

**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 2021 Quarter 1**

**Board Meeting**

September 30, 2020

**Wednesday, September 30, 2020**

**Board Members Present:**

Teresa Lowe – Chair  
Laura Brooks  
Jillian Gellings  
Amanda Price  
John Skidmore  
Niki Tshibaka  
Angela Garay  
Ryon Turley

**Board Members Absent:**

Lydia Heyward

**Staff:**

Diane Casto  
Angie Wells  
Marjie Hamburger  
Kelly Gohl  
MaryBeth Gagnon  
Meggie Stogner  
Shannen O'Brien

**Minutes prepared by:** Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

**CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL**

Teresa Lowe called the meeting to order at 9:10 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. John Skidmore **MOVED** to approve the agenda, **SECONDED** by Jillian Gellings. Hearing no opposition, the motion **PASSED. (8/0)**

## **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**

The approval of the minutes was tabled.

## **REVIEW, DISCUSSION, AND APPROVAL OF STRATEGIC PLAN**

Diane Casto introduced John Gregoire with Professional Growth Systems (PGS). John facilitated a review and discussion on the four external and one internal strategic initiative that would be used to develop the strategic plan.

John Gregoire shared a process flow chart that outlined the primary actions used to build the strategic plan as follows:

- Internal assessments
- Strategic assessment
- Purpose, value, vision (foundational elements).

The steps that have been completed include:

- Held a staff retreat to garner input on purpose, value, vision, and potential strategic actions
- Held stakeholders' engagement meetings
- Developed the strategic agenda.

John Gregoire noted that the meeting's primary goal was for the board to approve a strategic agenda. Once the board approves it, GPS will meet with the Council staff to develop the detailed project plan and build an instrument panel.

John Gregoire shared the board's purpose, core values, and vision as follows:

- Purpose:
  - To empower Alaska communities to create a future free of domestic and sexual violence.
- Core values:
  - From our history to date, and from the commitments that we all share now about the future, we have defined the values that should guide all of our activities and staff in the years to come. These are our core values:
    - Excellence: Committed to ethics, high standards, and best practices.
    - Passionate: A driven and inquisitive approach to our work.

- Receptive: Compassionate, flexible, and open-minded.
  - Collaborative: Working together to find solutions.
- Vision:
  - By 2025, we have a comprehensive, interconnected system of services accessible to ALL Alaskans that decreases domestic and sexual violence.

John Gregoire directed the members' attention to the document titled "*CDVSA Strategic Initiative Definitions*" contained in the board packet and began the review as follows:

- **Potential Strategic Initiative Title: Barriers to Access**
  - Description: Access means everyone having an opportunity to engage in our work and receive a comprehensive spectrum of care/services.
- Council Discussion and Feedback:
  - We may not have a comprehensive understanding of the services. Victims continue to lack access to primary prevention, intervention response, and wrap-around services. It feels like a critical goal for the Council, but it will also be a heavy lift.
  - Make certain we add into this a link of how access to services directly impacts the stated mission of the Council, which is an Alaska free of domestic violence and sexual assault. Data linking those two things together will minimize the challenges we have when seeking additional funding. It is consistently a challenge with the legislature.
- **Potential Strategic Initiative Title: Collaboration with Stakeholders**
  - Description: We will facilitate collaboration with stakeholders to engage those who bring expertise in order to integrate efforts and address strategies to end violence.
- Council Discussion and Feedback:
  - Make sure we are advocating effectively to ensure we have the resources to allow the staff to continue that exceptional work.
  - Advocate loud and clear for primary prevention efforts to be a primary priority. Emergency response intervention and emergency shelter services are often prioritized, and what is left in terms of resources then goes to primary prevention. Even with the increased resources, we could do a more effective job of communicating to funding entities how critical our primary prevention efforts are and making them more ingrained in the Council's strategic body.
- **Potential Strategic Initiative Title: Primary Prevention Programming**
  - Description: Primary Prevention programming addresses the broad societal factors that create a climate in which violence is either encouraged or inhibited.
- Council Discussion and Feedback:
  - Primary prevention is vital for reducing and ultimately preventing domestic and sexual violence in Alaska. What's been heartening in stakeholders' interviews and outreach throughout this process for the strategic plan is

that primary prevention is moving forward and being recognized as a critical need. The language around primary prevention and understanding why it is essential needs to be elevated and amplified.

