

BWCCADV

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



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

2014 Meeting Minutes

Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence
 DV Commission Meeting
 Thursday, January 23, 2014 from 8:30-10:00 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, Cliff Cook, Sheri Emerson, Nikki Finkbonner, Mike Knapp, Cheri Kilty, Jon Komorowski, Kathy McNaughton, Terra Nevitt, Rick Qualls, Linda Quinn, Manuel Reta, Jolie Rhinehart, Peter Ruffatto, Mike Sledge, Bruce Van Glubt, Darla Woolman

Members Absent:

Regina Delahunt, Mary Dumas, Bill Elfo, Gary Jensen, Dave McEachran, Dave Reynolds, Mike Riber, Linda Storck, Cherie Stutesman, Greg Winter,

Staff Present:

Susan Marks, Sue Parrott, Stacy Miller, Meaghan Connell

Guests:

Jeff Parks, Whatcom County Sheriff's Office for Sheriff Elfo
 Peggy Miller, District Court Probation
 Jake Wiebusch, District Court Probation

Agenda Item	Discussion
<p>1. Welcome and Introductions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Laurie welcomed the newest Commission Member, Cheri Kilty, Executive Director of the YWCA. Cheri will be filling the position of DV Victim Service Provider for the City of Bellingham. Introductions were made by everyone and the meeting began.
<p>2. MOTION: Consent Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minutes from November 21, 2013 meeting - 2014 DV Commission Budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MOTION: Approval of Minutes from November 21, 2014 DV Commission Meeting and approval of 2014 DV Commission Budget. Mike Knapp made a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Rick Qualls seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.
<p>3. Presentation: Whatcom County District Court Probation, DV Unit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presenters: Bruce Van Glubt, Peggy Miller, Jake Wiebusch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bruce introduced Peggy Miller from District Court Probation. - The DV Unit was created in 2001 with the purpose of having an intensive specialized unit with a goal of being able to contact victims. - The letter reaching out to victims was started early on. - Initially there were two probation officers in the DV Unit with smaller case loads. The smaller case loads are for the purpose of clients needing to be seen more often. The DV Unit now has one probation officer with another person available for back up. - The DV Unit participated in judicial response in 2006-2007, was a part of the safety audit and currently participates in the DVRN meeting. - Peggy Miller introduced Jake Wiebusch from District Court Probation. - Once a case is received a victim letter and phone contact is made as soon as

	<p>possible. Inform victims of probations role in the court process and help them connect with the victim advocates at the court.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pretrial is a sensitive time, people on probation are seen weekly for intake and risk assessment. The no contact order is reviewed and clear instructions are provided if there is weapons surrender. - There is a lot of ongoing dialogue with prosecutors during the pretrial phase. If DV treatment is ordered there is an assessment for which treatment to do first since often there are other treatment referrals such as mental health, drug and alcohol, parenting classes. - Probation also works alongside CPS. - Probation stays in close contact with the DV Treatment Providers. - In 2007 the DV Unit started DV Groups. These are not treatment groups but instead support groups. They have been quite effective. There are eight to twelve people in the groups. There is a wide range in where they are in the probation process; these groups help hold each other accountable. - Closing probation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Close out on time if they meet all their conditions of probation. ▪ Close out early for first time offenders. ▪ Probation is revoked. - Peggy said that Probation likes to bring various people to discuss their resources so they are aware of resources in the community that can be offered. ➤ Susan reminded everyone that these presentations are so that Commission Members can take this information back to their offices for their coworkers, and perhaps schedule presentations for their staff as well.
<p>4. Children, Youth, and Domestic Violence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Training, February 5 - STEP Grant Strategic Plan & Next Steps - Application for OVW Youth Grant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two trainings will be held on February 5 at Fountain Community Church. - The first training is Darkness to Light’s Stewards of Children which is around identifying red flags of child sexual assault while also teaching adults how to protect and prevent this from happening to kids. - The second training is Children Exposed to Domestic Violence which was created over the past year by the Commission’s Child Witness to Domestic Violence Work Group. - Both training will be offered twice on February 5. ➤ Look at possibly presenting the Children Exposed to Domestic Violence Training to probation. - The STEP Grant’s Strategic Plan has been completed along with the logic model that lays out the plan of the work to be done over the next year in a half. The STEP grant is now into the implementation phase. - OVW has combined several grant programs into one. The only sites that are eligible to apply are those who are already receiving grant funds from one of those programs. The Ferndale School District is one of those sites. - This Youth Grant is for working with children ages 0-18 on issues related to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Additionally, each applicant has to partner with culturally specific organizations. The grant would be for three years and up to one million dollars. - The Ferndale School District is willing to apply for the Youth Grant, in coordination with the DV Commission, to extend the work on the STEP Grant, as well as to enhance that work by reaching into elementary schools as well. The grant will include a focus on homeless/runaway youth, CSEC and Native

