March 22, 2012 DV Commission Meeting - MOTION: DV Commission Officers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair: Sheri Emerson Vice Chair: Todd Ramsay Treasurer: Rick Qualls Secretary: Kirsten Hammer Past Chair: Regina Delahunt (no vote required) - Did not have a quorum present to approve the minutes from the March 22, 2012 Meeting, and vote on Officers. These will be presented again at the September meeting.
18. Domestic Violence in the Workplace Challenge 2012	
Making the Pitch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cherie Stutesman the Chair of the Domestic Violence in the Workplace Workgroup discussed the star chart presented at the March Commission Meeting. The star chart is being used to track each Commission Member's progress in recruiting businesses. - Mike Knapp said that asking businesses to the domestic violence in the

	<p>workplace policy and procedure is an easy sell and something people are eager to learn more about. The difficult part is the clerical piece. We now have a disk with the full template of the policy and procedure to give to businesses that are approached. This will make it easier for them to access the policy input their information. Businesses stand to lose a great deal of money if they are not aware of the new laws protecting victims in the workplace.</p>
<p>Commission Member Reports</p>	<p>- Commission Members reported out on the contacts they had made so far. For each contact made a Commission Member will receive an open silver star by their name, for each business a Commission Member recruits adopts the policy the Commission Member will receive a solid Gold Star.</p> <p>Laurie Alexander ★ Bellingham DSHS Office 3.22.12 Peace Health 5.24.12 Brigid Collins</p> <p>Regina Delahunt <i>(still following up, will give businesses the CD)</i> 3.22.12 Mallards Ice Cream (Interested in exploring the policy) 3.22.12 Whatcom County Public Utility District 3.22.12 Lynden School Board</p> <p>Sheri Emerson ★ Opportunity Council Kirsten Hammer <i>(still following up)</i> 3.22.12 Womenscare (Currently only have information on the DV Leave Law) 3.22.12 Kids World (Interested in taking a look at the policies and procedures)</p> <p>Mike Knapp 3.22.12 True Value 3.22.12 Ace Hardware 3.22.12 Chihuahuas 3.22.12 Samuels Furniture 5.24.12 Boys and Girls Club Ferndale</p> <p>Jolie Matkowski 5.24.12 Philips 66 5.24.12 Intalco</p> <p>Kathy McNaughton 5.24.12 Catholic Community Services of Western Washington 5.24.12 Whatcom Counseling and Psychiatric Clinic</p> <p>Linda Quinn 5.24.12 Lynden School District – Jim Frey, Superintendent 5.24.12 Bellingham School District – Greg Baker, Superintendent 5.24.12 Mt. Baker School District – Charlie Burleigh, Superintendent 5.24.12 Blaine School District – Ron Spanjer, Superintendent 5.24.12 Meridian School District – Tom Churchill, Superintendent</p> <p>Cherie Stutesman 3.22.12 Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood</p>

	<p>5.24.12 HR Balance Greg Winter 5.24.12 Bellingham Housing Authority Darla Woolman 3.22.12 Family Care Network (Will be going to the board) 3.22.12 SPIE (sent materials to Susan to make sure their policy qualifies) ★ 2 new workplaces have adopted the policy so far. - Cherie shared a story of one of her employees coming to her because she was not sure what to do in this situation with another employee. Even if this policy has not been implemented in a workplace it is still a valuable resource. - Sheri noted that Susan has said that as we move forward she would be happy to talk to businesses.</p>
<p>19. Fatality Review Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Fatality Review Workgroup met on April 16. The group made a list of potential panel members with varying levels of expertise that would be responsible for reviewing the proposed cases. - The dates have been set for the first meeting which will be an orientation of the process. After the orientation there will be three follow up meetings looking at the cases. - Darla said that it would be helpful for the Commission to understand the process. ➤ There was a suggestion of brining Jake Fawcett from WSCADV to a Commission Meeting to give a presentation on the Fatality Review process. - Karen discussed the difference between this Fatality Review compared to those done in the past. In the past the recommendations for the statewide review were very broad, this review will be specific to Whatcom County. This review will help us as a community look at specific places we may need to work on. This is the first review of this type in Washington State. - Sheri noted that one of the recommendations from the Statewide Fatality Review was the Domestic Violence in the Workplace Policy and Procedure. - Anyone that participates in this process will have legislative protections. - Because of confidentiality the names and specifics of cases cannot be discussed with the full Commission unless a confidentiality agreement is signed.
<p>20. Presentation: Domestic Violence & Housing First.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Greg Winter and Kirsten Hammer presented on the Domestic Violence Housing First Program.
<p>History of Domestic Violence Providers and Homeless Housing Providers Relationships.</p> <p>What is DV Housing First?</p> <p>WSCADV/Gates Foundation Housing First Project.</p> <p>Whatcom Homeless Service Center/Womencare Shelter Collaboration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kirsten said that in the past there were a lot of stories of women needing to leave their batterers but were unable to find shelter. Many homeless shelters were male only, and administrators and staff of homeless shelters did not understand the needs of DV survivors. - Domestic Violence Shelters became present in the 1970s. Womencare was founded in 1979. King County currently has four DV shelters. - Historically there has been animosity between homeless shelters and dv shelters, it became time to put that to rest and start focusing on finding housing for those where going home is not a safe option. - It was important to begin developing those relationships between homeless shelters and DV shelters so we began meeting (the majority of women and children served by Lydia Place, YWCA, and Opportunity Council are victims of domestic violence). - Times have changed, one option was to move them into transitional housing

