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Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence  
 DV Commission Meeting  
**THURSDAY JANUARY 22, 2015 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; Chief Cook; Mary Dumas; Sheriff Elfo; Sheri Emerson; Gary Jensen; Chief Knapp; Christina Kobdich; Jon Komorowski; Kathy McNaughton; Terra Nevitt; Darlene Peterson; Katie Plewa; Rick Qualls; Jolie Rhinehart; Mike Riber; Peter Ruffatto; Mike Sledge; Greg Winter; Darla Woolman

**Members Absent:** Regina Delahunt; Nikki Finkbonner; Dave McEachran; Linda Quinn; Manuel Reta; Dave Reynolds; Bruce Van Glubt

**Staff Present:** Susan Marks; Liz Stuart; Meaghan Connell

**Guest:** Alan Artman; Chief Financial Officer, Faith Life  
 Stacy Miller; Executive Director, Skagit County DVSAS

Agenda Item	Discussion
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Laurie welcomed Katie Plewa, the Commission's newest member. Katie is the Coordinator of CASAS at Western Washington University.</li> <li>- Susan introduced Alan Artman, Chief Financial Officer at Faithlife, who is considering DV Commission membership.</li> <li>- Laurie issued a thank you to Michael Sledge, Manuel Reta, and Nikki Finkbonner. They have each reached the end of their terms.</li> <li>- Laurie issued a thank you to Stacy Miller, former STEP Grant Supervisor for the DV Commission. Stacy has accepted a position as the Executive Director at Skagit County DVSAS.</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>MOTION:</b> 2015 DV Commission Budget	<p>Mike Riber, DV Commission Treasurer, discussed the 2015 Budget.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Our 2015 budget in total is about \$64K or 22% less than our 2014 budget. The biggest changes are in our STEP grant. We are expecting to conclude our</li> </ul>

	<p>STEP grant in June.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Even our General account for 2015 is budgeted about \$15K less than last year, or down 14%. This includes a 3% annual increase for Commission staff.</li> <li>- Long term revenue sources are on the mind of the Executive Committee.</li> </ul> <p><b>MOTION: Approval of 2015 DV Commission Budget.</b></p> <p>Greg Winter made a Motion to approve the Budget. Jolie Rhinehart seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>MOTION: Consent Agenda</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minutes from September 24, 2014</li> <li>- Minutes from November 20, 2014</li> </ul>	<p><b>MOTION: Approval of Minutes from September 24, 2014 and November 20, 2014.</b></p> <p>Kathy McNaughton made a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Chris Kobdich seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>DV Commission Member Commitments</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Laurie reminded Commission Members about their annual commitments. Commission Members are asked to attend 4 out of the 6 Commission Meetings and 75% of their Committee Meetings. Laurie reached out individually via phone to members who did not meet their commitments in 2014 to check in regarding their commitments and ability/interest in meeting those.</li> </ul>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>DV High Risk Team</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Liz reported that the Domestic Violence High Risk Response Team (DVHRT) was able to start reviewing and accepting cases in October.</li> <li>- Liz introduced <i>Telling Amy's Story</i> <a href="https://ksutube.kent.edu/playback.php?playthis=wr8l1zov">https://ksutube.kent.edu/playback.php?playthis=wr8l1zov</a> . Similar to the Fatality Review led by the Commission, <i>Telling Amy's Story</i> discusses the events leading up to a domestic violence homicide. Liz asked that everyone watch and think about where community interventions possibly could have been used.</li> <li>- The Fatality Review process was about looking at the whole story. What was the history, and what was happening in this family's life before the homicide. The purpose of the DVHRT is about changing the ending.</li> <li>- The DVHRT is an innovative approach that is offender focused. There are really clear risk factors that are looked at as a team and determine the level of risk the offender poses to victim, children, and others. The DVHRT is focused on those cases that are the highest risk for fatality.</li> <li>- Terra asked how the DVHRT is getting referrals. Liz said that right now referrals are being done internally but the team is currently looking at creating a referral process.</li> <li>- The group discussed what data was currently being collected in order to measure systemic change through both the LAP and the DVHRT processes.</li> </ul>

