

**COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AND SEXUAL ASSAULT
(CDVSA)**

Videoconference Host:

State of Alaska Department of Public Safety
Council on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault
150 3rd St., Suite 201
Juneau, AK 99801

FY 2020 Quarter 4

Board Meeting

June 25, 2020

Tuesday, June 25, 2020

Board Members Present:

Teresa Lowe – Interim Chair
Lydia Heyward – Interim Vice Chair
Jillian Gellings
Amanda Price
John Skidmore
Niki Tshibaka
Angela Garay

Board Members Absent:

Laura Brooks

Staff:

Diane Casto
Angie Wells
Marjie Hamburger
Kelly Gohl
MaryBeth Gagnon

Minutes prepared by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

Teresa Lowe called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established.

AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Teresa Lowe called for a review of the meeting agenda. Amanda Price **MOVED** to approve the agenda, **SECONDED** by Lydia Heyward. Hearing no opposition, the motion **PASSED. (7/0)**

CONFLICT INQUIRY

No conflicts of interest were declared.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS OF BOARD MEMBERS AND CDVSA STAFF ATTENDING

Teresa Lowe opened the floor for brief introductions of the board and staff members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Amanda Price **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the December 3 - 4, 2019 meeting and the January 7, 2020 Strategic Planning Session notes, **SECONDED** by Jillian Gellings. Hearing no opposition, the motion **PASSED. (7/0)**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT, JANUARY – JUNE 2020

Diane Casto directed the members' attention to the executive director's report contained in the board packet and highlighted the following information:

Staffing and personnel:

- Staff departures included Ella Nierra, Grants Administrator II, and Morgan Erisman, Research Analyst II. Shannen O'Brien joined the staff as a Grants Administrator II in January, and recruitment for a Research Analyst II began July 1st.
- Beginning March 24, all CDVSA staff began teleworking due to COVID-19. Since May, the staff has been working either telework or a combination of office and telework. Currently, CDVSA continues to monitor the COVID-19 situation in Alaska and reevaluate the telework schedule as needed.

Impact of COVID-19:

- Managing COVID-19 has been challenging for programs, advocates, and victims/survivors of domestic violence and sexual violence. Concerns about vulnerable people "hunkered down" at home, living with a violent partner, or in an unhealthy relationship and unable to reach out for help, as well as 24/7 DV/SA emergency shelters managing to keep the virus at bay in congregate living situations has been challenging. The good news is that all 35 community sub-grantees have kept their doors open and services available continuously. Services have been different, more distant, and provided in alternative ways, but still available 24/7 for anyone in need.
- CDVSA worked closely with sub-grantees to relax grant regulations and policies to provide greater flexibility to spend grant funding where most needed. Additionally, CDVSA reduced the percentage of required match funding for all general fund dollars and allowed funds to be used where most needed, reallocating funds to best meet alternative service delivery needs during FY 2020.
- CDVSA surveyed sub-grantees related to the impact of COVID-19 on services and delivery. The 85% response rate (35 agencies) responded that hotline calls were increasing, shelter nights were decreasing, and telehealth services increased by 65%.

- Cloth facemasks were made available by CDVSA to all sub-grantees beginning in mid-April. CDVSA continues to have an ample supply of masks available to aid programs in providing the safest services possible.
- In April, CDVSA announced the availability of emergency funds to combat the impact of COVID-19 for sub-grantees. The funds were intended to cover necessary costs for programs to stay open and provide critical safety services to Alaskans seeking help. Between April 24th and June 10, CDVSA issued nine emergency fund awards for a total of \$81,484.
- CDVSA will face new challenges as they continue to address COVID-19. A list of all CDVSA-funded services/programs is listed on the CDVSA website.
- Family Violence and Services Act (FVPSA), a CDVSA formula funder, has forwarded \$45M of CARES funding. Of that, Alaska will receive approximately \$77,000. The funding has not yet been received, and Kelly Gohl will follow up on the funding's whereabouts. The award is to go specifically for COVID-19 related issues and relief.

