

**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 3
Thursday, March 28, 2024**

Board Members Present:

Elizabeth Jerue
Ryan Bird
Laurel Shoop
Steve Williams
Commissioner Jennifer Winkelman
Deputy Attorney General John Skidmore
Commissioner Kim Kovol
Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow (for Commissioner Cockrell)

Guests:

Pam Halloran
Brenda Stanfill
Rowena Palomar
Mari Mukai
Leigh Bolin
Dr. Ingrid Johnson

Staff:

Executive Director MaryBeth Gagnon
Catherine Mohn
Chris Hardin
Kay Riley-Rowland
Morgan Stonecipher
Danielle Redmond

Minutes prepared by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

John Skidmore called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Roll was taken, and a quorum was established.

John Skidmore noted that the Council is in an odd situation in that both the chair and vice chair seats are unoccupied. He spoke with Executive Director MaryBeth Gagnon, who explained that both seats were elected in March 2022. Both terms expired in

March 2024, and new officers must be selected. The Council also currently has three vacant public member seats.

AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL

John Skidmore asked members to review the agenda.

Laurel Shoop **MOVED** to approve the agenda for the FY'24 Quarter 3 meeting on Tuesday, March 28, 2024, **SECONDED** by Jennifer Winkelman. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

CONFLICT INQUIRY

No conflicts of interest were declared.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS AND CDVSA STAFF

John Skidmore welcomed attendees to the meeting and opened the floor for introductions.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

John Skidmore directed the members' attention to the December 2023 meeting minutes draft. Jennifer Winkelman **MOVED** to approve the FY'24 Quarter 2 meeting minutes, **SECONDED** by Laurel Shoop. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

OVERVIEW OF AGENDA

John Skidmore shared a brief overview of the meeting agenda.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT, January – March 2024

MaryBeth Gagnon directed the members' attention to the executive director's report included in the board packet and highlighted the following information:

Staffing and Personnel:

- MaryBeth Gagnon began as executive director on January 22, 2024 but was called home shortly after. Lisa Morley continued as interim executive director until MaryBeth's return on February 12, 2024. She expressed the Council's appreciation to Lisa for her leadership during the transition.
- One of the Council's priorities was to continue recruiting for open positions, which have been difficult to fill despite multiple postings and interviewing applicants. CDVSA has 11 full-time positions, though it continues to only have seven filled. The office continues to work at 63% of the allocated workforce and has for six months. CDVSA was approved to reclassify the administrative officer II position to administrative operations manager I.
- Changes in staffing include Lisa Morley, currently the BIP coordinator, who has accepted the position of criminal justice planner, and Morgan Stonecipher, who filled the program coordinator I-II flex position, has agreed to take the lead victim services program coordinator II position. Recruitments for their positions are in progress.
- Current vacant positions include:
 - Administrative operations manager (extended offer)
 - Grants administrator III
 - BIP coordinator

- Victim services coordinator.

CDVSA SFY 2024 Funding

- Much of the focus of the Council has been directed to CDVSA's state fiscal year budget and how to address the gap in funding the programs, considering the continual decline in available federal funds.
- Since FY'22, CDVSA has been receiving federal one-time funding streams. Due to decreased Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds, COVID relief was used to supplement the budget. Additionally, for FY'23 – FY'24, CDVSA received earmarks allocated by Senator Murkowski and one-time relief state general funds from the legislature to address the funding shortfall.
- The Council has reached the point where it has exhausted most of the one-time federal funds, leaving a significant shortfall in the grants line for FY'25 and beyond. VOCA, the largest federal funding source, is projected to be 41% less than in FFY'23.
- Senator Murkowski secured one more earmark for CDVSA in FFY'24, and it is confirmed that this will be the last.
- CDVSA has not been able to adjust the grant awards to allow for inflation. This means programs, many of which have been funded at their base levels for years, are operating at a decrement as the cost of utilities, food, and supplies continue escalating.
- The Council anticipates being approximately \$2.2M short of funding Victim Services/Enhanced Services programs at their current base levels in FY'25. This amount includes CDVSA allocating all remaining federal grant funds to FY'25, including those the Council will receive for FFY'24 (received 10/1/24), except for Senator Murkowski's third earmark. CDVSA chose to hold the earmark for FY'26 as the shortfall projected for FY'26 is much higher.
- Legislative activity:
 - Amendments to add funds to the Council's base levels of GF have not been voted through. Representative Coloumbe has put forward HB 116, which would reverse the percentage of funding CDVSA receives from the Restorative Justice Fund with those received by the Department of Corrections.

New Approaches for Those Who Cause Harm

- Lisa Morley, the BIP program coordinator II, has resumed work on the Domestic Violence Intervention Program (DVIP). 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 the 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 the Council simultaneously starts the more protracted process of updating regulations and programming to establish statewide standards.
- CDVSA will create a scope of work to assist in developing new program standards and regulations that incorporate the body of work, research, and recommendations made by the Perpetrator Rehabilitation Workgroup. The

Council plans to convene a Domestic Violence Intervention Program Advisory Committee to guide the development of the new regulations.