<p>Future of DV/Housing First</p> <p>Questions and Answers</p>	<p>and then get a Section 8 voucher. This list now has a waiting list of up to 4 to 5 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Gates Foundation does a lot of work around family homelessness. In 2009 they began talking with WSCADV and found four agencies to do a pilot project. Womenscare was one of those agencies and received a \$250,000 grant to go towards DV survivors and housing. - The grant money could go towards a variety of needs. Anything from first and last month's rent, helping with daycare, furniture, car, anything that would ensure and sustain housing. Really looked at the needs of domestic violence survivors. - This was a very good project to have flexible funding on. This project was about tailored services assisting in helping women. - One of the areas that was focused on was landlord education and advocating on behalf of the survivors. The landlords have been great at notifying Womenscare when a rental becomes available. - Womenscare's grant is geared to be done this October. - Greg discussed the Housing First Project. - Housing First began and grew out of New York City. This concept focused on people that were chronically homeless with co-occurring behavioral disorders. - The need for this type of housing came from the problem that no one would provide housing until someone was clean and sober. The idea with Housing First is to do things backwards and wrap people in services. With this model people were retaining their housing and this concept began to expand. - When the Homeless Service Center started in 2008 we began a hybrid Housing First model. Some have extreme needs while other do not. If we can help people get into their own apartments, access support services, help them with budgeting along with being a good tenant it will be good and cost effective. - One of the things that was learned through this process was that early interventions can prevent homelessness. - Many of the survivors did need a short term subsidy and then moving them right into permanent housing. The large majority of women we serve that need transitional housing and shelter, really need long term subsidized housing. - Out of 56 women 91% of them were able to obtain housing. These numbers really show the retention. - Some of the barriers are that we have a 1% vacancy rate so housing is not easy to find plus add someone who has a less than perfect rental history it becomes even more difficult. This is why we are working with landlords. - Getting these women into housing also allows them to build good rental history to maintain housing. - It can be very difficult to maintain housing, there is a screening process. - Every January we conduct a point in time homeless count. This year we encountered 360 households. 21% were found that DV contributed to their homelessness. About half of those of them are families with children. - The Homeless Service Center is a single point of entry for people experiencing homelessness. In 2011 we served 1039 people, 46% indicated an issue with domestic violence. The waitlist for housing that once had 1000 households now have 280. This is still way to many.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kirsten said that one of the concerns was entering DV Clients names into a national database. WSCADV and the Department of Commerce have been very commendable in that if you are a victim of domestic violence there will not be any identifying information in the database, so we are able to still collect the data but at the same time protect the confidentiality of victims. - Before when women came into the shelter there was multiple intake forms, now there is only one form that gets faxed to the Homeless Service Center, domestic violence clients now receive priority for housing. This also allows DV advocates to focus on domestic violence and not housing. - Greg and Kirsten will be doing a webinar on domestic violence and homeless housing. Not many people have this partnership that Whatcom County does. - The chief outcome is to have a permanent housing program in place by the end of the three years. - Greg said that the HUD Grant requires a local match to pay for the support of services. Rotary Club of Bellingham matched it which was also matched by the County Health Department. - Greg said that 90% of families have succeeded the twelve month mark. - Mike Knapp asked how many requests they received for confidential housing, Kirsten said a lot of people do not know their danger level, we do the best we can based on a risk assessment. Kathy McNaughton said that she was reminded of a story of a woman who walked into a crisis service center forty years ago who had been beaten by her partner. The woman eventually returned home, no idea if she survived. Kirsten said that it was important to remember that history.
21. Bellingham Home Investment Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Greg gave an informational presentation on the Home Investment Fund. - A county wide housing task force team made up of social service providers, realtors and bankers met for eighteen months to develop strategies to reduce housing costs. - One key recommendation was to focus on people at the lower end of the spectrum. - It was also determined that there needed to be more local revenue because of the lack of housing. In the past the Housing Authority would turn over twenty five properties monthly, now there is just eight. - Bellingham City Council will be voting to put this on the ballot.
22. Verizon Wireless Hopeline Campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mike Knap informed the Commission that the Hopeline cell phone drive has been discontinued. We will continue collecting them year round to be submitted to Verizon. Instead Verizon is accepting a grant request. The grant request could potentially become a reliable stream of funding. - Mike Knap will keep the Commission informed as things progress.
23. July Commission Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Commission decided to cancel the July Commission Meeting and resume as scheduled in September.
1. Adjourn	@ 11:30 AM