	<p>Commission Members were asked to please email or call Liz if they had ideas around specific data they would like to see collected in addition to what is currently being collected.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Whatcom County is currently the only county in Washington State that has a DVHRT.</li> <li>- Liz discussed the DVHRT information gathering process. Part of this is looking at Protection Order Petitions, criminal history, social media along with the information provided by the person who referred the case as well as other DVHRT members. The goal is to gather the information to get the larger story.</li> <li>- Commission members participated in a mock case referral.</li> </ul>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>DV Commission Funding Sustainability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Small group discussion &amp; brainstorming</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Susan discussed sustainability for the DV Commission's funding and where the Commission's funding comes from.</li> <li>- The Commission's primary funding, since its inception, is from the City of Bellingham and Whatcom County.</li> <li>- The Commission has been the recipient of five GTEA Grants since 2005, which has been helpful in being able to do our systems work. However, these are not sustainable revenue sources</li> <li>- The Commission did receive an extension for the STEP grant, but that grant will end in September 2015.</li> <li>- Susan noted that the Commission can maintain its current level of functioning for approximately the next two years; however, it is important to start the discussion now, so that we continue to be able to have the impact we want to have in the community.</li> <li>- Susan asked everyone to break out into groups and begin brainstorming ideas for sustainability and where the group wanted to see the Commission go in terms of levels of functioning.</li> </ul>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Responding to Abuse: A Training for Faith Communities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Susan reminded everyone that the Commission is hosting a full-day training on domestic violence and sexual assaults; the morning is focused on adult victims, and the afternoon on child victims. The training outreach is focused on faith communities, but social service providers, educators, and other professionals are also welcome to attend. Susan requested that Commission members assist with promoting the training with faith communities; the flyer and registration has been emailed out to the full Commission.</li> </ul>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Adjourn</b></p>	<p><b>@ 10:00am</b></p>

Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence  
 DV Commission Meeting  
**THURSDAY MARCH 26, 2015 FROM 8:30AM-10:00AM**  
 @ 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; Alan Artman; Beth Boyd; Karen Burke; Chief Cook; Mary Dumas; Sheri Emerson; Chief Knapp; Christina Kobdich; Jon Komorowski; Dave McEachran; Kathy McNaughton; Darlene Peterson; Katie Plewa; Linda Quinn; Jolie Rhinehart; Mike Riber; Peter Ruffatto; Bruce Van Glubt; Greg Winter; Darla Woolman

**Members Absent:** Regina Delahunt; Sheriff Elfo; Gary Jensen; Terra Nevitt; Rick Qualls; Dave Reynolds

**Staff Present:** Susan Marks, Liz Stuart, Meaghan Connell

**Guests:** Jill Iwasaki ; Ferndale School District  
 Warren Page; Whatcom County Prosecutors Office  
 Jeff Parks; Whatcom County Sheriff's Office

Agenda Item	Discussion
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Welcome and Introductions</b> - Welcome Alan Artman, CFO of FaithLife Corporation, City of Bellingham Major Employer - Welcome Beth Boyd, Medical Social Worker @ Lummi Health Clinic, Whatcom County Human Service Provider	- Welcomes and Introductions were made.
<b>MOTION: Approval of Minutes from January 22, 2015 DV Commission Meeting</b>	- <b>MOTION: Approval of Minutes from January 22, 2015 DV Commission Meeting</b> Greg Winter made a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Chris Kobdich seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>MOTION: DV Commission Fund Development Policy</b> - Update regarding DV Commission Sustainability - Summarize ideas from brainstorming at January DV Commission meeting - Review suggested changes to Fund Development Policy - Action: Vote to Accept/Modify/Decline	- Funding is always a concern for an organization like the Commission. From our annual meeting last year everyone agreed that they wanted this to be an active Commission. At that meeting the whole Commission prioritized projects that they wanted to focus on; funds are needed in order to do those projects. Commission staff did research to look at what historically had been done around funding, from that research it was found that these same conversations about funding were taking place five and ten years ago. - The first recommendation from the Executive Committee was for modifying the Commission's Fund Development Policy. Commission members received a document with recommended modifications. - The full Commission discussed the updates to the Fund Development Policy. Susan