Priority projects update

- FY 20-FY 22 Enhanced Services for Victims of Crime:
 - Proposals were due in December
 - 19 submissions were received in the following categories:
 - Alaska's Childhood Advocacy Center enhanced services (9)
 - Children's trauma-informed mental health services (7)
 - Civil legal advocacy and services for those impacted by interpersonal and other violent crimes (3).
 - Proposal Evaluation Committee (PEC) met twice to review the enhanced services and civil legal advocacy proposals. All proposals except one were recommended for funding.
 - The CDVSA board met to review the recommendations, and the board voted unanimously to fund the 18 agencies recommended by the PEC.
- Two new federal funding awards:
 - Funding from the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), \$320,000, to develop a plan of action to provide training and technical assistance for Alaska law enforcement, prosecutors, and court personnel regarding the federal Full Faith and Credit provision that provides that states, tribes, and territories must enforce a qualifying protection order from outside the enforcing jurisdiction as if the enforcing jurisdiction had issued the protection order.
 - Funding from the Justice Research and Statistics Association for a partnership between CDVSA and the Alaska Justice Information Center to create an Intimate Partner Violence-Interactive Data Dashboard (IPV-IDD). The IPV-IDD will use data collected from the 2010 and 2015 Alaska Victimization Survey (AVS). The short-term project was from March 20 to September 20, 2020, and the award totaled \$14,805.
- CDVSA Language Access Plan (LAP):
 - The LAP implementation was temporarily suspended due to the urgency of the COVID-19 health crisis. Once the FY 2021 grant awards are

complete and the fiscal year is underway, the LAP will begin moving forward with virtual training and developing the next steps.

- CDVSA Five-Year Strategic Plan:
 - Work continues on the Strategic Plan; however, progress has slowed by the COVID-19 health crisis. The project lead had completed a significant portion of the strategic plan work before the health declaration.
 - CDVSA held a meeting in January to solicit board input and gathered community input throughout March by holding stakeholder roundtables in Fairbanks, Bethel, Anchorage, and Juneau.
 - CDVSA staff met with the project lead in May to provide input on key strategies and initiatives staff felt were most critical for completion in year one of the five-year plan. Once the document is finalized, the board will have the opportunity to review it and make recommendations.
- Alaska Victimization Survey (AVS):
 - The AVS has been delayed due to the COVID-19 health crisis. The project is on hold related to conducting the survey. The delay provided an opportunity to add a couple of COVID-19 specific questions to the survey, mainly to track the impact of the virus and stay-at-home orders had on victims and survivors of DV/SA.
- Communication, outreach, and media:
 - CDVSA worked with Walsh/Sheppard to develop a series of PSAs. The announcements began to air in April (Sexual Assault Awareness Month). Due to the continued health crisis, the decision was made to expand and continue the "help is available" ads throughout the COVID-19 crisis.
 - There has been a delay in the completion of the CDVSA FY 2019 Annual Report. The expected completion is early July. The report will be posted on CDVSA's website and links for Council partners.
- Other:
 - CDVSA is moving forward with making sure policies and procedures are defined and meet both the state and federal funders' requirements.
 - The regulation project is getting renewed energy beginning July 1st. Staff will be looking to reframe how the new regulations are identified as emergency shelter regulations and expand the administrative rules to ensure that they cover all of the activities the grantees are required to do.
 - Diane Casto continues to participate in a planning project with the Health Resource and Service Administration (HRSA) working on partner violence, human trafficking, and a domestic violence virtual forum they will be holding for Alaska in August. It will be focused on interpersonal violence and tribal stakeholders.
- Upcoming events:
 - July 1, 2020, state fiscal year 2021 begins
 - August tentative month for FY 2021 Quarter 1 board meeting
 - October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month
 - Most upcoming events are temporarily on hold, and planning is underway for utilizing virtual training formats.

