



CDVSA Executive Director's Update

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April – June 2022
FY2022 Quarter 4

An update of CDVSA activities/highlights April – June 2022

Staffing and personnel

Last quarter's ED report began with the statement that beginning on Monday, April 4 **CDVSA will be fully staffed**. Fully staffed status only lasted 1-month.

On April 4 Marsha Layton, our new Administrative Officer 2, joined our team. Marsha is a great addition to the CDVSA Team and jumped right into the work of understanding and managing CDVSA budget and financial processes. Marsha comes to CDVSA with a wealth of experience and administrative knowledge, and we are thrilled to have her join our Team. Please welcome Marsha Layton.

May 5, 2022 was Angela Wells' last day at CDVSA after eleven plus years with this agency. Angie takes with her a large reservoir of historical knowledge – only Ann Rausch has been with CDVSA longer! We know it was a hard decision for Angie to resign, and we know that she made the best decision for her, with a focus on her health and her family! Thank you, Angie, for everything you did for CDVSA and for helping us grow and change over the years—we will miss your presence and perspective in the office! Best of luck...

Prior to Angie submitting her letter of resignation, I had begun the process of updating her position description. The last time it was updated was 2013 and much has changed since then – technology is better, we have moved away from paper files and into the world of electronic files, web design and maintenance are more prominent in needed tasks, and with a full-time Administrative Officer 2, as well as an identified DPS Finance assistant (Annie Nguyen), the AA2 position will now return to focusing more on overall office management and support for programs and program staff. With input from Marsha Layton and MaryBeth Gagnon, we completed the Position Description update in Online Position Descriptions on May 23; on May



27 it was assigned to Classification and is now being reviewed for final approval. Once the updated Position Description has been approved, we will be ready to request approval to recruit and begin soliciting for a new Administrative Assistant 2!

COVID case numbers continue to hover higher than we would like. With the arrival of 4-5 cruise ships a day in Juneau, we anticipate a possible surge in cases in the coming month—hoping not, but ready in case the numbers rise. As stated last quarter, CDVSA has modified our mitigation protocol to keep our office, our colleagues, and families safe, while still getting our work done. Hybrid telework schedules continue for many staff and we maintain flexibility for staff who do not feel comfortable with too many staff in the office. We have eased our requirements for coming back into the office following travel (out of state or in state) requiring a negative COVID test five days after return, before returning to the office unmasked. You can return fully masked until a negative test after 5-days returning from travel. Staff continue to wear masks in all common areas of the building – kitchen, bathrooms, hallways, etc.

New telework agreements must be completed and approved for staff wanting to continue a hybrid telework agreement; only Catherine Mohn, RA 3 has a full-time distant telework agreement. We are hoping for some statewide guidance on expectations regarding telework as more people are returning full or part-time to the office.

CDVSA Funding Challenges

We survived FY22 with our crazy patchwork budget. As you can see from the chart below, our FY22 budget was comprised of State General Funds; Designated General Funds; I/A Receipts (from DOC); Federal VOCA; Federal FVPSA; Federal SASP; Federal VAWA; and ARPA/CSLFRF federal relief funds.

For FY2023, beginning July 1, 2022, we will add two additional funding sources – State Relief General Funds (\$3.5 mil) and OVC Discretionary (\$2,540,107). The \$3.5 Relief GF was approved by the legislature in their final approved budget. Originally it was requested as federal CSLFRF funding but in the final budget we received \$3.5 million in 1-time GF. The OVC Discretionary are the funds designated in the federal budget by Senator Murkowski, specifically to help fill the gap left by reduced VOCA funding. The designated funds received are \$5.0 mil and can be used over multiple years—we have allocated approximately \$2.5 million for SFY23 and the remaining amount for SFY24. We are very grateful to the Alaska Legislature for the 1-time \$3.5 million in GF and to Senator Murkowski for the \$5.0 million designated funding to keep our victim service



programming fully funded for another year. At the time of writing this report, the state FY23 budget has not yet been signed by the Governor; we recognize nothing is final until the budget is signed by Governor Dunleavy!