THANK YOU for your time and dedication to ending domestic violence in Whatcom County!

Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence
 DV Commission Meeting
 Thursday October 4 , 2012 from 10:00-11:30 am
 @ Bellingham Police Department

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, Mary Dumas, Sheri Emerson, Gary Jensen , Rick Qualls, Jolie Matkowski, Kathy McNaughton, Manuel Reta, Peter Ruffato, Linda Storck, Dan Story, Bruce Van Glubt, Greg Winter, Darla Woolman

Members Absent:

Bill Elfo, Nikki Finkbonner, Mike Knapp, Jon Komorowski , Dave McEachran, Linda Quinn, Todd Ramsay, Cherie Stutesman

Guests:

Laura Clark, Executive Director of the Whatcom County Humane Society
 Dave Reynolds, Superior Court Administrator

Staff Present:

Susan Marks, Sue Parrott, Stacy Miller, Meaghan Connell

Agenda Item	Discussion
24. Welcome and Introductions	- Welcome and introductions were made by everyone and the meeting began.
25. Consent Agenda	- MOTION: Approval of Minutes from March 22, 2012 and May 24, 2012 DV Commission Meeting - Gary Jensen made a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Greg Winter seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.
	- MOTION: DV Commission Officers Chair: Sheri Emerson Vice Chair: Todd Ramsay Secretary: Laurie Alexander Treasurer: Rick Qualls - Regina Delahunt made a Motion to approve the slate of officers as presented. Karen Burke seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.
26. Domestic Violence in the Workplace	
Updated policy and procedure	- Susan spoke with Employment Attorney Kirsten Baron. Kirsten reviewed it and thought the policies were good. - Kirsten suggested the policies and procedures should be put together and the guidelines should be separated. - We have also added to the template that workplaces can cut and paste as needed to use the procedures that are applicable to their workplace. - Kirsten puts out a newsletter that goes out to three thousand employers. She is going to put a link for them to access the DV in the Workplace Policies

