

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

Host Location:

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

**CDVSA Quarterly Council Meeting - Virtual
FY 2023 Quarter 2
December 1 – 2, 2022**

Thursday, December 1, 2022

Board Members Present:

Angela Garay
Mariah Seater
John Skidmore
Laurel Shoop
Steve Williams
Lydia Heyward
Ryon Turley
Blaze Bell
Commissioner James Cockrell

Guests:

Chris Edmonds
Katie Hughes
Kari Robinson
Indra Arriaga

Staff:

Diane Casto, Executive Director
Marjorie Hamburger
Catherine Mohn
Meggie Stogner
Elaine Bell

Minutes prepared by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

Angela Garay called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS AND CDVSA STAFF

Angela Garay welcomed attendees to the meeting. She opened the floor for board member and staff introductions. Two new board members, Laurel Shoop, the legislative liaison for the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED), and Mariah

Seater, the Department of Family and Community Services' policy advisor and tribal liaison, introduced themselves, followed by the board members and staff. Diane Casto reported that at the last legislative session, two board positions were added: one for the Mental Health Trust Authority, and the other was for an individual representing the Alaska Native community, either a tribe or tribal organization. Steve Williams was selected to represent the Trust, and staff is working with the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center to fill the other position.

AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL

John Skidmore **MOVED** to approve the agenda as presented, **SECONDED** by Lydia Heyward. Hearing no opposition, the motion **PASSED**.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Lydia Heyward **MOVED** to approve the FY 23 Quarter 1 meeting minutes, **SECONDED** by John Skidmore. Hearing no opposition, the motion **PASSED**.

CONFLICT INQUIRY

No conflicts of interest were declared.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT, January – March 2022

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

Staffing and Personnel:

- CDVSA has been authorized to have a total of 11 staff member positions, and they currently have eight. They will continue to recruit for the administrative assistant position in January. A job offer was made and accepted for grant administrator I-II. The new program coordinator II position has not been fully established.
- In April 2023, Ann Rausch will be retiring. Ann joined CDVSA in September 2008 as an associate coordinator to a program coordinator I, and in 2011 she moved to a program coordinator II. She has worked with the victim services programs, battering intervention programs, and her most enduring work, establishing and growing a strong DVSA prevention program within CDVSA. Ann and Diane will be doing transition planning for her position and will begin solicitation for a new prevention program coordinator in February.
- Marjorie Hamburger will also be leaving CDVSA, which makes for another position they will recruit for in the new year.

CDVSA Funding Challenges:

- The funding challenges CDVSA experiences will be discussed during the fiscal report. There were no significant changes from the information presented in last quarter's director's report.
- In late September, CDVSA was asked to update the funding report submitted to Randy Ruaro, Governor Dunleavy's chief of staff, in August 2021. A copy of the updated report was included in the board packet.

- CDVSA maintained its current level of grant funding. There is a need for an additional \$3.8 million in SFY 2024 for victim services/enhanced services subgrantees. This is especially important for the next fiscal year because the Council will start a new funding cycle on July 1, 2023. A request for proposals will be issued in spring 2023 for the following year. CDVSA needs to begin a new funding cycle with a stable dollar amount that will be available for the three-year grant cycle. If the projected amount of stable grant funding for all grant programs is \$17.9M instead of \$21.8M, the Council will only be able to award grants equaling the funding. Without additional stable funding, the available FY 24 victim/enhanced service grant funds will be reduced by approximately \$3.8M or 18%. Additionally, with a new request for proposals, the available funds and submitted proposals will be competitive, and all agencies meeting the eligibility criteria can apply and compete for funding.
- The VOCA Crime Victims Fund (CVF) continues to create a funding challenge as it remains at lower-than-expected funding levels. VOCA funding to Alaska in FFY 21 was \$2.8M; in FFY 22, the VOCA allocation is \$3.57M. It is now looking like a stable funding level of approximately \$3.5 - \$3.8M is the new reality. While the Council is hoping for a stabilized base of around \$4.0 - \$4.5M per year for Alaska, it does not feel that VOCA funding will increase to that level soon, if ever.
- The Governor's FY 24 budget will be released by December 15, 2023. At that time, the Council will have a better idea of its starting operating budget.

CDVSA Priority Projects Updates

STOP/VAWA Four-Year State Development Plan

- The Alaska STOP/VAWA State Implementation Plan has been approved.
- CDVSA received approval from its OVW project officer to non-compete its victim services cultural set-aside allocation.
- The required distribution of funds for victim services equals 30% of the overall STOP grant award, with 10% identified for culture-specific training. Because the STOP grant is under \$900,000, the 10% cultural set-aside is just over \$25,000, which is insufficient to adequately provide a statewide or regional approach to cultural training. The Council plans to use a greater portion of the required percentage of funds for this category by using a share of the discretionary allocation and adding additional GF dollars to equal \$100,000 for this activity.
- The Council has invited the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center to accept these funds to expand their current cultural training and support activities, leveraging the Council's OVW funds and their OVW funds for greater impact.
- Once staff finalizes a plan for awarding these funds, Ann Rausch will work directly with Tami Jerue, the director of the AKNWRC, to establish a training, support, and outreach plan to expend the STOP funds.