Diane Casto opened the floor for comments as follows:

- Q: When will the board see the survey results on how COVID-19 affected programs?
 - A: It will be fall before the data will have been analyzed and in a form to report.
- Q: How has COVID-19 affected the ability of programs to serve their population? Have centers been following up with at-risk people?
 - A: Yes. Safety checks have been part of the alternative service delivery.
- John Skidmore expressed his appreciation for a thorough and succinct report, echoed by many board members.
- Diane Casto expressed gratitude to Niki Tshibaka for forwarding the fact that shelter programs have children who come with parents to live in a shelter. With school going virtual, he asked if CDVSA could make sure they found out about how the children are doing in the programs. That question was added to the survey. One of the things that programs want, and CDVSA is working on, is to try to get additional capacity in terms of laptops and tablets so that children in the shelters can continue to keep up with schooling.

CDVSA BUDGET REVIEW/FISCAL REPORT, SFY 20

Kelly Gohl joined the meeting and directed the members' attention to the financial documents in the board packet for review. Kelly highlighted the following information:

FY 2020 financial report current June 19, 2020

- Page 1 – Program Budget FY 2020
 - Total budget authority, \$25,789,500
 - Total operating budget, not including grants, \$4,004,417
 - Total program budget, \$19,991,689
 - Total budgeted obligations, \$23,996,106
- Page 2 – Grants Awarded FY 2020
 - Total grant award authority, \$21,785,083
 - Total awarded to programs, \$19,991,689
- Page 3 – Detailed Sub-Award Plan for FY 2020
 - Total spending plan, \$19,991,689
- Page 4 – Obligations and Encumbrances FY 2020
 - Total authority for contracts and services, \$2,368,000
 - Total of contracts and services obligations, \$1,089,704
- Page 5 – FY 2020 Remaining Balances
 - Total remaining balance across all appropriations, \$3,024,359
- Page 5 – FY 2021 Remaining Balances
 - Total remaining balance across all appropriations, \$3,024,359
 - Current budget, \$25,789,500
 - Encumbered, \$5,250,353
 - Actual expense, \$17,513,671

CDVSA FY 2021 BUDGET REVIEW

Kelly Gohl directed the members' attention to the financial documents in the board packet for review. Kelly highlighted the following information:

Proposed FY 2021 CDVSA budget

Page 1 – Program Budget FY 2021

- Total budget authority, \$26,729,300
- Total operating budget, not including grants, \$4,014,400
- Total program budget, \$21,860,019
- Total budgeted obligations, \$25,874,419

• Page 2 – Grants Awarded FY 2021

- Total grant award authority, \$22,714,900
- Total awarded to programs, \$21,860,019

• Page 3 – Detailed Sub-Award Plan for FY 2021

- Total spending plan, \$21,860,019

• Page 4 – Obligations and Encumbrances FY 2021

- Total authority for contracts and services, \$2,566,400
- Total of contracts and services obligations, \$1,595,934

• Page 5 – FY 2021 Remaining Balances

- Total remaining balance across all appropriations, \$26,729,300

John Skidmore **MOVED** to approve the FY 2021 proposed budget, **SECONDED** by Lydia Heyward. Hearing no opposition, the motion **PASSED. (6/0)**

Diane Casto commented that within the FY 19 annual report and budget, CDVSA receives approximately \$26M in state and federal funding. Roughly 82 percent of all those funds go to community-based grant programs. The majority of the funding, over 90 percent, goes directly to service delivery or initiatives that support and improve service delivery. When looking at the detail in the budgets, it is important to remember how much money goes out into the community to make sure every community has the resources they need to provide services to victims, victims' families, children, and youth that are impacted by domestic violence and sexual assault.

Kelly Gohl noted that CDVSA is making progress with a grants management system called GrantVantage. They are moving forward and working on getting the funding and programs set up in the program, and hopefully this will be the last year they will be keeping track of the grants in Excel spreadsheets. Kelly stated that he will speak more about the grants management system when it is up and running. Diane Casto noted that the grants management system is a module system, and CDVSA can add different modules as needed. She stated that the management system will be a substantial administrative relief for the Council, and she expressed her appreciation to Kelly and MaryBeth Gagnon for the groundwork they have done to see to its success.

