

**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, Alaska

**CDVSA Quarterly Council Board Meeting
Hybrid Virtual/In-Person Meeting – Microsoft Teams
FY 2024 Quarter 2
Tuesday, December 19, 2023**

Board Members Present:

Angela Garay, Chair
Bell Blaze, Co-Chair
Elizabeth Jerue
Ryan Bird
Laurel Shoop
Steve Williams
Rachel Turner (for Commissioner Winkelman)
Deputy Attorney General John Skidmore
Commissioner Kim Kovol
Commissioner James Cockrell

Guests:

Cheri Smith	Nicole Songer
Christine Pate	Lisa Purinton
Everett Bennett	Rodney Gaskins
Gina Hoke	Ronnie Leach
Ingrid Johnson	Pat Sidmore
Julie C.	Suzi Pearson
Kristin Reardon	Katie TePas
Leigh Bolin	Jalene Voyles
Mari Mukai	

Staff:

Lisa Morley, Interim Executive Director
Catherine Mohn
Chris Hardin
Ella Nierra
Kay Riley
Morgan Stonecipher
Danielle Redmond

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.

AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Angela Garay called for a review of the meeting agenda. Steve Williams **MOVED** to approve the agenda for Quarter 2, FY'24 CDVSA Council board meeting as written, **SECONDED** by Laurel Shoop. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

CONFLICT INQUIRY

No conflicts of interest were declared.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS AND CDVSA STAFF

Angela Garay welcomed attendees to the meeting and opened the floor for introductions.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Angela Garay directed the members' attention to the September 2023 draft meeting minutes. Steve Williams **MOVED** to approve the FY'24 Quarter 1 meeting minutes, **SECONDED** by Commissioner James Cockrell. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

OVERVIEW OF AGENDA

Lisa Morley shared a brief overview of the meeting agenda.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT, July – September 2023

Lisa Morley directed the members' attention to the interim executive director report included in the board packet and highlighted the following information:

Staffing and personnel:

- Staffing at CDVSA has been challenged with the resignations of two long-term staff in the fall and the retirement of Executive Director Diane Casto on November 2, 2023. Three lead positions are vacant: executive director, criminal justice planner, and victim services program coordinator II.
- The Council's Executive Director Hiring Subcommittee recommended MaryBeth Gagnon as the new executive director to the Office of the Governor.
- Recruitment for the program coordinator II position is complete, and after selecting a candidate, the hiring process will begin.
- Staff continues to provide timely funding to subgrantees, and the Council increased grant awards to BIP and prevention subgrantees without delay.
- Staff is currently working on completing scheduled federal reporting, gathering data for the annual report, and continuing to support the work of subgrantees as needed.

CDVSA FY'24-'26 Funding Decision Appeals:

- Following the decision and vote by the CDVSA board of directors regarding FY'24 subgrantee funding, CDVSA received two appeals regarding the award amounts. Following protocol, CDVSA board chair Angela Garay established a three-person Appeals Committee to review each appeal and determine if it met

the criteria to move forward to a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge. Board members Angela Garay, Kim Kovol, and John Skidmore comprised the Appeals Committee. They reviewed each appeal, met on Monday, August 14, and determined that each appeal met the criteria to move forward.

- Administrative Law Judge Stephen Slotnick heard each argument, reviewed the information provided, and made recommendations as follows:
 - MyHouse had appealed the Council's decision to reduce the award recommended by staff. The decision by the Administrative Law Judge supported the Council's decision for awarding MyHouse a grant of \$303,136.
 - The Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA) appealed the reduction of \$68,438 from their previous year's award. The decision by the Administrative Law Judge did not support the Council's decision, and ANDVSA was awarded its full funding request of \$568,438.
- CDVSA's Appeals Committee met and decided to adopt both decisions made by the Administrative Law Judge with no exceptions or revisions, and the subgrantees were notified on November 22, 2023.

Victim Services Regulation Project

The Victim Services Regulation Project continues to move forward. The final version was submitted to the Department of Law, and Council staff is awaiting communication to determine the next steps.

New Data Management System

CDVSA has established a contract with Element 74 and is moving forward on transitioning subgrantees and providing technical assistance. Transitioning to the Vela cloud-based system is a heavy lift for subgrantees, but it will greatly enhance the state's ability to collect and report programmatic and financial data for the victim services programs.