Perpetrator Rehabilitation Workgroup

- The work of the Perpetrator Rehabilitation (PR) Workgroup has come to an end.
- The last event for the PR Workgroup was to host a stakeholder input meeting, which was held on October 4, 2023. Additionally, there was an opportunity to provide written comments/feedback with input due by October 18.

- The board packet includes a copy of the final PR Workgroup concept paper, a report from the stakeholder input meeting, and the stakeholder online input log.
- Now that the workgroup and stakeholder input meetings have concluded, 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. The Council will work to establish the new program coordinator II position with the intent to hire a program coordinator who will work exclusively on reestablishing the application process based on the new program considerations. They will also be tasked to create an effective and efficient program approach that includes an ongoing plan for monitoring, regular review, and re-approval of programs.

Alaska Sexual Assault Response Leadership Team (SART)

- The Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) training scheduled for November 7, 2023 in Anchorage was canceled due to a key trainer being unavailable because of a family emergency. It was decided that there was not a viable replacement trainer on such short notice. Because of busy training schedules, the fall training will not be rescheduled.
- Due to the passage of HB 325, five significant changes will impact cases of domestic violence and sexual assault, including the definition of consent in sexual assault cases, amending the definition of “crime involving DV” to include harassment 2, and more timely testing of sexual assault kits. The changes will impact how law enforcement and prosecutors respond, which is why it is important that training on the impacts of HB 325 is created and offered widely. The SA leadership team is assisting with support to provide every opportunity to make training available to everyone who needs to understand these legal changes.
- The SA leadership team has been working on anonymous reporting. They have put together materials for healthcare providers, law enforcement, and clinics to inform victims that they can report anonymously and not involve law enforcement as a first step.
- During the November 22 ASARLT meeting, the Council invited Adam Rutherford, Deputy Director of DOC’s Health and Rehabilitation Services, to discuss the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) and how the Council can assist in improving advocacy and support services for inmates who experience rape in a state institution. The goal of the meeting was to hear the status of institutional sexual assault and what service gaps DOC is experiencing.

CDVSA Language Access Plan (LAP)

- The Council has made excellent progress in implementing CDVSA’s Language Access Plan. Alaska Institute for Justice (AIJ) has completed most of the requested translations for posting to the CDVSA website. Eight primary languages have been translated: Spanish, Tagalog, Korean, Russian, Hmong, Samoan, Yup’ik, and Chinese.
- The LAP has not gone live yet. The Council is waiting for the final translations and vetting.

Communications, Outreach, and Media

- CDVSA staff has been working on writeups focused on key FY 2022 accomplishments for the FY 2022 Annual Report. Since the last report was delayed due to staff shortages and COVID, staff plans to complete the FY 22 Annual Report no later than mid to late January 2023.
- Ann Rausch continues her work with contractor Walsh|Sheppard to refresh existing media messages and create new messages for use throughout the year. In February, the focus will be Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month.

Comments

John Skidmore expressed appreciation for the executive director report and the work that the CDVSA staff does for the Council. Angela Garay voiced the board's appreciation to Ann Rausch and Marjorie Hamburger for their service to the Council. She shared that she is impressed with the completion of the BIP workgroup efforts and the successful outcome.

CDVSA BUDGET REVIEW/FISCAL REPORT SFY 2023 BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES

Diane Casto shared that CDVSA was without an administrative officer for a couple of months at the beginning of the new fiscal year. It has taken staff some time to get all the FY 23 funding accounted for, encumbered, and correctly entered into the state IRIS system. Elaine Bell has been diligently working to understand the Council's complicated federal formula grants.

Elaine Bell directed the members' attention to the financial report and budget and highlighted the following information current November 23, 2022:

- Page 1 – Program Budget FY 2023
 - Total budget authority, \$37,488,555
 - State funding authority total, \$17,154,800
 - Federal funding authority, \$20,333,775 (includes CSLRF/ARPA funds)
 - Total operating budget, not including grants, \$4,332,700
 - Total program budget, \$21,168,017
 - Total budgeted obligations, \$25,500,717
- Page 2 – Grants Awarded FY 2023
 - Total grant award authority, \$29,466,003
 - Total awarded to programs, \$21,377,665
- Page 3 – Detailed Sub-Award Plan for FY 2023
 - Total amount allocated for sub-awards, \$21,377,665
 - Total amount awarded to subgrantees, \$21,377,665
- Page 4 – Contracts and Services FY 2023
 - Total authority for contracts and services, \$2,752,000
 - Total of contracts and services obligations, \$1,548,765
- Page 5 – FY 2023 Remaining Balances

