



CDVSA Executive Director's Update

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July – September 2022
FY2023 Quarter 1

An update of CDVSA activities/highlights July – September 2022

Staffing and personnel

Staffing and personnel issues have created ups and downs. In our last quarterly report, I announced the hiring of Marsha Layton as our new Administrative Officer 2, who joined our team on April 4. Marsha was a great addition to the CDVSA Team and jumped right into the work of understanding and managing the CDVSA budget and financial processes.

Unfortunately, Marsha became concerned during the legislative discussions and changes to our Sunset Bill and decided she wanted to work at an agency that was more “stable” and less political! We were all shocked and sad that she applied for and accepted a job at the new Department of Health; her last day was July 22. It was disappointing to put so much time and effort into finding a new AO2 only to have her leave within 4-months.

And we kept moving forward. I became very good at coding invoices, the program staff were juggling several different aspects of FY23 grant funding, and DPS financial staff provided a great deal of assistance. In the end, we got through for a little under 2-months without an AO2,

Prior to Marsha leaving, we reposted the AO2 position for recruitment and like before had to post a couple of times to get a good pool of candidates. As of Monday, September 26, CDVSA has hired Elaine Bell as our new Administrative Officer 2. Elaine comes to us from the Department of Administration, Division of Finance where she held this same position. She is knowledgeable and well versed in the state systems (IRIS, ALDER, ABS, and others); she will only need to learn the nuances of financial processes at DPS and become intimate and knowledgeable of the four CDVSA Federal Formula grants. The good news is there are many great DPS staff who are offering to train her. Of course, that is once she gets access to her computer and email ☺. Please join me in welcoming Elaine to CDVSA.



We have also had some success in recruitment for a new Administrative Assistant 2. During July and August, we had continuous recruitment and while we had some unqualified applicants, we ended up with two excellent candidates. One, accepted another job before we made final decisions, leaving us with a very good candidate. We received approval to hire him, have offered him the job and we are now waiting for his formal job acceptance due to delayed discharge orders from the US Coast Guard! When he applied his discharge date was October 1, but due to shortages of staff, the USCG is extending some discharge dates. We are working with the applicant and have indicated we can wait until the end of October for his start date, hoping his paperwork will come through soon. By November, we will need to begin a new recruitment. With Elaine on board, we can wait a short while to hire our AA2.

Other good news is that we have two new staff positions that were included in our FY23 budget. One will be a Grant Administrator 1-2 flex and one will be a Program Coordinator 2 specifically to develop, carry out, and manage our soon-to-be revised program for individuals who use violence in their relationships. The GA 1-2 position has been created and approved by classification and recruitment has begun. The first interviews took place the last week of September and we hope to have someone hired by the end of October (fingers crossed). This position will provide some much-needed relief for our GA 3, Ella, who is working hard to fully establish GrantVantage for our subgrantees and managing over 100 grant awards. The new PC2 has not yet been fully established; I am currently creating the position description and look forward to getting it submitted to Online PD for review and approval.

COVID, COVID, COVID ... it just keeps hanging on. Four of us have recently had COVID including me. I was positive for 11-days, my first day back in the office was September 28. We continue to update and modified our mitigation protocol to keep our office, our colleagues, and our 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. While we do not want to be too strict, we are looking for the "sweet" middle ground. We have also returned to traveling more for subgrantee site visits if the community is comfortable with us coming. We will stay vigilant to make sure we all get through the coming winter healthy and safe.



CDVSA Funding Challenges

Our FY23 budget, as we discussed last month will continue to be a patchwork of base budget allocations (GF, federal formula grants, DGF) and supplemental funds to keep our funding levels for community-based subgrantees level and consistent. I have kept the same chart I included last quarter to remind you of our FY23 budget composition – including our base allocations plus a one-time GF increment of \$3.5 million, the remaining CSLFRF funding (\$2.7 million), and \$2.5 million in OVC discretionary funds (from Sen. Murkowski).