New Approaches for Those Who Cause Harm

Lisa Morley has continued to work with experts in perpetrator rehabilitation within and outside of Alaska and is examining establishing a coordinated community approach. She continues to partner with the UAA Justice Center and UAA School of Social Work to explore the concept of restorative justice. She will coordinate one final Restorative Justice Talking Circle in Fairbanks in January. Lisa has begun discussions with Alaska's Therapeutic Court administrators to examine how to expand services to include DV perpetrators.

SFY 2025 Governor's Budget

The Governor announced his FY'25 budget on December 14, 2023. He announced that the Department of Public Safety is establishing a new Victim Services Division, which will provide consistent leadership for all the victims' services and support DPS offers and will include CDVSA, the Violent Crimes Compensation Board (VCCB), the victim witness navigator program, and the DV/SA training program.

OVERVIEW OF THE FY'25 GOVERNOR'S BUDGET AND NEW VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION

Commissioner Cockrell reported that regarding the VAWA and VOCA funding shortfall, DPS is working with the administration to ensure that the funding necessary to run CDVSA will be in the budget using avenues the administration can access to fund it beyond an amended budget. He noted that one of his goals as commissioner is to handle inflation-proofing the services funding because inflation has taken a toll on budgets for CDVSA and, specifically, the shelter services provided. DPS will look at federal or state funding to shore up those shortfalls.

Commissioner Cockrell reported that DPS was traditionally a law enforcement agency and is now trying to balance its law enforcement functions with other functions within the department including CDVSA, VCCB, and potentially the Council on Human and Sex Trafficking (CHST). Essentially, DPS will work toward consolidation.

Commissioner Cockrell reported that to ensure that DPS has a direction of where it wants to go with victim services, all victim services within the department are working together to provide a better overall service for victims and survivors. As a department, and specifically as a law enforcement agency, they do not do a good job of providing support for victims in a very complicated criminal justice system. In short, efforts will be directed at trying to coordinate all areas of DPS that touch victims, including CDVSA, VCCB, the Council on Human and Sex Trafficking, the Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Training Unit, the victim navigator programs, Missing Persons Clearinghouse, and tribal liaisons. DPS looks to meld the entities as one division with a division director who answers to the commissioner.

Board members asked questions about the structures of the Victim Services Division and the Council on Human and Sex Trafficking. As to the CHST, John Skidmore said that the CHST was created by an Administrative Order (AO), and the proposal now is to combine CHST and CDVSA, which will require legislative action.

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AND ALASKAN WOMEN'S HEALTH

Ingrid Johnson joined the meeting and shared a PowerPoint titled, *Relationships Between Intimate Partner Violence and Alaskan Women's Health: A Report Prepared on behalf of the Alaska Justice Information Center (AJIC)*. She provided a brief overview of the report and highlighted the following information:

- The report includes findings on the relationships between experiencing intimate partner violence (IPV) and health status indicators using data from a sample of almost 13,000 adult, non-institutionalized Alaskan women who participated in various statewide and regional waves of the 2010 through 2020 Alaska Victimization Survey (AVS) phone surveys.
- Funding for the AVS data collection is provided by the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Analyses and dissemination of the report were supported by the Alaska Justice Information Center (AJIC), funded by the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority.
- Research has consistently demonstrated the negative impacts of IPV on physical and mental health. The report will be used to raise awareness in Alaska about the different forms of IPV and their impacts on physical and mental health, both recent and historical impact on health.

- Intimate partner violence (IPV) includes more behaviors than just physical violence. Intimate partner violence includes inflicting psychological, physical, and sexual harm against an intimate partner, as well as controlling behaviors, threats of harm, and inflicting harm against people and things an intimate partner cares about.

Table 1, Experiences with IPV

- The percentage of the survey sample who experienced IPV historically, recently, and those who experienced it at any point in their lifetime (the combined total of the historical and recent cases). The percentages include those who experienced any form of IPV and each subtype of IPV.

Table 1 Data:

	Historical	Recent	Lifetime
● Any Intimate Partner Violence	44.3	16.9	61.2
○ Control	31.3	9.5	40.8
○ Reproductive control	9.9	1.9	11.8
● Threats of harm	36.3	7.3	43.6
● Harm infliction	42.4	12.5	54.9
○ Indirect harm infliction	22.2	3.7	25.9
○ Direct harm infliction	42.1	11.8	53.9
○ Psychological aggression	35.1	10.3	45.4
○ Physical violence	35.5	4.6	40.1
○ Minor physical violence	33.7	4.1	37.8
○ Severe physical violence	27.5	2.8	30.3
○ Sexual violence	16.7	1.3	18.0