<p>updates to Fund Development Policy</p>	<p>along with the Executive Committee will review the recommendations and it will be presented again at the July Commission meeting.</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Whatcom County DV High Risk Response Team</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review GTEA grant and goals</li> <li>- Discuss High Risk Response Team history, model and objectives</li> <li>- Share examples of systemic issues addressed and monitoring plans developed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Liz introduced Warren Page from the Whatcom County Prosecutors Office who has been an integral part of leading the High Risk Response Team project.</li> <li>- Liz discussed the GTEA Grant Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Objective One:</b> To increase identification of victims at risk for highly lethal domestic/dating violence and stalking through implementation of the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP), followed by immediate linkages or referrals to community-based advocacy agency (DVSAS) in order to increase victim safety and autonomy.</li> <li>- <b>Objective Two:</b> To enhance and institutionalize effective operations of the newly formed Whatcom County High Risk Response Team (HRRT), a multi-disciplinary team that meets monthly to identify and manage high risk domestic/dating violence and stalking cases.</li> <li>- <b>Objective Three:</b> To increase the capacity of Domestic Violence &amp; Sexual Assault Services (DVSAS) to provide high risk domestic/dating violence and stalking victims with legal advocacy and safety planning that is responsive to and informed by their risk for lethality.</li> </ul> <p><i>Part-time High Risk Legal Advocate (0.5 FTE, DVSAS)</i></p> <li>- <b>Objective Four:</b> To increase education, training, and technical assistance opportunities on recognizing and responding to domestic/dating violence and stalking cases with high risk for lethality for criminal and civil justice, first responder, and advocacy agency personnel.</li> <li>- Liz presented on the DV Commission’s High Risk Response Team history model and objectives; noting that Whatcom County is the first in the state to lead a HRRT; this is a very exciting project.</li> </li></ul>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Children and Youth Projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Debrief STEP Grant Successes and Challenges</li> <li>- Our Gender Revolution Summit</li> <li>- Action: Commitments to promote Gender Revolution Summit</li> <li>- Safe Futures Grant Application</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The STEP Grant will be ending soon. The STEP Grant has been a partnership between the Ferndale School District, the Commission, and DVSAS. Most of the activities will be carried through to the end of the school year, and some into the beginning of the next school year.</li> <li>- Successes and Challenges were discussed.</li> <li>- <b>Successes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ People coming together from different disciplines and making systemic connections.</li> <li>▪ The creation of an online all staff training around students experiencing abuse. From the nine sites who received this grant, we were the most effective in ensuring the sustainability of this training.</li> <li>▪ We were very successful with the creation of a protocol on what to do when someone is experiencing domestic violence. All staff, including teachers, bus drivers, nurses, and coaches are being trained. This training will also continue to be implemented through a sustainable train the trainer model.</li> <li>▪ A better understanding of how teenagers lead quiet and secret lives along with not recognizing what an unhealthy relationship looks like. Through the youth groups we were able to hear the students carry the voice. Important to figure out how to sustain and continue this.</li> <li>▪ The Protocol Booklets along with the fact that all staff completed the online training was a huge success.</li> <li>▪ The training for staff is not something that is out there own its own, the grant was very specific but as we look at resources and people we can’t afford to have all of these separate groups working on a similar mission of a peaceful healthy environment for our children. The grant has taught us how important it has been to be systematic and systemic with these issues.</li> <li>▪ Guaranteed services for kids and staff with the understanding that they are going to get this information.</li> <li>▪ Having so many people at the table, what is sustainable is knowing how the</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p>different agencies work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The monthly meetings where all of us gained a better understanding of how to work together.</li> <li>▪ Institutionalization of how to intervene when someone discloses they are experiencing or witnessing domestic violence.</li> </ul> <p>- <b>Challenges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Keeping sexual assault and domestic violence at the center while still connecting with other similar issues</li> <li>▪ Better technical assistance related to the youth groups; we ended up learning a lot and stumbling through the process. Having youth involved makes it more effective and exciting.</li> <li>▪ How do we keep this project alive, and keep the kids involved.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Our Gender Revolution Summit came from an idea from the Youth Advisory Groups. Teens from these groups are responsible for leading the summit.</li> <li>- Our Gender Revolution is a curriculum from the Idaho State Coalition. The curriculum was developed by teens and lead by teens. These teens will be the Keynote speakers at the summit. The summit will be held at WWU in coordination with Prevention and Wellness.</li> <li>- Liz is currently in the process of meeting with all of the Youth Advisory Groups. In order to get this information out throughout the entire county to all of the schools we will need the support of Commission members to make sure that there is a team from each middle and high school in Whatcom County represented at the summit, along with an advisor that can follow up with an action plan for the schools.</li> <li>- Linda said that what is going to make this project sustainable and how we can build capacity will be getting youth involved. If you do something there has to be an outcome to keep a group together and the summit has this.</li> <li>- The goal is to have a team from every Middle and High School in the county. We are asking for each commission member to commit to contacting at least one of the schools and talk to them about this project and encourage them send a team in September.</li> <li>- The goal is to have an action plan for each school represented come out at the end of the summit. This is going to be an exciting day with a lot of energy from the youth representatives.</li> <li>➤ Liz will send talking points and date to Commission members.</li> <li>- The Commission submitted another Youth Grant Application. We will be partnering with the Ferndale, Blaine and Mt. Baker School District for this grant along with getting to expand into Elementary Schools.</li> <li>- If we receive this grant a Community Needs Assessment along with a strategic plan will be conducted during a six month planning period. The grant has a lot of partners. The goal is to begin county wide capacity building. With this grant we would look at doing another summit.</li> <li>- Beth asked if all of the materials were in English. Susan said yes but there is money in the grant for translation services and interpretation.</li> <li>- The Commission will find out at the end of September if we have received the grant.</li> </ul>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>DV Commission Annual Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reminder: Thursday, May 28, 8AM-10AM at the Ferndale WECU</li> <li>- Action: Cultural and Linguistic Competency Assessment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Susan will be emailing out an online survey, and Commission members will be asked to complete it for their own agency and/or department.</li> </ul>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Adjourn</b> - Turn in your Our Gender Revolution Summit Commitments, Annual Meeting RSVPs, and Meeting Evaluations to Meaghan</p>	<p><b>@ 10:00am</b></p>

Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence  
 DV Commission Meeting  
**THURSDAY MAY 28, 2015 FROM 8:00AM-10:00AM**  
 @ Ferndale WECU

*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; Alan Artman; Beth Boyd; Karen Burke; Chief Cook; Regina Delahunt; Mary Dumas; Sheriff Elfo; Sheri Emerson; Chief Knapp; Christina Kobdich; Jon Komorowski; Dave McEachran; Kathy McNaughton; Terra Nevitt; Darlene Peterson; Katie Plewa; Linda Quinn; Dave Reynolds; Jolie Rhinehart; Mike Riber; Peter Ruffatto; Bruce Van Glubt; Greg Winter; Darla Woolman

**Members Absent:** Rick Qualls; Dave McEachran; Gary Jensen

**Staff Present:** Susan Marks, Liz Stuart, Meghan Hoglund

**Guests:** Kelli Linville, Mayor of Bellingham  
 Jack Louws, County Executive

Agenda Item	Discussion
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Welcome and Introductions</b> - Welcome Guests Mayor Kelli and Executive Louws	- Welcomes and Introductions were made - Meeting Agreements - Evaluations Reminder
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>MOTION: Election of Officers and Executive Committee</b>	- <b>MOTION: Sherri Emerson presented the Election of Officers and Executive Committee</b>  <b>Chair:</b> Laurie Alexander <b>Vice-Chair:</b> Rick Qualls <b>Treasurer:</b> Mike Riber <b>Secretary:</b> Darla Woolman <b>Executive Committee at-large members:</b> Beth Boyd Kathy McNaughton Greg Winter  <b>With no other nominations Peter Ruffatto made a Motion to approve the Slate of Officers as presented. Bill Elfo seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>PRESENTATIONS:</b> - Why Cultural Competency? Assessment Results - Domestic Violence and Cultural &	- Susan Marks presented the results of the Cultural Competency Assessment to the Commission, noting the strengths and gaps in organizational diversity, Whatcom County demographics, and the importance of meeting survivors, children, and offenders and their diverse needs in order to have best practice responses to DV. - Kristin Anderson from WWU presented on Domestic Violence and Cultural & Linguistic Competency, providing statistical data.



<p>Linguistic Competency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gender Identity and Gender Neutrality</li> <li>- Recognizing and Valuing Our Differences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hannah Fisk and April Hinkel-Johnson of Northwest Youth Services did a gender pronoun identification exercise with the attendees of the annual meeting, which was well received and generated quite a bit of discussion.</li> <li>- Nick Sanchez from WWU led the group in a discussion about recognizing and valuing our differences, which included an exercise he created and implemented on campus. The exercise was a series of Diversity Training questions with a check box. Participants checked the box for each question they would answer “yes” to. Upon completion, the questions get handed out at random so others can see how many other people came up with the same answers. This exercise generated quite a bit of reflection, discussion, and positive feedback.</li> </ul>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Call to Action</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Susan Marks referred Commission members to the handouts they were given with ideas on how each member can cultivate cultural and linguistic competency within their own agencies as it pertains to domestic violence.</li> <li>- Commission members also were given assignments requesting they contact specific middle and high schools in Whatcom County to promote the Our Gender Revolution Summit.</li> <li>- Commission members were asked to turn in their meeting evaluations.</li> </ul>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Adjourn/Turn in Meeting Evaluations</b></p>	<p><b>@ 10am</b></p>

Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence  
 DV Commission Meeting  
**THURSDAY JULY 23, 2015 FROM 8:30AM-10:00AM**  
 @ 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; Beth Boyd; Karen Burke; Regina Delahunt; Mary Dumas; Gary Jensen; Chief Knapp; Christina Kobdich; Jon Komorowski; Ken Levinson; Dave McEachran; Kathy McNaughton; Rick Qualls; Linda Quinn; Mike Riber; Peter Ruffatto; Bruce Van Glubt; Greg Winter; Darla Woolman

**Members Absent:** Alan Artman; Chief Cook; Sheriff Elfo; Sheri Emerson; Darlene Peterson; Katie Plewa; Dave Reynolds

**Staff Present:** Susan Marks, Meaghan Connell

**Guests:** Kate Robertson; Outreach Team Lead, Whatcom Homeless Service Center; Jennifer Gardner; Street Outreach Program Manager, Northwest Youth Services; Bobbi Virta; Pastor, United Church of Ferndale; David Doll, Bellingham Police Department

Agenda Item	Discussion
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcome Ken Levinson, Director of Family Services, Nooksack Tribe</li> <li>- Welcome guest presenters: Kate Robertson (Outreach Team Lead, Whatcom Homeless Service Center); Jennifer Gardner (Street Outreach Program Manager, Northwest Youth Services); Bobbi Virta (Pastor, United Church of Ferndale)</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>MOTION: Consent Agenda</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Minutes from March 26, 2015 and May 28, 2015</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>MOTION: Approval of Minutes from March 26, 2015 and May 28, 2015 DV Commission Meeting</b>            Greg Winter made a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Darla Woolman seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>MOTION: DV Commission Fund Development Policy</b>	<p><b>Action: Vote to Accept/Modify/Decline Fund Development Policy</b>             Regina Delahunt made a Motion to approve the Fund Development Policy. Christina Kobdich seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Domestic Violence &amp; Outreach for People who are Homeless in Whatcom County</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Susan Marks introduced Kate Robertson and Jennifer Gardner to present on domestic violence and outreach for people who are homeless in Whatcom County. Some of the areas to be discussed will be how there is overlap of domestic violence and homelessness, and how people experiencing abuse can be vulnerable with other types of abuse when they are homeless, along</li> </ul>

with what is happening at the street outreach level.

- Jennifer Gardner discussed her program; NW Youth Services serves youth 13-24 in Whatcom County and has housing and vocational services in Skagit as well. Jennifer said that her role is working with youth and young adults who are homeless or at risk of being homeless. Street Outreach is about relationship building on the street, the jail, at schools, or anywhere they may want to meet. The goal is to work with them on building positive relationships and working with them to self-identify their individual goals.
- Domestic violence in homeless youth is complicated. This violence can be exploitation, it can be someone that they do not consider an intimate partner, multiple partners, violence, and prostitution. It can also be someone that they consider their boyfriend. In addition the perpetrator of violence can also simultaneously be a protector of the person. There are many layers.
- Kate Robertson discussed her program; the Homeless Service Center's Outreach Program. The main focus of this program is to be out on the street building relationships with those that are most vulnerable and walk with them on this journey. In addition, the program connects them with the services they need; housing, mental health, and chemical dependency. The outreach team also spends time working with other social service agencies to figure out how to work together to lower the barriers to get people what they need. Kate noted that of those enrolled in their housing program, 24% were currently fleeing or were homeless because of domestic violence.
- Kate discussed areas where there may be opportunities for an increase of services for those that are homeless and experiencing domestic violence. There is a need for immediate shelter options in this community.

**Toolkit for Faith Communities in Whatcom County**

- Bobbi Virta and Susan presented on the Toolkit for Faith Communities in Whatcom County. The toolkit's primary purposes is both proactive and reactive and is intended for someone who knows the family and has an opportunity to have a discussion with the victim, offender, and/or children.
- This project began in the spring of 2013 with the help of many partners. The research for this toolkit has included: interviews of faith leaders, survivor focus groups, literature and resource review, stakeholder roundtables, and attending trainings and conferences.
- The idea around an intervention for abusers came from our first strategic planning meeting in 2011. In that meeting there were a lot of discussions around how to better hold the offender accountable. This idea was continued throughout the fatality review process, when the panel noted consistently the need to provide resources and options for the abuser to change.
- The committee decided to focus work on faith communities as a way to support the general community (family, friends, and neighbors) to learn more about domestic violence, local resources, and effective interventions.
- The Toolkit which focuses on Faith Communities is complete and the

