

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

**CDVSA Quarterly Council Board Meeting
Annual Outreach Meeting - Ketchikan
FY 2022 Quarter 4
June 15 – 16, 2022**

Location:

Ted Ferry Civic Center
888 Venetia Avenue
Ketchikan, Alaska

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Board Members Present:

Angela Garay, Chair
Lydia Heyward
Laura Brooks
Jillian Gellings
Commissioner James Cockrell
Kami Moore
Blaze Bell

Staff:

Diane Casto, Executive Director
Margie Hamburger
MaryBeth Gagnon
Marsha Layton
Ann Rausch
Meggie Stogner
Catherine Mohn
Ella Nierra

Minutes prepared by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

Angela Garay called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established.

AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Angela Garay asked for a review of the meeting agenda. Kami Moore **MOVED** to approve the agenda, **SECONDED** by Lydia Heyward. Hearing no opposition, the motion **PASSED**.

CONFLICT INQUIRY

No conflicts of interest were declared.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS, CDVSA STAFF, and IN-PERSON ATTENDEES

Angela Garay opened the floor for board members and staff introductions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Angela Garay directed the members to the draft March 2022 meeting minutes. An unidentified Council member **MOVED** to approve the minutes, **SECONDED** by Blaze Bell. Hearing no opposition, the motion **PASSED**.

OVERVIEW OF TWO-DAY AGENDA FOR RURAL OUTREACH MEETING

Diane Casto reported that Jillian Gellings will resign from the board after the meeting. She thanked Jillian for her service on behalf of the Council.

Diane Casto directed the members' attention to the meeting agenda. She reported that the Council holds a rural outreach board meeting annually, which allows the board to go to the rural community programs to see what the rural needs are as opposed to urban needs. The meeting in Ketchikan had been postponed twice due to the pandemic. The business meeting will take place the morning of day one with an important vote on the proposed grant award allocation. On the afternoon of day one, the board will have an opportunity to hear from the two subgrantees in Ketchikan, Women in Safe Homes (WISH) and Ketchikan Indian Community (KIC). On the evening of day one, the CDVSA board will host a Ketchikan community dialogue. Diane shared that day two will begin with a report from ANDVSA, after which the board will be involved in tours of the WISH facility and other community partners, and they will end the meeting with comments and closing remarks from board members.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT, April – June 2022

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

Staffing and Personnel:

- April 4, 2022, Marsha Layton joined CDVSA as the Administrative Office II (AOII).
- May 5, 2022, Angie Wells resigned.
 - Before Angie Wells resigned, CDVSA staff updated the position description, and it was assigned to Classification for review and final approval. Once the updated position description has been approved, CDVSA will be ready to request authority to recruit for the position.
- The Council has modified its mitigation protocol to keep its office, colleagues, and families safe. Hybrid telework schedules continue for many staff, and the Council maintains flexibility for staff who do not feel comfortable with too many staff in the office. The Council has eased the requirements for returning to the office following travel.
- New telework agreements must be completed and approved for staff wanting to continue a hybrid telework agreement. The Council is hoping for statewide

guidance on expectations regarding telework as more people are returning full or part-time to the office.

CDVSA Funding Challenges:

Diane Casto reported that with the dramatic decrease in VOCA funding, the legislature came through last legislative session with additional federal Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSLFRF) money (\$8M) in FY 2022. The Council was able to use a portion of that, approximately \$5.8M, for grant programs and saved the remainder for this year's allocations. She reported that going into 2023, if the Governor signs the proposed budget, CDVSA was awarded \$3.5M in one-time general funds to fill some of the gaps from the loss of VOCA funding and the remainder of CSLFRF funding. Diane noted that CDVSA will be fully funded for FY 23. The projections for FY 24, because there is no general relief funding and the CSLFRF funding is gone, there will be a shortage of over \$2M. CDVSA will be looking for ways to fill the gap.

Diane Casto reported that FY 23 OVC discretionary funding was awarded to CDVSA through the work of Senator Lisa Murkowski. The Senator was able to secure \$5M in discretionary OVC funding. CDVSA has split that funding between FY 23 and 24. CDVSA has been notified that Senator Murkowski has requested an additional \$4M for CDVSA in FFY 23.

Diane Casto remarked that CDVSA's goal is for the board to deliberate in the coming year about how CDVSA can solidify the budget to make it more stable instead of working with a patchwork budget year after year. CDVSA is asking the board to consider the budget, the right amount of money to operate, and ways to ensure a more stabilized budget.

Diane Casto reported that she was asked in Legislative Finance why Alaska hasn't solved domestic violence and sexual assault and gave her a platform to express the needs. Legislators said the board needs to develop bolder plans and submit bolder requests to the legislature. Diane challenged the board to be more aggressive and to think broader.

Diane Casto reported that regarding general funds (GF), in SFY 2016, CDVSA received a GF allocation of \$11,244,000. SFY 2017 had been cut, and the allocation was \$10,690,000. In SFY 2022, the GF allocation is \$10,697,000. Regarding inflation and the cost of living (COL), CDVSA has lost almost \$2M for flat funding for the current year. The programs have been flat-funded since 2018, but no COL increase translates to a decrease. Diane said it is going to be incumbent upon the Council to make the case during the legislative session next year that if the programs are going to survive and keep offering the same level of services, not only do they need more funding that at a minimum keeps even with COL, but they need to try to get additional funding for the programs. The Council has to particularly look at how to get funded for prevention and for abusive partner services. If those are not funded with higher funding levels, all they can do is serve victims. While serving victims is critically important, it would be valuable to reduce the victimizations and stop having so many victims in need of services. Diane noted that the Council has the data to justify why more funding is needed.

Legislative Update

Diane Casto reported a busy legislative session with numerous bills focused on improved public safety, improved sexual assault and domestic violence laws, 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. CDVSA received a one-time GF allocation of \$3.5 million to support victim service programs and help fill the gap by decreasing federal VOCA funding. The Council received \$300,000 to provide supplemental fuel and utility funding for funded agencies and \$200,000 to assist in a feasibility study for establishing Family Justice Centers in Alaska as part of the Governor's People First Initiative.

Diane Casto reported that the most pressing issue for CDVSA was the passage of HB 291 introduced by Representative Tarr to extend the termination date of the CDVSA and provide an effective date. Due to last-minute legislative maneuvers, HB 183, an Act to rename the Alaska Criminal Justice Commission to the Alaska Criminal Justice Data Analysis Commission, was added to HB 291. Senate Finance created a substitute 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 it narrowly passed on a floor vote of 21 yeas and 18 nays.

Commissioner Cockrell stated that the Department staunchly opposed the bill and recommended the Governor veto it. Diane added that she assumes the Department strongly supports CDVSA being continued but objects to the addition of HB 183. Commissioner Cockrell said they could not allow legislators to go rogue and try to interfere with a bill intended to extend the termination date of the CDVSA. He noted that if the Governor vetoes it, the Department will go through the process again and make it a clean bill. Commissioner Cockrell added that the legislature has been very supportive of CDVSA and works to ensure that CDVSA gets the funding necessary to provide funds to the grantees. He doesn't foresee that changing, but he does see a shift in the legislature next session, so that it will be a complete learning curve for new legislators. His concern is the way the state budget and state departments are problematic in the fact that they can never count on the amount of funding they will receive. There are continuous ups and downs, which makes it hard to forward the plan. He foresees an election cycle focused on the budget and a push to reduce the budget.