Table 1 Analysis:

Among adult, non-institutionalized Alaskan women who participated in the Alaska Victimization Survey (AVS):

- 44.3% experienced any IPV historically and 16.9% experienced it recently, amounting to 61.2% having those experiences ever in their lifetime.
- 31.3% experienced controlling behaviors by an intimate partner (a subgroup of any IPV) historically, and 9.5% experienced it recently, amounting to 40.8% having those experiences ever in their lifetime.
- 9.9% experienced reproductive control by an intimate partner (a subgroup of controlling behaviors) historically, and 1.9% experienced it recently, amounting to 11.8% having those experiences ever in their lifetime.
- 36.3% experienced threats of harm by an intimate partner (a subgroup of any IPV) historically, and 7.3% experienced it recently, amounting to 43.6% having those experiences ever in their lifetime.
- 42.4% experienced harm infliction by an intimate partner (a subgroup of any IPV) Historically, 12.5% experienced it recently, amounting to 54.9% having those experiences ever in their lifetime.
- 22.2% experienced indirect harm infliction by an intimate partner (a subgroup of harm infliction) historically, and 3.7% experienced it recently, amounting to 25.9% having those experiences ever in their lifetime.

- 42.1% experienced direct harm infliction by an intimate partner (a subgroup of harm infliction) historically, and 11.8% experienced it recently, amounting to 53.9% having those experiences ever in their lifetime.
- 35.1% experienced psychological aggression by an intimate partner (a subgroup of direct harm infliction) historically, and 10.3% experienced it recently, amounting to 45.4% having those experiences ever in their lifetime.
- 35.5% experienced physical violence by an intimate partner (a subgroup of direct harm infliction) historically, and 4.6% experienced it recently, amounting to 40.1% having those experiences ever in their lifetime.
- 33.7% experienced minor physical violence by an intimate partner (a subgroup of physical violence) historically, and 4.1% experienced it recently, amounting to 37.8% having those experiences ever in their lifetime.
- 27.5% experienced severe physical violence by an intimate partner (a subgroup of physical violence) historically, and 2.8% experienced it recently, amounting to 30.3% having those experiences ever in their lifetime.
- 16.7% experienced sexual violence by an intimate partner (a subgroup of direct harm infliction) historically, and 1.3% experienced it recently, amounting to 18.0% having those experiences ever in their lifetime.

Table 2, Physical and Mental Health

- Health status indicators examined in the analyses for this report include several physical and mental health status indicators: frequent headaches, chronic pain, difficulty sleeping, or health-related limitations, as well as self-rated physical and mental health. Table 2 shows the percentage of the survey sample who said they had certain physical and mental health conditions, along with the percentage that rated themselves within each category for physical and mental health.

Table 2 Data:

• Health Conditions	<u>%</u>
○ Frequent headaches	17.5
○ Chronic pain	25.3
○ Difficulty sleeping	31.6
○ Health-related limitations	33.2
• Self-Rated Physical Health	
○ Excellent	16.7
○ Very good	33.6
○ Good	32.6
○ Fair	13.3
○ Poor	3.7
• Self-Rated Mental Health	
○ Excellent	28.6
○ Very good	36.1
○ Good	26.5
○ Fair	7.5
○ Poor	1.3

Table 2 Analysis:

Among adult, non-institutionalized Alaskan women who participated in the Alaska Victimization Survey (AVS):

- 17.5% reported having frequent headaches.
- 25.3% reported having chronic pain.
- 31.6% reported having difficulty sleeping.
- 33.2% reported having some type of health-related limitation.
- 16.7% rated their physical health as excellent, 33.6% as very good, 32.6% as good, 13.3% as fair, and 3.7% as poor.
- 28.6% rated their mental health as excellent, 36.1% as very good, 26.5% as good, 7.5% as fair, and 1.3% as poor.

Table 3, The Relationship Between IPV and Health

The percentage reporting each of the various health conditions/statuses among each of three groups: (1) those who never experienced any IPV, (2) those who experienced any IPV historically, and (3) those who experienced any IPV recently. Percentages should be compared across columns.