- As research has occurred specific to domestic violence and sexual assault and risk and protective factors have been identified, we are finding a lot of commonality across other key issues in our state like suicide and early substance use risk. Through research, we can identify shared risks and protective factors. Why that is so helpful is because if we experience reduced resources, it helps to coordinate efforts. We could determine where we can work together and how we can move initiatives forward to achieve the best outcomes across multiple fields of concern.
- One of the challenges in making it an inherently critical priority in this Council is the misconception many people have about primary prevention. There is a lack of understanding about primary prevention, and at a base level, it is not working because we are spending all this money, but our numbers continue to go up or stay the same. When we are working to change societal norms, and we're doing work to reduce acknowledged risk factors and enhance protective behaviors, that takes a long time.
- Part of primary prevention efforts strategically should include informed communication about what successful primary prevention will look like. Sometimes successful primary prevention, even though it seems counterintuitive, leads to an increase in reported numbers, which is very confusing for an average person who doesn't have an infinite amount of research or data to support their perspective. Part of the strategy here should be informed communication with the public on what this means.
- Recommend adding language to include communication about primary prevention efforts. There is value to making sure we're reminding ourselves and Alaska what primary prevention is and what the expected outcome can be from the actions, which will benefit our ability to secure future funding.
- Recommend training for law enforcement, prosecutors, and social workers. The reports may start to change. Instead of seeing people reporting violence that they are used to seeing, they may begin to see people saying things that are farther down on the scale because they start to recognize the early indications of violence. Provide training for those individuals so they realize that these victims are beginning to report things earlier, not waiting until there are elevated levels of violence.
- Hopefully, with the rollout of the 1115 Medicaid waiver, we'll start seeing more community providers offering preventative services, especially in rural areas, as people sign on to provide that new range of services under Medicaid.

- **Potential Strategic Initiative Title: Perpetrator Rehabilitation (BIP)**

- Description: Perpetrator rehabilitation focuses on the actions of those individuals who use violence in their personal relationships, creating

accountability for behaviors, understanding of these behaviors, healing, and reduced interpersonal/intimate partner violence.

- Council Discussion and Feedback:

- BIP programs are incredibly important, as important as prevention but on the other end of the spectrum. It can help prevent recidivism of people who have already committed violence. BIPs are a critical piece that has been understaffed, underfunded, and has outdated programming.
- Given how unattractive the topic can sometimes be, the recommendation is to engage in a discussion about what external communication might look like and what we can do to improve communication and understanding of the topic.
- Some victims and advocates have reported that the perpetrators are husbands, boyfriends, sons, fathers, and community members, and the community wants them integrated back into the community and their lives. They expect some form of treatment for the offender or help to come back with some healing and changes in their life. They don't want them exiled and locked up forever.
- Communication on what this approach to the perpetrator means for the victims is critical. The word out there is recidivism, and the need for data behind funding requests are part of the communication or education plan.
- Address intersect with alcohol and interconnection with domestic violence.

- **Potential Internal Strategic Initiative Title: Grants Management System (GMS)**

- Description: Development and implementation of an online grant management system to be used in all aspects, start to finish, of managing grants.

- Council Discussion and Feedback:

- CDVSA manages 18 to 20 million dollars of grants. Currently, CDVSA is using an Excel spreadsheet to track all grant management documents, which leaves room for data entry errors, potential errors in cell formulas, and is not accessible to sub-grantees to manage their awards.
- CDVSA doesn't currently have an electronic system to manage federal and state-funded grants. A GMS system would reduce the amount of staff administrative time for processing paperwork.

After a robust discussion related to the proposed initiatives, Commissioner Amanda Price recommended adding an external communication plan under both the primary prevention and the perpetrator rehabilitation proposed initiatives.

John Skidmore **MOVED** to adopt the strategic plan modified by Commissioner Price and otherwise adopt the rest of it and move it forward, **SECONDED** by Niki Tshibaka. During the discussion, Diane Casto pointed out that when looking at the four external initiatives, the last question, "What is the potential loss of not addressing the strategic initiative," each one said, "Won't reach our vision and reduce domestic violence." John

Skidmore commented that the process the board has gone through in developing the strategic plan has been significant. He thinks it is an excellent plan that lays out the types of things needed to set priorities, and that's why he moved it forward. He noted that he agrees with Commissioner Price about external communication, and he wanted to reinforce the communication plan because it is critical to the agenda. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion **PASSED. (8/0)**

Diane Casto reported that it is essential that as staff ventures into the focus areas, one thing to keep in mind is internal capacity. CDVSA has a staff of nine, which is a lean staff for the amount of work required. PGS will be working with Council staff on its internal workload and capacity issues to help them find the time to move forward.