The chart below shows a comparison of our FY22 and FY23 budgets and a PROJECTED budget for FY2024, with funds we have currently. This indicates, depending on the federal allocations we receive for FFY22, that we will be in a situation needing to request additional state General Funds for SFY24. In the next few months, we will fully analyze what federal funding we have remaining following the closeout of FY22 and the sub-grantee awards for FY23. Then we will determine our need for additional funding in SFY24 and request funds accordingly.

In SFY2016 CDVSA received a GF allocation of \$11,244,700. In SFY2017 our GF allocation was \$10,690,307 and in SFY2022 our GF allocation was \$10,697,000. In reviewing the inflation rate increases between 2017 and 2022, \$10,697,000 in 2017 equals \$12,616,673 in 2022—an increase of \$1,919,673. This means that today's prices are 1.18 times higher than in 2017. In the past 6-years, community grantees have received "flat" funding; but flat funding equates to a decrease each year based on reduced buying power due to inflation.

I believe CDVSA has good reason and justification to request a \$2.0 million dollar increase in our current annual/baseline General Fund allocation during the 2023 legislative session.

FY22-25 Grant Funding—all grant types

Funding Source	SFY2022	SFY2023	<u>Projected FY2024</u>
General Fund-base	\$8,902,500	\$9,008,794	\$9,000,000
Relief GF-1-year	0	\$3,500,000	0
Designated GF	\$1,426,340	\$1,468,593	\$1,468,808
I/A Receipts	\$ 173,583	\$ 173,583	\$ 173,583
Federal VOCA	\$3,628,183	\$ 929,477	\$3,500,000
Federal FVPSA	\$ 705,050	\$ 418,287	\$1,025,000
Federal SASP	\$ 406,054	\$ 356,816	\$ 400,000
Federal VAWA	\$ 234,648	\$ 309,648	\$ 309,648
ARPA/CSLFRF	\$5,185,332	\$2,771,434	0
OVC Discretionary	0	\$2,540,107	\$2,459,893
TOTAL	\$20,661,690	\$21,476,739	\$18,336,932



During our Q. 4 Board meeting the Council members will be asked to review, discuss, and approve the SFY23 Sub-grantee allocations. A complete spreadsheet of each agency's allocation is included in your Board packet. Please review this information prior to the Wednesday June 15 review and vote. The allocation amounts per funding category are identified in the above chart; the spreadsheet has a tab for each grant-type (victims services, enhanced services, prevention, STOP and BIP/PBP) and the allocation for each agency currently funded by CDVSA. Once the Board reviews and votes to approve the recommended allocations, CDVSA program and grant staff are ready to begin processing grant awards. Of course, no grant awards will be finalized until Governor Dunleavy signs the final SFY23 budget into law!

One last ongoing challenge is the VOCA Crime Victims Fund (CVF) and its continued low funding levels. Funding levels are beginning to increase slightly, but our FFY22 VOCA funding allocation continues to be lower than years prior to FFY2021. VOCA funding to Alaska in FFY21 was \$2.8 million; in FFY22 our VOCA allocation is \$3.57 million. It is anticipated VOCA funding levels will remain less but will eventually stabilize around \$4.0-4.5 million per year for Alaska moving forward.

The 32nd Legislature Gavel's Out

Late on May 18, 2022, the Second Regular Session of the 32nd Legislature came to an end – Sine Die! It was a busy legislative session with numerous bills focused on improved public safety, improved laws related to sexual assault and domestic violence, justice for victims and more rural public safety presence. CDVSA had budget increments for consideration; a request for two new positions; and extending the termination date of CDVSA. Overall, CDVSA had a good year. We received a 1-time GF allocation of \$3.5 million to support victim service programs and to help fill the gap left by decreasing federal VOCA funding. We received \$300,000 to provide supplemental fuel and utility funding to our funded agencies and \$200,000 to assist in a feasibility study to establish Family Justice Centers in Alaska (part of the Governor's People First Initiative).