- Total remaining balance across all appropriations, \$10,525,225

Diane Casto directed the members' attention to the *Updated Report on Funding Status of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault: Funding Needs to Provide Stable DVSA Services in FY 2024*. The report summarizes the current FY 23 funding levels, sources of funding, and funding needs for FY 24 to maintain stable funding for the community-based programs. Diane highlighted the following information from the report:

- The update follows two previous reports issued on August 19, 2021 to Chief of Staff Randy Ruaro, and one issued on September 15, 2021 to the CDVSA board of directors outlining funds needed to fully fund FY 23 subgrantee awards to 35 community-based agencies providing victims services, specialized services to adult and child victims, prevention programming, and programs to change behaviors of abusive partners.
- The reduction in federal VOCA funding that began in FFY 2019 created a shift in how CDVSA has allocated federal and state funding over the past three years and will continue to impact funding in SFY 2024 and beyond. Additionally, the VOCA funding reduction continues to impact the overall available funds for CDVSA and its subgrantees. While in FFY 2018, CDVSA received a grant of \$7.9M in VOCA funds. The funding amount decreased between FFY 2019 and FFY 2021, increasing slightly in FY 2022.
- In 2021, the Senate introduced and passed the VOCA FIX legislation with the intent to stabilize the VOCA formula grants awarded to states each year. The legislation recalculated and changed funding percentages for VOCA formula grants, intending to increase funds going into the Crime Victim Fund (CVF), the source of VOCA formula grants.
- With the change in how funds are deposited into the Crime Victim Fund (CVF), they expected to have more stable and sustainable funds over time; they did not expect the fund to grow exponentially over time. CDVSA anticipates future allocations to be consistent and comparable to the FFY 17 or FFY 20 VOCA award amounts, or around \$4.0M. With a consistent VOCA funding allocation of approximately \$4.0M, CDVSA will continue to have a funding shortfall in the future.
- Beginning in SFY 2022, CDVSA's budget has been cobbled together each year with one-time allocations of funding from the COVID State and Local Federal Relief Funding (CSLFRF), a one-time GF allocation, a one-time OVC discretionary funding award, and a one-time FVPSA increase from federal ARPA funding. While these one-time funding allocations have helped maintain the annual grant awards at approximately \$21.5M, it has not helped to create stable funding over time. Each year, CDVSA must decide to reduce DVSA community-based grant awards or request additional general funds from the legislature. Over the past three years, CDVSA has decided to request additional funds.

Diane Casto posed questions for the board members to think about:

- Is the Council going to look for additional general fund dollars this year?

- What is the amount of money the Council will consistently have that is stable funding to keep the Council moving forward?
- If the Council doesn't get funding that is part of the base funding, they need to start thinking about reducing the amount of funding put out to the community grantees for the services they provide.
- One issue at hand is that the Council will make a competitive request for proposals for all victim service programs, including the enhanced victim services programs. Does the Council put out the RFP for the amount of money it has or put it out with the amount the Council might have if they continue getting additional one-time funding?

Diane Casto added that the FY 24 budget will be out in a few weeks, and in the new year, it will go through the legislative process. Diane noted that she favored an RFP with the dollar amount representing funds secured.

Steve Williams remarked that he appreciated working through the history of the Council and financial sources and allocation. He encouraged the Council to figure out how to communicate the need and how to meet the need to positively impact an issue so significant for the state.

Angela Garay commented that having a realistic budget and using realistic numbers allows programs to look at their budgets, decide what money may be there, and adjust budgets as needed. At the same time, the Council can reach out to the legislators and other funding sources and let them know the needs. She equated it to hiding the ball. If the Council doesn't present realistic numbers, it could end up with an abrupt change and no time to respond. Even though it's harsh to say this is what the Council has and this is what it can give you, it does prevent the problem further down where the Council is pulling the rug out from under programs.

Diane Casto asked board members to think about what direction the Council goes with regard to funding and how it wants to frame the issues and educate new lawmakers. She noted that the next quarterly meeting is scheduled in the middle of the legislative session, and at that time, they will have a better idea of state funding and be able to discuss funding in more detail.

DISCUSS CDVSA'S NEED FOR A NEW DATABASE

Diane Casto introduced Chris Edmonds and Katie Hughes with Element 74, the creators of the Vela data management system. Diane said that the Council has been looking at various data systems for the past three years to meet the needs of the Council's ability to get state aggregate data and the needs of the subgrantees who need data management on their end. The Council has met with the Vela leadership and found that the Vela database seems uniquely designed to meet the Council's needs as a funder of domestic violence and sexual assault services. She noted that ANDVSA has also looked at Vela because many member programs are the Council's subgrantees.