	<p>Outreach and Engagement Committee is looking to pilot it in 2-3 faith communities in the fall.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Commission members were asked to review the Toolkit and the evaluation tool.</li> <li>➤ Let Susan know if there is a congregation they can help recruit for the pilot.</li> </ul>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Staff Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review of domestic violence homicide</li> <li>- Quarterly Report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Susan reminded the group that the Law and Justice Committee will be reviewing the June 10 domestic violence homicide at the August meeting. This review will include agency partners. There will be a report provided from the review.</li> <li>- Susan made a note of the Quarterly Report in everyone's packets that can be read at their convenience.</li> </ul>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Open Government Meeting Training</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Those present watched the mandated Open Government Meeting Training.</li> </ul>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Adjourn</b></p>	<p><b>@ 10:00am</b></p>

Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence  
 DV Commission Meeting

**THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 2015 FROM 8:30AM-10:00AM**

@ 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:** Alan Artman; Beth Boyd; Karen Burke; Regina Delahunt; Sheri Emerson; Gary Jensen; Chief Knapp; Christina Kobdich; Ken Levinson; Kathy McNaughton; Darlene Peterson; Katie Plewa; Dave Reynolds; Bruce Van Glubt

**Members Absent:** Laurie Alexander; Chief Cook; Mary Dumas; Sheriff Elfo; Jon Komorowski; Dave McEachran; Linda Quinn; Mike Riber; Peter Ruffatto; Greg Winter; Darla Woolman

**Staff Present:** Susan Marks, Meaghan Connell

**Guests:** Hannah Fisk, Clinical Manager, NW Youth Services; April Hinkel-Johnson, Queer Youth Project Coordinator, NW Youth Services; Michele Zlotek, Human Resource Analyst, Whatcom Transit Authority; Flo Simon for Chief Cook, Bellingham Police Department

Agenda Item	Discussion
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcome guest presenters: Hannah Fisk, Programs Advisor, NW Youth Services; April Hinkel-Johnson, Queer Youth Project Coordinator, NW Youth Services</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>MOTION: Consent Agenda</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Minutes from July 23, 2015</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>MOTION: Approval of Minutes from July 23, 2015 DV Commission Meeting</b>          Regina Delahunt made a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Christina Kobdich seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Updates: OVW Grants</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Safe Futures Grant Award and Next Steps</li> <li>- GTEA Grant, Assessment of Community Response to Sexual Assault</li> </ul>	<p><b><i>Safe Futures Grant Award and Next Steps</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Susan announced that the Commission had received a new OVW Grant called Safe Futures. The focus will be on children and youth experiencing domestic or sexual violence. The amount received will be \$700,000 for 36 months. This grant extends prevention and support services developed through the STEP grant to elementary schools, along with continuing work in middle and high schools.</li> </ul> <p>The Safe Futures grant will be in three school districts; Ferndale, Blaine, and</p>

Mt. Baker. The primary grant partners include: the DV Commission, DVSAS, NW Youth Services, and Brigid Collins. DVSAS is the fiscal agent.

The goals of the Safe Futures Grant include:

- *Create a community-coordinated response to and prevention of young people experiencing DV/SA in the target Districts.*
- *Lead prevention education and consciousness-raising campaigns at the secondary schools of the Blaine, Ferndale, and Mt. Baker School Districts.*
- *Provide comprehensive intervention and counseling services for young people in target Districts who are experiencing SA/DV, as well as for their non-offending parents.*
- *Build county-wide capacity to provide coordinated and comprehensive best-practice prevention and responses for young people experiencing SA/DV.*

Projects will likely begin in February 2016 and will start with a strengths and needs assessment, and then will hopefully start services in the schools at the beginning of the next school year.

***GTEA Grant, Assessment of Community Response to Sexual Assault (U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women)***

- The Commission currently has a Grants to Encourage Arrest (GTEA) grant that is funding our project for the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP), the Domestic Violence High Risk Response Team (DVHRT), and DVSAS's High Risk Legal Advocate. This grant will continue until September 2016. If the Commission is interested in applying for another GTEA grant, this will be the year for us to apply. The Commission has received 5 GTEA grants in a row; no other community has done this.
- The Commission's current strategic plan has for a goal; to explore an expansion into sexual assault. For this exploration the Commission would look at doing research on gaps in our community and then from that information see if there is a role for the Commission.  
During the strategic planning process there was discussion about the overlap that exists with domestic violence and sexual assault. From that discussion we looked at who would be a part of that work, and noted the same agencies are already at the table with the DV Commission.
- Over the past several grant cycles, the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) has wanted a focus on sexual assault at that systems level. For the upcoming grant cycle the idea would be to conduct a Sexual Assault Community Safety Assessment and identify what is currently happening and what are the current strengths and gaps. From there we will find out where and if there is a role for the DV Commission. Susan said that she has met with community partners and there has been great positive response to the idea of doing this. Susan will have a more specific proposal that will be presented at October's Law and Justice Meeting.
- Karen Burke announced that DVSAS has partnered with Lydia Place to purchase a property that will increase housing for people experiencing domestic violence. Karen said that the shelter is at capacity and any

