

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; Regina Delahunt; Mary Dumas; Sheri Emerson; Sheriff Bill Elfo; Chief Knapp; Christina Kobdich; Ken Levinson; Katie Plewa; Dave Reynolds; Mike Riber; Bruce Van Glubt; Darla Woolman

**Members Absent:** Riannon Bardsley; Beth Boyd; Chief Cook; Jon Komorowski; Kathy McNaughton; Dave McEachran; Darlene Peterson; Linda Quinn; Peter Ruffatto; Michele Zlotek

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

**Guests:** Yen Lawlor, Children’s Administration; Karen Burke, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services

Agenda Item	Discussion
<b>1. Welcome and Introductions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reminder: Complete your meeting evaluations (in packet); note: membership recommendations</li> <li>- Welcome: New member Riannon Bardsley, Executive Director, NW Youth Services</li> </ul>
<b>2. MOTION: Consent Agenda</b> - Minutes from September 24, 2015 - Minutes from November 19, 2015 - 2016 DV Commission budget	<b>MOTION: Approval Consent Agenda</b> <i>Alan Artman</i> made a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda. <i>Mike Riber</i> seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.
<b>3. MOTION: Executive Committee at-large nominations (2 positions):</b> <b>Alan Artman and Darlene Peterson</b> -	<b>MOTION: Approval of Executive at-large nominations</b> <i>Darla Woolman</i> made a Motion to approve the nominations. <i>Bill Elfo</i> seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.
<b>4. Sustainability for DV Commission</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An initiative for the Executive Committee is to look at funding sustainability for the DV Commission. The purpose of the discussion is looking ahead to ensure the DV Commission does not decrease in capacity but instead maintains and grows.</li> <li>- The Commission has brought in over 2.5 million dollars to the community with the majority of that money going to fund other agencies and provide professional training, and not directly to the Commission.</li> <li>- Susan Marks will be meeting with individual City and County representatives and invited any Commission Member who would like to attend to join her. Meetings will be taking place over the next few months.</li> </ul>

<p><b>5. Grant Update: Community Response to Sexual Assault</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- DV Commission Strategic Plan</li> <li>- Improving Criminal Justice Responses (formerly GTEA proposal)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Commission has submitted a grant proposal to do a safety assessment of our community’s response to sexual assault. The 2015-2018 Strategic Plan fourth goal is to; <b><i>Explore an expansion of our mission to include sexual violence that occurs outside of an intimate partner relationship.</i></b></li> <li>- Susan met with community partners and discussed with the Law and Justice Committee the idea of doing a safety assessment to find out what is currently happening with the community’s response to sexual assault and what gaps exist. In the past the Commission has done audits or safety assessments to look at those questions related to domestic violence; this would be building on that work in the field of sexual assault.</li> <li>- All of the community partners who signed on to the MOU are very excited and supportive of this grant. If we do not get this grant we will reapply, as this is a project all partners feel very strongly about.</li> <li>- Liz presented on the grant proposal; Improving Criminal Justice Responses to Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking (formerly GTEA)</li> </ul> <p><b>GOAL: <i>To ensure that Whatcom County’s coordinated community response to sexual assault is consistent and effective in its support for victims, accountability for offenders, and in its messaging to the community at large.</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>Objective one: to form and institutionalize two teams focused specifically on the coordinated community response to sexual assault: the Sexual Assault Community Assessment Task Force (SA Task Force), which will address the systemic response; and the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), which will address direct services and individual case coordination.</i></b></li> <li>• <b><i>Objective two: To review and evaluate the current state of Whatcom County’s systemic sexual assault response by completing a thorough community safety assessment of these crimes.</i></b></li> <li>• <b><i>* Objectives 3-6 are projected based on likely findings of the community safety assessment and may be adjusted after findings are released *</i></b></li> <li>• <b><i>Objective three: To develop a strategic plan that outlines a community-wide, comprehensive strategy to prioritize and implement recommendations from the Community Safety Assessment Report to improve safety and accountability in Whatcom County’s response to sexual assault</i></b></li> <li>• <b><i>Objective four: To increase specialized legal advocacy services for victims of sexual assault.</i></b></li> <li>• <b><i>Objective five: To increase training, education, and technical assistance opportunities for community members, first responders, and service providers that will improve the response to victims of sexual assault.</i></b></li> <li>• <b><i>Objective six: To develop a community messaging campaign that provides education about sexual assault and the law, outlines how to access services, and demonstrates support for victim safety, offender accountability, and intolerance for these crimes.</i></b></li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We will find out about the funding at the end of September.</li> <li>- Susan and Liz are very appreciative of everyone’s support and willingness to participate in developing the grant proposal and the grant projects if received, and for signing onto the Memorandum of Understanding.</li> </ul>
<p><b>1. Presentation: Domestic Violence 202</b></p> <p>-</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Karen Burke, Executive Director of DVSAS, presented on Coercive Control in Domestic Violence Relationships. There was discussion about how control impacts victims, perpetrators, and the community, and how we can account for control in our work.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Adjourn</b></p> <p><i>Note time and location for Annual Meeting</i></p> <p><i>Please turn in Meeting Evaluations</i></p>	<p><b>@ 10:00am</b></p>