	<p>American Youth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Blaine School District has been asked to join the project with Ferndale. Blaine was approached for several reasons. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Blaine’s Police Chief is a former Commission Member ▪ This year Blaine’s City Council asked if the Commission would present to them twice a year. ▪ Both Blaine and Ferndale have higher domestic rates than the county and state average. This is an indicator that there is concern and that people are reporting to law enforcement. - All of the important partners and agencies have agreed to be a part of the grant. - We will be notified in September 2014 if we receive the grant.
<p>5. Implementation of Lethality Assessment Program in Whatcom County</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Commission conducted their first safety audit eight years ago. From that audit we found that there was a need to improve our risk assessment process. - DV cases in our criminal justice are incident driven as it should be but for a lot of reasons DV is context driven. - From this knowledge a risk assessment protocol was developed that all Whatcom County Agencies adopted. Now, we are updating that protocol and the tool that is used. - The Lethality Assessment Program is a risk assessment tool focused on research done by Jackie Campbell. From that research the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence developed a risk assessment tool with the primary point being to identify a victim that is high risk for serious assault and link them with a DV agency; research shows that only 4% of those that were killed due to domestic violence had any contact with a DV agency. Communities who have adopted this risk assessment have gotten that number up to 30%. - From the victims that screen in as high danger we want to track those that follow up with DV services. This also becomes a part of a case file that goes to probation, prosecutors and DV treatment providers. Judges can also access this. - The Maryland Network came out to do a train the trainers for all jurisdictions. All of the law enforcement agencies will have transitioned over the next three months to using this new Lethality Assessment Program. - The Commission will be tracking these assessments and DVSAS will be tracking the contact with victims who screen in. - Laurie said that Children’s Administration is going to try to do the risk assessment on a voluntary basis. - Karen said that the goal of this screen is to connect victims with an advocate. When someone screens in DVSAS will provide immediate safety planning and also try to get victims referred to other resources. DVSAS will also provide follow up. Advocates have been trained to keep the initial phone call if someone screens in very brief since the officer will now remain on the scene until the phone call ends. All agencies have been asked to let us know if this becomes a problem.
<p>6. Staff Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2013 and 2014 DV Commission Member commitments - 2014 DV Commission calendar of meetings - Domestic Violence Specialist funding - DV Commission Report, 4th Quarter 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DV Commission members were referred to their packets to see their “report cards” on fulfilling their commitments for 2013. - DV Commission members who had not filled out their commitment forms for 2014 were urged to do so. - DV Commission members were referred to their packets for the 2014 calendar of meetings, and the DV Commission’s 2013 4th quarter report. - The Domestic Violence Specialist (DVS) is a prosecution based advocate in the five small cities.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- In 2006 it was identified that there was a need for a prosecution based advocate for the small cities. Through the GTEA grant the DV Commission took the lead while working with the Small Cities DV Advisory Committee and hired a DVS.- In 2010 the City of Ferndale took on the role of contracting with the DVS on behalf of the small cities.- Funding for the DVS position continued with grant funds through GTEA, a grant from Verizon Wireless Grant written by Ferndale PD, and STOP funds. As of January 2014 the position is now funded by contributions from Ferndale, Blaine, Lynden and Sumas and is fully funded through 2014.- The Commission will continue through 2014 to be involved and find a home for this position to make sure that funding continues.
7. Adjourn	@ 10:00 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, March 27, 2014 from 8:30-10:00 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, Mary Dumas, Bill Elfo, Sheri Emerson, Gary Jensen, Jon Komorowski, Dave McEachran, Kathy McNaughton, Terra Nevitt, Rick Qualls, Linda Quinn, Dave Reynolds, Jolie Rhinehart, Mike Riber, Mike Sledge, Greg Winter, Darla Woolman