	<p>and Procedures. She is also offering 50% off to help implement these policies and procedures for workplaces in the first half of 2013.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Everything has been updated on the Commission’s website. - Commission Members have until the end of December to recruit businesses. We will have a ceremony in January.
<p>Commission Member Reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commission Members reported out on the contacts they had made so far. For each contact made a Commission Member will receive an open silver star by their name, for each business a Commission Member recruits adopts the policy the Commission Member will receive a solid Gold Star. <p>Laurie Alexander</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Bellingham DSHS Office 3.22.12 Peace Health 5.24.12 Brigid Collins <p>Karen Burke</p> <p>10.4.12 Superfeet</p> <p>10.4.12 NW Youth Services</p> <p>Regina Delahunt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.22.12 Mallards Ice Cream Interested in exploring the policy 3.22.12 Whatcom County Public Utility District 3.22.12 Lynden School Board <p>Mary Dumas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.22.12 Whatcom Alliance Healthcare Still reviewing the policy 3.22.12 Peace Health Very complex, currently talking quality assurance and human resources. <p>10.4.12 Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center</p> <p>Sheri Emerson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Opportunity Council <p>10.4.12 Interfaith</p> <p>10.4.12 Bellingham Cold Storage</p> <p>Mike Knapp</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ True Value ★ Ace Hardware ★ Chihuahuas ★ Samuels Furniture 5.24.12 Boys and Girls Club Ferndale <p>Gary Jensen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.22.12 Baron Heating (Waiting to insert them now) 3.22.12 City of Ferndale <p>10.4.12 Favinger Plumbing</p> <p>Jolie Matkowski</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5.24.12 Philips 66 5.24.12 Intalco <p>Kathy McNaughton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5.24.12 Catholic Community Services of Western Washington

	<p>Catholic Community Services will be adopting the policy throughout Western Washington and Oregon. Kathy spoke with the VP of Human Resources and it will be going to the director next week. Kathy was told that these policies were very much needed.</p> <p>5.24.12 Whatcom Counseling and Psychiatric Clinic Linda Quinn</p> <p>5.24.12 Lynden School District – Jim Frey, Superintendent</p> <p>5.24.12 Bellingham School District – Greg Baker, Superintendent</p> <p>5.24.12 Mt. Baker School District – Charlie Burleigh, Superintendent</p> <p>5.24.12 Blaine School District – Ron Spanjer, Superintendent</p> <p>5.24.12 Meridian School District – Tom Churchill, Superintendent</p> <p>Rick Qualls</p> <p>3.22.12 Oldman Insurance (looking to adopt it into their insurance package)</p> <p>3.22.12 Christ the King Church (Multiple Sights)</p> <p>3.22.12 Barron Communications</p> <p>3.22.12 RESources</p> <p>10.4.12 GEO Test Manuel Reta</p> <p>10.4.12 Colima Designs Also has leads coming in through the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Peter Ruffatto</p> <p>10.4.12 People’s Bank Dan Story</p> <p>3.22.12 Worksource</p> <p>3.22.12 Department of Corrections Worksource is looking to adopt the policies. Very exciting, has some forty offices. Spoke with the area administrator, took it up to the directors level. From there they developed a draft DV policy for Worksource throughout the state. Will send the draft policy to the Department of Corrections. Cherie Stutesman</p> <p>3.22.12 Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood</p> <p>5.24.12 HR Balance Greg Winter</p> <p>5.24.12 Bellingham Housing Authority Greg Winter</p> <p>10.4.12 Law Advocates Darla Woolman</p> <p>★ Family Care Network (Will be going to the board)</p> <p>3.22.12 SPIE (sent materials to Susan to make sure their policy qualifies)</p>
Total number of new workplaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 7 new workplaces have adopted the policy so far. - Susan reminded everyone that she is happy to help assist with the efforts.
27. Domestic Violence Awareness Month	
Vigil	- The Vigil went well this year. Riannon from NW Youth Services was the