Diane Casto commented that the plan moving forward with the budget is getting expenditure approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and they do not expect any problems with that. As soon as that is received, the budget will go into

full effect. Regarding other changes moving forward, CDVSA will do their best to be diligent keepers of public funds as they move forward and develop the FY 22 budget. Diane expressed caution for the future related to budgeting and being cognizant of the possibility of decreased funding.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A public comment period was offered, and no public comment was received.

ANDVSA REPORT

Lauree Morton, the advocacy initiatives director at the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, joined the meeting and directed the board members' attention to the PowerPoint presentation titled "*ANDVSA Report, June 2020*" contained in the board packet. She highlighted the following information:

- Membership:
 - ANDVSA added two new programs to the membership list this year: Becky's Place in Haines and HOPE in Craig.
 - Emmonak Women's Services and Alaska Family Services in Palmer are well-established programs providing domestic violence and sexual assault services.
 - Bay Haven in Hooper Bay opened their doors and has applied for membership with the Network.
 - The Network is excited to see the new work being done in communities all across the state.
- Network and Council partnership and opportunities related to civil legal representation specifically in rural areas and underserved populations:
 - The Network is the implementing partner of the State of Alaska pass-through VOCA funds. ANDVSA administers approximately \$550,000 per year to increase the number of attorneys and paralegals trained to provide direct legal representation to crime victims.

Lauree Morton noted that the Council had funded the Network for several years to provide a legal advocacy project for civil legal representation. This year, the Council has supported the revision of the Woman's Legal Rights Handbook. The last edit was in 2015. The handbook is a tangible way to help women understand their rights in all the different law areas. She stated that the Network looks forward to their new working relationship through the VOCA funds with direct representation. They continue to look for ways to support a broader array of services in the legal arena. The Network has been in conversations with U.S. Senator Sullivan to talk about the need for more attorneys and paid services for victims.

- With regards to contract with the State of Alaska to coordinate and enhance prevention efforts:
 - Technical assistance to community-based implementing partners.
 - Facilitated support and alliance building amongst members of the Pathways to Prevention Steering Committee.

- Resources and platforms to enhance youth engagement and leadership.
- Resources and platforms to expand male engagement strategies.
- Contribution to statewide identification and collection of shared indicators to assess impact.

Lauree Morton noted that the Council helps support prevention activities, and the Network works with the Council to make that happen. There is a very close working relationship between the Network's prevention team and the Council's prevention staff. She stated that there will be a series of virtual meetings in July and August, sponsored through the Network, with preventionists across the state. The sessions will be a time for them to talk about activities they can do during the pandemic and some of the challenges they face.

- With regard to improved access to and relevancy of sexual assault responses specifically in rural communities:
 - Provide victim-centered and medical expertise on the State of Alaska Sexual Assault Leadership Team
 - Contract with a medical expert to expand support to SANES through telehealth advisory services
 - Serve on the advisory committee of the National Indian Country Clearinghouse on Sexual Assault for a technical assistance project in Alaska.

Lauree Morton reported that she serves as the Network's representative to the SART leadership team. The Network supports the medical forensic expert, Angie Ellis, who sits on the team. The Network is excited about the possibility of a pilot telehealth forensic program starting through the Sexual Assault Response Leadership Team. They will have Angie available if healthcare providers perform exams who have a question or need guidance as they are going through the exam process. The program will pilot for three months, and in the end, the leadership team will review the program. The Network is working with the Department of Law and prosecutors, making them aware about the pilot program, what's involved, and they would be able to give input on the best way to move forward so that they will have better forensic exams and better information for the prosecution of the crimes.

Lauree Morton shared that the International Association of Forensic Nurses was awarded a two-year technical assistance grant to work with villages in Alaska to improve sexual assault response through the National Indian Country Clearinghouse on Sexual assault. The Network and the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center are serving as advisory members to the project. The first year will include assessing needs and current services available in the villages. Products will consist of an online repository of resources and materials, webinars, and skills-building training for community health aides and other healthcare partners in the villages.

