



## CDVSA Executive Director's Update

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January – March 2023  
FY2023 Quarter 3

### An update of CDVSA activities/highlights January – March 2023

#### **Staffing and personnel**

Every quarter the report on staffing and personnel adds new surprises, good and bad! Currently, we have nine (9) full-time staff. Since our last meeting, we have added Chris Hardin, Grants Administrator 1 (new position added in FY23); Morgan Stonecipher, Program Coordinator 1 (replacing Marjie Hamburger); and Kay Ravert, Administrative Assistant 2 (replacing Angie Wells). In addition, we lost our recently hired Administrative Officer 2, Elaine Bell, who suddenly resigned on March 14. You will have the opportunity to meet each new staff person during our Q.3 Board meeting.

The second new position that we received in the FY23 budget is a Program Coordinator 2 position to lead and direct our re-envisioned perpetrator rehabilitation programming (community-based and institution-based). We solicited for this position beginning in late January, conducted interviews in February, and made a job offer in early March. Lisa Morley has accepted this PC 2 position and will begin her new job on April 10. Lisa has 20 years of experience leading and developing statewide programs to meet the needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities in several positions including Executive Director of the Alaska Commission on Aging, Division of Senior and Disability Services. We are excited to have her join CDVSA.

We are now recruiting for a new Administrative Officer 2, posted on March 21 through April 4. Our goal is to have a new AO 2 no later than June 30 (end of the fiscal year) and hopefully sooner. As of March 28, we have 3 applicants!

As mentioned last quarter, Ann Rausch is retiring on April 28. We are currently updating her Position Description and will post her position for recruitment by the end of April. Ann joined CDVSA in September 2008 and is a great asset. Thank you to Ann, for her years of dedication



and passion for CDVSA and the importance of focusing on preventing DVSA from happening in the first place. She will be missed!

While there have been a lot of additions and changes, we also have a steady and stable workforce among the rest of our staff. They work hard, are ready to do what it takes to get the job done and do it with a smile (most days 😊). A big thank you to the CDVSA staff who keep us moving forward daily.

### **CDVSA Funding Challenges**

I believe I can honestly say, that as I type this report, there are so many unknowns and possible new budget scenarios, it is impossible to give a fully accurate account of what our budget will look like in SFY2024.

The budget presented by Governor Dunleavy included three increments for CDVSA:

- \$3,000,000 (UGF) One-time-increment for DVSA Victim Services Grants Support (continuing replacement of federal VOCA funds)
- \$1,200,000 (UGF) to increase and enhance community-based prevention and abusive partner intervention program activities
- \$420,000 (RJA) to align authority with the statutory distribution of the balance in the Restorative Justice Account

These additional funds will significantly impact our ability to continue to provide adequate funding to our community-based subgrantees for Victim and Enhanced Services; Prevention programs; and both community-based and institution-based Battering Intervention Programs. At this time, these funds are still in the House version of the operating budget, with some possible amends being offered in the week of March 28.

Because it is now clear that the federal VOCA funding is not going to be as robust as it has been in the past, the need for additional state general fund dollars is more critical than ever – no longer are we looking to temporarily fill the VOCA gap, the current funding levels are the norm. We just received notification of our FFY23 VOCA award and it is slightly smaller than our FFY22 award – the FFY22 award was \$3,573,803 and our FFY23 award will be \$3,381,187, a shortage of \$192,616 in the coming award.



We are now being told that the VOCA Crime Victims Fund (CVF) is at its lowest level and the expectation is that FFY24 and FFY25 will be less stable than FFY23. It appears a stable funding level of around \$3.0 million or less is our new reality.

The Board will need to keep monitoring available state and federal funding for ongoing services, recognizing our funding levels may continue to dip without additional stable funding.

### **CDVSA Priority Projects Update**

- **Updating CDVSA Victim Services Regulations** – On January 25, 2023, after a multi-year process, CDVSA public noticed regulation changes to Title 13 of the Alaska Administrative Code dealing with domestic violence and sexual assault program standards and grant programs. 13 AAC90.010 – 13 AAC 90.190 (Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program Standards) and 13 AAC 95.010 – 13 AAC 95.900 (CDVSA Grant Programs) were both updated and revised to reflect changes to federal and state regulations, requirements, and processes. The proposed new language was public noticed for 35 days, closing at 5:00 p.m., February 28, 2023. A total of 16 unduplicated agencies submitted comments focused on 19 separate areas of the draft regulations and were received by the indicated deadline. The comments have been organized into a spreadsheet indicating which regulation was being commented on, whom it was submitted by, details of the comments, and an initial response regarding the comments. Next steps include:
  - Review and consider all comments
  - Staff recommendations for each regulation subjected to comment
  - Special Board meeting for the Board to review and consider staff recommendations
  - If changes are agreed upon, CDVSA may need to issue a supplemental public notice and may reopen public comment (only if changes are significant)
  - Once finalized by CDVSA (Board and staff) Dept. of Law will complete a final legal review and approval
  - Once approved by DOL regulations will be submitted to the Lieutenant Governor
  - Once approved by the Lieutenant Governor regulations will be adopted by a vote of the CDVSA Board and final regulations will be filed with the office of the Lieutenant Governor.
  - A summary of the final adopted regulations will be posted at Online Public Notices.