John Gregoire explained that what the board will see next is a finalized plan that includes activities and targets for the first year and then projected activities and targets for the following years. John presented a demonstration of an example of an instrument panel akin to the one that will be produced for CDVSA's strategic plan.

Diane Casto expressed CDVSA's appreciation to John Gregoire and GPS for its assistance in the strategic planning process. She commended the Council board members and staff of CDVSA for their efforts towards the successful planning process.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

A public testimony period was offered, and a full transcript was prepared.

### **ANDVSA REPORT**

Carmen Lowry, the executive director of the Alaska Network on Domestic violence and Sexual assault, shared a PowerPoint presentation titled "*ANDVSA 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report, September 2020*" and highlighted the following information:

- ANDVSA is a collective movement to end violence and oppression through social change.
- ANDVSA is a membership organization consisting of 22 community-based members across the state. In addition to these members, the Network has strategic partners in the state and federal arenas.
- The partnership between ANDVSA and CDVSA includes:
  - Sexual Assault Response Leadership Team
  - STOP implementation and planning
  - Contracted vendor for technical assistance and prevention programming support
  - FVPSA planning and coordination.

### **Activities of the Network:**

Supporting programs with remote work equipment and training:

- FVPSA Special COVID-19 supplement was \$50,000 for community-based programs:
  - \$10,600 equipment purchases since July in Bethel, Craig/Prince of Wales, Dillingham, Hooper Bay, and Valdez

- Sponsored ten staff from seven programs to attend the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) Virtual Technology Summit
- Distributed PPE to community-based programs depending on the need.

Supporting advocates and community-based programs:

- Facilitated four program meetings on COVID issues – with CDVSA participating in at least two of these gatherings.
- Facilitated monthly roundtable with program advocates.
- Organized weekly prevention, anti-racism, and root causes of violence roundtables.
- Provided legal office hours and invited guests from the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the court system to present.
- Offered three roundtables to explain FVPSA supplemental funding and encourage programs to apply for funds.

Legal support to victims, advocates, and contracted attorneys:

- ANDVSA has 29 current contracts with low-bono attorneys.
- Twelve community-based programs received technical assistance from ANDVSA attorneys.
- Five technical assistance sessions with VOCA partners: Alaska Initiative for Justice (AIJ), Alaska Legal Services Corporation (ALSC), and Alaska Native Justice Center (ANJC)

Working with survivors at the intersections (DV/SA and substance use) in partnership with Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC):

- Part of ANDVSA's federal Rural Grant to support the integration of DV/SA and substance use services.
- Nome, Ketchikan, and Kodiak are participating communities, but the workshop was open to all.
- Over 150 participants with presentations that included a survivor panel.

ANDVSA anti-racism and equity strategies priority area:

- Service on advisory committees, including the Alaska Resiliency Initiative, International Association of Forensic Nurses, and the National Indian Clearinghouse on Sexual Assault.
- Coordination and planning work with CDVSA, Alaska Native Women's Resource Center (AKNWRC), and ANDVSA.
- Delivering more support to emerging programs, especially rural programs.
- Continued collaboration and communication with the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW).

ANDVSA funding and resources priority areas:

- State of Alaska budget and funding for community-based DV/SA programs.
- Federal funding opportunities.

Carmen Lowry expressed the Network's appreciation to have the opportunity to report their activities to the CDVSA board.

## **FEDERAL FVPSA CARES ACT FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESOURCES**

Meggie Stogner and Dr. Elizabeth Pietralczyk joined the meeting to report on the FVPSA CARES Act funds. An overview of the FVPSA CARES Act activities was included in the board packet along with a copy of the letter of agreement between CDVSA and the Division of Public Health (DHSS/DPH). In May, CDVSA received \$77,459 from the FVPSA CARES Act with the intention of three priorities: prevent, prepare, and respond to COVID-19, and in a broader sense, prepare a plan of action for similar type crises.

Meggie Stogner reported that with regards to prevention, CDVSA connected with Public Health and identified the following four goals:

1. Expand COVID-19 testing opportunities (including asymptomatic individuals) for all 24/7 congregate living DV/SA emergency shelter and service programs.
2. Develop clear testing and safety policies and practices for existing participants, safe entry policies for new participants, and ongoing health and safety protocol for staff and participants.
3. Inclusion of safety language for all contact tracers to ask each person contacted if they are feeling safe at home and/or need any services (shelter, mental health, childcare, food).
4. Expand DV/SA shelter programs' relationships and collaboration with local public health centers across Alaska.