- In terms of the COVID-19 response, the Network has:

- Convened listening sessions with Senator Murkowski and Dr. Anne Zink.
- Conducted a survey to assess community-based programs' needs for housing and remote services work.
- Distributed PPE to community-based programs and provided access to national PPE store for programs to purchase directly.
- Facilitated weekly legal, prevention, and advocacy services peer-learning opportunities.
- Convened coordination meetings amongst CDVSA, Alaska Native Women's Resource Center (AKNWRC), and ANDVSA.

The Network has identified its priority areas as follows:

- Anti-racism and equity strategies:
 - Focus on more specific data collection to document who is being served.
 - Coordination and cooperation with AKNWRC and other tribal groups through annual dialogues and ongoing, regularly scheduled planning meetings amongst CDVSA, AKNWRC, and ANDVSA.
 - Increase ANDVSA membership to ensure emerging programs receive quality technical assistance and inform statewide planning efforts.
- Greater regulatory clarity from CDVSA:
 - Written clarification on allowing CDVSA grantees to use funds for ANDVSA membership dues.
 - Timeline on development and adoption process for DV/SA program regulations.
 - Engaged dialogue on required matching funds.
 - Engaged dialogue on regulations for Batterer's Intervention Programs.

Lauree Morton expressed the Network's appreciation for the opportunity to share their work with the Council and asked for the Council's action to better the outcome for all stakeholders in ending intimate partner and sexual violence.

SNEAK PEAK AT INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE-INTERACTIVE DATA DASHBOARD

Diane Casto welcomed Dr. Brad Myrstol and Andrew Gonzales from the UAA Alaska Justice Information Center who demonstrated the interactive dashboard. Dr. Myrstol noted that the dashboard is still in draft form, and they welcome input and feedback related to the dashboard. He stated that the Council has funded the Alaska Victimization Survey since 2010, and in partnership with the UAA Justice Center, the data has been collected and analyzed. The focus has been on developing good point prevalence estimates at state and regional levels for the rate of intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and stalking among non-institutionalized English-speaking adult women in the state of Alaska. The data presented in the dashboard demonstration represents a compilation of all of the data that has been collected since 2010. The data presented in the dashboard is unweighted, so statistical corrections for sampling biases that may have been present in the data to the extent that specific

populations were over-represented or under-represented have not been statistically corrected. It represents aggregations of the data as it exists in raw form.

Dr. Myrstol encouraged Council members to forward their input to Diane Casto, who will deliver it at the biweekly meetings. He noted that they want to make a useful tool for people, and stakeholder input is valued. He stated that this would be the Council's tool, and it is up to the Council to figure out what it needs to be valuable.

UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PLANNING – NEXT STEPS

Diane Casto reported that work continues on the Five-Year Strategic Plan, albeit reduced by the pandemic. Professional Growth Systems (PGS) had completed a considerable portion of the activities before the health emergency declaration. Diane reported that CDVSA's Strategic Planning Leadership Team includes herself, MaryBeth Gagnon, John Skidmore, and Lydia Heyward. Following the staff planning retreat in December, the board held a special daylong meeting on January 7th to solicit board input. In March, CDVSA and PSG had a series of facilitated stakeholder forums in Bethel (March 5th), Fairbanks (March 10th), Anchorage (March 11th), and Juneau (March 12th). Staff met with PGS on March 13 following the Juneau stakeholder meeting to review the stakeholder meeting's information. She noted that the community input from each stakeholder meeting was included in the meeting packet.

Diane Casto reported that in May, PGS conducted individual staff interviews to collect information about key strategies and initiatives that staff felt were most critical for completion in year one of the five-year plan. She stated that the goal is to use year one for solidifying internal alignment and adjustments to allow CDVSA to move to external projects and initiatives in years two through five. Once those key strategies have been finalized by staff, the board will then have an opportunity to review and make recommendations regarding the priorities and vote to approve the year-one work plan. That meeting will likely be conducted virtually because of COVID-19 restrictions.