Members Absent:

Karen Burke, Cliff Cook, Regina Delahunt, Nikki Finkbonner, Cheri Kilty, Mike Knapp, Manuel Reta, Peter Ruffatto, Bruce Van Glubt

Staff Present:

Susan Marks, Sue Parrott, Meaghan Connell

Guests:

Jenn Mason, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services
 Andrea Johnson, Lummi Victims of Crime for Nikki Finkbonner

Agenda Item	Discussion
<p>8. Welcome and Introductions</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>9. MOTION: Consent Agenda - Minutes from January 23, 2014 meeting</p>	<p>- MOTION: Approval of Minutes from January 23, 2014 DV Commission Meeting. Rick Qualls made a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Jolie Rhinehart seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.</p>
<p>10. Strangulation Institute Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grand Rounds for medical providers, Thursday, June 5, 7 – 8 am - Strangulation Training (one full day training, presented two times) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Thursday, June 5 ➤ Friday, June 6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Commission will be organizing the training, Identifying Investigating, and Prosecuting Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Strangulation Cases on June 5 and June 6. The Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention will be the presenters. - The plan is to do Grand Rounds at Peace Health with Medical Providers on the morning of June 5 from 7-8am. The focus of the Grand Rounds will be around how to identify and document strangulation for health care providers. Research has found that there are long term health effects from strangulation. - For the full-day training, the presenters will be talking about what they have learned while reviewing strangulation cases. There will be general information but there will be a focus on law enforcement documentation of the case. - This is a ONE day training that we are holding on two different days in the hope that more will be able to attend.

- Strangulation has been identified as a significant indicator in lethality for DV and SA. Sue looked back on the LAP (Lethality Assessment Program) screenings over the last two and a half months. There have been a little over 50 collected with around 50% that screened in for high danger; of those that screened in for high danger, nearly half of those victims have experienced choking with their current abuser.
- **If anyone has a medical provider they would like at the Grand Rounds, please let Sue know so we can make sure they are there.**

11. Washington State Legislation regarding Firearms and DVPOs

- According to the Federal Law *If the respondent's relationship to the petitioner is that of spouse or former spouse, parent of a common child, or former or current cohabitant as intimate partner, including current or former registered domestic partner, then effective immediately, and continuing as long as this protection order is in effect, the respondent may not possess a firearm or ammunition.*
- For civil protection orders, Washington State has not had a corresponding state law. Therefore, if you have a protection order against you what will law enforcement do? They cannot enforce a federal law. Bill Elfo said that in those cases they would refer to the ATF but the ATF are very reluctant and slow to respond.
- Sue noted that when the Commission did the Protection Order Safety Audit we found that our courts could take a position if the court felt the victim would be in imminent harm. The Commission spent time working with a Superior Court Commissioner and other partners and putting a process and recommendations into place that went into effect a year ago. This process has petitioners asking the court for the surrender of weapons if it is warranted.
- Just recently the state legislature has passed a bill effective in June where anytime a PO is put into effect the respondent generally cannot possess firearms.
- Law Enforcement and the state will be responsible for developing forms (Whatcom County has already done this):
 - Local law enforcement and prosecution may charge the crime of unlawful possession of firearms for firearms violations in the context of qualifying domestic violence protection orders.
 - All law enforcement agencies to develop policies and procedures regarding acceptance, storage and return of weapons by January 1, 2015
 - Administrative office of the courts shall develop new forms regarding proof of surrender, etc. by Dec. 2014
 - Party ordered to surrender must file proof of surrender within 5 judicial days of order entry
- The effective date is coming up fast and there is a need and a value on how everyone will make this work and communicate together. There are a number of conversations to have around this.
 - How are law enforcement and the courts going to communicate?
 - If the court says someone needs to surrender who do we want in place for compliance?
 - What role is law enforcement going to play in terms of seeking out those