Commissioner Cockrell spoke about the successful passage of the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) bill and the Crisis Now mental health bill. He shared that task forces have discussed the VPSO program that has been struggling for funding over the last few years, and the Department of Public Safety wasn't at the forefront of supporting the program. The Department worked with the Senate and the House to pass the VPSO bill, which gives the Department a lot more flexibility on how they provide grant funding to the VPSOs and how they utilize that grant funding. He noted that the Governor's budget also provided additional money for pay raises for the VPSOs, \$3M in infrastructure support for the VPSO, and ten positions for the VPSOs. DPS is on track to hire approximately 100 new troopers in the next year. The Governor gave the Department about 20 positions. The legislature cut positions going to the Mat-Su Valley from 10 to 3, some of the positions didn't come up with funding, and some positions that

had been filled didn't receive the funding to continue. DPS added tribal liaisons and seven witness/victim coordinators to the Department. Diane Casto remarked that during the outreach with the 229 federally recognized tribes, many comments coming back from rural Alaska were about the lack of law enforcement in rural Alaska, wanting more VPSOs, and wanting a more victim-centered approach to services.

Diane Casto reported that while many important pieces of legislation were introduced and passed, the most important change this legislative session for DV/SA work is updating Alaska's 40-year-old consent law. HB 325 became the vehicle for many important changes to DV/SA laws. Thank you to Representatives Rasmussen and Tarr, who fought to keep this issue at the forefront of the legislative session. The effort to change Alaska's consent laws has been five years in the making. Diane noted that Representative Tarr never wavered and never gave up her fight. It is an important piece of legislation that will improve the way Alaska treats victims of domestic and sexual violence. The effective date for HB 325 is January 1, 2023.

CDVSA Priority Projects Updates

STOP/VAWA Four-Year State Development Plan

The Alaska STOP/VAWA State Implementation Plan was due June 15 along with the FFY 22 Formula Grant application. Diane said the plan was submitted Friday, July 10th, 2022. The Council will continue to look at the data collected during outreach for the STOP/VAWA Plan as it will be helpful to guide other work the Council prioritizes. Diane thanked everyone who had contributed to the plan, including partner agencies, Alaska tribes, other stakeholders, and the public. Diane applauded Ann Rausch for leading the project and spending untold hours writing, wordsmithing, and finalizing the plan. She thanked the board members for their review and approval to move the plan forward.

Perpetrator Rehabilitation Workgroup

The workgroup continues to move forward.

Alaska Sexual Assault Response Leadership Team (ASARLT)

Plans are underway to have a forensic nurse share a demonstration of the tele-support for forensic medicine at the next board meeting.

CDVSA Language Access Plan (LAP)

The staff had made a lot of progress on LAP. Lead staff MaryBeth Gagnon has materials that are being translated and is working on updating the website. The Council is trying to be judicious and not over-translate. Diane noted that many things don't translate well.

Communications, Outreach, and Media

The FY 20-21 CDVSA Bi-Annual Report is complete, and a copy of the electronic report was included in the board packet. It will also be posted on the CDVSA webpage. Copies of the report and a link will be sent to Governor Dunleavy and the Senate President and House Speaker in accordance with AS.18.66.050(10). In the next three to four months, the process will start over again as the goal is to have the FY 2022 Annual Report completed by January 15, 2023.

CDVSA BUDGET REVIEW/FISCAL REPORT SFY 2022 BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES

Marsha Layton directed the members' attention to the budget document included in the board packet and highlighted the following budget information current June 6, 2022:

- Page 1 – Program Budget FY 2022
 - Total budget authority, \$31,975,598
 - State funding authority total, \$12,968,700
 - Federal funding authority, \$19,006,898
 - Total operating budget, not including subawards, \$3,865,997
 - Total program budget, \$20,687,993
 - Total budgeted obligations, \$24,544,990
- Page 2 – Grants Awarded FY 2022
 - Total grant award authority, \$28,092,298
 - Total awarded to programs, \$20,661,690
- Page 3 – Detailed Sub-Award Plan for FY 2022
 - Total amount allocated for sub-awards, \$20,661,690
 - Total amount awarded to subgrantees, \$20,661,690
- Page 4 – Contracts and Services FY 2022
 - Total authority for contracts and services, \$2,548,097
 - Total of contracts and services obligations, \$626,121
- Page 5 – FY 2021 Remaining Balances
 - Total remaining balance across all appropriations, \$7,969,857

PRESENTATION OF RECOMMENDED FY 23 GRANT AWARD ALLOCATIONS

Diane Casto directed the members' attention to the document titled *FY 23 Final Grant Allocation*, which was shared with the board to review in advance of the meeting. She remarked that the proposed grant awards were made with a patchwork budget. Each federal grant has specific criteria for authorized spending. The patchwork of funding includes grant awards for the following areas:

- Victim Services, \$16,790,615
- Enhanced Services for Child Advocacy Centers (ES CAC), \$1,253,619
- Enhanced Services for Mental Health Services (ES MH), \$446,959
- VOCA Enhanced Legal Services, \$750,000
- Community-Based Batterers Intervention Program (BIP), \$262,790
- Prison-Based Batterers Program (PBP), \$113,180
- Prevention, \$1,550,000
- STOP/VAWA, \$309,648

An unidentified council member **MOVED** to accept the FY 23 subgrantee allocation as presented, **SECONDED** by Kami Moore. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion **PASSED**. (7/0)

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF WOMEN IN SAFE HOMES (WISH)

Diane Casto introduced Agnes Moran, the executive director of Women in Safe Homes (WISH), who joined the meeting to share an overview of WISH's programs. Agnes shared a brief history of her work experience and noted that she has been with WISH since January 2017. She highlighted the following information:

WISH Mission:

- Creating a community where everyone has the opportunity to live violence-free.
- WISH was incorporated in 1978.
- The first shelter opened in 1980.
- The new shelter opened in December 2021.
- The service area includes Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Wrangell, Metlakatla, and Prince of Wales Island.

Programs Include:

- Emergency Shelter Program
- Prevention Program
- Community Services
- Child Advocacy Center
- Housing Programs

Why would a domestic violence program be interested in housing issues?

- WISH received funds from the City of Ketchikan to assess the impact of the pandemic on the homeless population because of the increased demand for services. A snapshot of the assessment includes:
 - Violence and homelessness:
 - 65% have been the direct victim of domestic violence
 - 27% have been sexually assaulted
 - 35% were either physically assaulted, sexually assaulted, or both
 - 57% experienced violence as a direct result of being unsheltered.
 - Child advocacy and homelessness:
 - 52% were in foster care
 - 25% were homeless with or without a parent
 - 53% were food insecure
 - 52% were kicked out before the age of 18
 - 38% left where they lived as a youth or child because they were unsafe.

WISH Interpersonal Violence (IPV) Housing Programs:

- Empowering Choice Housing Program (ECHP) Vouchers
 - Five vouchers in Ketchikan, two vouchers in Wrangell
 - Three years of supported housing
 - Generally transition to Alaska Housing Program in two years
- Transitional housing:
 - OVW Grant received in 2020
 - Up to two years of housing assistance
 - Additional advocacy/service support
 - Currently, five individuals/families in housing
- Emergency Solutions Grant – October 2020
 - Rapid Housing/Homeless Prevention

- Six months of rental assistance, including up to three months of back rent/utilities
- Homeless Prevention assisted 45 individuals/28 households in maintaining housing
- Rapid Rehousing worked with 115 individuals/54 households
- Placed 36 individuals/24 households into housing
- Alaska Housing & Stabilization Program – February 2022
 - Up to one year of rental assistance
 - Support for anything that helps participants find and maintain housing
 - Higher level of advocacy support
 - Placed 15 individuals in housing.