Dr. Elizabeth Pietralczyk reported that with regards to preparation, the common theme found in the needs assessment of in-residence shelters was having enough available space to social distance. She noted that many shelters are limiting to one family per room, and restricting the number of families they can take into the shelters. Some shelters need to screen people based on lethality to determine who has the most need to use the shelter. Dr. Pietralczyk noted that one way to reduce the risk is by having testing available that is easy to obtain with a quick turnaround. One way to utilize the funding would be to form relationships with healthcare providers in the community and purchase testing machines to have in the health center. Programs would have a partnership with that health center for people to get the testing they need. She noted that they are developing risk assessments and strategies for the shelters for screening people as they come in to ensure that people are symptom-free, determine who needs tests, implement ways to keep staff safe, and how to implement mitigation strategies like masking social distancing.

Meggie Stogner reported that most programs have emergency procedures in place, some specific to pandemic response, and those procedures are being tested now and programs are identifying where the gaps are. She noted that the project's added benefit is the relationship building between the service providers and the healthcare providers, which could serve both entities outside of a national emergency.



## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT, JULY - SEPTEMBER 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:**

- CDVSA staff has been working either telework or a combination of office and telework. Currently, CDVSA monitors the COVID-19 situation in Alaska and will reevaluate the telework schedule as needed.
- CDVSA continues to have a vacancy for a Research Analyst II. Morgan Erisman has come back as a short-term, non-perm, while the Council is working on recruitment for the position. Plans are underway for reclassifying the position to Research Analyst III.
- In late October, CDVSA will welcome a master of social work graduate practicum student to focus on the perpetrator rehabilitation services plan.

### **Impact of COVID-19:**

- All 35 community sub-grantees have kept their doors open and services available continuously throughout the past six months. While services have been different and provided in alternative ways, they are still available 24/7 for those individuals who need a place to stay, an advocate, and many other services.
- Thanks to the sewing talents of individuals incarcerated in Alaska's correctional facilities, CDVSA has been able to send almost 2,000 cloth masks to CDVSA sub-grantees starting in mid-April.
- In partnership with the Department of Education and Early Development, the Governor's Office, and the U.S. Civilian Corps, CDVSA secured a donation of ten Chromebook laptops and 26 Fire Tablets from the U.S. Civilian Corps, a national service organization.
- In May, the federal Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Family Violence and Prevention Services Act (FVPSA) provided each state and state coalition with funding from the CARES Act to prevent, prepare, and respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency while addressing the evolving needs of domestic violence survivors and local domestic violence programs in Alaska.
- In early July, CDVSA established and signed a Letter of Agreement with the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to establish a collaborative partnership to develop a clear plan to deal with the current COVID-19 crisis and prevent and prepare for future needs.
- Due to COVID-19, the 2020 Alaska Victimization Survey (AVS) was delayed until July. The delayed start provided an opportunity to revise the survey to include four COVID-19 specific questions. As of September 23, 1,500 surveys have been completed.

### **Priority projects update:**

- FY 2021 Grants Awards Process:

- Thirty-four community-based programs and one statewide program received FY 2021 grant funding for a total of \$21,860,019 (52% federal funds and 48% state general funds).
- CDVSA staff worked diligently April through June to guarantee all SFY 2021 grant awards were issued in a timely and efficient manner.
- DOJ Office of the Chief Financial Officer Enhanced Financial Review:
  - CDVSA was given the opportunity to receive a Virtual Enhanced Financial Desk Review by the DOJ Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO). The Council was notified in mid-July that DOJ would be reviewing its three federal formula grants (VOCA, SASP, and STOP) and two years for SASP and VAWA (FFY '17 and '18) and three years for VOCA (FFY '17, '18 and '19). In addition to the financial review, CDVSA also received a programmatic review for STOP/VAWA (August 28) and VOCA (September 14 - 15; exit interview September 25). CDVSA should receive written reports by the end of October.
- SART Annual Virtual Training:
  - Marjie Hamburger has been working with the UAA Alaska Training Cooperative leadership team to figure out the best way to present a virtual training environment that will meet the SART training needs during a pandemic. The fall SART virtual training will take place in November and early December 2020.
- Alaska Full Faith and Credit Training and Technical Assistance Initiative:
  - OVW contacted CDVSA in November 2019 to discuss an Alaska cooperative agreement they had available. They asked if CDVSA would be willing to work in partnership with OVW and RurAL CAP (an Anchorage rural-focused organization) to develop and provide training and technical assistance for Alaska law enforcement, prosecutors, and court personnel regarding the federal Full Faith and Credit provision. The provision specifies that states, tribes, and territories must enforce a qualifying protection order from outside an enforcing jurisdiction as if the enforcing jurisdiction had issued the protection order.
  - RurAL CAP's role is to provide companion training to tribal law enforcement, attorneys, and tribal courts. This direct funding award is for 24-months (June 2020 through May 2022) and totals \$320,000.
  - Due to delays related to COVID-19, project work will begin in earnest next month.
- VOCA-SAC Data Partnership:
  - In March CDVSA, in partnership with the Alaska Statistical Analysis Center (UAA Alaska Justice Information Center - AJIC), applied for and received a six-month, project-specific grant award from the Justice Research and Statistics Association (a partner of VOCA). The project ended on September 20, 2020, and CDVSA now has its first Interactive Data Dashboard. With a short timeframe and under \$15,000, AJIC transformed the 2010 and 2015 AVS Intimate Partner Violence data into an interactive dashboard.