	<p>who have surrendered weapons?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do we want to be more proactive in terms of compliance? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bill asked if respondents will be in contempt of court if firearms are not surrendered. Dave McEachran said that you will have to show the person has them, there will be some enforcement issues, in the civil part it would be contempt, and it would have to be shown that the gun was there. The person would have to be put under oath, then that would have to be checked and it would be perjury if it is not true. Terra Nevitt said that there must be other states with similar laws that we can look at. Dave McEachran said that there will have to be some mechanism to try to investigate that. Bill Elfo noted that there would have to be probable cause to get a search warrant but there will be a gap there. Several people noted that there will still be gaps; the new law closes many other gaps. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Law and Justice Committee will be discussing this at the April 22 meeting.
<p>12. DV Commission Annual Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Officer Elections - DV Commission Retreat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Linda Storck has retired. Linda has been a part of the Commission since the beginning. Darlene Peterson is the new Municipal Court Administrator; Susan will look at meeting with her once she is settled. - Cherie Stutesman has resigned from the Commission. She left her position with Planned Parenthood and has taken a job with Planned Parenthood America which requires 26 weeks of travel out of the year. - Thursday May 22 will be the Commission's Annual Meeting which includes the election of officers. Susan will be contacting everyone to inquire if anyone would like to take on a leadership in the Commission. - The May meeting is going to be a mini retreat. The meeting will be from 8AM-10AM we will have breakfast and refreshments. Andy Cline who facilitated the Commission's previous strategic planning process will come in to facilitate the meeting around our new strategic plan. - Discussion around the new strategic plan will be around the growth of the Commission. Where and how are we going to grow, do we want to grow and what the criterion for this growth is? It is important that all Commission members attend and that everyone is able to have their voice heard. ➤ Susan will be emailing Commission Members and asking everyone to RSVP, and to send a representative from their agency if they are not able to attend.
<p>13. Presentation: Youth Dating Violence & The Empowerment Project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jenn Mason, DVSAS's Development and Education Director, was introduced. - DVSAS has an Education Coordinator and a Children's Coordinator who work on the STEP Grant. Jenn is responsible for overseeing the work they are doing. The Empowerment Project is a three session curriculum. First is dating violence, second is sexual assault and consent, and the third is when students read real survivor stories. - The Empowerment Project Presentation to the Commission will be Day 1. Dating violence is a huge problem and very pervasive. A lot of times it is not talked about. Females ages 16-24 are at the highest risk of experiencing dating violence. A lot of times the students are not recognizing that what they are

seeing is dating violence.

- Teen Dating Violence is different than Domestic Violence in several areas:
 - Teens are usually not living together
 - Unlike adult domestic violence where the abuse tends to happen in isolation, for teens experiencing dating violence, the abuse is happening while others are around. Statistics show that 50% of the time there is a third party present. Because of this, when talking to teens a big part is bystander intervention, even more so then for adults, because the chance that they will see the violence is likely.
 - There are not the huge landmarks of who has the power and control. Teens do not see that there is a big difference and do not identify an issue with power and control.
 - Teens are new to the relationship world and from that their expectations of what a relationship looks like may not be realistic. These relationships can be isolating, there is a concern that parents are going to be angry, confusion on if it is ok to spend time with other friends.
 - There is a lot of social pressure as well, ¼ of boys said that if a girl hit them they would have to hit them back to save face.
 - The last key difference is around technology; it very easy to stalk someone around social media.
- Jenn took the Commission through the first day of the Empowerment Project.

14. Adjourn

@ 10:00 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 July 24, 2014 from 8:30-10:00 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, Bill Elfo, Sheri Emerson, Christina Kobdish, Kathy McNaughton, Terra Nevitt, Darlene Peterson, Rick Qualls, Linda Quinn, Manuel Reta, Dave Reynolds, Mike Riber, Peter Ruffatto, Mike Sledge, Darla Woolman

Members Absent:

Cliff Cook, Mary Dumas, Nikki Finkbonner, Gary Jensen, Mike Knapp, Jon Komorowski, Dave McEachran, Jolie Rhinehart, Bruce Van Glubt, Greg Winter

Staff Present:

Susan Marks, Liz Stuart, Meaghan Connell

Guest:

Deputy Chief David Doll, Bellingham Police Department

Agenda Item	Discussion
1. Welcome and Introductions	- Welcome and introductions were made by everyone and the meeting began.
2. Consent Agenda	
MOTION: Approval of Minutes from May 22, 2014 DV Commission Meeting	- MOTION: Approval of Minutes from May 22, 2014 DV Commission Meeting Peter Ruffatto made a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Terra Nevitt seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.
3. Strategic Plan Timeline	- The Strategic Plan Draft is ready. There will be an addition of outcomes and local statistics. The final version will be presented at the September meeting. ➤ Commission Members were asked to contact Susan if there are any other comments.
4. Strangulation Prevention Training Report-Out	- Around 100 people attended the training and about a dozen attended the Hospital's Grand Rounds. - Those that attended the Grand Rounds were very positive about the training; there was a lot of great feedback. - The Commission would like to send a team to the Advanced Strangulation Course in August. We will look to those that attend as the experts that could be consulted as these cases come up in Whatcom County. - From the training we would like to continue to engage community members that are medical providers, 911 dispatch, and EMS responders. - This training created an awareness of the seriousness of strangulation. By the time some agencies see victims who have been strangled, they are downplaying what has happened. It is important to be able to convey to victims the seriousness of their situation and to encourage them to get

	<p>medical help.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We will continue to work to implement a strangulation plan in our community by doing the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Send a team of 3 to the advanced training, including a prosecutor, law enforcement officer, and medical provider. ➤ Coordinating quarterly action plan meetings that will include training attendees meeting and addressing changes to their agency policies, training, and responses. ➤ Bill and Susan will meet for Susan to attend the Fire Chief’s Association to present them with information and resources.
<p>5. DV Awareness Month</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small Group Brainstorming - Large Group Report-Out and Discussion - Follow-up Survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Commission participated in a small group activity around Domestic Violence Awareness Month and reported out on the results. <p><u><i>Who is our target?</i></u> THEME: Community At Large SECONDARY GROUPS: Kids, College Students, People of Color SUBTARGET POPULATION: Medical Providers, Neighborhood Associations, Faith Based Groups A suggestions was made to plan ahead to have a specific target audience that we want to make inroads with in a particular year.</p> <p><u><i>What is our message?</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer back to our Talking Points Worksheet • MESSAGE: We are all affected; it is preventable; how a bystander should respond when they witness or hear about a DV incident • Look at having different focuses and different themes each year. <p><u><i>What activities?</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OUTREACH: Media, Social Media, Public Access, Radio • No specific event to the general community • Something to show appreciation for DV advocates • Purple ribbons, Purple lights • Have an “ask me event” to engage the general public, or have community members wearing a pin that says: “ask me about the purple lights” as a visual. The Herald could take pictures of businesses who have the purple lights, “click if you have a purple light”, “like” purple lights on Facebook, or other outreach. <p><u><i>How do we reach out?</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not focus on a single event. • Look at tagging onto other events. • Research what is happening on the national and state level. • Important to have events that are engaging and fun: concerts; something that will draw people and engage them • Social media and radio, Pandora ads.
<p>Adjourn</p>	<p>@ 10:00 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 September 25, 2014 from 8:30-10:00 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:

Karen Burke, Cliff Cook, Mary Dumas, Regina Delahunt, Bill Elfo, Sheri Emerson, Nikki Finkbonner, Gary Jensen, Mike Knapp, Christina Kobdich, Jon Komorowski, Kathy McNaughton, Darlene Peterson, Rick Qualls, Linda Quinn, Dave Reynolds, Mike Sledge, Darla Woolman

Members Absent:

Laurie Alexander, Dave McEachran, Terra Nevitt, Jolie Rhinehart, Mike Riber, Peter Ruffatto, Bruce Van Glubt

Staff Present:

Susan Marks, Stacy Miller, Liz Stuart, Meaghan Connell

Guest:

Kim Hodges, MSW Intern for DVSAS
 Mike Heistand, Executive Director of Law Advocates
 Bridget Reeves Women's Ministries Mgr. Lighthouse Mission