Diane Casto requested a copy of the homeless assessment to share with the board. Agnes Moran noted that the overlap between the homeless population and domestic and sexual assault victims is evident.

WISH Child Advocacy Center:

- In October of 2020 WISH was awarded a three-year OVW Rural Grant to open a new CAC facility.
- WISH partnered with the Ketchikan Police Department as a portion of the grant requires providing training for law enforcement.
- In March of 2021 a coordinator was brought on board to manage the project.
- The projected CAC open date is October 2022.
 - Status:
 - The multidisciplinary team formed (MDT)
 - Supplemental agreements made with Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District and Community Connections
 - Met with tribal and community leaders on Prince of Wales and in Metlakatla
 - Partnered with Ketchikan Public Health Center for facility
 - CAC protocols complete with 2023 standards
 - ChildFirst protocol training is scheduled for July 2022.
 - Next steps:
 - MDT is planned for August 2022
 - Working with Alaska Children's Alliance for region-wide ChildFirst training
 - WISH staff training on CAC logistics and protocols
 - Continued advocacy to increase awareness of ways to reduce child maltreatment
 - Continue to strengthen partnerships with the regional network of law enforcement, medical, behavioral health professionals, and the Office of Children's Services.

Hailey Beard, WISH Shelter Manager, shared the following information about WISH's shelter services:

- Core services include:

- Emergency 24/7 shelter
- Gender-neutral 30-bed facility
- 24-hour crisis hotline
- SART and CCR intervention
- Individual
- Systems advocacy
- Legal advocacy
- Educational support
- Individuals served in the past quarter included:
 - 144 individuals received 4,184 nights of safe shelter
 - 228 individuals received in-person crisis intervention services
 - 326 individuals received advocacy services
 - WISH staff provided on-scene crisis response 38 times
 - 86 individuals participated in counseling with the WISH legal advocate

Hailey Beard reported that the intersection of domestic violence, homelessness, and housing insecurity is undeniable as a lack of safe and affordable housing is often reported as one of the barriers survivors of domestic violence face when they choose to leave an abusive partner. WISH offers up to 90 days of shelter. She reported that 43 participants received relocation assistance from WISH.

Safety Planning:

- Safety planning is a comprehensive plan that will keep an individual safer whether they stay or leave.
- 228 individuals did safety planning 1,564 times with a WISH advocate.

Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)

- The Coordinated Community Response (CCR) Steering Committee includes WISH, KPD, AST, District Attorney's Office, and PeaceHealth ER.
- WISH advocates accompanied 27 victims to law enforcement interviews.

Educational support groups include:

- House meetings once a week.
- "In Our Power" Domestic Violence 101 Educational Support Group.
- Substance Abuse Education and Counseling Hour.
- "Harvest for Healing" Tribal DV Group.
 - (Note: All supplies and childcare included)
- 71 individuals attended group 163 times.
- Staff is offered in-person training two times a week in collaboration with WISH's prevention department and community partners.

Systems Advocacy:

- Challenging victim blaming
- Changing how individuals understand themselves in relation to the problem
- Deterring individuals from harming others
- Changing how public institutions intervene in cases related to DV/SA.

Day Services:

- 108 individuals received support from the crisis hotline 283 times.
- WISH staff provided on-scene crisis response 21 times.
- 29 individuals received support filing a protective order.

Community Food Programs:

- WISH receives funding and commodities from Food Banks of America and The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). WISH's program started during the pandemic.
- Open to the whole community.
- Boxes delivered to homes once a month.
- Available all month/when needed.
- In the shelter, three meals provided.
- WISH gave emergency financial support to 209 participants 2,761 times.

Legal Advocacy:

- WISH's legal advocate is a licensed attorney in Alaska and can provide:
 - General information about criminal and civil legal systems
 - Accompaniment to court proceedings
 - Assistance filing for all types of protective orders
 - Assistance with family law matters
 - Navigating the criminal justice system
 - Assistance filing for a Violent Crimes Compensation Board claim.
- 104 participants received legal advocacy.

Adrienne Gaines, WISH Children's Clinician, shared the following information related to:

School-Based Mental Health Support Programs:

- The secondary program launched in the fall of 2020 and is funded through an Enhanced Services Grant from CDVSA.
- The elementary program launched in the fall of 2021 and is funded through OVW Consolidated Youth and Engaged Men Grant Program.
- Both grants are a partnership between WISH, Ketchikan Indian Community, and Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District.

Program Services:

- Weekly counseling for children and youth who are the direct and indirect victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, teen dating violence, and stalking.
- Culturally responsible and trauma-informed mental health services.
- Educator training on ACEs, trauma-informed practices, and other relevant topics that support student mental health.

Approach to mental health support:

- Counselors and BHAs work collaboratively to help kids develop responsive treatments.
- Collaborate with school staff to identify students exposed to violence.
- Offer full family support through collaboration with other WISH programs.

Addressing barriers to mental health care:

- Services are free and received during the school day.
- Program staff collaborate with school districts to support a more trauma-responsive school environment and can plan with educators to support students exposed to violence.
- Program MOUs include systemic/policy change work within the school district, including increasing access to prevention education and staff training.

Utilization for the 2021- 2022 school year:

- Secondary schools, 149 sessions
- Elementary schools, 288 sessions
- Educator training, 16 sessions total across all elementary, middle, and high schools

Adrienne Gaines shared the following information related to WISH Child and Family Services:

Program overview:

- Funded through a four-year demonstration project in partnership with the Administration for Children & Families and Futures Without Violence.
- Funding supports one full-time counselor, 1.5 family support specialists, and one family case manager.
- The services include individual and family counseling, case management, parenting classes, family support, and funding for individual client needs.

Program goals:

- Help non-abusing caregivers maintain protective bonds with their children.
- Assist families in permanently exiting violence.
- End the intergenerational cycles of violence through consistent, supportive services for the entire family.

Highlights of the last year include:

- Over 400 adults and youth attended community-based, culturally responsive activities.
- 90 case management sessions.
- 40 adults enrolled in the community and family services program.

JD Martin, WISH Prevention and Education Coordinator, shared an overview of FY 2022 WISH Prevention and Education activities as follows:

Youth programming:

- Collaborates with the WISH Enhanced Services Program.
- WISH facilitates Alaska Safe Children's Act presentations in every school in the district.
- 600 in-class presentations facilitated by WISH staff.
- 94% of ninth graders reported that the presentations improved their knowledge of the warning signs of teen dating violence.

Bystander Intervention Program:

- 17 teens trained in bystander intervention.

Teen dating and health relationships

- In 2021, WISH launched Ketchikan Youth Peer Education (KYPE). Five peer education youth interns have been trained to teach healthy relationship lessons in high school.
- KYPE facilitated or helped facilitate 18 sessions in the 9th grade health class.
- Four to 12 youth routinely participate in the Ketchikan Youth Alliance (KYA), which is a collaboration with the Ketchikan Wellness Coalition.

- WISH helped facilitate 30 KYA meetings in FY 22. KYA hosted a Halloween Festival attended by 300+ children and families.
- In February. 39 teens participated in “In Their Shoes,” hosted by KYA and KYPE.