	<p>overflow is sent to a hotel with DVSAS spending sometimes \$8,000 on hotels in a month. These properties will double the capacity currently available. Susan noted that these partnerships are a huge asset in bringing funding and resources to the community.</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Review of DV Homicide: Purpose, Findings, Recommendations, Next Steps</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Susan reviewed the findings of the review of a Whatcom County domestic violence homicide; the review meeting was held in August 2015. Moonwater, the Executive Director of the Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center, facilitated the meeting.</li> <li>- The review in August was different from our county-wide Fatality Review conducted in 2012. During the review in 2012 we looked at multiple cases and came out of the review with several recommendations along with the implementation of several new programs. For the review in August the goals were very specific; the group looked at current programs within our community and if this family could have been identified had these programs been in place when they entered into various systems years ago.</li> <li>- The next step from the review is for five DV Commission-led teams/committees to look at the recommendations, prioritize them, and then move forward on them as able.</li> <li>- Darlene Peterson said that the review she felt was a tremendous resource. It pointed out things to look at and showed how much concern and effort there is in our community going towards ending domestic violence.</li> </ul>
<p>- <b>October is DV Action Month</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meaghan Connell and Chris Kobdich presented on the upcoming DV Action Month Activities. The focus this year will be around community engagement. The Outreach and Engagement Committee developed a calendar for the month of October that has 31 action items community members can do participate in DVAM. In addition to the calendar the Commission has designed table tents, coasters, and stickers that will be distributed in various businesses and organization in Whatcom County that can link people to our website where they will find resources and the action items.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Upcoming Events</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A staged reading of Carried by the Current by Nicola Pearson October 23 at the Mt. Baker Theatre, this event is free with donations going to the DV Commission.</li> <li>• The Lummi Victims of Crime Conference October 28-October 30 this event is free and open to anyone.</li> <li>• With Impunity Men and Gender Violence at the Pickford, date TBD.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>All DVAM information can be found on the DV Commission's website.</i></b></p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Presentation: Youth Safety and Resiliency LGBTQ, Part II Definitions</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hannah Fisk, Clinical Manager and April Hinkel-Johnson, Queer Youth Project Coordinator of NW Youth Services presented on Youth Safety and Resiliency Part II Definitions.</li> </ul>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Adjourn</b> <i>Please turn in Meeting Evaluations</i></p>	<p><b>@ 10:00am</b></p>

Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence  
 DV Commission Meeting

**THURSDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2015 FROM 8:30AM-10:00AM**

@ 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: Alan Artman; Sheri Emerson; Sheriff Elfo; Gary Jensen; Christina Kobdish; Jon Komorowski; Darlene Peterson; Katie Plewa; Mike Riber; Peter Ruffatto; Darla Woolman; Michele Zlotek**

**Members Absent: Beth Boyd; Karen Burke; Chief Cook; Regina Delahunt; Mary Dumas; Dave McEachran; Linda Quinn; Dave Reynolds; Ken Levinson; Kathy McNaughton; Bruce Van Glubt**

**Staff Present: Liz Stuart, Meaghan Connell**

**Guests: Hannah Fisk, Programs Advisor, NW Youth Services; April Hinke-Johnson, Queer Youth Project Coordinator, NW Youth Services; Flo Simon for Chief Cook, Bellingham Police Department**