- CDVSA is working on plans to conduct a training webinar for all CDVSA sub-grantees and partners about using the tool and getting the most from it.
- Alaska Victimization Survey (AVS):
  - The AVS was delayed from a May start to a July start. The project is now moving forward and is fully operational with approximately 1,500 surveys completed at this time. Surveying is expected to continue into December. Once the 2020 AVS data has been collected and published, the Council will include the 2020 data into its IPV-Interactive Data Dashboard.
- CDVSA Language Access Plan (LAP):
  - After being delayed due to COVID-19, CDVSA has scheduled a virtual training for October 26 and 27.
- CDVSA Five-Year Strategic Plan:
  - The CDVSA Five-year Strategic Plan is continuing to take shape, creating a plan with input from the staff, the board, and over 75 stakeholders. PGS project lead, John Gregoire, has worked diligently with staff to create and finalize the identified strategic initiatives.
- Communication, Outreach and Media:
  - October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.
  - CDVSA will be sponsoring a social media campaign to increase domestic violence awareness in Alaska; educate Alaskans about the continuum of healthy, unhealthy/violent relationships; and connect Alaskans to resources. Resources will provide information for victims, families, and those wishing to become engaged in ending violence.
  - The social marketing strategy includes paid and organic ads and includes online (digital), radio, and cable components. Messaging for the 2020 campaign will consist of national campaigns from the National Network to End Domestic Violence webpage, StrongHearts Native Helpline (Alaska specific messaging), and the It's Time campaign messages developed by Walsh|Sheppard in partnership with CDVSA.
- CDVSA Annual Report:
  - The annual report was completed last month and sent to the Office of the Governor, Senate president, and speaker of the House as required by statute. The FY '19 Annual Report is in an electronic format only.
- Other
  - CDVSA has continued its work with contractor Walsh|Sheppard to keep posting a series of public service announcements for radio, TV, and social media with the theme "You are not alone" and "Help is available," along with numbers to call or text to find help and safety.
  - CDVSA's current communications contract with Walsh|Sheppard ends in December, and the Council is working on a new competitive RFP to select a contractor for the next few years.
- Upcoming events
  - October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

- October 26 and 27, staff training on incorporating language access into CDVSA's work.
- Virtual SART Training scheduled for November/early December.

Diane Casto expressed the Council's appreciation to the staff, the board members, partner agencies, and stakeholders for their guidance, cooperation, and contributions to the success of many of the activities the Council was involved in the past quarter.

### **CDVSA BUDGET REVIEW/FISCAL REPORT SFY 2020 YEAR-END CLOSEOUT AND SFY 2021 BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES**

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

- Page 1 – Program Budget FY 2021
  - Total budget authority, \$26,729,300
    - State funding authority total, 12990,500
    - Federal funding authority, 13,738,800
  - Total operating budget, not including grants, \$3,825,400
  - Total program budget, \$21,809,739
  - Total budgeted obligations, \$25,635,139
- Page 2 – Grants Awarded FY 2021
  - Total grant award authority, \$22,903,900
  - Total awarded to programs, \$21,809,739
- Page 3 – Detailed Sub-Award Plan for FY 2021
  - Total spending plan, \$21,809,739
- Page 4 – Obligations & Encumbrances FY 2021
  - Total authority for contracts and services, \$2,428,400
  - Total of contracts and services obligations, \$1,682,257
- Page 5 – FY 2021 Remaining Balances
  - Total remaining balance across all appropriations, \$4,361,813

Kelly Gohl shared the state fiscal year 2020 year-end summary of funded program spending. The total amount of all sub-awards was \$19,991,689, of which \$19,011,205 was spent (95%), leaving a total of \$980,484 (5%) de-obligated.