Table 3 Data:

Percentage of any intimate partner violence groups (never experienced, historical experience, and recent experience) endorsing each health outcome:

	Never	<u>ANY IPV</u> Historical	Recent
Frequent headaches	11.9	18.3	28.0
Chronic pain	17.5	29.1	32.2
Difficulty sleeping	20.9	36.3	43.6
Health-related limitations	23.4	38.2	40.6
Self-rated physical health			
Excellent	22.0	14.4	11.5
Very good	38.5	32.2	27.2
Good	28.7	34.3	37.1
Fair	9.0	14.9	18.4
Poor	1.9	4.3	5.7
Self-rated mental health			
Excellent	37.6	25.1	17.8
Very good	37.5	37.4	30.1
Good	21.2	28.0	33.3
Fair	3.3	8.4	14.7
Poor	0.3	1.1	4.1

Table 3 Analysis:

- A significantly larger percentage of those who experienced any IPV either historically or recently have negative health outcomes than those who never experienced it.

Ingrid Johnson reported that what is next with the AVS is to examine relationships between IPV and health in multivariate models. Many forms of violence are co-occurring, and they will explore the different forms of violence and their impact on health and further analyze the data on help-seeking behaviors. The project will then prepare

for the 2025 AVS with primary goals that include comparing lifetime and past-year prevalence to 2010, 2015, and 2020, measuring ACEs, measuring possible Mental Health Trust beneficiary status, and possibly revising help-seeking questions.

The board had a brief discussion related to self-rated measures. Ingrid Johnson remarked that in general, self-rated measures of physical and mental health are good representations of people's actual physical and mental health but not perfect. She noted that using more comprehensive questions may give a better representation. Steve Williams asked about issues around stigma and not knowing how the information will be used. Ingrid stated that many people report to be "good" versus "very good" or "excellent" to be responsive. She noted that in the 2020 survey, they saw younger respondents were willing to respond by saying they have been diagnosed with a mental illness or people in their family struggled with substance misuse, and that may be an indication of a younger generation's awareness around mental health resulting in reduced stigma.

Ingrid Johnson opened the floor for suggestions for areas of interest for the 2025 AVS. The board members suggested asking more directed questions about mental health, perhaps using specific timeframes, and adding questions for the purpose of research, not necessarily for comparison of previous survey questions. There was also a discussion of how the AVS data could be used in training sessions with law enforcement.

ANDVSA UPDATE

Brenda Stanfill, the ANDVSA executive director, joined the meeting and shared the following update:

- The Network is a non-profit, federally recognized coalition, and a primary partner with the Council, which is the state administrator of federal funding. The Network appreciates the good relationship with the Council over many years.
- The Network supports the programs, is a resource to the state, and contributes information for the strategic plan.
- The Network is pleased to welcome MaryBeth Gagnon as the new executive director of the Council. The Network staff and programs have worked with MaryBeth for many years and feel she will be a great leader for CDVSA.

Collaborative projects:

- Vela, the new database, is now available to programs providing direct services funded through CDVSA. The Network has secured funds to pay for the subscription cost of the database for three years. Vela will be valuable to programs to track services by funding type. The Network plans to request that the Council limit funding sources to programs to lessen the administrative burden of monitoring many funding sources.
- Twelve programs have fully launched Vela, and the rest are in the process. The Network anticipates that all programs will be launched by February, and by July of next year, all programs and data will be in the system.
- The Network will seek funding to continue supporting programs using the Vela data management system after three years. The cost to continue support is approximately \$200,000 per year.

- Brenda Stanfill attended the Restorative Justice Gathering held in Juneau. She noted that it is worth looking at a victim-centered restorative justice system. Brenda remarked that she appreciates that research is being done to look at the restorative justice system differently.
- The Network is tasked with creating a statewide needs assessment. There is no funding attached to the task. The Network cannot do the work alone and is working with partners, including the Denali Commission and the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center. The Denali Commission has put forth funding, and the plan is to start with a gap analysis and look to hire a position within the Network to facilitate that work. The statewide needs assessment results, the AVS, and information on domestic violence from the Alaska Criminal Justice Data Analysis Commission will help inform the state plan the Network will ultimately create for Alaska.
- On January 24, 2024, there will be another homelessness convening. The first one was on August 30, 2023, and was sponsored by Alaska Housing Finance Corporation. AHFC puts out a report looking at the issue of homelessness that includes a point-in-time analysis. Domestic violence is a driver of homelessness, and the Network plans to use the intersectionality of homelessness and domestic violence in its needs assessment.
- The Network would like to partner with the Council on PSAs to maximize awareness efforts. The Network plans to bring on a communications director to improve the awareness of organizations working in the domestic violence and sexual assault field.
- The Network and the Council are partnering to host a Prevention Gathering in Anchorage at the end of January. The gathering is geared toward individuals working on prevention in programs.
- The Network is partnering with LEAD On for the fall 2024 event.
- The Network had a rural grant kickoff. The rural grant is focused on the intersectionality of domestic violence/sexual assault and behavioral health. Dillingham and Sitka are two intensive sites this year.
- The Network is looking at creating on-demand training.
- The Network is looking at providing a staff member to look at safety and technology. The Network has a COVID mitigation grant in collaboration with the Council and plans on working on remote access for victims. They will look to the OhanaLink model for guidance and do a pilot project in Cordova.
- The Network is involved with the family justice center feasibility study efforts. Commissioner Kovol described the feasibility study and the report to the Governor's timeline.