Chris Edmonds and Katie Hughes shared a PowerPoint presentation and highlighted the following information:

- Element 74 was founded in 2000 and is located in Missouri.
- Element 74 is in 14 states and has approximately 90 installs.
- The Vela difference:
 - Safe, secure, and confidential
 - True “one-click” reporting
 - HUD comparable database
 - Developed by advocates for advocates.
- Vela just launched with New Hampshire and is currently in the process of launching with a Kentucky coalition. At a macro level, some goals aligning with CDVSA are establishing data standards, ensuring client confidentiality, and most importantly, ease in statewide aggregate reporting.

Katie Hughes shared a demonstration of the Vela database showing what staff people see when interacting with the program, and she shared an overview of the state-level view of the database.

The floor was opened for questions or comments, a summary of which follows:

Q: Is this a cloud-based reporting system?

A: Yes

Q: Have there been discussions about the Internet connection status in Alaska?

A: Yes. *Vela is not graphically intensive, so a fairly low bandwidth connection works fine. Vela will send tech specs to the board for review.*

Q: What is the process for training?

A: *Vela works to understand the organization's culture and its needs and capacities, and they work with individuals as they identify different needs and want additional training.*

Q: Given that it's a subscription service, how is data ownership addressed if a subscription expires?

A: *In the contract, every organization that uses Vela owns the data. Vela has zero ownership of the data.*

Q: Are Vela SasS products available through NASPO ValuePoint?

A: *The Office of Information Technology (OIT) is involved in looking at that.*

Catherine Mohn remarked that the current database is crashing across the state, and the IT department is no longer offering support. The Council needs a new database sooner than later, and she is excited about the possibility of Vela.

Diane Casto noted that the Council has included OIT in the process. OIT attended the last demonstration and received the additional information they asked for about the system. Diane noted that no decisions had been made, but she wanted the board to have the information and understand its importance.

LANGUAGE ACCESS PLAN (LAP) UPDATE AND DEMONSTRATION

Diane Casto shared that in partnership with the Alaska Institute for Justice (AIJ), the Council developed a language access plan (LAP), and in the last few months, much progress has been made. Diane Casto introduced Kari Robinson, the deputy director of the AIJ, and Indra Arriaga, AIJ grants and operational director, who joined the meeting and shared a demonstration of the new webpage with translations into eight languages.

Kari Robinson stated that AIJ provides statewide immigration legal services for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. It also has a statewide language interpreter center where they have been working with CDVSA on its LAP. She thanked the Council, Diane Casto, and MaryBeth Gagnon for their ongoing dedication to equity and making services accessible for all survivors statewide.

CLOSING COMMENTS FOR DAY 1

No recording was available to capture closing comments.

ADJOURNMENT (RECESS)

No recording was available to capture the time of recess.

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Host Location:

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Council on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault
150 3rd St., Suite 201
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**CDVSA Quarterly Council Meeting - Virtual
FY 2023 Quarter 2
December 1 – 2, 2022**

Friday, December 2, 2022

Board Members Present:

Angela Garay
Laura Brooks/Adam Rutherford
Mariah Seater
Commissioner James Cockrell
John Skidmore
Laurel Shoop
Steve Williams
Lydia Heyward
Ryon Turley
Blaze Bell

Guests:

Denali Daniels

Guest Presenter:

Brenda Stanfill, Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA)

Staff:

Diane Casto, Executive Director
Marjorie Hamburger
Catherine Mohn
Meggie Stogner
Elaine Bell

Minutes prepared by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

Angela Garay called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established.

ANDVSA UPDATE

ANDVSA Executive Director Brenda Stanfill joined the meeting and shared that the Network is the federally recognized coalition to provide technical assistance, training, and support to programs that do direct services. The Network is also involved in policy and legislative work through program participation and dues. While the Network is a membership organization, they are also available to non-members who need technical assistance and training or communities trying to get domestic violence and sexual assault programs up and running. The Network partners with the sister program, Alaska Native Women's Resource Center, the coalition recognized through the tribal coalitions.

Work on Legislation:

- Working to identify ways to message on new consent laws.
 - Working with Representative Tarr and request into Rasmuson for assistance in messaging about the consent law changes.
- Putting together a process to appoint a victim rights advocate to the AK Criminal Justice Data Analysis Commission.
 - They held their first meeting in October, and all partners are in place. They are extending an application process for an individual interested in being a victim's rights advocate.
- Working with the administration to ensure that if DV offenders are routed to a Crisis Now Center, victim safety will be at the core of the decisions to release.
 - They have been working closely with licensing to ensure victim safety when putting together the licensing requirements and policies for Crisis Now Centers.