JD Martin reported that in the summer of '21, WISH partnered with Residential Youth Care's Ketchikan After School Program to host a summer season of Girls on the Run and Let Me Run in their summer program. Ten boys participated in the summer season of Let Me Run, and eight girls participated in the middle school version of Girls on the Run. This was the first successful middle school version of either program in Ketchikan. JD reported that in the spring of '22, WISH was able to host an elementary season of Girls on the Run and Let Me Run for the first time since 2019. JD noted that this year, there were 13 volunteer coaches and 34 girls who participated in Girls on the Run, ten coaches and 12 boys who participated in Let Me Run, and 127 people attended the end of the season 5K at Ward Lake.

JD Martin reported that WISH is able to provide its prevention programming through a variety of smaller grants from several agencies including Alaska Children's Trust, Alaska Travel Industry Association Foundation, Royal Caribbean International, and Ketchikan Community Foundation.

JD Martin reported that the Revilla Island Resilience Initiative (RIRI) was founded in FY 18 to prevent childhood trauma and promote community healing through collective action. It houses a prevention workgroup that helps WISH meet CDVSA's requirement of establishing or enhancing a community-based coalition. In FY 21, RIRI completed a community primary prevention plan by collecting feedback from community partners and information on existing programs. The goals created in the prevention plan include:

- Increase youth in Ketchikan's feeling of connectedness to their family or another caring adult.
- Increase opportunities for Ketchikan youth to connect with or become positive peer role models.
- Provide opportunities for children, youth, and adults to engage in meaningful activities.
- Support children, youth, and adults who experience trauma and promote resiliency.
- Increase individuals' and families' ability to connect with local resources to help alleviate the effect of poverty.
- Increase children, youth, and adults' ability to connect with others in time of need.

The steering committee created a new strategic plan that includes:

- Advocating through systemic change through policy
- Increasing access to safe, stable, and affordable housing
- Supporting ongoing efforts to establish comprehensive behavioral health crisis response
- Improve access to and availability of community services
- Support the transformation of the school district into a trauma-informed district
- Increase access to and availability of family support resources
- Build a trauma-informed community through education.

Professional training in FY 22 included:

- WISH offers training to other agencies in the community who request it.
- Collaborate with the Enhanced Services team to provide training to school staff
- Facilitated five trainings for the school district.
- Topics included impacts of domestic violence on children, LGBTQ+ terms and identifies, and teen dating violence.
- WISH provided trainings to the Ketchikan Indian Community (KIC) and public health on bystander intervention and LGBTQ+ terms and identities.

Awareness activities included:

- Approximately 40 people attended Steps for Change in collaboration with KIC.
- Approximately 100 community members attended WISH events in general, including the open house for the new shelter.
- WISH prevention and advocates were featured on Ketchikan Daily News and other media.
- KYPE interns hosted a Wear Orange Day at Ketchikan High School.
- WISH supported awareness events hosted by community partners.

Support for outlying communities includes:

- Staff from Prevention, Shelter, and Family Services Departments traveled to the region and discussed WISH services with SEARHC, Hydaburg Cooperative Association, and Community Connections.
- WISH hung informational flyers in regions they visited.
- WISH staff from Prevention, Family Services, and Child Advocacy Programs traveled to Metlakatla and provided class lessons on teen dating violence and healthy relationships to middle and high school students.
- WISH collaborated with Wrangell Cooperative Association (WCA) to write an Indian Health Services Grant to create a full-time Violence Prevention Specialist position in Wrangell.
- WCA received \$1M to begin a domestic violence program for the entire community. The program will work to create a coordinated community response to violence and lay the foundation for a victim services program in Wrangell

Diane Casto shared the Council's appreciation for the work WISH does in the region, especially the prevention efforts.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO KETCHIKAN INDIAN COMMUNITY (KIC)

Lynn Quan, Ketchikan Indian Community's social services director, joined the meeting and shared the following information:

- KIC has been a funded program since 1997.
- KIC was one of the first tribes in Alaska to operate its own victim services program.

Crimes KIC serves include:

- Domestic violence, sexual violence, human trafficking, stalking, robbery, DWI/DUI crash, property crime, identify theft, elder abuse, teen dating violence, arson, financial crime, cybercrime, consumer crime, hate crime, and bullying.

KIC mission:

- It's the mission of the Victim Services Program to uphold Ketchikan Indian Community Tribal values while providing comprehensive, coordinated services to

ensure the safety and restoration of all crime victims within the community of Ketchikan, Saxman, Metlakatla, and Prince of Wales Island.

KIC vision:

- Direct service
- Partnership with those who interact with victims and offenders
- Collaborative systems between victim and resource
- Accessible, trauma-informed, wrap-around services
- Promote community healing
- Ensure safer communities.

Who they serve:

- All genders
- All sexes
- All races
- All ethnicities
- All Tribal
- All non-Tribal
- All religions/spiritualties
- All abilities/disabilities
- All ages
- All sexualities

What services are offered:

- Victim-centered case management
- Safety planning
- Crisis intervention
- Court accompaniment
- Law enforcement accompaniment
- Clinic/hospital accompaniment
- Community resources
- Domestic/sexual violence advocacy
- Legal support
- Healing through cultural practices
- Support groups
- Transportation
- Emergency/lethality relocation
- Safe visit/exchange
- Connections to behavioral health
- Well-rounded advocacy

Batterers' Intervention Program:

- The curriculum used is *Moral Reconation Therapy*
- Referrals come from the court system and self-referred
- Measure program effectiveness through participant engagement and use of the program by the community
- Victim safety is made through consistent contact with victims
- BIP Program uses best practices, leans into personal beliefs and cycles of violence, offers a tribal perspective on domestic violence, and offers optional payment methods such as community services hours and harvests gathered for victim services and the Elders Program.

Challenges KIC faces include:

- Confidence in the efficacy of BIPs
- Significant decline in referrals and participants
- Urgent need for BIPs in neighboring rural communities
- Obstacles of being on an island
- Transportation due to inclement weather
- Financial barriers for potential program participants
- Communication (internet accessibility and poor phone signal)

- Global pandemic/COVID-19
- Technology challenges
- Critical disparity: Lack of resources for BIPs, lack of investment in perpetrators' rehabilitation and restoration to the community.

KIC's future vision:

- More media
- Informational presentations to law enforcement, court systems, and communities
- Expansion of BIPs to surrounding rural communities
- Collaboration with rural community domestic violence programs for intervention, prevention, and education
- Adaption with environmental changes (COVID-19)
- Facilitator education
- Implement best practices, research BIP options

Harvesting for Healing:

- The healing aspect of harvesting is well-known to improve both physical and mental health in survivors of all crimes. Connecting to the land and the traditional ways is now viewed as a best practice among tribal and western cultures.
- KIC hosts an annual Traditional Plants and Foods Symposium. CDVSA STOP Grant funding was instrumental in supporting the event.

The interconnectedness:

- The funding provided to KIC by CDVSA supplements the program resources and enhances the services they can provide in the community. The funding KIC receives for the BIP and the STOP Grant helps with Harvest for Healing and BIPs.

Missing and murdered indigenous people epidemic:

- KIC is making active strides to hold those stories from those families and hopefully help them through the justice process. KIC hosts the #MMIW event as launching of awareness in Ketchikan. Many community leaders and stakeholders attended this year's event at Ward Lake.