INPUT FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Teresa Lowe opened the floor to elicit input from the board related to issues or activities CDVSA could consider for action.

- Jillian Gellings commented on supporting COVID-19 testing in the shelters.
- Angela Garay commented on the effects of the current news cycle related to defunding the police and police brutality that may increase victims' fears and safety concerns.
- John Skidmore commented on the significance of board members sharing the message of the importance of the efforts by CDVSA and other stakeholders for victims in Alaska communities. He appreciated the public service announcements related to the services that were available to victims during COVID-19.
- Niki Tshibaka commented on expanding telehealth services and providing behavioral therapists through telehealth for educators because students will likely

be dealing with trauma and coming back to school. He also commented on getting the necessary equipment that students in shelter situations would need to continue their schooling.

- Lydia Heyward commented on the dashboard. She noted that it is a fantastic tool and simple to use.
- Teresa Lowe commented on the importance of taking the CDVSA messaging back to respective divisions and, within reason, continuing to be a public advocate for people's safety, welfare, and well-being. She also emphasized the importance of board members' input at the meetings.

Diane Casto brought forward the proposed board meeting schedule for FY 2021 as follows:

- Quarter 1 = week of August 24 (finalize Strategic Plan)
- Quarter 2 = week of November 30 (rural outreach—if possible)
- Quarter 3 = week of March 8 (during legislative session)
- Quarter 4 = week of June 7 (approval of FY 22 grant awards)

After a brief discussion, Diane agreed to send a poll to board members of a day-and-a-half in each of the weeks proposed to gather input from the members and adjust if needed to move forward.

ELECTIONS

Teresa Lowe **OPENED** the floor for nominations for Council chair and vice-chair. Angela Garay **NOMINATED** Teresa Lowe for chair and Lydia Heyward for vice-chair, **SECONDED** by Jillian Gellings. Teresa Lowe **ACCEPTED** the nomination for the chair. Lydia Heyward **ACCEPTED** the nomination for vice-chair. Teresa Lowe **CLOSED** the floor for nominations.

A roll call vote was taken, which resulted in a unanimous vote in favor of Teresa Lowe as chair and Lydia Heyward as vice-chair. (6/0)

CLOSING REMARKS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Teresa Lowe opened the floor for closing remarks by board members as follows:

- All board members expressed appreciation for the information disseminated at the meeting and their gratitude for the work being done by the CDVSA leadership, staff, and DV/SA partners.
- Jillian Gellings remarked that she is grateful to be a part of the board.
- John Skidmore remarked that although online meetings can be tedious, the Council's work and fighting for domestic violence and sexual assault victims are extremely important. He expressed his appreciation to the board members for taking the time to participate. He remarked that he is pleased that the chair and vice-chair will continue in their roles. He noted that the dashboard tool is absolutely phenomenal.
- Angela Garay expressed her appreciation for the CDVSA staff facilitating the board meeting under challenging circumstances.

- Lydia Heyward remarked that she would have preferred meeting in-person but understands that these are difficult times. She noted that CDVSA is moving in the right direction.
- Niki Tshibaka expressed appreciation for the creativity the Council employs through COVID-19 to make an effort to find ways around the challenges to executing the mission. He looks forward to seeing improvement in the areas the Council is working on.
- Teresa Lowe conveyed her gratitude to be allowed to continue as chair of the Council. She will be looking forward to the next meeting.

Diane Casto thanked everyone in attendance for being willing to meet during challenging times. Diane also commended her staff for the excellent work that they do.

Diane Casto commented that Linda Stanford who had been a Council board member for many years had resigned, and Diane wanted to make a note of the Council's appreciation for her work over the years that she was part of the group.

ADJOURNMENT

Lydia Heyward **MOVED** to adjourn, **SECONDED** by Niki Tshibaka. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.