Upcoming Projects:

- Capital Request – Next round of shelter repairs
 - It's been approximately ten years since the last round of shelter repairs, and it is time for a new capital request. The Network received guidance and support from Rasmuson Foundation.
- Statewide Needs Assessment
 - The Network continues to seek financial support for a domestic violence statewide needs assessment. They approached the Trust and the Denali Commission (DC). The DC noted that the Network might be able to apply for federal funding that will allow the Network to do a large statewide needs assessment and contract through the DC with an independent entity to perform the assessment. The cost of an assessment is approximately \$2M.
- Strategic Plan
 - The Network has been working with CDVSA on prevention and providing technical assistance and training to the Council's prevention grantees.
 - Making sure the Network is working with the member programs' needs and what the communities need.
 - The planning is being worked on in three separate meetings. At the meeting being held today, the Network focused on goal setting. Once the

plan is fleshed out, the Network will share the draft with the Council for feedback.

- Funding needs:
 - The Network focused on developing an accurate picture of its funding needs. Most shelters are 24/7 staffing, which equates to 5.2 full-time advocates to staff a program which costs approximately \$350K-plus. Other goals include assessing equity across the programs and outlining the true costs of programming to present to partners.
- Membership listening sessions:
 - Housing, lack of housing stock; lack of housing with supports; the challenge to free up shelter space; Airbnb and VRBOs taking housing stock out.
 - Staffing sustainability, salary increases may not be sustainable next year.
 - For clients with secondary issues, the lack of other services has been challenging.
 - Lack of access to treatment in smaller communities and steps necessary to get in (physicals, excessive paperwork).
 - Lack of childcare for staff and clients.
 - OCS, short staffed, long response time.
 - Board of Directors, challenges in lack of understanding of roles.
 - Partner with CDVSA to propose board training and consider requiring training for the board in the new RFP.
 - Administrative burden, monthly reports; out-of-state fingerprinting; dying database; Internet challenges.

Steve Williams commented that the Center for Human Development (CHD) does Mental Health First Aid training both in-person and virtually. Brenda Stanfill expressed the Network's appreciation for its partnership with the Council.

REENVISIONING PERPETRATOR REHABILITATION PROGRAMMING IN ALASKA

Diane Casto shared the history of the workgroup tasked with reenvisioning the perpetrator rehabilitation programming. Perpetrator rehabilitation is in the DOC statutory responsibility, but the Council has taken it on through an MOU process. The Council decided two years ago to form a workgroup to focus on perpetrator rehabilitation. The workgroup met for 18 months. Diane reported that the workgroup was concluded in September 2022 and held a final stakeholder meeting in October. Now that the upfront work has been done, the Council will decide the next steps.

Denali Daniels from Denali Daniels and Associates, whose team has been working with CDVSA on the project for about two years, joined the meeting and shared a PowerPoint presentation titled *Perpetrator Intervention Project Considerations*. Denali noted that the concept paper includes 12 considerations representing the work over the last 18 months. It is not decisional, it does not represent consensus, nor does it provide recommendations. She highlighted the following information:

Overall Goals:

- All intervention programs should:
 - Prioritize victim safety
 - Hold people accountable
 - Be rehabilitative and therapeutic
 - Address individual risks and needs
 - Be healing for all of those impacted by domestic violence
 - Aim to change behaviors.
- Framework
 - Assessment
 - Intervention
 - Monitoring.

Considerations:

- Program design:
 - Update the words used to reflect the goal of positive outcomes
 - Emphasize evidence-informed practices and evaluation in programming
 - Adopt shared guiding principles
 - Assess statewide community readiness
 - Community readiness – stakeholder engagement meeting
 - Require local community readiness assessments.
- Program implementation and delivery:
 - Promote improved understanding of the system and promote coordination
 - Prioritize victim safety and align programming with best practices research - focus on inclusivity and meeting people where they're at
 - Training development and requirements should be prioritized
 - Weave cultural healing throughout the programming
 - Updated regulations.
- Program evaluation:
 - Updated and consistent evaluation measures
 - The State of Alaska should work with subject matter experts to develop a comprehensive and consistent way of measuring program effectiveness.

Denali Daniels recapped the stakeholder engagement process and shared the following information:

- 18 people provided input to the concept paper
- There were ten workgroup meetings over the course of 18 months
- Thirteen in-person participants and 26 virtual participants attended the stakeholder engagement meeting.

Denali Daniels shared the next steps as follows:

- Clear vision – Create a clear evidence-informed vision and approach to improving and expanding programs.
- Concrete next steps – Council staff will work closely with the CDVSA board of directors, the Department of Corrections, and the UAA School of Social Work to assist in creating the first next steps.

- Ongoing consultation – CDVSA will work with DV victim service providers, current community battering intervention and prison-based programming providers, tribal organizations, behavioral health providers, the Alaska Court System, the Office of Children’s Services, and other agencies with a strong interest in improved programming.
- New CDVSA staff – The FY 23 budget includes a new full-time permanent position for CDVSA to work specifically on redesigning a strong and effective program for abusive partners.

Denali Daniels shared that although the stakeholder input they received was valuable, it didn’t make sense to change anything in the concept paper. As the Council moves forward with the report, she encouraged the board to look at the input received because the concept paper was at a high level, and the input seemed to be more downstream. She encouraged the Council to consider stakeholder input as a resource to move forward.