Agenda Item	Discussion
6. Welcome and Introductions	- Welcome and introductions were made by everyone and the meeting began.
7. Consent Agenda	
MOTION: Approval of Minutes from July 16, 2014 DV Commission Meeting	- MOTION: Approval of Minutes from July 16, 2014 DV Commission Meeting Mike Knapp made a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Karen Burke seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.
8. DV Commission Strategic Plan - Presentation of Strategic Plan - Small Group Activity (Facilitators: Regina, Greg Sheri, Darla) - Large Group Report Out	- Susan gave a presentation to the full Commission on the Strategic Planning process and proposed plan. The next step will be for the Commission to finalize any changes and vote to approve the Strategic Plan. - The Commission's Annual Retreat in May gave two hours for the full Commission to break out into small groups and talk about different projects and categories these projects into four categories: ➤ Things we do well that fit our mission/values and that we want to keep doing ➤ Things we do now and fit our mission/values but should increase in capacity and scale ➤ Things that we do now but that would be more effective with a change in scope or direction AND/OR Things we could do if the right questions were answered and vetted ➤ Things we've thought about doing or been asked to do, but it is not the right

fit for our mission/values (These things could lead us down the rabbit hole.

- Over the next few months Susan continued to work with Andy Cline to pull out the trends based the input from the Commission; and then to turn those trends into four overarching goals. In addition to consulting with Andy, Susan also sought input from staff and the executive committee, and let the full Commission know that they could get in touch with her to give input or be a part of creating the plan.
- The biggest trend was that we wanted to do everything so the next step was where we focus our limited resources.
- Susan presented the Commission’s Vision and Values, Challenge, and strategic goals.
- Susan asked the full Commission if there were additional modifications or recommendations for the 2015-2018 Strategic Plan.

- A recommendation was made to add that research is conducted to identify new promising alternatives or practices, under DV Commission core activities
- An additional bullet will be added around supporting community efforts for the provision of effective and accessible domestic violence perpetrator treatment, under the goal of promote best practices

- With the requested provisions **MOTION: Approval of the 2015-2018 Strategic Plan**

Darla Woolman made a Motion to approve the Strategic Plan. Kathy McNaughton seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

- The full Commission broke out into 4 small groups to answer the following questions and then reported out to the larger group.
 1. What about this plan strikes you as the most exciting and important for the DV Commission?
 2. Where do you see yourself most involved in implementing this plan over the upcoming years?
 3. Identify 3 individuals or organizations with whom you will share this plan, including when and why.

There was a lot of agreement within and among the small groups on the following items:

- The strength of the statement “Domestic violence is not acceptable in Whatcom County” is a good message for the Commission to promote.
- The value of “cultural competency and relevancy” is very important to the Commission’s work.
- The focus on community engagement and on children/youth is two areas where a lot of Commission members can see themselves dedicating time and energy.

- Susan will update the plan based on the changes suggested. The strategic plan will be printed and distributed to Commission members at our

	<p>November meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Meaghan will create a one-page handout of the strategic plan, that Commission members can share with other stakeholders to discuss the Commission’s focus for the upcoming years.
<p>9. DV Awareness Month</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yard and window signs - Social & traditional media campaign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meaghan presented on the community awareness campaign that the Commission will be leading this year for DVAM. Each year, the Commission has held an event honoring survivors and victims of domestic violence. At the last meeting, the full Commission reflected on the event and found that those who attend are already very connected to this movement and this issue. This year, to better engage community members, we have decided to focus on a community awareness campaign. The Purple Light Campaign was of interest to many on the Commission, but logistically it got complicated and unrealistic. The idea of doing yard signs came out of the Domestic Violence Resource Network meeting. We are asking Commission Members to take these signs to your home and/or office to display. Our hope is that we can spread the important message that all of us can help someone affected by domestic violence by simply Listening and Believing. - The signs are focused around Taking Action. On our website the Commission will have a list of accessible and simple steps a community member can do to stop domestic violence in our community. In addition to the website, the Commission will maintain a heavy social media presence utilizing the #ListenBelieveSpeakout and tagging other national #s such as #NOMORE and #DVAM2014. - In addition to the yard signs, from October 14-31 a banner will be hung over Holly Street announcing DVAM with the words Everyone Has A Role To Play In Ending Domestic Violence.
<p>Adjourn</p>	<p>@ 10:00 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 November 20, 2014 from 8:30-10:00 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, Christina Kobdich, Jon Komorowski, Dave McEachran, Darlene Peterson, Manuel Reta, Dave Reynolds, Jolie Rhinehart, Mike Riber, Bruce Van Glubt, Darla Woolman