Teen dating violence awareness:

- In February of '22, KIC hosted a "Stand Against Teen Dating Violence" event. There were approximately 20 students involved.
- KIC provides a teen dating violence curriculum annually, and they vary the focus to keep the material fresh and relevant.

Q&A

Q: How extensively do you use your healers in the programs at KIC?

A: Some elders provide mentorship services, and KIC is looking at expanding what they ascribe to as significant meaning and purpose behind traditional medicine. It would be fantastic if they could afford to have a traditional healer on staff full time. KIC is growing its own in some capacity. It is something very important to KIC.

Q: Is KIC doing Harvesting for Healing this year?

A: Yes, every Friday.

Q: Is KIC doing the plant symposium?

A: KIC lost the program coordinator and is not doing it this year.

Diane Casto commented that the cultural programming at KIC is innovative and is something many rural communities could embrace. She noted that CDVSA is changing the STOP funding approach for the cultural set-aside, and these types of programs could be something that could be duplicated statewide.

Diane Casto said that with regards to the BIP program, CDVSA has a workgroup that's looking at the whole approach to BIP because referrals are down, lack of buy-in, and their belief that this is a program that makes a change. They are trying to make a case for the value of evidence-informed services and the need to revamp the program. She noted that it is vital that if there's going to be an end to domestic violence, they can't just focus on victims. They need to also focus on prevention and serving those who use violence in relationships, and they are not doing enough of that.

PREPARATION FOR KETCHIKAN COMMUNITY DIALOGUE ON DV, SA, AND OTHER VIOLENT CRIME

Diane Casto shared an overview of the plans for the community dialogue. She noted that the community dialogue is an opportunity for the board to listen to the community's concerns related to domestic violence/sexual assault, law enforcement, services, or the court system.

KETCHIKAN COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

CDVSA hosted the Ketchikan Community Dialogue at the Ted Ferry Civic Center, 888 Venetia Avenue, Ketchikan, Alaska from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

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

**CDVSA Quarterly Council Board Meeting
Annual Outreach Meeting - Ketchikan
FY 2022 Quarter 4
June 15 – 16, 2022**

Location:

Ted Ferry Civic Center
888 Venetia Avenue
Ketchikan, Alaska

Thursday, June 16, 2022

Board Members Present:

Angela Garay, Chair
Lydia Heyward
Laura Brooks
Jillian Gellings
Commissioner James Cockrell
Kami Moore
Blaze Bell
Ryon Turley

Staff:

Diane Casto, Executive Director
Margie Hamburger
MaryBeth Gagnon
Marsha Layton
Ann Rausch
Meggie Stogner
Catherine Mohn
Ella Nierra

Minutes prepared by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

Diane Casto called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established.

ANDVSA REPORT TO CDVSA

Brenda Stanfill, ANDVSA's Executive Director, joined the meeting and shared the following update:

Federal legislation:

- VAWA passed, and the Network will receive an update from Senator Murkowski's staff in August. One of the things they are doing for the Network is they are reviewing every grant that is available where the network of programs can work out who could potentially apply, what partnerships they need to work on in their community and look at maximizing the federal dollars that could be brought into the state to address the issue of domestic violence and sexual assault and have a coordinated approach to it throughout the programs.

Federal appropriations in the proposed federal budget:

- SASP from \$54M to \$100M (formula funding)
- Culturally Specific Services from \$10M to \$35M
- Civil Legal Assistance from \$50M to \$100M
- Transitional Housing from \$43M to \$100M
- Engaging Men and Youth, not currently funded, move to \$10M
- Restorative Justice from \$11M to \$25M
- Direct Cash Assistance, not currently funded, move to \$8M

Brenda Stanfill shared the following information on the Network's Operating Board:

- Meets in August, November, and March (possibly June)
- Strategic planning year for FY 24 through FY 28:
 - Revisit membership
 - Identify what's important
 - Define what they must achieve
 - Determine who will be achieving it
 - Determine what funding will be needed to achieve the goals
 - Set up a review process to ensure they are achieving the outcomes desired.
 - Note: ANDVSA's goal is that the strategic plan will complement CDVSA's strategic plan.

Successes:

- Rapid Housing, Housing Assistance
- Providing transportation
- Assistance with childcare.

Challenges:

- Staffing
- Lack of service providers in rural Alaska
- Adults with disabilities
- Youth with problematic sexual behaviors
- Lack of housing – much less affordable.

Programs offered by the Network:

Advocacy initiative

- Research project: Practicum student working on identifying barriers preventing someone from accessing services.
 - General community stigma for seeking help for DV/SA
 - Religious beliefs
 - Stigma for male victims
 - History of discrimination towards LGBTQ+

- Victims are not aware of the available services
 - Victims think DV/SA services will be too costly.
- DART ECHO (Disability Abuse Response Team Extension for Community Health Outcomes).
- Participating in the Sexual Assault Leadership Team (SALT)
- Online Advocacy Training
 - 60 Network staff members
 - 46 other first responders
- Looking for a national curriculum for conducting exams with victims of domestic violence
- Sexual Assault Specialist position open, applications received
- Mobile Services Specialist position open
- Network Chats hosted monthly on a variety of topics
- State's SNAP, COVID-19 and other health-related concerns, and staff wellness and retention
- Traumatic Brain Injury response partnership with the Center for Human Development
 - Review existing TBI/DV screening tools and resources
 - Developing/adapting tools
 - Provide resources to Alaska DV/SA programs.
 - Train on TBI competencies, screening, and accommodations
- Starting Phase 2 of the Rural Grant
 - Selecting three sites to work on equity issues.

Prevention:

- Focus on regrouping the Pathways to Prevention
 - Alaska is engaged in addressing the root causes of violence and the promotion of equity
 - Alaskan youth are leaders in the promotion of healthy relationships
 - Alaskan youth have the social and emotional skills needed to live a safe and healthy life
 - Alaskan communities are engaged in supporting the social and structural environments that promote healthy relationships
 - Alaskan males are important in the promotion of healthy relationships and healthy gender identity across the state
 - Alaska has a sustained infrastructure to coordinate domestic violence, teen dating violence, sexual assault, and ACEs prevention efforts.

Legal

- Pro Bono & Low-Bono Program:
 - Fifty open low-bono contracts serving clients all around the state.
- Violent Crimes Compensation Board (VCCB) challenges:
 - Long waits for decisions
 - Non-responsiveness at times
 - Problems for victims having to “pay first” and get reimbursed.
- Trial Delays - Continue to hear from victims about their pain in waiting on criminal trials that have been delayed for two to three years.
- The Network will be re-engaging with technical assistance and training for legal advocates in the upcoming year.

Emerging Program – Leadership

- Core training for executive directors in leadership
- Core training in the area of diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Creating a training team using statewide expertise
- Creating a team of mentors
- Participating in the BIP planning work
- Participating in the Engaging Men work

Brenda Stanfill expressed the Network's appreciation to CDVSA and the Department of Public Safety for the following benefits:

- Shifting to an electronic grant system
- Advocating for sustained funding and bringing attention to the gap in future years
- Bringing a focus on the issues
- Creating a pain-free way to ensure programs had extra utility funds
- Supporting the programs to be the best they can be
- Flexibility.

Angela Garay remarked that it was a fantastic presentation. She shared that sometimes the work seems overwhelming, but then she sees the mass efforts on the part of programs and partners, which is hopeful. She is very excited about what's happening with the legal program. From her experience with victims, it is a huge need, and having low and pro bono is fantastic.