The most pressing issue for CDVSA was the passage of HB 291, introduced by Representative Geran Tarr, to extend the termination date of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault; and providing an effective date. Due to last minute legislative maneuvers, HB 183, An Act to rename the Alaska Criminal Justice Commission the Alaska

Criminal Justice Data Analysis Commission was added into HB 291. Senate Finance created a CS for CS for HB 291 to include creating the Criminal Justice Data Analysis Commission. It passed the Senate and was returned to the House floor for concurrence. Due to the addition of HB 183 to HB 291, there was significant opposition to its passage and narrowly passed on a floor vote of 21 yeas and 18 nays. Fingers crossed it will be signed by the Governor!

A copy of the final enrolled bill—SCS CSHB 291—is available at: [Microsoft Word - HB0291Z.DOC \(akleg.gov\)](#)

While there were many incredibly important pieces of legislation both introduced and passed, the most important change this legislative session, for our work, is updating Alaska's 40-year-old consent law. HB 325 became the vehicle for many important changes to our domestic violence and sexual assault laws. Thank you to Representatives Rasmussen and Tarr who fought to keep this issue at the fore front of the legislative session. The effort to change Alaska's consent laws has been 5-years in the making...Rep. Tarr never waived and never gave up her fight! This is an important piece of legislation that will improve the way Alaska treats victims of domestic and sexual violence. A copy of the final bill—HB 325 am S—is available at: [Microsoft Word - HB0325B.DOC \(akleg.gov\)](#). Effective date for HB 325 is January 1, 2023.

CDVSA Priority Projects Update

- **STOP/VAWA 4-year State Plan Development** – The Alaska STOP/VAWA State Implementation Plan is due June 15 along with our FFY22 Formula Grant application. Thank you to all Board members for your review of the Implementation Plan, comments, and your approval to move the plan forward. The S*TO*P* grant from the US Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) is one of our four federal formula grants. S*T*O*P* stands for Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors.

This plan requires review and approval of our Board of Directors, Alaska's federally recognized tribes, and from key stakeholders and public members. The Draft Implementation Plan was posted on Alaska's Online Public Notice site on June 3, in addition to the final Draft being sent directly to Alaska tribes, stakeholders, and the Board. In addition, a copy of the Draft Implementation Plan was given to Kim Kovol, Special Assistant to Governor Dunleavy for a review by the Governor's office.

The goal of the STOP Plan funding prioritizes statewide training for law enforcement, courts and prosecutors and victims service needs to better prevent and respond to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The overall approach to the new 4-year plan follows the structure of the last 4 years and the specific requirements of STOP funding. The plan updates the content with current changes in Alaska laws and approaches to addressing these issues and includes feedback and priorities received through the multiple outreach opportunities. This collective process has provided the final plan with professional expertise and lived experiences of Alaskans, bringing this plan to life and its representation of the specific needs for Alaska.

We thank everyone who has contributed to the final Alaska STOP Implementation Plan including our partner agencies, Alaska tribes, stakeholders, and the public; this diverse and rich feedback provided a strong foundation for improving our ability to reduce domestic and sexual violence in our state. A big thank you to Ann Rausch for leading this project, spending untold hours writing, wordsmithing and finalizing our plan!

- **Perpetrator Rehabilitation Workgroup** – The Perpetrator Rehabilitation Workgroup has concluded the initial phase of gathering information on what an evidence-informed BIP programming should include. We have now moved into the concepts and recommendation phase for three critical areas of improvement -- Assessment; Interventions; and Monitoring. Our planning team has been discussing next steps and we are considering a 2-day in-person meeting of the Workgroup in August or September, to solidify our work, recommendations, and next steps, including an opportunity for identified stakeholders to review and discuss the recommendations to identify gaps, support identified recommendations or request changes.