Brenda Stanfill shared that the challenges for programs continue to be housing, funding, staff recruitment and retention, and overall task saturation. She noted that the legislative session will begin in January, and the budget is the top priority. The Network will work closely with the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center, and Brenda extended an invitation to the Council to join in the Network's advocacy meetings.

Brenda Stanfill shared that the Network had reserves they used to purchase a building in Cordova to house the Cordova Family Resource Center (CFRC) program. CFRC's facility rent was increased unexpectedly, and a building was available to suit their

needs. The Network is putting together a money package allowing them to purchase the building from the Network.

Brenda Stanfill thanked the Alaska Mental Health Trust for their support in working on issues related to the hidden cost of victimization. She shared the Network's appreciation to the Council board and Council staff.

ALASKA CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE OVERVIEW AND UPDATE ON CACs IN ALASKA

Mari Mukai with the Alaska Children's Alliance joined the meeting and shared that the Alaska Children's Alliance is a non-profit organization with a mission to support Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) in Alaska. There are currently 19 CACs. The support often involves training and network building. Many CACs are receiving VOCA funding through the Council, and that funding has made a huge difference for the programs and services they can offer.

Mari Mukai reported that the statewide priority is funding for CACs. The CACs are organizationally different entities. Some CACs are stand-alone non-profits, some are under tribal organizations, and some are under umbrellas or hospitals. There are three primary sources of funding that most CACs receive. One is TANF (flat funded since FY'18), one is Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) (one-time grant that expires in 2025), and one is VOCA funding. The Alliance is looking for ways to fill the gaps and ensure the continuation of programs.

Leigh Bolin, the executive director of the Resource Center for Parents and Children (Stevie's Place CAC) in Fairbanks, one of the programs that receive VOCA funds through the Council, reported that Stevie's Place is the second largest CAC in the state. She reported that all CAC funding goes directly to frontline staff. The VOCA funding pays for people doing the forensic interviews, those doing advocacy, and those working with the multidisciplinary team partners to coordinate the cases. Leigh remarked that they were grateful for the funding stream as it funds five people, three of whom provide frontline services for clients the CAC serves. She shared that they see between 400-500 children a year, primarily sexual abuse, but also see felon-level physical abuse, and witness to violence, which could be domestic violence or homicide, as well as extreme neglect that would require medical intervention.

Gina Hoke, the executive director of Copper River Basin CAC, another program receiving VOCA funding through the Council, joined the meeting and shared the following information:

- The CAC serves a vast region.
- They have opened up two satellites, one in Tok, funded by another grant until 2025; one in Valdez, for which the VOCA funding is used for direct services and funds a part-time family advocate position and a forensic interviewer.
- The shelter in the region also serves many families and children the CAC serves, so there is a good collaboration with Advocates for Victims of Violence (AVV).
- They have a team of multidisciplinary partners they work with. They are housed in the Providence Valdez Counseling Center and have been fortunate to have community support with in-kind donations for rental lease space and shared staff.
- They are an accredited CAC. The National Children's Alliance is an accreditation body for CACs nationwide. They were accredited in 2015 and will apply for

reaccreditation in 2025. There are eight CACs statewide that are accredited through the national association.

Angela Garay said it was helpful to hear from the CACs at the meeting, and the board members expressed appreciation for the CACs' work.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

UPDATE ON THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON HUMAN AND SEX TRAFFICKING

Katie TePas, with the DPS Division of the Alaska State Troopers in her role as staff for the Governor's Council on Human and Sex Trafficking (CHST), joined the meeting to share an update on the Council as follows:

- There is a link on DPS's website for the CHST. The link shares the CHST FY'24 Plan.
- From the report. On September 28, 2023, the CHST fulfilled their duties under Administrative Order (AO) #328 and submitted their recommendations to the Office of the Governor. While the CHST has fulfilled its duties and responsibilities under the AO, the CHST members have expressed their commitment to ensuring the work to combat human and sex trafficking in Alaska continues. As such, the CHST met on July 19, 2023 to develop a fiscal year plan for 2024 (FY'24). The meeting was facilitated by Heather Harris from the Foraker Group. Using the original recommendations provided to the Office of the Governor, the CHST prioritized their projects for FY'24. The document provides a summary of the nine recommendations the CHST approved for FY'24. The document will be periodically updated to reflect the current tasks being undertaken by the CHST and subcommittees.