- The UAA School of Social Work is moving forward with developing a DV curriculum training for behavioral health providers. The Council will explore options for making this and other training available for domestic violence intervention facilitators.

Prevention

- Prevention efforts continue with Program Coordinator II Danielle Redmond. The Council was scheduled to have a new request for proposals (RFP) but decided to do a year of continuation funding instead. This will help maintain consistency for the grantees and focus on getting CDVSA fully staffed for a new RFP next year. CDVSA hopes to fund the 13 community-based prevention programs at the same level as last year, including the slight increase they received in FY'24. This is all dependent on the final Governor's budget.
- CDVSA worked with three new partners this quarter, including the Department of Health, the Department of Juvenile Justice, and the Native Youth Olympics. The Council is working with the contractor Walsh/Shepard on increasing media campaigns, including a deep rural outreach campaign to reach underserved areas of the state. The contractor has also connected with other states and local and tribal prevention efforts.

New Data Management System

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

CDVSA Rural Outreach Meeting Update

- Due to conflicting dates, the decision was made to cancel this year's rural outreach meeting. Staff 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 the meeting. Moving the meeting to a different date was not viable for most board members. It was decided by the board that the Council 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.

Board members expressed their appreciation for the extraordinary efforts of the CDVSA leadership and staff through the many transitions. John Skidmore reported that the Council has not hosted a Council member training in some time and suggested the Council discuss opportunities for board training.

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

Alaska Children's Alliance (ACA) Executive Director Mari Mukai and ACA Board Chair and the executive director of the Resource Center for Parents & Children Leigh Bolin

joined the meeting and shared a PowerPoint titled *Alaska Children's Alliance Presentation to the CDVSA Board*. Mari shared that the ACA is a stand-alone non-profit and a membership organization for Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) in Alaska. They highlighted the following information:

Mission:

- Promote a culturally appropriate multi-disciplinary response to child maltreatment throughout Alaska.

Overlaps between child abuse and DV/SA:

- Child sexual abuse is among the strongest predictors of continued sexual victimization in adulthood.
- The host of poor psychological, social, and physiological outcomes associated with child sexual abuse are also widely documented risk factors for rape, intimate partner violence, and peer violence.
- Thus, victims of child sexual abuse are particularly vulnerable to sexual violence later in life.

Child abuse in Alaska:

- One in seven children born in Alaska will experience an allegation of sexual abuse before their 12th birthday.
- Alaska consistently struggles with some of the nation's highest rates of child abuse and neglect.
- In cases where the mother is subject to intimate partner violence, these children are 2.6 times as likely to experience an allegation of harm for sexual abuse.

What is a CAC?

- A CAC is a neutral, developmentally appropriate place where a child and their safe caregiver can visit following a concern of serious abuse.
- CACs address concerns of:
 - Sexual abuse (including commercial sexual exploitation and child sexual abuse materials)
 - Physical abuse
 - Witness to violence, including domestic violence and homicides
 - Extreme neglect.

What is a Child Advocacy Center?

- CACs coordinate a holistic Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) of professionals, including:
 - Family advocacy
 - Forensic interviewing
 - Medical
 - Child protection
 - Law enforcement
 - FBI
 - Military
 - Tribal/ICWA
 - Behavioral health (therapy)
 - Prosecution
- Three tribes in Alaska do their own child abuse investigations. Aside from the Native Village of Barrow, the CAC only takes referrals from OCS and law enforcement.

Kids served in 2023:

- Alaska currently has 19 established, developing, and satellite CACs:
 - Total of children served in FY'23, 2,388
 - Total of communities served in FY'23, 310
 - 34% boys, 66% girls
 - 36% ages 13-18, 35% ages 7-12, 29% ages 0-6
 - Ethnicity: 38% white, 47% Alaska Native/American Indian, 6% Hispanic, 4% Black, 3% Asian/Pacific Islander, and 2% other.

CAC cases in 2023:

- Offender relationship to victim:
 - Parent/step-parent 42%
 - Unknown (identity unconfirmed) 23%
 - Other relative 21%
 - Other known person 14%
- Types of maltreatment (may overlap):
 - Sexual abuse 47%
 - Physical abuse 22%
 - Neglect 12%
 - Witness to violence 11%
 - Other 8%

CAC Alaska funding:

- 36% Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
 - Federal pass-through grant managed by the State of Alaska, OCS
 - Most CACs have not seen any increase in funding since FY'18
 - No increase to TANF funds in FY'24 despite increased CAC output, inflation, and opening of new CACs
- 26% Earned income/fundraising
- 18% Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency (OJJDP)
- Alaska/Native/American Indian Expansion Grant
 - Result of former AG Barr's trip to rural Alaska in 2019
 - Intended to expand the CAC model with a focus on opening new programs
 - One-time special grant (ends in 2025 with no option for renewal)
- 12% Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)
 - Federal grant managed by CDVSA
- 8% Other.