### **INPUT FROM BOARD MEMBERS ON ACTIONS**

Diane Casto reported that the remaining 2021 quarterly meetings would be virtual, and the proposed timeline for the FY '21 Quarterly CDVSA Board meetings is as follows:

- Quarter 2 – December 2 and/or December 3, 2020 (rural outreach—working on plans for a virtual rural visit; potential locations are Petersburg or Cordova)
- Quarter 3, March 3 and/or March 4, 2021
- Quarter 4, June 16 and/or June 17, 2021 (approval of FY 22 grant awards)

After a brief discussion, the Quarter 2 meeting dates were changed to December 9 and/or 10, 2020. Diane Casto encouraged board members to send input on making a virtual rural outreach meeting more engaging.

### **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 for the work being done by the CDVSA leadership, staff, and DV/SA partners.
- Laura Brooks remarked that she was excited about the strategic plan, felt that it was a stellar product, and she looks forward to working with CDVSA on the Batterer's Intervention Program.
- Jillian Gellings commented that resilience is the word that comes to mind when talking about DV/SA; the resilience of victims, service providers, and the Council staff in ensuring that provisions are met to support individuals that need shelter and other services the Council supports. She remarked that as the Council moves forward with the strategic plan, she looks forward to linking more programs and partnerships.
- Niki Tshibaka commented that he appreciates the focus on prevention and outcomes related to prevention. He also appreciates how efficient and creative CDVSA has been with funding. He commended the Council for finding other funding sources to keep the vital DV/SA work growing and being effective.
- Ryon Turley remarked that he was impressed with the organization and the different dynamics and perspectives everyone brought to the table.
- Teresa Lowe remarked that she was happy to have a robust discussion about the strategic plan and looks forward to the next steps and strategic plan rollout.

Diane Casto thanked the board for the valuable discussion on the strategic plan. She believes that some fantastic work has been done and looks forward to moving ahead on the strategic plan.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Angela Garay **MOVED** to adjourn, **SECONDED** by Laura Brooks. Hearing no opposition, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

LOCATION  
Teleconference

PUBLIC COMMENT  
Wednesday, September 30, 2020  
11:35 a.m.

ROUGH DRAFT TRANSCRIPT  
Pages 1 - 11, inclusive

Committee Members Present  
Teresa Lowe - Interim Chair  
Laura Brooks  
Jillian Gellings  
Amanda Price  
John Skidmore  
Niki Tshibaka  
Angela Garay

Reported by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 TERESA LOWE: Is there anyone else on  
3 the line as far as public comment?

4 BRENDA STANFILL: Brenda from Fairbanks  
5 with the Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent  
6 Living. I would love to give public comment.

7 TERESA LOWE: Go ahead, Linda.

8 BRENDA STANFILL: Thank you. So I have  
9 been listening today, and it's all very exciting to  
10 see this project, the strategic planning, come forward  
11 into really a document, that was great.

12 And so as you were talking about it, I  
13 thought about one of my staff members who came to me a  
14 couple of weeks ago and shared a story that really  
15 impacted my heart. And I think it ties back to what  
16 we're talking about, prevention and about how our  
17 numbers might go up.

18 She shared about how our agency came to  
19 her school when she was ten years old, and they talked  
20 about abuse at home and where you could go. And that  
21 night when her mom picked her up, she said, "Mom,  
22 there's help for us," and she was able to give her the  
23 telephone number that they had gotten that day. And  
24 her mom called and they kicked into shelter that  
25 night. She says that her mom, to this day, says you

1 saved -- to her daughter, "You saved my life."

2 And so, you know, having those outreach  
3 services within our schools where we can start talking  
4 about what our kids are experiencing and putting some  
5 resources to work in our communities, I think is so  
6 powerful. So thank you so much for really looking at  
7 all of that, what really do we need to have all  
8 encompassing services for domestic violence and sexual  
9 assault.

10 As you all know, I've been a big  
11 proponent for really focusing on those Batterer's  
12 Intervention Programs. We're looking at how to take  
13 and put those right into our reentry service where we  
14 can really start talking and normalizing getting help  
15 for your relationships and how you work with your  
16 family and how you communicate with your family and  
17 how you are in your world, and where we can take the  
18 stigma of being a batterer off and really put this  
19 more about these are things you didn't learn when you  
20 were a child, or these are things you learned when you  
21 were a child, and how do we address that and let you  
22 have a better life. We know that our DV offenders are  
23 one of our higher rates -- highest rates of offenders  
24 when it comes to reentry.