	<p>keynote speaker. Spoke about child witness to domestic violence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Outstanding Achievement Award went to the Assistance League for their efforts in helping victims of domestic violence in Whatcom County. - The Vigil was held on Monday October 1, we had a little under 100 people in attendance this year.
Race for the End	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DVSAS and Womenscare partner for Race for the End which will take place on October 7 this year. - People can still register on DVSAS's website. Usually there are 200-300 people that participate. - Family friendly event with great food. You can run or walk. Dogs are welcome.
LVOC Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lummi Victims of Crime is holding their annual conference October 10-12. The conference is free. This year they have keynote speaker Tillie Black Bear the woman who started the first Native Shelter. There will be a youth speaker on the second day, and on the third day Tonier Cain will speak.
Prayer Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Prayer Service will be the final DVAM event and will be held Friday October 26 at 7pm. - Reverend Bobbi Virta from United Church of Ferndale, Pastor Rick Qualls from Fountain Community Church, and Father Scott Connolly from Church of the Assumption. The keynote speaker will be Becca Johnson from Access Freedom.
28. Presentation: Whatcom Humane Society and Domestic Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Susan introduced Laura Clark Executive Director of the Whatcom Humane Society. There are a lot of overlaps with animal abuse, child abuse, and domestic violence, which is why she was invited to speak. - Laura said that it is very well known that in many cases of domestic violence the animal in the home is also being abused or used as a weapon. The animal is a threat or a pawn in the game of the abuser; study after study has shown this to be true. - Animal abuse is prevalent in homes where other crimes have been committed. - Whatcom County developed a program for animals that are in a home where there is domestic violence. We never want someone to not leave because they do not want to leave their animal behind. It is important that we stop the link of animal abuse and domestic violence. - Dan asked if Animal Control Officers were mandated reporters. Laura said that they were not by the state but they are mandated reporters by the Humane Society. - Kathy noted that the Humane Society takes larger animals. Laura said that they never turn any animal away. Motto is that we will figure it out. - Gary asked if the Humane Society cross trains with other law enforcement agencies. Laura said that she was not sure about the cross training but that they do get calls from law enforcement officers. Gary will check on this with the Ferndale Police Department. - Cross training for child welfare employees would also be beneficial. - Manuel asked if there were Animal Control Officers available to translate, Laura said that they have volunteers that help with translating.
29. Project Report	

STEP grant update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A small group went to a training this summer in St. Paul. There were some gaps found in the schools' Title 9 policy. Currently working with Elvis from the Ferndale School District to post policies in a way that makes better sense. - A group of service providers in the school district also met this summer to identify gaps in the community and disconnects between service providers and the school district. - We are starting the needs assessment process now. Each school will have a youth advisory group. Administrators are selecting the kids. The selection should be completed by the end of October. - Winward High School is sending out a staff survey once the questions have been approved. The survey will have to do with as an educator what would you do . . . this will help us narrow down our focus groups. This should all be completed by the end of November and will be reviewed in the subcommittees. - In January the needs assessment will be submitted to OVW and we should begin implementing services by April of next year. - Manuel asked if this program was part of the Multi Cultural Advisory Board. Stacy said that it was not but that there is a lot of overlap. Lummi Victims of Crime is participating along with parents. Stacy said that there is a good cross section with staff and students, very excited to see where this goes.
Fatality Review update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Major effort to review fatality cases for the purpose of learning how local systems can be improved. - The first meeting of the Fatality Review Panel has happened and everyone was given an orientation. The panel that is meeting is very impressive, almost 50 people. - The actual committee is dormant right now but members are a part of the review. - The first case has been reviewed. Met for three and a half hours. The meeting was facilitated by Jake Fawcett from WSCADV. - The next review will take place in November and then again in January. After all of the cases have been reviewed the committee will come back together. - The completed review will be two documents. One will be an internal document for agencies and then a public document of recommendations.
DV Homicide Reduction Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This grant will have twelve sites selected around the country. It is a four year project with \$200,000 available each year. The first year will be working with a local researcher. Based on findings devise a plan. - After the first year only six sites will be selected to receive funding for the next three years. - This grant dovetails with the work the Commission is currently doing. With the current Risk Assessment project Sue is doing focus groups with victims and talking to judges. There was a presentation done from the Prosecutors Office and Probation. Eight people went to a Risk Assessment Conference. The goal is in the next six months look to have a tool, and a conference. The findings from the Fatality Review will also be shared with the Risk Assessment Team. - Susan met with Kristin Anderson a local researcher. She is very interested in being a part of this. - Laurie said that she is very excited about this grant.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regina said that the goal of this grant is the same as the Commission's; it seems like a perfect fit. - Susan said that there is a slight concern that we are ahead of the curve, when the grant is being written we will be very clear to write to where we are and where we could use help so we are not being put in a place where we are committing to things that we have already done. - Within in three months of approval the researcher has three months to come up with their plan. The National Institute of Justice is a part of the grant. - Karen said that overall there has been a lot of work that has been done but we do not know where we are. To have someone look at our research would be exciting. - Susan said that she will have everything together to bring to the Law and Justice Committee. Sheri said that it sounded like we should move forward.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Susan thanked Dan Story for all of his work on the Commission.
30. Adjourn	@ 11:30 AM

THANK YOU for your time and dedication to ending domestic violence in Whatcom County!

Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence
 DV Commission Meeting
 Thursday November 15 , 2012 from 10:00-11:30 am
 @ Bellingham Police Department

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, Sheri Emerson, Gary Jensen, Jon Komoroski, Peter Ruffatto, Manuel Reta, Dave Reynolds, Greg Winter, Darla Woolman

Members Absent:

Mary Dumas, Bill Elfo, Nikki Finkbonner, Mike Knapp, Jolie Matkowski, Dave McEachran, [Kathy McNaughton](#), Rick Qualls, Linda Quinn, Linda Storck, Cherie Stutesman, Bruce Van Glubt

Guests:

Mike Riber, DSHS CSO
 Commissioner Heydrich, Whatcom County Superior Court
 Kim Lovell-Price, Interim Director, Womenscare Shelter
 Mark Gill, Interim Bellingham Police Chief

Staff Present:

Susan Marks, Sue Parrott, Stacy Miller, Meaghan Connell

Agenda Item	Discussion
31. Welcome and Introductions	- Welcome and introductions were made by everyone and the meeting began.
32. Consent Agenda	- MOTION: Approval of Minutes from October 4, 2012 DV Commission Meeting - There was not a quorum present to approve the minutes from the October 4, 2012 Meeting. It will be presented again at the January meeting.
33. Firearms in DVPO Protocol	
Presentation by Sue Parrott and Commissioner Heydrich	- Sue reported to the Commission that she has been coordinating a work group on the Firearms in Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPO) Protocol for about a year and the group is coming to an end in the process. - The Protocol is a recommendation of multidisciplinary procedures and practices. - The project was an outcome of the Safety Audit of the Protection Order Process that was finished a year and a half ago. Firearms is a complex and challenging issue. - Through the Safety Audit we learned that a local court has the authority to order the surrender of weapons in Civil Protection Orders when certain conditions are met. Petitioners also have the option to Petition an Order Surrender of Weapon. Through the Audit process the Audit Team found

there was only one instance where a Petition to Order Surrender was submitted to the court over a three year period. Yet the team saw that firearms were present in many of those DV relationships along with mental health and substance abuse issues. This combination can be serious and deadly.

- Currently we do not have a state law that corresponds with the federal law, which does restrict access to firearms for certain respondents in civil domestic violence protection orders. We also do not have a mechanism in place to monitor compliance with federal firearms restrictions. Law enforcement does not generally enforce the federal violations. The work group wanted to create a mechanism whereby a local court could order surrender of weapons, which would then allow law enforcement to enforce violations of the local court orders.
- Commissioner Heydrich said that due to the gap between federal and state law ,there needed to be some kind of mechanism in appropriate cases to remove dangerous weapons from respondents. In the beginning there was not a good response to this as there was a fear from law enforcement that there would be too many guns to be surrendered, which could have been a storage issue. After estimating some numbers and through discussions, we have now seemed to reach a consensus that law enforcement is willing to receive surrendered weapons. Now is the time to act.
- The Firearms Workgroup had been meeting monthly and during that time was able to create a functioning protocol.
- Commissioner Heydrich stated that the RCW spells out the circumstances where a court can have someone surrender firearms in civil domestic violence protection orders. What is seen a lot is when they don't point the gun, but they will clean the gun in front of the victim and make casual comments, which are intended to be threatening. We do not come into this believing that guns are inherently bad, but when people are engaged in certain violent and threatening behaviors, (per RCW)they have given up their right to have their firearms for a period of time.
- Commissioner Heydrich said that in his experience those instances in which the court could order surrender of firearms in Protection Orders are rarer than one would think. Knowing this allows us to order those that are a serious and imminent threat to surrender their weapons. When the court hears these applications we intend to do a better job ascertaining whether there are firearms in the household and if it is appropriate to surrender those firearms.
- There has been great cooperation from Bellingham Police Department and Ferndale Police Department to come up with a mechanism for the surrender of firearms. The idea is that at these hearings when it is appropriate the person will surrender their weapon(s) over to the law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction where the victim resides. Those weapons can then be held as long as the Protection Order is in effect. At the end of the year the protected person can ask for an extension; if the Protection Order is extended, law enforcement will continue to hold the weapons. Weapons will not be kept permanently. Before weapons are returned the appropriate checks will be made. Will not be returning weapons to people that cannot lawfully possess them.
- It is a crime if they do not surrender.