Laura Brooks emphasized Brenda Stanfill's point on staff wellness. Much of the focus is on direct services. More attention needs to be directed to the well-being of staff.

Diane Casto expressed the Council's appreciation for the Network. The Council appreciates the partnership and relationship with the Network.

COMMENTS AND CLOSING REMARKS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Angela Garay opened the floor for closing remarks from board members. A summary of comments follows:

Angela Garay appreciated the board's patience while she learned how to chair the meeting. She is excited about the work that's being done in Ketchikan. As she sat through meetings over the years, there was an overwhelming feeling when she thought about the work needed to turn the ship and conquer the demons of domestic violence, sexual assault, and abuse in Alaska. She is much more hopeful after seeing what the Network, the programs in Ketchikan, state law enforcement, and other departments are doing.

Blaze Bell remarked that she was glad to be in person in Ketchikan and shared that it's been extremely helpful for her to understand what CDVSA does. She said it is a tremendous honor to be a part of the board.

Commissioner Cockrell thanked everyone for their dedication and hard work on a very important issue that plagues Alaska. He hopes there will be a time when Alaska won't need the Council. He noted that dedicated work will undoubtedly make a difference.

Lydia Heyward shared that she enjoyed the meeting and was glad that the first in-person meeting in a while was in Ketchikan. She said she looked forward to the next in-person meeting.

Kami Moore thanked both WISH and KIC for their presentations and their hospitality. She said that they often are removed from communities, and it was nice to see how much the programming has expanded and the hard work being done. She said it was great to see the educational side and the work being done with the youth, and she hopes the Department of Education can support that work. She thanked the Council staff for pulling everything together and making it easier for the board to prepare for the meeting.

Ryon Turley echoed the sentiments. He appreciated the presentations and has a better understanding of the amount of effort that's put into the programs to end domestic violence. He is looking forward to areas he can contribute, and he appreciates the opportunity to network with individuals.

Diane Casto shared an update that the budget has been transmitted to the Governor, and the Governor has until July 8th to sign it. It is anticipated that it will be signed by July 1st. She thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Diane noted that the community dialogue went very well. She will be putting together some recommendations for the FY 23 quarterly virtual meeting in September.

ADJOURNMENT

Angela Garay asked for a motion to adjourn. Unidentified Council members **MOVED** and **SECONDED** to adjourn. The motion **PASSED**.

VISIT TO WISH

CDVSA board, guests, and staff traveled to tour the WISH facility and meet with staff.

VISIT TO KIC

CDVSA board, guests, and staff traveled to tour the KIC facility and meet with staff.

COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

LOCATION:
Ted Ferry Civic Center
888 Venetia Avenue
Ketchikan, Alaska

PUBLIC COMMENT

Wednesday, June 15, 2022
11:00 a.m.

ROUGH DRAFT TRANSCRIPT
Pages 1 - 20, inclusive

Committee Members Present:

Angela Garay, Chair
Lydia Heyward
Laura Brooks
Jillian Gellings
Commissioner James Cockrell
Kami Moore
Blaze Bell

Staff:

Diane Casto, Executive Director
Margie Hamburger
MaryBeth Gagnon
Marsha Layton
Ann Rausch
Meggie Stogner
Catherine Mohn
Ella Nierra

Reported by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

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

2 ANGELA GARAY: Okay. Public comment.

3 DIANE CASTO: Public comment.

4 ANGELA GARAY: So do we have anyone
5 wishing to make a public comment that's present here
6 or online? Anyone online that would like to make
7 public comment, then raise your hand. I'm not seeing
8 anyone. Oh, we do have one. Laura Held (ph).

9 LAURA HELD: Yes.

10 ANGELA GARAY: Would you like to make a
11 public comment?

12 LAURA HELD: Yes. I was a victim of
13 domestic violence in September of 2019. My husband
14 choked me, and after -- I'm an educated woman, I have
15 a good job, a professional job, and I found the
16 justice system very difficult as a woman, as a victim.
17 I received a lot of help from Victims for Justice,
18 which kept me sane and told me how things really
19 worked.

20 And I don't know how to explain it. It
21 was very disappointing and very -- being a victim is
22 very difficult. Being a DV and trying to get divorced
23 is impossible. And even though I'm an intelligent
24 woman, I found the justice system to be very, very
25 complicated. How about -- is that a fair word?

1 And I found during my divorce
2 proceedings that, you know, we couldn't proceed with
3 the divorce because of 5th Amendment rights and so on
4 and so forth. It escalated costs, used the divorce to
5 gain access for the criminal.

6 And then after five district attorneys,
7 they pled it down to a misdemeanor. After I'd say
8 two-and-a-half-years -- over two-and-a-half-years,
9 I've had to deal with my case being not transferred
10 and misplaced. I've had to deal with notifying the
11 District Attorney's Office that there was bail
12 modification hearings, because they didn't know or
13 have the paperwork, even though it was on CourtView.

14 So anything I can do to help raise
15 awareness, I would like that opportunity, if that
16 makes any sense. That's all. Or if there's any
17 questions.

18 DIANE CASTO: May I just make a comment?
19 I actually communicated with Laura recently and
20 encouraged her to speak with us today.

21 Laura, I don't know if you've been on
22 the line for a while, I don't know if you heard the
23 commissioner talk about the new Victim -- what are
24 calling them, Commissioner?

25 COMMISSIONER COCKRELL: Victim/Witness

1 Coordinator.

2 DIANE CASTO: Victim/Witness
3 Coordinators, were you able to listen to him talk
4 about those at all?

5 LAURA HELD: No, huh-uh. I just joined
6 in for the conversation, I mean, at 11. Sorry.

7 DIANE CASTO: That's all right. I
8 will -- I will share -- since I do have your contact
9 information, I'll share with you.

10 LAURA HELD: Okay.

11 DIANE CASTO: But there has been some
12 legislative movement this year that is -- they're
13 going to -- within the Department of Public Safety
14 have victim/witness advocates.

15 LAURA HELD: Yeah. I just found
16 honestly being a victim and my victim's rights were, I
17 hate to say it, check boxes that people did, but I
18 don't think people under -- it's just very
19 complicated. And, yeah, and nobody wants to speak the
20 truth, I guess. I guess that's part of the problem.

21 So okay, you can share that with me.
22 Thank you.

23 DIANE CASTO: Thank you so much.

24 BLAZE BELL: Hi, Laura, this is Blaze.
25 My name is Blaze Bell, and I'm on this Council. I

1 just want to say thank you for sharing this with us.
2 I am here as a victim advocate, someone who has been
3 through the justice system as well as a sexual assault
4 victim, and complicated is putting it very nicely. At
5 the very least it was that. So I just want to say
6 that I am with you.

7 And there are so many great
8 organizations that are doing their part, but it's a
9 very, very complex system to understand, and it was
10 very clear to me that victim's rights were not clearly
11 understood by just about anybody. So I was really
12 excited today to hear, too, that they are going to be
13 creating these new positions and hopefully bridging
14 that gaps so that there's someone out there who can
15 give a lot of clear answers to victims who are going
16 through this.

17 So I'm with you, and I just really
18 appreciate you taking the time to share that with us
19 and that you want to help others. So, thank you.

20 LAURA HELD: Yes.

21 ANGELA GARAY: Anyone else who would
22 like to make a comment concerning Laura's statements?
23 Okay.

24 Eileen, did you want to make comments as
25 well?

1 EILEEN ARNOLD: Can you all hear me?

2 ANGELA GARAY: Yes.

3 EILEEN ARNOLD: Okay, good. I was
4 having some technical difficulties this morning.

5 I'm Eileen Arnold from the Tundra
6 Women's Coalition in Bethel, and I'd just like to take
7 this opportunity to tell you what's going on out here.