Angela Garay opened the floor for board member comments, a summary of which follows:

Steve Williams commented that in his limited experience on the topic, some of the themes identified by the workgroup aren’t new. He said it is good to see some of the things identified were low-hanging fruit that they may be able to get a step forward, make a change, and gain momentum to build to address some of the other more complex recommendations.

Angela Garay commented that the training, meetings, and coordination information reminded her of what they do with the SART teams and training SART nurses.

Adam Rutherford recognized the tremendous work that went into the project. He asked the board to recognize and acknowledge the amount of work that the current treatment service providers are being asked to do. He was amazed at the number of different hats providers were asked to wear. Providers would appreciate anything the Council can do to advocate to help with additional resources.

Mariah Seater remarked that the presentation was clear and easy to follow. On behalf of the Department of Family and Community Services, there is a real interest in the children and family component moving forward.

Commissioner Cockrell agreed that the efforts of the workgroup were good. He looks forward to reviewing the stakeholder and partner input. He noted that if the state is going to conquer domestic violence and sexual assault, it must deal with and rehabilitate the offender. As a state, Alaska lags far behind, and there must be a cultural shift in how domestic violence is seen in communities.

John Skidmore commented that the report presents the board with a lot to think about.

He agreed with some considerations in his precursory review of the paper, and in others, he took pause. He is looking forward to a more in-depth review and is interested in the next steps. He wholeheartedly echoed Commissioner Cockrell's comment that the approach takes a social change. The state needs to have programs that effectively address rehabilitation. John remarked that many individuals who attend the programs come from referrals because of some interaction with the justice system. He thinks some would like to take a broader approach than just individuals in the justice system, but he believes that's where they need to start because that is where the largest percentage of individuals funneled to the programs come from. John agreed with the comments about the cultural perspective.

Laurel Shoop noted that it was interesting that many referrals come from OCS. She stated that a lot of the mandatory reporters are in the educational system when school is in session. The Department of Education could have a very strong standpoint and help with many of the issues. She remarked that it would take a community and believes people have to hold each other accountable. She agreed with the comments regarding the need for a cultural shift.

Steve Williams added that there needs to be programming that can be as individualized as possible while addressing the underlying issues and holding an individual accountable for actions. He said that these situations don't pop up overnight. Many other things have happened in an individual's life that builds upon one another and can lead to a trajectory where an unhealthy interaction happens. Steve said if we want to stop these types of behaviors, we not only need to take a stand and hold people accountable, but we need to ensure systems and services are in place upstream so people who may be struggling can be identified and can reach out and access services to address things to prevent the buildup.

Lydia Heyward appreciated that the report addressed the issues in indigenous communities, especially when generational trauma is a major issue. By shining light on it, hopefully, generational trauma won't be a common occurrence.

Ryon Turley agreed with the comments. From the EMS perspective, awareness and training are key for victim safety. Accountability is important, and not always law enforcement, when it comes to domestic violence and helping people improve.

Blaze Bell remarked that she is still processing the information shared in the presentation and report. She was thinking about victim safety in particular and will reach out with other thoughts from the victim's perspective.

Angela Garay shared that some of the comments in the report mirrored what CDVSA has heard in its rural outreach. Perpetrators of crime may be removed from the community for a short period, and then they return. The community will have that person restored to them, and whether the restoration is a good one or whether that person returns and continues their behavior is critical. She remarked that being able to return that person to their community and that person being able to move forward with

nonviolent relationships intervenes in generational trauma. If they go back and continue the same behaviors, that perpetuates generational trauma. Angela commented that it could be challenging for people from urban areas and cultures to recognize restorative justice and traditional values. It is important to have people inform the state of other ways of looking at rehabilitation.

Diane Casto commented that this is a topic the Council will continue working on over the next year or more. Diane remarked that it has been a pleasure working with Denali Daniels and her associates on the project and that they were professional and engaged.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

DATES FOR REMAINING FY 23 BOARD MEETINGS

Diane Casto proposed options for the remaining FY 23 board meetings. After a brief discussion, the board agreed to the following:

- FY 2023, Quarter 3, March 31, 2023, (consider one-day) virtual meeting
- FY 2023, Quarter 4, a rural outreach meeting to Cordova, June 7 – 9, 2023.

COMMENTS AND CLOSING REMARKS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Angela Garay opened the floor for comments, a summary of which follows:

Laura Brooks shared an overview of DOC activities as follows:

- DOC hired new individuals into new positions that will affect its programming in the most positive ways. Over the last three to five years, they have pushed their programming to be evidence-based, which ties in with DOC's discussions with the Council staff about interpersonal violence (IPV) programming.
- DOC continues its substance abuse treatment and sex offender treatment and is looking at reentry programs and how they can bring in additional domestic violence programming to reentrants as part of the reentry programs. There is a lack of programs for those individuals in the community. The workgroup that addressed intervention is going to benefit the efforts of DOC.
- One thing DOC still hears from reentrants is the lack of access to domestic violence programming for perpetrators, and DOC is exploring additional ways to expand access. DOC is also looking for space in the communities to expand reentry programs so offenders have better access to resources.
- When it comes to reentry efforts and pairing that with domestic violence efforts, DOC is looking forward to that becoming a more cohesive piece of its reentry programming.