Agenda Item	Discussion
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcome new DV Commission member: Michele Zlotek, HR Analyst, Whatcom Transportation Authority  Michele stated that she has been with WTA for the past 18 years. WTA has a large employee group that is not only out in the community but also engages closely with the community.</li> <li>- Welcome Yen Lowlar, acting Area Administrator for DSHS Children's Administration.  Yen stated that there will continue to be a strong commitment of the Children's Administration to maintain collaboration and good working relationship that currently exist in the county. This collaboration between the partners will continue to grow stronger and will not change.</li> <li>- Welcome guest presenters: Jill Iwasaki, Executive Director of Special Services, Ferndale School District; Izabela and Jesus, Students from Windward High School;</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcome guest presenters: Hannah Fisk, Programs Advisor, NW Youth Services; April Hinke-Johnson, Queer Youth Project Coordinator, NW Youth Services</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Update: Interim DV Commission Chair and Vice Chair</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sheri gave an updat on the changes to the Commission Membership. Laurie Alexander and Rick Qualls are no longer with the Commission. Until May, Sheri Emerson and Kathy McNaughton will be interim Chair and Vice Chair.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>MOTION: Consent Agenda</b></li> <li>- Minutes from September 24, 2015</li> <li>- 2016 DV Commission Budget</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mike Riber presented on the 2016 budget. The total budget is 9% above from last year. On the revenue side it should be noted that the City of Ferndale gave us \$2,700 dollars along with our usual revenue from the City and County. Mike noted the the new addition of the Safe Futures grant; the budget for this has not been approved by OVW but should be approved anytime in the coming months.</li> </ul> <p>On the expenses side the salaries make up the majority of the expenses. Also it should be noted that this year the Commission will be using \$5,900 of our reserve with there being around \$4,000 left at the end of this cycle. This is an important reminder when we continue our conversations about stability and sustainability in that we are getting close to exhausting our reserve.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There was not a quorum present to approve the minutes from the September 24, 2015 Commission meeting and approve the 2016 budget. This consent agenda will be presented again at the March 24 Commission meeting.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>MOTION: Executive Committee at large nominations (2 positions)</b></li> <li>- Alan Artman</li> <li>- Darlene Peterson</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There was not a quorum present to approve the Executive Committee at large nominations. This consent agenda will be presented again at the March 24 meeting.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>DV Commission Commitments</b></li> <li>- Calendar of meetings (in packets)</li> <li>- Commitment forms and Committee descriptions (in packets, please fill out Commitment forms)</li> <li>- 2015 Commission Member Report Cards (to be emailed individually in December)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The group was directed to the calendar of meetings for 2016. Please note that there will not be a Commission Meeting in January.</li> <li>- Commission members were asked to fill out their commitment forms for 2016 and return them to Meaghan.</li> <li>- Meaghan will be individually emailing out Commission member report cards in December.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Report: Our Gender Revolution Youth Summit</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Liz presented on the Our Gender Revolution youth summit that took place at the end of September.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 135 teens throughout Whatcom County attended</li> <li>• 43 students from the Ferndale school district</li> <li>• 7 Middle and 8 High Schools participated along with 3 Community Groups</li> <li>• 21 youth presenters including Planned Parenthood Teen Council, the Idaho Coalition, and the high school youth advisory groups from</li> </ul>

	<p>Ferndale.</p> <p>Our Gender Revolution was the culminating project of the STEP Grant. The summit was youth led with the purpose of being able to spread what was being done in the Ferndale middle and high schools to other youth around the county.</p> <p>The youth summit was held on Western’s campus in partnership with Western. The day included keynote speakers and breakout sessions. The Idaho Coalition who has been the technical assistance provider for STEP and a national leader in engaging youth in this movement was the keynote speaker.</p> <p>Izabella and Jesus from the youth advisory group WAVE (Windward Against Violence Everywhere) presented about their planning and participation for Our Gender Revolution.</p> <p>Izabella said that she joined WAVE as a way to promote healthy relationships. Izabella was responsible for the Our Gender Revolution logo and the t-shirt designs. Izabella said that what stood out for her from the summit was the feedback she got from those that attended WAVE’s workshop. Those that attended said how comfortable and inclusive the workshop was, it is important when talking about these things that everyone feels safe and comfortable in order to learn.</p> <p>Jesus said that he had been a part of WAVE since his sophomore year. He joined hoping to make a difference in ending teen dating violence. Jesus said that the highlights of the day was around the passion from the students and how glad they were to get the information that was being presented. Jesus said that even though what was discussed was personal to students, everyone was willing to talk about it and come together to put an end to something that is seem as an issue.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Presentation: Youth Safety and Resiliency LGBTQ, Part III Best Practices</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Hannah Fisk, Programs Advisor and April Hinke-Johnson, Queer Youth Project Coordinator of NW Youth Services presented on Youth Safety and Resiliency Part III Best Practices.</li> <li>– This presentation is currently available at no cost to any agency.</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Adjourn</b> <i>Please turn in Meeting Evaluations and Commitment forms</i>	<p><b>@ 10:00am</b></p>