- It was important to have buy-in from law enforcement and prosecution. One concern was the issue of how long the respondent had to surrender their weapons after receiving notice. The decision was to order an individual to surrender within forty-eight hours. Twenty-four hours seemed too fast and anything beyond forty-eight hours seemed too long. The Firearms Work Group understood that the issuing of a protection order can mark a dangerous time for a victim.
- Review hearings will be set up in the court in a week or so to show proof that he or she has surrendered their weapons. Doing this will confirm they have turned in their weapons. If they have not turned them in at that point there will be an option to have a show cause hearing or we can refer to the prosecutor's office.
- The recommendations may have to be modified along the way. On paper it looks good.
- Many years ago Commissioner Heydrich stated he tracked protection order petitions to see how many involved firearms. Out of forty-four only three on paper mentioned firearms. This was a good statistic to be able to use in regard to the argument about the storage issue. Laurie asked if other Court Commissioners were on board. Commissioner Heydrich said that Superior Court is on board but was not sure about District Court.
- Peter asked if the respondent did not comply with the order to surrender if that would be enforced in Municipal Court since it is a misdemeanor. Sue said that Jonathan Richardson, who is on the workgroup, has been checking with all the Municipal Courts and prosecutors about that.
- Greg asked about all guns that are registered or owned by the respondent. Commissioner Heydrich said that they will not be able to own or possess any firearms if they are subject to those orders. Allows us to remove the weapons if they continue to possess them. They can be prosecuted. Commissioner Heydrich said that he had not seen this prosecuted federally; this now allows us to have local enforcement act if appropriate and charge locally.
- Manuel asked if this was part of state law. Commissioner Heydrich said that yes it was part of state law. There are courts in other counties that already have this in place such as Thurston and Lewis County. There is a hope that more counties will start implementing this.
- Manuel asked what happens if someone passes away. Commissioner Heydrich said that the weapons would then go to the estate.
- The Court has ordered the surrender of weapons to a third party from time to time. We then have to be able to track and follow up on this if they don't turn the weapons over. Felt the safest to track was order the surrender to law enforcement then we know it has happened for sure and that these guns are safe.
- Law enforcement has their own protocol if someone does not claim the weapons at the end of the period of the protection order.
- Sheri asked about the opposition with storage and if there has been any. Commissioner Heydrich said that he did not think so. Karen said that if it ever became an issue there could be a fundraiser done for bonded storage. Commissioner Heydrich said that the concern might be, what if someone has to surrender and they have three hundred guns. That would be a rarity; the average gun owner has two to ten guns. Commissioner Heydrich reiterated

	<p>that the intention is not to grab every firearm in every domestic violence case. It has to be established that this person poses a serious and imminent threat. Someone will not be ordered to surrender their weapons if there is not a connection between domestic violence and the use of the guns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commissioner Heydrich said that he has always inquired about guns. There were cases where there were guns but the Court did not know about it; we are hoping that this process will help people at the front end who are helping to prepare petitions so this will be brought up more. - Sheri asked what the next steps were for implementation. Sue said that she was waiting to hear from law enforcement to see if they had any other comments on the final draft and to see how much time they need for implementation and training. We want to make sure everyone knows what to do. Commissioner Heydrich said that there are still forms and paperwork to work on. Still finishing up the paper that Law enforcement is going to fax and forward to the clerk, the basic concepts have been lined up. - Commissioner Heydrich said that from the court side they were looking to start in January. Commissioner Heydrich said that the idea at the hearing when the order is entered will be to give clear instructions to those who are turning in their guns; they will be responsible for contacting law enforcement during regular business hours and setting up an appointment to come in; they cannot come in to surrender their weapons unannounced. Mark said that he believed that this seemed workable for the Bellingham Police Department. - Commissioner Heydrich said that this is about removing weapons from those who do not have a lawful right to have them. Doing a better job at this protects those that lawfully own them. - Sheri said that she looked forward to an update in January. The Commission gave the work group an informal recommendation to proceed with the current draft and to begin implementation as soon as the time is right.
<p>Child Witnesses Work Group Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Laurie discussed the Child Witness Workgroup. The workgroup has a broad spectrum of professionals that include Darla Woolman, DV Commission Member; Gail Tierney from Brigid Collins; Geneva Graham from DVSAS; Jana Bouzek from Bellingham Police Department; Jeralyn Heil, Catholic Community Services; Laurie Alexander, DV Commission Member; Riannon Bardsley, Northwest Youth Services; Rick Qualls, DV Commission Member; Stacy Miller, DV Commission STEP Grant Coordinator. - The DV Commission viewed the Monsters in the Closet video. - Gail is doing community wide trainings called Darkness to Light that focuses on Child Sexual Abuse. Gail has added a small piece on Child Witnesses to Domestic Violence. Trainings have been done throughout Whatcom and Skagit. This piece on Child Witnesses to Domestic Violence was developed by the Child Witnesses Work Group, and includes the Monsters in the Closet video. - Another piece is that at the child advocacy center an advocate from DVSAS now comes to every forensic interview. The advocate is available for the non-offending parent(s); then they are available to talk to them about resources for the parents to get support. - A great addition came from our last Workgroup meeting where we viewed an online webinar on child witness to DV. The webinar discussed a Family Justice Center. The group did not feel a need to create a center but thought