Key Priority Area 1: Coordination and Infrastructure for Addressing Trafficking:

- FY'24 Recommendation #1: Define the duties and infrastructure of the CHST.
- The CHST will provide a recommendation to the legislature for an amendment (HB 68/SB 66) regarding the duties and infrastructure of the CHST.
 - Develop a recommendation for the organizational structure of the CHST, including placing the CHST in statute.
 - In September 2023 the CHST approved the recommendation for a "one director, two board model." Specifically, the recommendation is to have one executive director (ED) support both CDVSA and CHST, but each would have their own designated staff (without a reduction in staffing to CDVSA and without additional duties for CDVSA).
 - This recommendation includes two additional staff for the CHST to include a program coordinator II and an administrative assistant II, conducting a meeting between the CHST and the CDVSA and staff which should take place before the November 2023 CHST meeting, and codifying the CHST in statute and amending CDVSA's statutory duties under Alaska Statute (AS) 18.66.050 regarding hiring the executive director and amending it to indicate it is a shared responsibility with the CHST.

When asked about the “one director, two boards model,” Katie TePas noted that there are similar issues that are overlapping in terms of victimization and trauma-informed approaches between the populations of victim-survivors, but they are also distinctly different. There was some discussion early on about possibly amending CDVSA’s duties and adding sex trafficking to them, but that excluded labor trafficking, which led to the one director, two boards model. The challenge is the supervision of a director who directs two boards and works with a myriad of members. There is some overlap of boards looking at the state agencies involved. The draft language proposed for CHST’s duties somewhat mirrors CDVSA’s duties. Katie noted that independent of the Governor’s crime bill, HB 68, Representative Vance is requesting a bill to be drafted solely for CHST duties. Katie stressed that the intention is to advocate strongly for staff positions for the CHST and that CDVSA would not assume any additional work. CDVSA is already task-saturated.

TRANSITION PLANNING FOR CDVSA

Lisa Morley shared the proposed meeting dates as follows:

- Quarter 3, week of March 25, 2024
- Quarter 4, week of June 3, 2024 – rural outreach meeting
 - Rural locations not visited since 2014:
 - Emmonak
 - Valdez
 - Craig
 - Utqiagvik
 - Unalaska
 - Hooper Bay
- The board agreed to schedule the Quarter 3 hybrid meeting for Thursday, March 28, 2024.
- The board requested that Council staff work on setting up the Quarter 4 rural outreach meeting in Valdez for June 12 – 14 2024, and provide an update at the March meeting.

Lisa Morley reported the following information about the Council’s work:

- The Council looks forward to the new executive director being appointed and the legislative session.
- The Council reclassified the criminal justice planner, which essentially changed the supervision to the program coordinator. The Council looks forward to hiring a financial lead to guide the grant administrators and the administrative assistant.
- The Council anticipates a VAWA site visit in the spring.
- The Council staff will be gathering data for the annual report. The report will be a pared-down version with data and stats but fewer program overviews.
- Council staff will monitor legislative activity and following movement on the new proposed victim services division and the CHST.
- The Council anticipates putting out a prevention RFP this year, and staff is beginning to develop that.
- As a result of the appeals of the funding decision made last cycle, the Council plans to look at funding distribution priorities.

Lisa Morley reported that she will pull together a BIP Advisory group to help guide the standards revision. She will also reach out to board members, others from the university, and an expert from another state that revised its standards to join the effort.

COMMENTS AND CLOSING REMARKS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Angela Garay opened the floor for comments and closing remarks from board members. Following is a summary of the remarks:

- Ryan Bird appreciated the productive meeting and looks forward to the next meeting.
- Rachel Turner thanked the board for letting her sit in on the meeting and learn about the wonderful work of the CDVSA.
- John Skidmore remarked that there will be an interesting discussion regarding funding priorities at the next meeting. It was evident from the last several meetings that there is more interest in the limited resources. He thanked the staff for conducting a good meeting.
- Commissioner Cockrell thanked Lisa Morley for standing in as interim director and the staff for their excellent work. He welcomed Ryan Bird as a new board member. He encouraged the board to grasp the opportunity as board members to focus on the mission because it is important to the people of the state.
- Steve Williams welcomed Ryan Bird and affirmed his appreciation for the staff and the work being done during the transition period.