Laura Brooks announced that she will be retiring on January 3, 2023. She stated that it has been her honor to be part of CDVSA and watch the growth that the leadership has built into the Council. She stated that the Council's work has always humbled her.

John Skidmore congratulated Laura Brooks and expressed his appreciation for having worked with her over the years. He noted that her knowledge, skills, and dedication have always been an inspiration. John highlighted the following activities of the Department of Law (DOL):

- HB 325, which changed the laws on consent, is a major area of focus in training prosecutors and law enforcement. DOL held an annual conference in October and spent two-and-a-half days talking almost exclusively about that change in the law, what it will mean, and its impact.
- DOL participated in trying to revise SART forms for questions that would be posed both to victims and defendants as they think that a change in the law will impact that. There is training scheduled for law enforcement in early December.
- Anytime there is a major change in laws, it is an evolutionary process for the system as it adjusts and takes it on. It is expected that people's knowledge and thoughts on handling cases in the new area will be an ongoing and evolving process. DOL expects to periodically review the training.
- DOL has discussed changes in the treatment programs available for domestic violence offenders from a prosecutor's perspective. The changes in those programs and the efficacy of those programs will have a significant impact on what they do and the training that they provide. DOL will be following that closely as things progress.

John Skidmore commented that every legislative session, there are efforts by the administration to address criminal laws, and there's usually something related to domestic violence, sexual assault offenses, and other offenses that are relevant to the work of the Council. He doesn't believe the upcoming session will be any different. John said that regarding the board meeting, the change in data software is exciting, and he will follow that closely to ensure that it works not only for the Council but also for the programs of the Council. He congratulated the Council for its work on the LAP. John welcomed the new members and looks forward to working with them.

Steve Williams commented that the best way to sum up the work that the Trust is engaged in as it relates to the Council's mission is that everything they do, for the most part, is trying to ensure that there are services and early access to those services upstream. The Trust is engaged in making sure individuals have access to addiction, mental health, housing, and other services across the continuum of care that the state provides. Those services and interventions can help reduce or eliminate domestic violence and sexual assault. Steve shared his appreciation of working with Laura Brooks in many venues over the past 20 years. Steve also shared his appreciation and recognition of the work of the Council staff.

Laurel Shoop thanked Laura Brooks for her service. She commented that the state has staff shortages in almost all agencies, particularly teachers. Last session, SB 20 passed for out-of-state teacher reciprocity, hopefully attracting teachers to the state. Laura remarked that for licensing, teachers must complete sexual abuse and sexual assault awareness prevention courses, dating violence awareness and prevention courses, multicultural education and cross-cultural communications, and Alaska studies.

Laurel thanked CDVSA for welcoming her and said she is looking forward to working with the Council.

Lydia Heyward reported that she had been working with the Governor's Council on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP). The Council began meeting in April of 2022 and turned in a report to the Governor on October 19, 2022. She noted that the Council was tasked to provide recommendations on the following topics:

- Developing a public awareness and education plan
- Improving interagency cooperation relative to missing persons
- Improving public safety in tribal communities that don't have law enforcement presence
- Ways to improve investigations, including data collection and data sharing.

Lydia Heyward will provide the report once it is approved. Lydia noted that she worked with a very diverse group of individuals. There was a great amount of discussion, some of which focused on Savanna's Act and how the Council applies that to the recommendations.

Commissioner Cockrell remarked that the MMIP Council did a great job, and hopefully the administration will release the report soon. He said that since then, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) added another MMIP investigator to focus on that important issue statewide. DSP is sending two staff and the Missing Person Clearinghouse steward to Washington this month to attend an MMIP summit. The department is also recruiting for two tribal liaisons, which is a huge step forward in the state's interaction with the tribes statewide. Other activities of the department include:

- Recruiting for the victim witness coordinator manager position. After that position is filled, the department will recruit for witness victim coordinators.
- DPS submitted its FY 24 budget, and they look to continue the progress the department is making.
- DPS is interested in looking at the Crisis Now model.

Commissioner Cockrell expressed appreciation for the information brought forward in the meeting. He noted that DPS and the Council will continue to try to reduce the high instances of domestic violence and sexual assault. Commissioner Cockrell said he sees a path forward by engaging youth in the cultural change it will take to turn the tide of domestic violence and sexual assault. He sees education as a way forward.