	<p>it would be beneficial through the Child Advocacy Center to look at a few cases to see what pieces we are missing in relation to DV and how we can enhance coordination in our community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The group is also looking at different local camps about what they could add to the camps for those kids in regard to child witness to domestic violence; again; again, we are not going to take away with what is already happening, but enhance current programs and services. - Working on enhanced training about DV related to kids for community members. Looking to make it universal so the presentation can change depending on the group being trained – it can be for teachers, clergy, health care providers, and others, and will have a common outline with some discipline specific information changing depending on the audience. The Work Group is putting together the curriculum and wants to do a train the trainers. - Susan noted that this work group has been meeting less than a year and have gotten a lot of tasks done.
Commission Member Reports	<p>Commission Members reported out on the contacts they had made so far. For each contact made a Commission Member will receive an open silver star by their name, for each business a Commission Member recruits adopts the policy the Commission Member will receive a solid Gold Star.</p> <p>Laurie Alexander</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Bellingham DSHS Office 11.15.12 Received a confirmation from Brigid Collins that it has been sent to their board for review. <p>Kathy McNaughton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11.15.12 CCS is still moving forward. 11.15.12 A contact was made to the United Way looking to do it with their board and partner agencies. <p>Linda Quinn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11.15.12 Susan reported that that the Ferndale School District is in the process of redoing their policies and procedures, hoping they will include this in their policy. <p>Darla Woolman</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Family Care Network (Will be going to the board) ★ 11.15.12 Access Freedom - The DV in the Workplace Committee met for the last time last Friday with the campaign is wrapping up. - Commission members were reminded that Susan can help in any way they may need. - The recognition ceremony will be at the Ferndale Police Department. - Executive Louws will be invited again to handout the awards. - There are currently seven businesses confirmed. Susan said that even though there will not be a committee focused on Domestic Violence Policies and Procedures, the effort will still continue if any workplaces are interested in adopting the policy and procedure.
Total number of new workplaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 7 new workplaces have adopted the policy so far. - Susan reminded everyone that she is happy to help assist with the efforts.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Manuel suggested approaching someone at the Ferndale Chamber of Commerce. Susan had provided a presentation to the Ferndale Chamber in the past, but not the Bellingham Chamber. ➤ Sheri and Gary will look at approaching Ken at the Bellingham Chamber of Commerce.
34. Staff Report	
OVW Homicide Prevention Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The grant has been submitted. Unclear as to when the Commission will find out if OVW intends on doing site visits, or when the final decisions about funding will be made.
2013 DV Commission Meeting Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Commission Meetings will remain on the fourth Thursday of every other month except for November where it is on the third Thursday. - January's meeting will be held at the Ferndale Police Department.
Benchmark Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Commission's annual data report will be out in the next few weeks. All Commission members will receive a copy.
Perpetrator Response Work Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Looking to begin this workgroup in January. This is a part of the current DV Commission Strategic Plan.
35. Adjourn	@ 11:30 AM

THANK YOU for your time and dedication to ending domestic violence in Whatcom County!