Meggie Stogner, Program Coordinator 2 took on the regulations project, working closely with a regulation consultant, the assigned DOL Regulations Attorney, DPS Special Assistant, and others to complete this much-needed update of the CDVSA regulations. Thank you, Meggie, for your tenacity, attention to detail, and near completion of this critical project.

- **Two Current RFPs available for FY24-26 Grant Funding** – This year, CDVSA has released two competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) for a three-year funding cycle, SFY 2024 through SFY 2026.

As with all publicly funded programs, funding is dependent upon state and federal funding amounts and authority. The total amount of potential funding available for each of these two grant programs will be determined at the conclusion of the Alaska Legislative session and finalized once the FY24 Budget is signed by the Governor. The two RFPs are for:

**Enhanced Services for Victims of Crime grant program**, available to provide funding to community, municipal, or tribal organizations to provide services to **enhance existing services** in three specific areas:

1. Legal Assistance Services for victims of crime.
2. Mental Health counseling for children/youth (through 18 years of age) who are direct victims of abuse or have witnessed a violent crime.
3. Child Advocacy Center Services (CACs) for the purpose of serving child/youth victims of sexual or physical abuse.

Enhanced Services are funded with federal dollars received through Alaska's VOCA Formula grant and OVC discretionary grant. Because these funds are limited and are for the purpose of enhancing existing services, grant funds are restricted to direct service personnel costs only.

This RFP was released on February 21, with applications due to CDVSA by April 3.

**Community-based Victim Services grant program** is to provide immediate safety and support to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and their dependent children, in life-threatening situations, and to strengthen local community responses to these and other crimes. The Council also provides funding for services to youth victims of domestic violence, dating violence, and underserved victims of violent crimes.



Community-based Victim Services are funded using multiple state and federal funding streams and most categories of expenditures are allowable including personnel, travel, facility rental, services, commodities, equipment, and other needs to provide comprehensive direct victim services.

The Community-based Victim Services RFP was released on March 6, with applications due to CDVSA by April 18.

CDVSA will hold one Proposal Evaluation Committee for the ES applications on April 20-21 and two (2) PECs for VS applications on May 9-10 and May 11-12. I want to say thank you to the nine individuals, from different departments, disciplines and our Board who agreed to serve on these three PECs – Lydia Heyward (CDVSA Board); Brandy Coltellaro (DJJ); Michael Ramsay (DOC); Tony Piper (DBH); Jennifer Summer (ANTHC); Kami Moore (AASB); Jenny Weissaupt (MH Board); Amanda Woody (DBH) and Blaze Bell (CDVSA Board). For anyone who has participated in a PEC, you know it is a lot of work! Thank you, thank you!

- **33<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Session** – The first regular session of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Legislature began on January 17 and has been very busy, with several legislative and budgetary issues impacting CDVSA. Below is a limited list of bills introduced and currently in various stages of hearings and movement in the legislative process:

- HB 11 – An act establishing the crime of assault in the presence of a child (Rep. Josephson)
- SB 12 – An act relating to creating an address confidentiality program (Sen. Kiehl)
- SB 28 – An act relating to workplace violence protective orders (Sen. Claman)
- HB 67/SB 65 – An act relating to domestic violence/sex offenses (Governor)
- **HB 68/SB 66 – An act relating to sex and human trafficking (Governor)**
- **HB 116 – An act relating to appropriations from the restorative justice account (Rep. Coulombe/Himschoot)**
- **HB 119 – An act relating to marijuana taxes (currently funding CDVSA Prevention) (House Rules Committee)**

Those bills bolded have a direct impact on CDVSA. During our March 31 meeting, Board member John Skidmore will provide a brief overview of HB 68, which includes Sections 30-35, adding sex trafficking to CDVSA statutes, in addition to our work on domestic violence and sexual assault.