Members Absent:

Terra Nevitt, Peter Ruffatto, Cliff Cook, Mary Dumas, Regina Delahunt, Bill Elfo, Sheri Emerson, Nikki Finkbonner, Gary Jensen, Mike Knapp, Kathy McNaughton, Rick Qualls, Linda Quinn, Mike Sledge, Greg Winter

Staff Present:

Susan Marks, Stacy Miller, Liz Stuart, Meaghan Connell

Guest:

Flo Simon, Bellingham Police Department

Agenda Item	Discussion
10. Welcome and Introductions	- Welcome and introductions were made by everyone and the meeting began.
11. Consent Agenda	
MOTION: Approval of Minutes from September 25, 2014	Did not have a quorum present to approve the minutes from the September 25, Meeting.
12. DV Commission Member Commitments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commitment Form - Strategic plan booklet and flyer - Committees - Calendar of meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Commission received a calendar of the upcoming meetings for 2015. - Susan went over the Commission's four committees. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Child Witness Response Team will remain focused on children impacted by DV and our community response to this. This Committee involves trainings and case consultation with other community members. o Executive Committee will continue to provide support, guidance, supervision, and evaluation, as well as oversight of finances. o Law and Justice Advisory Committee will continue to provide input on Commission projects and our community's response related to the civil and criminal justice system. o Beginning in 2015 the Abuser Response Committee along with the Message Response Team will combine to be the Outreach and Engagement Committee. This committee will provide guidance to and support implementation of DVAM activities and the pilot of the Abuser Response Toolkit, along with other promotional opportunities through social media, radio interviews, and other community engagement

	<p>opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commission Members took a few minutes to fill out their 2015 Commitment forms.
<p>13. Child Witness Case Consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Purpose and process - Mock case - Systemic issues identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Laurie and Susan gave a summary of the Case Consultations that have begun in the Child Witness Response Team. - The Child Witness Response Team has been meeting for three years. During that time, the team has developed a community training around youth impacted by domestic violence and has been exploring a Case Consultation process. - Laurie and Susan attended a Case Consultation in King County where they have a Children and DV Task Force. A case is brought to the group with the goal of providing information and a plan to keep the victim and the child(ren) safe while holding the abuser accountable. After attending the meeting, Laurie and Susan reported back to the group and the group moved forward to create one in Whatcom County. - The recommendation of creating a Case Consultation came directly from the Whatcom County DV Fatality Review. - The full Commission participated in a mock Case Consultation to learn about the process and purpose.
<p>14. Staff Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3rd Quarter 2014, Quarterly Report - Data from Lethality Assessment Program - DV High Risk Response Team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There was a review of the 3rd Quarter 2014 Quarterly Report. Susan noted that there will be additional discussion regarding STEP in the coming months. - Liz presented on the LAP. The LAP is the validated tool that has been implemented across all law enforcement jurisdictions in Whatcom County. Having all jurisdictions using one tool when screening for risk was another recommendation that came out of the Fatality Review. - The Commission reviewed the LAP Quarterly Report Statistics. It was noted that over half of completed LAPs screened in as high danger. Screening in for high danger immediately triggers a response to connect a victim with an advocate on the scene. 62% of those that screened in spoke to an advocate on scene. Liz said that the goal is for that number to be 75%-80%. The team will continue to review barriers to get that number up. - All jurisdictions except the Sheriff's Office submit the LAPs to the DV Commission. Currently there are referrals being made by the Sheriff's Office to DVSAS for advocacy, but we are still in the process of being able to receive the LAPs. - Liz noted that 11% of those that did not screen in as high risk with the LAP were now accessing services. - Most LAP referrals come from law enforcement. There have been two from CPS, and Liz will meet with Brigid Collins in upcoming months as well. i. Darla felt that medical providers should be using this tool as well. This will be explored in the future.

- Liz discussed the DV High Risk Response Team. This team is offender focused. The goal is to increase communication throughout disciplines to increase offender management and accountability. The DVHRT follows a national model proven to prevent homicides while addressing systemic challenges. The DVHRT model has been modified to work with our state laws and county structure. We began accepting cases in October. DVHRT group members are excited and engaged which in turn will impact our outcomes.

Adjourn

@ 10:00 AM