The timing is good to have recommendations made and agreed upon no later than October 2022, when the workgroup will end and the internal CDVSA work will begin to implement the identified changes, work with DOC to update related regulations, and establish a new process for agencies to apply to become a state approved perpetrator rehabilitation program. Due to CDVSA receiving a new Program Coordinator 2 position in our FY23 budget, the goal is to hire a staff person who will work exclusively (for at least a year) on reestablishing the application process, based on the new program criteria, and creating an effective and efficient new program approach, including an

ongoing plan for monitoring and regular review and re-approval of programs. We are very excited to see this work come to fruition.

In addition to the PR Workgroup, Catherine and I are working with DPS IT and State OIT to finalize a plan to replace our current BIP database for collecting data from grantees. We are looking to convert to a Microsoft Powerbase platform, like the MS platform that our GrantVantage program uses. By using the same platform, it may benefit us in the future to be able to have the systems “talk” to each other and sync our grant financial data with our service data to extract cost of services.

- **Alaska Sexual Assault Response Leadership Team** – There has been considerable work over the last 6 months with the leadership team, working to improve coordination and support for communities working with sexual assault victims through a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) or communities working to improve their response to these situations. As a reminder, the ASARLT members are Katie Tepas, AST/DPS; Tiffany Saporito, DOL; Lauree Morton, ANDVSA; Angie Ellis, Forensic Nurse/ANDVSA; Tami Jerue, Alaska Native Women’s Resource Center; and Marjie Hamburger and me, CDVSA.

Several projects are on the horizon, one being the Alaska Tele-Support Services, Medical-Forensic Nursing Support project, creating a forensic nurse tele-support service for community SART programs and others requesting TA and training. We are getting ready to launch a few pilot locations soon after all the processes and MOUs are in place. Angie Ellis is the key person working on getting this project in place, with assistance from Marjie Hamburger. We plan to have a demonstration of this new service during our FY23 Quarter 1 Board Meeting.

The Team is also working to support additional training to compliment twice yearly SART training—strangulation, anonymous reporting, culturally-based services, PREA requirements, and others. We are also finalizing posters and brochures to educate people about the concept and parameters of anonymous reporting of sexual assault. The law related to anonymous reporting changed 2-years ago and it is still confusing or unknown to many people. A board presentation on these trainings and materials will also be included in next years Board meeting schedule.

- **CDVSA Language Access Plan** – CDVSA's progress to implement the Language Access Plan continues with significant changes being made to our website to include access to multiple languages for key information posted on our site. Along with our contractors the Alaska Institute of Justice, MaryBeth Gagnon, and Jen Anderson, one of our MSW Practicum Students, language access information will soon be incorporated within our website.

Translation of the CDVSA complaint form to be used by the public to express concerns regarding CDVSA policies/practices related to language access and other service information has been or is in the process of being translated into the top 8 languages identified in our LAP--Spanish, Tagalog, Korean, Russian, Hmong, Samoan, Yup'ik and Chinese.

CDVSA is working with DPS IT to create a location for this information and to enhance our home page with clear information about alternative languages available to interested public. Website redesign is happening now and will be ready to go live soon.

Communications, Outreach and Media

Finally, the FY20-21 CDVSA Bi-Annual Report is complete. A copy of the electronic report is in your Board packet. It will also be posted on our webpage soon. Copies of the report and link will be sent to Governor Dunleavy and to the Senate President and House Speaker in accordance with AS.18.66.050(10). In the next 3-4 months we will start the process all over again as we aim to have the FY2022 Annual Report completed by January 15, 2023.

We continue to use our limited communications and outreach funding to have a regular presence on social media, radio, and television. Because social media is a less expensive medium, our focus is to keep fresh postings rotating, with a special focus on the months of February (Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Awareness Month); April (Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month); and October (Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month).