HB 116 and HB 119 both include redefining funding allocations from two specific accounts – Restorative Justice Account and the Marijuana Tax fund. Currently, CDVSA receives funding from both accounts—each bill will redefine what allocation CDVSA will receive in the future.

The House Finance Committee is working diligently on the FY24 budget, where CDVSA has three specific increments, all still included. Amendments to the House version of the operating budget will be made during the week of March 27.

- **Improving services for those who cause harm** – The work of the Perpetrator Rehabilitation Workgroup has ended and with the hiring of Lisa Morley, 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 initial steps of this process will follow the considerations presented by the Perpetrator Rehabilitation (PR) Workgroup (concept paper available at [CDVSA-Perpetrator-Rehabilitation-Workgroup-Concept-Paper-\(Nov-2022\).pdf \(alaska.gov\)](#)) and the summary from the Stakeholder Interview Project: Examining the State's Response to Domestic Violence available at [CDVSA-Stakeholder-Interview-Project-The-State-s-Response-to-DV.pdf \(alaska.gov\)](#).

As part of our continuing work to improve services to individuals who cause harm to victims and survivors of domestic violence, CDVSA is partnering with the UAA School of Social Work, Dr. Rei Shimizu, Dr. Kathi Trawver, and Dr. Heidi Brocious. One of the messages we heard very clearly from the PR Workgroup was a concern that many behavioral health providers do not have a full understanding of the myriad of dynamics that constitute the control, power, and coercive behavior so often prevalent in cases of domestic violence. Because there is also a recognition that behavioral health services and conditions are often a critical component of the complete picture of abusive relationships—substance abuse, trauma, and mental health conditions can exacerbate both the violence and the vulnerability of those who cause harm and those who are harmed. To assist with this need for an improved understanding of domestic violence among behavioral health providers, our UAA Team is preparing to develop a DV training curriculum specifically for individuals working and trained in behavioral health. The first step is holding a series of meetings with providers across the state to hear directly from DV providers, BH providers, and tribal partners to better understand what is needed and where the gaps in understanding exist. Several meetings have already been held and will continue for the next month. Once these stakeholder meetings have concluded the UAA Team will begin developing

a draft curriculum that will be tested and piloted prior to finalizing. Once this curriculum is complete it will become a requirement for all providers who apply to become a state approved abusive partners program.

A final component of our work to improve programming services to those who cause harm is to sponsor an upcoming symposium – “Voice! Acknowledgment! Power! Victims’ Rights & Restorative Justice Symposium”, April 27-29 in Anchorage. This event is hosted by Dr. Ingrid Johnson and Dr. Rei Shimizu from UAA. The event features several speakers including sujatha baliga, an internationally recognized leader in the field of restorative justice. Additional information and a link to register are available on our website at [Training Opportunities - Grantee Support - CDVSA - Alaska Department of Public Safety](#).

#### ▪ **Communications, Outreach, and Media**

The FY2022 Annual Report was completed in early February and posted electronically on our website at [https://dps.alaska.gov/getmedia/814729ff-a6dc-4b55-9463-fcf160c804a7/CDVSA-FY2022-Annual-Report\\_V11-\(2\).pdf](https://dps.alaska.gov/getmedia/814729ff-a6dc-4b55-9463-fcf160c804a7/CDVSA-FY2022-Annual-Report_V11-(2).pdf). We did a small run of print copies of the FY22 Annual Report and sent them to select partners. Additionally, we submitted the required copies to Governor Dunleavy, Lieutenant Governor Dahlstrom, Senate President Stevens, and House Speaker Tilton.

Contractor Walsh|Sheppard continues to do an excellent job of creating a well-designed annual report and refreshing existing media messages and creating new messages for use throughout the year. February was Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month, in Alaska and nationally. Throughout the month, we ran a series of media messages regarding all forms of domestic and sexual violence in teen relationships. April is Sexual Assault Awareness month and social media ads will run throughout the month.

Having a regular presence on social media, radio, and television, is our goal. Unfortunately, paying for a consistent media presence is costly. To live within our limited communications budget, we focus our primary messaging during the three focused months of February (Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month), April (Sexual Assault Awareness Month), and October (Domestic Violence Awareness Month).



- **FY 2023 CDVSA Rural Outreach Board Meeting** – This year's Rural Outreach Board meeting is scheduled for June 7-9 in Cordova, Alaska. Due to limited airline schedules in and out of Cordova board members will be flying to Cordova on June 7 and departing on June 9. Meetings will take place at the new Prince William Sound Science Center, including an evening Community Dialogue/Town Hall meeting on June 8. Lodging has been secured at the Reluctant Fisherman. A discussion of this meeting and the next steps will occur during our March 31 Board meeting.