25 I just wanted to let you know, COVID has



1 definitely led to some challenges in the shelter, but  
2 we are -- I'm just so proud of our team and what we've  
3 been able to do. Thank you to the CDVSA for providing  
4 those masks. They are so fun and colorful that women  
5 have been matching their outfits. So that is  
6 wonderful.

7 When we were on lockdown, we realized we  
8 had to really step up our outreach, because people  
9 thought they couldn't come in and that we were closed.  
10 So we got some TV ads running, we got on Facebook  
11 really promoting that we're open, you can come. We  
12 did fill back up, and we found that people had been  
13 enduring some really tough stuff. So we were glad we  
14 were able to do that outreach and really make sure  
15 that people knew that they could leave.

16 I really wanted to call your attention  
17 to the fact that the new requirement to report sexual  
18 assault to law enforcement is really challenging for  
19 our young victims who no longer have a choice now  
20 whether they report. And I'm talking about our 16, 17  
21 year olds who maybe went to a party that no one knows  
22 about or something happened. And there is still so  
23 much stigma when it comes to being a victim and  
24 especially for that age range, we know that these are  
25 hard cases to prosecute.

1                   And so we really ask that maybe we think  
2                   about legislative wise maybe a little bit of a fix to  
3                   that law where we didn't take away our resource from  
4                   our teens.

5                   And we've just been doing a real  
6                   concentrated effort just all the way around, just as  
7                   you all have been. We're in a strategic planning year  
8                   with the shelter and with our programs and really  
9                   looking all encompassing, just as you have been.  
10                  We're just really excited to hear that the grants  
11                  management system is coming online possibly this next  
12                  year. I think that's going to make life incredible  
13                  for everyone.

14                  Again, thank you for all you've done and  
15                  for the opportunity to speak with you and to comment  
16                  on all the things we see coming up in the future. So  
17                  thank you.

18                  DIANE CASTO: Thank you, Brenda.

19                  TERESA LOWE: Is there any other -- is  
20                  there anyone else on the line that would like to make  
21                  a public comment?

22                  Okay. So I have Eileen's message. It  
23                  is in the meeting chat, but I will read it out loud.

24                  It says: Thanks for hearing me out.  
25                  Thank you for being on the Council. Understand this

1 is a really hard time for programs, which are on the  
2 frontline of this COVID pandemic, and also responding  
3 to an increase in violence, which predictably comes in  
4 times of national and worldwide crisis. It is not  
5 easy out here right now.

6 Keep in mind that CDVSA's strategic plan  
7 is going to impact victim service programs. I'm glad  
8 the stakeholder meetings were held, but want to remind  
9 everyone that was not part of CDVSA's original plan  
10 and was only added when victim services programs said  
11 that was a critical part of the process at last year's  
12 CDVSA grantee meeting.

13 I have spoken on record before about how  
14 burdensome some of the requirements and reports from  
15 CDVSA have become, especially for the larger, more  
16 financially and programmatically diverse programs that  
17 are serving the largest number of people throughout  
18 the state. There are more new requirements this  
19 year. Federal funds have required monthly  
20 reimbursement forms for the last several years. The  
21 federal government requires that, so while burdensome,  
22 it's understandable.

23 This year CDVSA is also requiring  
24 monthly fiscal reports for general funds as well.  
25 That's an additional 24 reports that my program has to

1 file this year. When I asked why, I was told it's  
2 because CDVSA staff want to more closely monitor  
3 spending, and that the reports don't have to be  
4 correct, and that it was more work for them than for  
5 us. This is an unsatisfactory answer.

6 I think it's a waste of all our time to  
7 file fiscal reports that don't have to be correct,  
8 especially for programs that are spending their money  
9 and passing agency fiscal audits and desk reviews.  
10 Quarterly fiscal reports are the norm for the federal  
11 government and for other state entities like DHSS. I  
12 don't think CDVSA has articulated a good reason for  
13 why all programs are now required to turn in monthly  
14 fiscal reports that don't need to be accurate.

15 I think this all ties into the CDVSA  
16 strategic goal of increasing their internal capacity,  
17 but understand that this means for programs an  
18 increase in administrative demands.