The chart below indicates our PROJECTED budget for FY2024, with the funds we have currently. I will update these FY24 projections now that we received our last federal FFY22 grant award for FVPSA (notified of award on 9-29). The analysis below indicates, depending on the federal allocations we receive for FFY22, we will continue to need additional state General Funds for SFY24. Once Elaine has settled into her new position, she and I will conduct a full analysis of 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 identify funds accordingly.

FY22-25 Grant Funding—all grant types

Funding Source	SFY2022	SFY2023	Projected FY2024
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

The VOCA Crime Victims Fund (CVF) has created funding challenges as it continues to remain at lower-than-expected funding levels. VOCA funding to Alaska in FFY21 was \$2.8 million; in FFY22 our VOCA allocation is \$3.57 million. It is now looking like a stable funding level of around \$3.5-\$3.8 is our new reality. While we were hoping for a



stabilized base of around \$4.0-4.5 million per year for Alaska, we do not feel as hopeful that VOCA funding will increase to that level in the near future.

CDVSA Priority Projects Update

- **STOP/VAWA 4-year State Plan Development** – As discussed last quarter the Alaska STOP/VAWA State Implementation Plan was submitted in June along with our FFY22 Formula Grant application. While we have received our FFY22 STOP Grant award, we have not yet received final approval for our STOP 4-year state plan. We were asked for clarification regarding one item, provided the information, and are now hoping the approval will come soon.

One change we made to this year's plan is to expand and increase the amount of funding we set aside for culturally focused training and support to improve services for Alaska Native victims and survivors. The focus will be on a statewide or regional approach to training support. We will be using a greater portion of the required percentage of funds for this category and adding some additional GF dollars for this purpose. Ann Rausch is creating an Informal Request for Proposals (IRFP) to solicit interest in providing this service. At this time, we do not have a deadline for the IRFP to be issued, but it is a priority to get it created and available for publishing. We need to wait to see if our planned change is accepted by OVW.

As discussed over the last two quarters, the goal of the STOP Plan funding prioritizes statewide training for law enforcement, courts, prosecutors, and victim 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 stakeholder outreach opportunities. This collective process has provided the final plan with the professional expertise and lived experiences of Alaskans, bringing this plan to life and its representation of the specific needs of Alaska.

Most of the funding for the STOP grant is issued in Reimbursable Service Agreements (RSA) between state agencies (DOL, DPS, ACS) and the victim service portion being

issued as grants to non-profit organizations. While the FY23 Grant Award to ANDVSA has been processed, we have not issued RSAs yet, but now that Elaine is with us, the RSAs will be a priority over the next two weeks.

- **Perpetrator Rehabilitation Workgroup** – We are very excited that we have concluded the work of the Perpetrator Rehabilitation Workgroup, after meeting monthly over the last 17 months (the WG began in April 2021). The final WG meeting was held on September 21 when we presented a draft Concept paper outlining the culmination of presentations, discussions, ideas, and suggestions for how to create an improved approach to serving this population. The next step will occur on October 4 when we will provide an opportunity for identified stakeholders to review and discuss the Draft Concept Paper and the 13 identified considerations. All Board members were sent an invitation to the October 4 Stakeholder Input meeting; the meeting begins at 11:00 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m. Both in-person and virtual options are available. I will be traveling to Anchorage to be in-person, meeting at the Alaska Mental Health Trust conference room. Lunch will be provided for all in-person attendees. We are hoping for robust and engaging dialogue from a multi-disciplinary group of stakeholders.

A copy of the DRAFT Concept Paper is included in your Board packet for your review. Within the invite that you received, there is also an option for providing written comments/feedback, so there will be many opportunities to provide feedback. All comments are due by October 18, when we will then revise and finalize the Concept Paper to conclude the Workgroup and Stakeholder process.