Angela Garay thanked Lisa Morley and the Council staff for their efforts during the executive director transition. She shared that she appreciated the public comment, and it is important to continue to hear about the successes and challenges of the funded programs. She noted that the Council hears the challenges programs are experiencing with recruitment and retention and that those struggles are felt in all industries, but certainly the impact is magnified in shelters. Angela stated that the Council will continue to support programs to the best of its ability.

ADJOURNMENT

John Skidmore **MOVED** to adjourn, **SECONDED** by Steve Williams. Hearing no opposition, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
& SEXUAL ASSAULT

Host Location:
State of Alaska Department of Public Safety
CDVSA
150 3rd St., Suite 201
Juneau, Alaska

PUBLIC COMMENT
December 19, 2023
12:30 p.m.

ROUGH DRAFT TRANSCRIPT
Pages 1 - 9, inclusive

Council Members Present:

Angela Garay, Chair
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Commissioner Kim Kovol
Commissioner James Cockrell

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Chris Hardin
Ella Nierra
Kay Riley
Morgan Stonecipher
Danielle Redmond

Transcribed by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

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

2 ANGELA GARAY: If you would like to make
3 a public comment, please raise your hand. Use the
4 raised hand -- what do you call it -- whatever that is
5 on Teams, and then I'll call on you based on that.

6 Is there anyone who would like to make a
7 public comment? I see Nicole. Nicole, would you like
8 to make your public comment?

9 NICOLE SONGER: Thank you, Madam Chair,
10 for allowing me to give public comment today.

11 I think you heard a little bit from
12 executive director at the Alaska Network, Brenda
13 Stanfill, a little bit about Cordova since you all
14 were here just a few months ago.

15 We have been put in a little bit of a
16 predicament position where our rent starting January 1
17 for the current location is raising 400 percent, which
18 put us into a really awkward position. And if we
19 didn't sign a one-year lease and went to
20 month-to-month, it would raise another additional 150
21 percent. I learned something, that you can raise the
22 rent however many times to whatever percentage in the
23 state of Alaska on commercial buildings, which I
24 didn't know before. So that's something that I
25 learned about.

1 And we were at the Network meeting and
2 really kind of-- if it wasn't for the Network and what
3 they are doing, I don't know where CFRC would be
4 currently. They are in the process of looking at --
5 well, actually, they are in the process of a new
6 location, which I think, again, is kind of ironic that
7 when you all were here, we were talking about our lack
8 of shelter, and safety, and hotel rooms, and not being
9 able to put people in places and needing to move them
10 day-to-day pretty much.

11 Well, this is a new facility that the
12 Network is going to purchase, and we're going to rent
13 from them until we are able to put together a funding
14 package, because trying to put together a funding
15 package in one month's notice in the middle of a
16 funding cycle is -- can't do it.

17 So that's going to give us the ability
18 to also have some emergency shelter below the
19 facility, so we're really excited. I actually just
20 picked up the key this morning. We're going to rent
21 from the current owners starting today so we can start
22 moving stuff out, because we have to be out of this
23 location by the 31st of December. So we had a conex,
24 and we loaded that up, and then the weather came in,
25 and now we are moving the rest, all the heavy stuff,

1 by pickups.

2 The community is kind of coming
3 together, and it's been really great. I have staff
4 that are on vacation, I have a staff member that is
5 due in a month, so there's a lot of late nights. But
6 it is great that the Network's been able to help us,
7 and we're moving forward to have a facility that we
8 are not going to have to worry about where we're going
9 to go.

10 We also had to get a conditional use
11 permit, and we met with city council and got that all
12 approved, and we're just awaiting the formal document,
13 because there's a ten-day waiting period.

14 So planning and zoning had made a
15 statement that they've never seen or had an experience
16 where the public comment went over the amount of time
17 and into the regular meeting, because there was that
18 much public comment for this position.

19 So as we move forward, I'll definitely
20 be keeping you updated. I wanted to give a shout out
21 and let the board know that the staff, CDVSA staff has
22 been amazing. I had, like, 150 tabs open and getting
23 pulled in a million different places, and I
24 completely -- I entered all of my numbers for the end
25 of November and never hit the submit button, so my

1 report was late.