19 While CDVSA is an entirely  
20 administrative staff, victim services programs are  
21 not. Many of us keep a small administrative team so  
22 that we can meet victim services demands. The only  
23 TWC staff that does no direct service is my finance  
24 officer who lives in Florida. Everyone else including  
25 me, the administrative assistant, and the office

1 manager are expected to be responsive to victim  
2 services, because that's what we're here for. If  
3 CDVSA is going to continue to add extra reports and  
4 demands on administration of victim services programs,  
5 then victim services programs need additional  
6 administrative funds.

7 And that's the end of Eileen's comment,  
8 public comment.

9 Is there anyone else that -- thank you,  
10 Eileen and Brenda. Is there anyone else that would  
11 like to make a public comment?

12 Are you able to -- you can go ahead and  
13 speak if you are able to.

14 CARMEN LOWRY: Hi. I just unmuted  
15 myself, can you hear me?

16 TERESA LOWE: Yes.

17 CARMEN LOWRY: Okay. Great. First of  
18 all, thank you very much. It's a great pleasure to be  
19 here with all of you all today. I love to be part of  
20 a really well-run meeting, so kudos to the  
21 organization.

22 I just wanted to address an issue that  
23 you all brought up when we were talking about the  
24 perpetrator rehabilitation, and then there was  
25 particularly from Angela -- thank you Angela --

1 talking about, you know, victims and survivors. They  
2 really want, for the most part, people who perpetrate  
3 crimes within their families and perpetrate this  
4 violence, they want them to come back home, they want  
5 them to come back into the community.

6 And I just wanted to say that that  
7 discussion made me think about the recent dialogue  
8 that we had, and Diane was part of that as well. It  
9 was our third dialogue that we've had with the Alaska  
10 Native Sister Organizations. We had CDVSA, we had  
11 some members of the Healing Native Hearts Coalition,  
12 Yupik Women's Coalition, the Alaska Native Women's  
13 Resource, and then some other Alaska Native leaders in  
14 the state, and we also had some facilitation support  
15 from the Idaho Coalition.

16 The one thing I just wanted to bring to  
17 your attention, one of the reflections that came out  
18 was -- and I'm going to read it to you -- it says,  
19 "Need for culturally informed and locally based  
20 approaches."

21 And there's four points that we made,  
22 and they all fit right in with, you know, how  
23 important it is to have victim accountability and also  
24 to have more integration with communities.

25 One, healing must take place in

1 communities for the offender and the survivor.

2 Two, men need programs that are  
3 culturally based and take place in home communities.  
4 Programs for men who use violence are expensive and  
5 not always available locally.

6 Three, BIP, the Batterer Intervention  
7 Program needs to be revamped with a focus on what is  
8 culturally relevant and locally sustainable.

9 So I just want to kind of share that  
10 with you, because I think it's really important to  
11 keep that in mind and to know that that was when we  
12 had that dialogue that's a really strong voice from  
13 some of the Alaska Native leadership in this state.

14 And just really looking forward to  
15 working more on that and to really hone in on that  
16 messaging, I think, that once we get some shared  
17 messaging, we could really be much more impactful.

18 So thank you for that time to share  
19 that. Thanks, Teresa.

20 TERESA LOWE: Thank you, Carmen.

21 Are there any other comments? Okay.  
22 We've been here a couple of minutes, and we haven't  
23 heard anyone else calling in. So let's go ahead and  
24 we will break for lunch early, and then we'll plan on  
25 coming back out at 1:00 to start our afternoon

1 session, which is ten minutes earlier than we have  
2 listed, but I think it will be -- I would like to use  
3 our time efficiently since we're all very busy people.

4 Diane, if you would be so kind as to  
5 stay online, and I will stay online as well, to see if  
6 there's anyone else that comes in and would like to  
7 make some public comments.

8 DIANE CASTO: Okay. And I would also  
9 just ask if Carmen, if you could start a little after  
10 1 instead of 1 p.m.?

11 CARMEN LOWRY: I can certainly do that.  
12 I'll be online at 1.

13 DIANE CASTO: Thank you so much.

14 TERESA LOWE: Sounds good. Thank you,  
15 Carmen.

16 Okay, everyone, enjoy your lunch, and we  
17 will be back at 1:00.

18 Diane, it's 11:55, I think that we are  
19 good to go. So I will be back at 1:00 for the  
20 afternoon meeting. Thank you.

21 DIANE CASTO: So we are closing public  
22 comment, is that correct?

23 TERESA LOWE: Yes, let's close public  
24 comment at this point, yes.

25 (End of public comment)



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