As a parallel project to the PR Workgroup, Dr. Rei Shimizu, UAA School of Social Work, conducted a Stakeholder Interview Project: Examining the State's Response to Domestic Violence. Dr. Shimizu will be presenting during our Board meeting to give you an overview of her work and findings—the great news is that her findings and the PR Workgroup considerations are very well aligned, which gives us confidence that we are moving in the right direction. Once Dr. Shimizu's final Project Report is finalized, I will share it with the Board members.

Once the Stakeholder Input meeting concludes and we finalize our Concept Paper, 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. As indicated above, CDVSA has received a new Program Coordinator 2 position in our FY23 budget, with the intent to hire a Program Coordinator 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 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 and to be able to accept applications from new communities and agencies to expand to availability of BIP programming.

- **Alaska Sexual Assault Response Leadership Team** – The SARLT continues to make progress in focusing our work to improve services, training, and accessibility to sexual assault victim and survivor services across Alaska. During the past legislative session, bills were passed that will improve laws related to sexual assault in Alaska, including HB 325 which includes important changes to Alaska's consent laws. John Skidmore will give a brief overview of this bill and its impact on sexual cases in Alaska.

The Alaska Tele-Support Services, Medical-Forensic Nursing Support project is making progress as we create a forensic nurse tele-support service for community SART programs and others requesting TA and training. We are close to launching several pilot locations to assess the usefulness and viability to expand this service to reach communities not currently served by a local SART. Angie Ellis is working to create the needed structures to implement this project soon. Hopefully next quarter we will provide a demonstration of this new service during our Q. 2 Board Meeting.

The Team continues to provide additional training to complement twice-yearly SART training—strangulation, anonymous reporting, culturally-based services, PREA requirements, and others. We have finalized 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. The posters and brochures have been printed and we are working to send them to our SART Teams, hospitals, and clinics. The poster and brochure will also be available electronically so individuals may print their own copies as needed.



I also encourage all Board members to check out our new Sexual Assault Services web pages—compliments of the hard work of Marjie Hamburger—you can see the new information and design at [Sexual Assault - Services - CDVSA - Alaska Department of Public Safety](#).

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.

- **CDVSA Language Access Plan** – Progress continues implementing CDVSA's Language Access Plan. Our contractor, AIJ, has translated service information for posting to our website. Because we are translating a great deal of text into 8 different languages, the progress has been slow (Spanish, Tagalog, Korean, Russian, Hmong, Samoan, Yup'ik, and Chinese).

Changes to our website are being worked on by AIJ and DPS IT collaboratively. Many of the changes are made, but not yet published for public availability. Soon our website will be updated to include diverse information about language access and availability in multiple languages.

Once multi-languages are available on our website, we will work to inform the public and our partner agencies about the availability of this new information that will broaden who will have access to victim service information regardless of their English proficiency.

Communications, Outreach, and Media

The FY20-21 CDVSA Bi-Annual Report was completed, and copies of the report and link were sent to Governor Dunleavy and to the Senate President and House Speaker in accordance with AS.18.66.050(10). Additionally, reports and the electronic link were mailed to all 34 sub-grantee agencies and to all Board members. In October we will begin creating the template and identify highlights for the FY2022 Annual Report, completing the report by January 15, 2023.



As you all know, October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Each October is identified nationally, as well as in Alaska as a time to focus and re-focus our efforts on reducing and ending domestic violence. Governor Dunleavy has issued a Proclamation and DV programs across Alaska will be hosting events to highlight the tragic outcomes of DV behaviors and providing solutions for the state, communities, families, and individuals to engage in ending DV in Alaska.

Ann Rausch is working with our contractor Walsh|Sheppard to refresh existing media messages, as well as creating new messages for use during October and beyond. While October is specifically identified as a time to focus on ending DV, this must be a year around effort to keep the messaging fresh, vibrant, and meaningful. Ending DV requires a consistent and ongoing media presence to make sure messages reach everyone across the state. We will focus our communications and outreach funding to have a regular presence on social media, radio, and television. Watch for actives and media coverage in your community and participate in these important activities.