8 One thing that's going really well,
9 though not without problems, is our multi-disciplinary
10 partnerships that, first of all, is seeing an
11 expansion of SART. So that it's not just in our
12 Bethel community, so not that everybody in our region,
13 which is an area the size of Oregon, has to come here
14 to Bethel, we are expanding it so that people can be
15 seen in their subregional clinics.

16 And I know that the state is attempting
17 to do the same thing, and I'm eager to get some of our
18 people at that table to find out how that's going.
19 It's my understanding that it maybe hasn't launched
20 yet. And while we have launched, we've certainly run
21 into every sort of problem along the way. We've
22 learned a lot, and we are eager to share that and also
23 see, I don't know, what other people are thinking and
24 doing. Because our expansion is under a federal grant
25 that has, you know, another year to it, I think -- no,

1 two years. And as that funding runs out, we obviously
2 want to keep this initiative going and continue to
3 expand and enhance it, and we're going to need money
4 for that in, like, two years or so. So I hope the
5 State of Alaska is considering that.

6 I know the State of Alaska is interested
7 in that, and we have a lot of -- we have a lot of
8 experience now in what works and what has not worked
9 and in what is complicated and what is difficult, and
10 I just want to be able to share that.

11 Along the same lines, we've launched an
12 Advocate-Initiated Response for when people don't need
13 shelter, but there is a law enforcement response
14 because of domestic violence. We've been able to
15 successfully launch that locally with Bethel Police
16 Department. We are attempting to do that with the
17 troopers as well, although obviously it takes longer
18 to get a signature and get that stuff launched.

19 The whole reason we started that and
20 also the tele-safe expansion is, you know, famously in
21 Bethel, everybody -- you're on jury duty once a year,
22 because there's so few people. Everybody, you know,
23 jury duty, it's once a year. You know, we started
24 these initiatives just because we noticed it's all
25 domestic and sexual violence cases and, you know, we

1 weren't necessarily familiar with those cases. So we
2 wanted to make sure that we're -- as long as people
3 wanted the services, that they had access to it.

4 So I'm on grand jury again this month,
5 it's my annual service. I'm happy to say that it
6 seems like we are engaged with many more of the cases
7 than we have been in the past. So I think that our
8 outreach is working, and I really want to highlight
9 our excellent partnerships as part of the reason.

10 And the things that are really
11 complicated here, first of all, are, like, facilities
12 management. And I'm actually going to speak on behalf
13 of Joann at Emmonak Women's Shelters as well. It
14 takes so long to fix things here, because there's very
15 few people who are licensed and insured to, you know,
16 be an electrician, for instance, or to work on these
17 types of, like, smart buildings. When things are
18 broken here, they stay broken for a very long time.
19 And part of that is because of, like, the supply chain
20 and stuff. But the amount of effort to get people out
21 here to fix something or the amount of effort to, you
22 know, find somebody here who can fix something is
23 really -- it takes up so much time, so much time.

24 And, you know, agencies like this,
25 shelters like this are just used really hard because

1 of people living here and everything. So it's so much
2 work.

3 And I was on the phone with Joann
4 yesterday who was just so frustrated about her
5 internet access and her phone access. And while we
6 were on the phone, like, she kept clicking in and out
7 and dropping in and out. And she was just -- she was
8 calling me to just see what the e-mails were about.
9 Like, she had received e-mails from Diane and she had
10 received e-mails from Brenda, and she was like, "I
11 can't open them or it takes forever, like, what do I
12 need to know about?"

13 And, you know, I hope that there are
14 some solutions and/or rural-oriented plans about
15 communication, because, you know, the people who are
16 the furthest out have just -- are the most isolated.
17 They just know the least of what's going on and are --
18 it appears that they're non-responsive, but it's
19 because they are not getting the e-mails.

20 And again, even when Joann is calling
21 me, because I was wondering like, should I just call
22 her every time I get an e-mail from CDVSA or ANDVSA to
23 let her know what's going on? Which would be a big
24 use of my time as well. And even the phone is, like,
25 dropping in and out or going direct to voicemail, so

1 that's a huge frustration for her and for me as well.
2 And I hope there's some solution on that. And if no
3 solutions are there, then just acknowledgment of it.

4 I would say also, like, this new
5 GrantVantage system, like, it takes me a really long
6 time. Because of my internet access, it takes me a
7 really long time to open the thing, and get the code,
8 and enter the code, and open -- you know, we have five
9 grants with CDVSA right now to do these monthly
10 reports. I understand why CDVSA has chosen to do
11 this, but it is so much of my time. I feel like I'm a
12 full time grant manager, and that's, like, all I can
13 be doing when what I want to be doing is working on
14 these tele-safe expansions, working on these
15 Advocate-Initiated Responses, working on training our
16 staff and coming up with innovations and stuff. And
17 again, I understand why these decisions have been
18 made, but it's so much time. It's so much time
19 especially for people who have limited internet
20 access.

21 And I just wanted to say that. Thank
22 you.

23 ANGELA GARAY: Questions from Council
24 members?

25 DIANE CASTO: I have a quick question.

1 Eileen, what did you call the program, the outreach
2 program? You had a name and I didn't catch it.

3 Eileen ARNOLD: Advocated-Initiated
4 Response, AIR. It's just basically if law enforcement
5 shows up to a DV call anywhere -- and we've only got
6 it with Bethel right now. So if BPD shows up to a
7 domestic violence call, they give a particular set of
8 instructions to victims that -- to see if they can
9 release their name to us, and then we call BPD and
10 say, "Hey, what happened this last weekend or last
11 night? Do you have anybody for the Advocate-Initiated
12 Response?" And then we call them, because not
13 everybody needs shelter.

14 So this is -- this is just like making
15 sure that victims are connected to resources and
16 services past that initial law enforcement response if
17 they want that.

18 DIANE CASTO: Thank you. I really
19 appreciate that, and I love that idea.

20 So I do have one other comment. And I
21 don't know if you can answer this for me, but we keep
22 hearing -- we, in urban world, we keep hearing that
23 oh, oh, they are working on getting better access,
24 internet access in rural Alaska. Are they really? I
25 mean, is there a plan, do you know? Because we hear

1 that they are -- they, I don't even know who "they"
2 is, but we always hear well, they are working on it
3 and they're trying to get -- you know, making sure
4 that our rural communities have access to internet,
5 but clearly you're internet is not getting better.

6 So I'm just curious what you hear from
7 your perspective.

8 EILEEN ARNOLD: We hear the same things.
9 And I've been hearing that the whole -- I think the
10 latest update I heard is there is supposed to be a new
11 internet carrier out here, but they've diverted to
12 Ukraine. So that's just what the Facebook community
13 tells me.

14 I feel like I've been hearing my whole
15 time here in Bethel that we're going to get a
16 different internet carrier, and I don't think that
17 it's happening. And I don't know who is in control of
18 that. I don't keep careful watch on that. Our
19 internet is not as bad a Emmonak or Hooper Bay, for
20 instance, but there are -- I've certainly noticed it
21 with the GrantVantage. I feel like I wait a really
22 long time for that. And I just think it's maybe
23 important for CDVSA to know, like, in communication
24 with those very rural communities.

