



CDVSA Executive Director's Update

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January – March 2024

FY2024 Quarter 3

An update of CDVSA activities/highlights January – March 28, 2024

Staffing and personnel

The first part of January, Lisa Morley continued to serve as the CDVSA Interim Director as the office eagerly awaited the arrival of the permanent Executive Director. My official start date with CDVSA was January 22nd, 2024. With legislative session already in full swing, it was a deep dive into current bills affecting CDVSA, budget review, and daily office operations. Unfortunately, one week into my appointment, I needed to leave due to a death in my family, leaving Lisa to once again be at the helm. She did an amazing job (again), and I am deeply grateful for her great attitude and extensive state experience! I returned to CDVSA to continue the deep dive on February 12th, and things have been very busy since!

One of the priority orders of business upon my arrival was to continue with recruitments for our open positions, which have been difficult to fill despite multiple postings and interviewing applicants. CDVSA has 11 full-time positions, though continues to only have seven (7) filled—the office continues to work at 63% of our allocated workforce and has for six (6) months. Additionally, until now, CDVSA has been without any filled leadership positions upon the retirement of E.D Diane Casto in early November and has also been without a Criminal Justice Planner (principal assistant to the E.D.) since July. Furthermore, CDVSA has not had a consistent Administrative Lead for over three years. In January 2024, Ella Nierra, our Grants Administrator 3, moved to other employment opportunities, leaving CDVSA down to one Grants Administrator 1 to manage all sub-awards.

The good news is we were approved to up-class the Administrative Officer 2 position (AO2) to an Administrative Operations Manager 1 (AOM1) position. This has been a change that I have been recommending since my days as the Criminal Justice Planner (CJP). This position will focus on our financial and administrative processes, guide our Grants Administrator's in their work, and serve as a member of CDVSA leadership along with the CJP. With this change, current



supervision structure will shift, with the CJP serving as the supervisor to our four (4) Program Coordinators and the Research Analyst, and the AOM1 taking over supervision of our Grants Administrator's and Administrative Assistant 2 position. Streamlining these functions for CDVSA has been long-standing goal of mine, and I am confident this change will result in a more coordinated and focused approach to both our financial and programmatic roles and functions.

Another positive internal change is that Lisa Morley, currently our BIP Coordinator, has accepted the position of Criminal Justice Planner, and Morgan Stonecipher, our PC 1-2 Flex position, has agreed to take the Lead Victim Services Program Coordinator 2 position (previously held by Meggie Stogner). While this does not gain us more staff in numbers, having these lead positions filled by employees familiar with CDVSA is a positive step to supporting professional development and building upon our team with those who have a passion for the work. Recruitments for their positions are in-progress.

I am truly amazed by our current staff, and their willingness to jump in and do whatever is needed to keep our operations flowing and be available to our sub-grantees. As CDVSA has always said, we have a small but mighty team, and I am very thankful for them!

CDVSA SFY2024 Funding

Much of my focus the past six weeks has been directed to CDVSA's state fiscal year budget and how to address the gap in funding our programs, considering the continual decline in available federal funds. Since FY2022, CDVSA has been receiving federal one-time funding streams for COVID relief that were used to supplement our budget due to decreased Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds. In FY2023-FY2024, CDVSA additionally received earmarks allocated by Senator Lisa Murkowski, along with one-time relief state general funds (GF) from the legislature to address our funding shortfall. However, we have reached the point where we have exhausted most of our one-time federal funds, again leaving a significant shortfall in our grants line for FY25 and beyond. VOCA, our largest federal funding source, is projected to be 41% less than it was in FFY23. While Senator Murkowski was able to secure one more earmark for CDVSA in FFY24, it is confirmed this will be the last. In summary, the funds we have been using to patch together our budget the past three years are now diminished.

To date, CDVSA has not been able to adjust our grant awards to allow for inflation. This means programs, many who have been funded at their "base" levels for years, are operating at a decrement as the cost of utilities, food, and supplies continue to escalate. We anticipate being



approximately 2.2 million dollars short of funding Victim Services/Enhanced Services programs at their current "base" levels in FY25. This amount includes CDVSA allocating all remaining federal grant funds to FY25, including those we will receive for FFY24 (received 10/1/24), except for Senator Murkowski's third earmark. We chose to hold the earmark for FY26 as the shortfall projected for FY26 is much higher.

In the legislature, thus far amendments to add funds to our base levels of GF has not been voted through. Representative Coloumbe has put forward HB116, which would reverse the percentage of funding CDVSA receives from Restorative Justice Funds (PFD) with those received by Department of Corrections. However, without knowing if various attempts to increase our budget will pass, CDVSA and the Council Board will need to start discussing different scenarios to reach a balanced budget.