Angela Garay stated that she is a public member of the CDVSA board and an attorney with the Office of Victim's Rights (OVR). She shared the activities of OVR as follows:

- OVR has four attorneys. All four attorneys have been prosecutors and have had prior experience with domestic violence. The attorneys represent victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in court and fight for their rights to be present and heard, their rights to restitution, and their right to be safe.
- OVR plans to begin a LAP project so victims understand their rights in their language better. They are also looking at producing videos that victims could access that will explain court procedures and processes in simplified terms.

- OVR participates in various training for a variety of audiences.
- The OVR executive director retired, and the legislature will appoint a new executive director this year.

Angela Garay shared an example of how community organizations are helping with domestic violence issues. She highlighted that the Alaska Pot Belly Pig Rescue takes in pets of domestic violence victims who are in shelter or transition, and they take care of their pets until the victims are stable enough to take their pets back.

ADJOURNMENT

Steve Williams **MOVED** to adjourn, **SECONDED** by Lydia Heyward. Hearing no opposition, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at approximately 12:30 p.m.

COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
& SEXUAL ASSAULT

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Friday, December 2, 2022
11:00 a.m.

ROUGH DRAFT TRANSCRIPT
Pages 1 - 5, inclusive

Council Members Present:
Angela Garay
Laura Brooks
Mariah Seater
Commissioner James Cockrell
John Skidmore
Laurel Shoop
Steve Williams
Lydia Heyward
Ryon Turley
Blaze Bell

Transcribed by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

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

2 ANGELA GARAY: Shall we proceed with
3 public comment? Diane, are you able to tell if there
4 are people in the queue for public comment?

5 DIANE CASTO: Yes. We do have one hand
6 raised, Malan Paquette.

7 ANGELA GARAY: Malan, would you like to
8 make your comment?

9 MALAN PAQUETTE: Hello. Yes, thank you.
10 This is Malan Paquette, advocate, south Kenai
11 Peninsula, lifelong Alaskan. I've spoke up about a
12 couple issues surrounding accountability in what I
13 observe in comparing public data between the sex
14 offender/kidnapper registry and the warrants page.

15 And I've been reading through the
16 statutes and trying to understand how we have 277
17 non-compliant that's failing to register, while on the
18 warrants page there's about 41 failed to register
19 warrants. So I'm getting really concerned that those
20 numbers are not becoming more congruent. It seems to
21 me that if they are failing to register, that that
22 section would be alerting the local law enforcement to
23 explore warrant requests, and it just seemingly is not
24 occurring.

25 Another one of the patterns that I've

1 observed over the couple of years comparing this data
2 is finding that we have profiles where offenders are
3 being released and there's no photo, no data. They
4 are starting out their probation non-compliant or they
5 are starting out in the community released, time
6 served, and nobody in that court hearing made effort
7 to enforce the statutory compliance with registration.

8 So I'm really just beating the drum on
9 this accountability factor. To me, 277 non-compliant
10 is 277 community victims and relatives of those
11 victims just horrified at the lack of accountability.
12 And, you know, I think it's fair to say that it is
13 dissuading our trust in law enforcement if that
14 accountability is just kind of a number that we're all
15 observing over time. I'm just really baffled with the
16 warrants issue, 41 warrants while there's 277 failing
17 to register.

18 So just some food for thought. It's a
19 really tough topic. You guys are really doing the
20 hard work. I appreciate everybody there and on the
21 front lines and those that are pursuing education in
22 this field.

23 The meeting I'm heading to right now is
24 the Board of Psychologist and Psychological
25 Associates, which is just now finally wrapping their

1 head around the need for distance supervision in our
2 state. So distance supervision would bring master's
3 level credentials up to state licensures. We can
4 develop a supervision plan in the remote way that we
5 live. We can be serving these communities with the
6 right skills and supervision.

7 So thank you for all you're doing. Bye.

8 DIANE CASTO: You're on mute, Angela.

9 ANGELA GARAY: Thank you, Malan. We
10 appreciate your concern for public safety.

11 Do we have anyone else that you can see,
12 Diane?

13 DIANE CASTO: At this point, I do not
14 see any other hands raised, but I would say that if
15 there's anyone else online that is not a board member
16 that would like to make a public comment or a comment
17 about the meeting, please feel free to do that. I
18 know that we do have a few other people who are,
19 again, not board members, but on the call, so this is
20 your opportunity for input.

21 And it is our policy, we do give a full
22 ten minutes before we go onto other topics, in case
23 other people want to join later and give some public
24 comment. And if we chose to go onto another topic, we
25 will interrupt if someone joins that would like to

1 give public comment.

2 No one else would like to have a moment
3 with the microphone? Couple more minutes, Angela, and
4 then we can move forward into the rest of our agenda.

5 ANGELA GARAY: The next portion is about
6 dates, correct, Diane?

7 DIANE CASTO: Yes.

8 ANGELA GARAY: Do you want to lead this
9 discussion?

10 DIANE CASTO: I can kind of start it.

11 (End of public testimony)

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