25 Maybe just out here in my region, I

1 don't know what it's like in the other super remote
2 places of Alaska, but, I don't know, you might need to
3 find a different way of doing things if you find that
4 you are not getting appropriate response to e-mails or
5 whatever.

6 DIANE CASTO: Thank you. And again, I
7 think that is something we will definitely, as a
8 staff, talk about and try to come up with at least a
9 plan for how we will respond so that when we send
10 those e-mails out, we can have the program
11 coordinators always do a follow-up phone call just to
12 see.

13 We don't even -- for instance, Joann's,
14 I don't get a kickback from her, but probably because
15 they are not even going anywhere. So usually, if an
16 e-mail doesn't make it, I get a kickback e-mail, but
17 certainly not -- not from Joann. So it's totally a
18 problem. We will talk internally about how we might
19 be able to at least have some alternative ways to
20 mitigate that problem.

21 EILEEN ARNOLD: I think it's taking days
22 is what she told me, because she did just call me
23 yesterday about this meeting today that she had just
24 heard about, and I think it had taken days for her to
25 get it. And also some of it was being diverted to

1 spam, so, you know, we talked about, like, marking
2 things as not spam or whatever. But I think it's just
3 that she's not getting -- it's taking a really long
4 time.

5 DIANE CASTO: Yes. Thank you. That
6 helps. And we definitely will have an internal
7 conversation and try to find out what we can do to
8 assist. Thank you.

9 ANGELA GARAY: Anyone else online who
10 would like to make a public comment, raise your hand
11 or in another way let us know. I'm not hearing from
12 anybody.

13 Anyone present?

14 DIANE CASTO: Hailey, why don't you come
15 over here so you can speak to the --

16 HAILEY BEARD: My name is Hailey Beard,
17 and I'm the shelter manager for WISH here in
18 Ketchikan. Thank you guys for all being here.

19 An unmet need that we've seen time and
20 time again is BIP addressing the way that women use
21 violence. And in the past, I worked for Ketchikan
22 Indian Community under their BIP Program, and a lot of
23 times we get referrals for women in the court system,
24 from public defenders and the judges, and it was a lot
25 of times that victims, you know, that had been

1 victimized over and over again until the point where
2 they started using violence to address their situation
3 and that led them into being labeled as perpetrators
4 in the court system.

5 I don't think necessarily battering is,
6 like, the term to be used in that sense. And I know a
7 lot of times we, like, stray away from labeling women
8 as that, but just as we move forward with -- like, our
9 facility here in Ketchikan is gender neutral, and we
10 do provide services to the whole community. That's
11 just come up time and time again in our educational
12 support groups that we offer.

13 And we've seen, too, people, you know,
14 in group not being able to address the healing process
15 just because they are so frustrated and that anger
16 kind of -- you know, once you start talking about it,
17 it's like suddenly this floodgate.

18 And so we know that it's like -- you
19 know, these are people with really high numbers of
20 ACEs, and we're seeing where this violence is coming
21 from, and that they are using it a lot differently
22 than people who may be labeled as batterers, and maybe
23 the MRT that they were using, like, in the BIP program
24 to address it.

25 But I'm just wondering if there's, like,

1 any in the future -- any planning or funding being set
2 aside to possibly buy curriculum to address this or
3 just specific funding for people who do use violence
4 to address their, you know, victimization. You know,
5 I think it's a huge ummet need, and I really think not
6 naming it or having a specific funding to address it
7 just kind of perpetuates this. Maybe the court system
8 is not really understanding the dynamics of domestic
9 violence totally and how people, you know, are
10 retaliating to it.

11 When I was at Ketchikan Indian
12 Community, and I can't speak on the program as of
13 right now, but we did use a curriculum, WEAVER, and it
14 was women -- acronym -- women responding to violence
15 or deescalating violence, essentially. I'm sorry, I
16 can't remember the exact -- but it was for victims to
17 understand that it's not okay to use physical violence
18 to regain their power after being victimized. And
19 so -- but that was a really pricey curriculum.

20 I believe when I talked to their current
21 coordinator that they had issues finding the
22 curriculum again. And it's -- I don't know if it's
23 outdated at this point or not, but it would be nice to
24 see at least something to address this issue or, like,
25 seeing how the Council is going to address funding in

1 that capacity. Because like I said, we're getting
2 referrals and it's just -- people just really aren't
3 understanding batterers and the power and control
4 dynamics of battering. And so it's really hard to
5 explain to a judge, like, "Oh, no, they used a knife
6 to defend themselves," you know.

7 And, you know, we're seeing a lot of
8 women also, too, who come into shelter with, you know,
9 misdemeanors of domestic violence, and it really
10 creates a lot of barriers. So we'd really like to
11 have a space where we could give people the tools in
12 the community to really move forward on their healing
13 journey after addressing that.

14 And I know anger management, I don't
15 think it's available in our community right now
16 through any counselling services outside of maybe
17 somebody contracting independently, which is really
18 pricey. But there's just not a lot of tools for
19 people to be able to go to the court system and be
20 like, "Hey, I took a class to -- you know, or have
21 been receiving ongoing education about how to end
22 these violent episodes in a respectful manner." Thank
23 you.

24 DIANE CASTO: I just would like to
25 respond. Thank you for that testimony, because we are

1 currently, as you may know, undergoing a review of all
2 of our -- of these programs and recognizing just what
3 you said, that there are women in the system -- the
4 courts have been referring women. All of our current
5 programs are gender specific that we fund, and we know
6 there's a need for broader service in many areas of
7 this.

8 So we do have a workgroup working on
9 this. We're going to be having some recommendations.
10 We're going to have some stakeholder input, so we'll
11 make sure to add you to the list.

12 But I guess I just want to say to the
13 board that this is a little bit of what I've been
14 talking about is that you talk about funding, and if
15 you look at our grant funding, .08 percent of our
16 budget goes to the BIP programs. That's all.
17 Actually, it's .8 percent, not .08, .8 percent. It's
18 still low, low, low, low.

19 And we keep talking about how do we
20 solve the problem of domestic violence and sexual
21 assault. Well, the reality is if we don't address
22 those who use violence in their relationships and try
23 to mitigate that and to heal some of those
24 individuals, because we know they have a lot of trauma
25 in their life and ACEs and that we have got to do a

1 better job. We've got to put more resources and more
2 attention to that part of our continuum of care.

3 So thank you for backing me up, I
4 appreciate it.

5 ANGELA GARAY: I was a prosecutor for
6 nine years with the state, and it's unfortunate John's
7 not here to address some of the issues, but I think
8 some of it also has to do with the education to
9 prosecutors and officers as well to be able to
10 recognize the distinctions and understand a victim's
11 response when they come into a situation and there's
12 one party with (indiscernible) saying she's crazy and
13 she attacked me, and the officers are just looking for
14 the elements of the crime, and the prosecutor is just
15 looking for the elements of the crime and not
16 understanding all the dynamics in a relationship and
17 not looking at the back story, the history, who's got
18 the DV, who's got the prior convictions and stuff.

19 So some of it has to do with education
20 so that the prosecutors aren't making plea agreements
21 with her and (indiscernible) programs.

22 And like Diane said, thank you for
23 bringing us back on those issues. Does anyone else
24 want to comment?

25 Do we have anybody else who would like

1 to make a public comment, online or present? I'm not
2 seeing anybody. Okay. We will close out the public
3 comment, and we have a lunch break.

4 (End of public comment)

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