

Bellingham Whatcom County Commission on Sexual & Domestic Violence

GOALS

- **Connect institutions, stakeholders, and communities** to collectively increase understanding of sexual and domestic violence, especially the impacts and effectiveness of community responses.
- **Transform systems** to ensure best practices in trauma-informed, survivor-centered prevention and interventions for sexual and domestic violence.
- **Foster justice, autonomy, and well-being** for survivors and communities.

2023-2024 Work Plan Activities

- Increase community understanding of restorative practices and develop pilot of restorative justice responses for people affected by domestic and sexual violence.
- Improve community responses for and prevention of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People and their families, through collaboration with the WA State AG's MMIWP Task Force and the Lummi and Nooksack Tribes.
- Lead case reviews of local intimate partner violence cases and sexual assault cases to identify strengths and gaps in community interventions and prevention; partner with community agencies to implement recommendations identified by the case review panel.
- Provide training and tools to enhance understanding of and interventions for criminalized survivors.
- Partner with schools and youth-serving organizations to support interventions and prevention for students and families who experience gender-based violence.
- Examine overlap between housing/homelessness and domestic/sexual violence; make recommendations for community leaders to increase safety and reduce harm.
- Collaborate with Whatcom County courts to improve access to justice for survivors in civil law cases, focusing particularly on survivors with language access needs.
- Re-visit prior work on Sexual Assault Audit and Domestic Violence High Risk cases; continue to support implementation of recommendations and maintenance of changes made.
- Host engaging Commission meetings to implement meaningful action for systems change.
- Provide prevention and intervention data, resources, and subject matter expertise for stakeholders (e.g. workplaces, faith communities, media, healthcare, local governments).