(Note: HB116 and other bills pertinent to CDVSA will be reviewed by Deputy Attorney General John Skidmore during the Council meeting).

CDVSA Priority Projects Update

▪ New Approaches for Those Who Cause Harm

This quarter, Lisa Morley, the BIP Program Coordinator 2, has resumed work on the Domestic Violence Intervention Program (DVIP) after serving as the CDVSA Interim E.D. for almost four months. As the BIP regulations lie within the Department of Corrections (DOC) statutes and are carried out by CDVSA via an MOA, a meeting was held with DOC and DPS leadership to discuss plans for updating the BIP regulations, and how best to meet short-term needs of the state to increase DVIP capacity. CDVSA continues to receive multiple inquiries from communities wanting to implement DVIP programming, demonstrating the demand to be able to offer alternatives such as short-term virtual programming as we simultaneously start the longer process of updating regulations and programming to establish statewide standards. Lisa is currently working with the National BIP coalition to identify viable resources that can be used in Alaska and is researching the development of a temporary certification packet to meet the immediate needs of communities until the new regulations are developed and approved.

To continue moving the long-term regulation project forward, CDVSA will be developing a scope of work for assistance in the development of new program standards and regulations that incorporates the body of work, research and recommendations made by the Perpetrator Rehabilitation Workgroup. We plan to Convene a Domestic Violence Intervention Program



(DVIP) Advisory Committee to guide development of the new regulations to obtain subject-matter expertise in decision-making and impacts of changes and requirements.

The UAA School of Social Work currently is moving forward on development of a DV curriculum training for behavioral health providers and we will be exploring options for making this and other training available for DVI facilitators. CDVSA is excited to continue gaining momentum on this area of work to create meaningful programming and standards that include protect victim safety, increase accountability, and ultimately reduce the rates of those who commit these crimes.

▪ **Prevention**

Our prevention efforts continue this quarter, with Program Coordinator 2 Danielle Redmond. This year was scheduled to have a new Request for Proposals, but we decided to do a year of continuation funding instead. This will help us maintain consistency for our grantees and focus on getting CDVSA fully staffed for a new RFP next year. CDVSA is hopeful that we can fund our 13 community-based prevention programs at the same level as last year, including the slight increase they received in FY24. This is all dependent on the final Governor's budget, of course.

CDVSA was able to work with 3 new partners this quarter, including the Department of Health, Department of Juvenile Justice, and the Native Youth Olympics. We are working with our contractor Walsh|Shepard on increasing media campaigns, including a Deep Rural Outreach campaign, to reach underserved areas of the state. Danielle has also been connecting with other state, local, and tribal prevention efforts around the state so that we can leverage resources through shared risk & protective factors, where appropriate.

▪ **New Data Management System**

CDVSA Research Analyst 3 Catherine Mohn continues to work on the implementation of the VELA cloud-based system with sub-grantees. Currently, most of our sub-grantees are either entering data into the VELA database system, submitting reports into it, or have a timeline to do be onboarded. The next phase of implementation will be the onboarding of BIP data, which will hopefully be completed this coming fall. CDVSA is very excited about this improvement in our data collection system.

▪ **CDVSA Board Member Update**

CDVSA currently has 8 of its delegated 11 seats filled. All seats are public member seats. With the resignations of Angela Garay in December and Blaze Bell in March, we are without a Board Chair or Vice Chair. Elections will need to be held to fill these critical Board positions.

▪ **CDVSA Rural Outreach Meeting Update**

At the Q2 Council Meeting, the community of Valdez was selected to host our Q4 Rural Outreach meeting scheduled for June 12th-14th. With the transition between directors, unfortunately the dates were not confirmed with the Executive Director of Advocates for Victims of Violence (AVV), and it turns out they will be unable to host that week. I reached out to other rural locations that had been identified at the Q2 meeting to see if there was another option; unfortunately, it was too late for any of them to be able to host our meeting. Moving the meeting to a different date was not a viable option for most Board members. It was decided by the Board that we would forgo the Q4 meeting being held in a rural location. Details regarding the format of the Q4 meeting will be discussed in the Q3 meeting, including the length of the meeting given we will not be traveling to a rural community.

It will also need to be decided if we continue to visit a rural community in Q4 of FY25, or if the Board would like to do so earlier in the year due to no rural visit in FY24.

*To assist in determining which community you want to consider for the FY25 Rural Outreach meeting, listed below are the rural communities (definition = off-the-road system or on-the-road system with a population of 3,000 or less) we have never visited or have not visited since FY2014.

- Seward
- Emmonak
- Craig
- Unalaska
- Valdez
- Utqiagvik
- Hooper Bay (new grantee FY24)