2 And I honestly don't even know -- I
3 don't know if or when I've ever had a late report, but
4 I was able to call the Council staff, and I was able to
5 talk to them, and they are working with us if there
6 are some other things as we go through this next month
7 in transition. So I really appreciate them, too, and
8 I wanted the Council to know what they are doing.

9 So thank you. And if you have any
10 questions, let me know, and maybe we'll have to have
11 the Council back here again so we can have you see our
12 new place.

13 ANGELA GARAY: Thank you so much,
14 Nicole.

15 Cheri Smith.

16 CHERI SMITH: Hi, this is Cheri from
17 Kenai, from the Lee Shore Center in Kenai. And I just
18 wanted to come on just real briefly and thank the
19 Council for all of your hard work. And what Nicole
20 was talking about too, the Council staff have -- or
21 the CDVSA staff have just -- they are just wonderful
22 people. They are just very accommodating and helpful,
23 and we really appreciate that.

24 I also wanted to thank Commissioner
25 Cockrell again. We just finished up our -- we had our

1 annual meeting last month, which was a fun event.
2 It's more of an appreciative event, because we also
3 recognize all of our volunteers throughout the year.
4 But the commissioner came and was our guest speaker
5 that night, and so we're really thankful for that, and
6 it shows a lot of community support, which we
7 appreciate.

8 We are still trying to fill positions
9 here since August, and, you know, unfortunately, it's
10 really difficult to get advocate positions filled for
11 whatever reason. COVID, you know, I've said this
12 before, kind of did some damage to some of the
13 programs in that, you know, trying to retain people
14 and hire people has been challenging.

15 And we are just kind of getting ready
16 for the holiday season. We've got probably about 20
17 women and kids with us right now. They are pretty
18 excited. Donations have started to come in this
19 month, and it's kind of a fun time for us, because we
20 set up our conference room with all of the gifts, and
21 the kids in the shelter get to go through and shop for
22 Mom. And then we also let Mom go through, and then
23 moms get to shop for the kids. So that's pretty
24 exciting, looking forward to that, getting all their
25 presents wrapped up.

1 But just wanted to pop in and say that
2 we appreciate you, you know, Lee Shore appreciates you
3 very much, and thank you for the work that you do.

4 ANGELA GARAY: Thank you so much, Cheri.

5 Anyone else who would like to make
6 public comment? Suzi.

7 SUZI PEARSON: Good afternoon, everyone.
8 This is Suzi Pearson, the executive director for AWAIC
9 in Anchorage. I just wanted to let you know as far as
10 the last update that we had, we were struggling, just
11 as all the other shelters, in trying to hire. And
12 we've had our last -- at least four people after we
13 offered chose jobs that had higher pay and better
14 benefits than we are able to offer despite raising our
15 rates, our hourly wages for our direct service staff.

16 So we are still really struggling and
17 have many vacant positions in shelter, which has
18 impacted the burnout and the stress that our staff are
19 experiencing at this time. And we are looking at
20 wellness programs as well as updating our --
21 increasing some of our own benefits, such as us paying
22 more for health, and taking on the full cost of dental
23 and some of the other resources that we have been able
24 to provide our staff. But it's been a real struggle
25 to maintain. We have actually lowered our turnover;

1 however, it's the hiring process that has really
2 created the struggle for all of us.

3 And I do want to just let you know that
4 all of us are trying very hard to ensure that we're
5 still maintaining the level of service that we want to
6 and that we are -- you know, this is a 67-bed shelter,
7 and having five vacancies in our shelter out of -- you
8 know, we have 23 staff, and a lot of them are relief
9 staff. But it's really been painful as far as our
10 ability to provide the number of beds to continue that
11 capacity at 67. We've had to reduce that capacity and
12 really analyze who is coming into shelter and how long
13 folks are staying.

14 So there have been some struggles here,
15 but we are working on trying to increase our
16 attractiveness as a employer and just really trying to
17 work on those issues as far as what we offer for
18 benefits, et cetera.

19 So I just wanted to keep you informed
20 that all of us are trying hard. And thank you so much
21 for the opportunity to testify, and I hope you all
22 have a great rest of your day. Thank you.

23 ANGELA GARAY: Thank you, Suzi. Anyone
24 else who would like to make a public comment? I don't
25 see any other hands. Lisa, do you see any hands in

1 there?

2 LISA MORLEY: Nope.

3 ANGELA GARAY: Okay.

4 LISA MORLEY: I'll keep an eye out.

5 (End of public comment)

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