Funding concerns:

- Despite increased need:
 - Development of new CACs (five since 2022, expanding reach into remote/underserved areas)
 - Inflation, higher cost of doing business
 - Increased programs (staff, services provided)
- Anticipated funding loss:
 - The most significant funding source will likely stay flat (TANF)
 - 2nd most significant funding source will be gone by July 2025 (DOJ)
 - 3rd most significant funding source unstable (VOCA).

Addressing funding needs:

- Goals:
 - Maintain current core funding sources
 - Add new funding sources to replace DOJ grant and meet increased needs
- Steps taken:
 - Meeting stakeholders and partners
 - State level:
 - Legislators (Group fly-in to Juneau in February 2024)
 - State commissioners
 - Office of the Governor's Children's Justice Act Task Force
 - Funding administrators (OCS, CDVSA)
 - Support from Jordan Marshall, lobbyist
 - Regional/national level:
 - Western Regional CAC
 - National Children's Alliance
 - Federal delegation - Offices of Rep. Peltola and Senators Murkowski and Sullivan

Mari Mukai shared the following information about the VOCA funding for CACs:

- VOCA funds CACs in every state in the US. Alaska was the last state to provide VOCA funding to CACs.
- ACA and CACs have been working with national partners to address VOCA sustainability issues.
- VOCA supports CAC direct services. VOCA funds are used only for direct services such as personnel, including family advocates, forensic interviewers, medical providers, CAC manager/MDT coordinator, and mental health providers.

Mari Mukai shared what VOCA means to various programs and what would happen if the funding was lost. Remarks on the loss of funding included:

- "It would be very challenging for us operationally to meet national accreditation standards. Also, we are up for re-accreditation next year, so it wouldn't give us much time to source other funding."
- "Without the VOCA funding, we would not be able to assist the caregivers with children through this very difficult process of investigation and court appearances. Victim advocates are a big need in the region to support caregivers with children to ease the feelings of being alone."
- "If VOCA funds went away, the other federal funding sources for the CAC would not be enough to fully fund core staff, and the CAC would need to fundraise from the community or not be fully staffed. Not fully staffed means the burden of CAC services may fall upon the local hospital ER, law enforcement or child protective services. Children may have to re-tell their story over and over, children may receive an exam in an ER rather than a child-friendly atmosphere, or they may be interviewed by staff not trained in the best practice of ChildFirst protocol. They might have to fly to another community for services, or they may have to wait until another CAC's staff is available to fly here."
- "Without VOCA funds, we would be down one full-time (with benefits) family advocate position in the area, and we would not be able to compensate (via stipend) anyone for being on-call from either CAC."

- “If we lost this grant, we wouldn’t have an advocate in Valdez. The responsibilities would fall back to other staff with everyone doing multiple jobs. That wears people down.”
- “If VOCA was reduced, we’d lose those positions displacing additional pressure on the remaining staff and the partner agencies.
- “I do not believe we would be able to cover the department's cost if we did not have grant funding for these positions.”
- If we did not have this funding, we would not be able to pay for medical staff, or other support positions would need to be cut to have at least one NP.”

John Skidmore shared that when Attorney General Barr came to Alaska, he directed other funds available within the DOJ to Alaska from grants or other programs for which no one had applied. He noted that the DOL also received funds at that time. In the conversations he’s had with the DOJ about the grant that Alaska received, he learned that they are still taking the information gleaned during Attorney General Barr’s visit and subsequently Attorney General Garland’s visit and are trying to open or create more tailored grant opportunities that would allow people from Alaska to apply.

ANDVSA UPDATE

ANDVSA Executive Director Brenda Stanfill joined the meeting and shared the following update:

- The Network is a non-profit, federally recognized state coalition and a primary partner with the Council, the state administrator of federal funding. The Network has appreciated its 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 comprised of 24 member programs.

Network targeted goals:

- Reestablishing training programs based on member program partner needs, including strengthening the leadership in the member programs.
- Need to reestablish legislative presence and statewide policy influence.
- Establishing the proper infrastructure and supports to allow staff retention and wellness.
- Engage men in the work of ending gender-based violence.

Brenda Stanfill shared that the Network is pleased to welcome MaryBeth Gagnon as the Council's new executive director. The Network staff and programs have worked with MaryBeth for many years and feel she will be a great leader for CDVSA.

Partnership with CDVSA:

- Vela database:
 - Two programs are struggling a bit to get started. One is because they have two staff members for 24/7 operation, and paperwork is not a priority. The Network is working to support programs to ensure everyone is up and running.
- In February, the Network held a check-in with programs. They reported the database was helpful both internally and for reporting purposes.

- Senator Murkowski gave an earmark to ANDVSA to help with the infrastructure piece of the database. The Network has committed to paying the monthly fees for the next three or possibly four years, after which they will seek funding to support the monthly payments.

DV Counts:

- The National Network to End Domestic Violence does an annual domestic violence counts report. The count is taken on a particular day in September of each year. This year, all 24 programs in Alaska responded.
- A look back at five years ago compared to 2023:
 - 2018, 358 people resided in shelters on that day across the state.
 - 2023, 395 people lived in shelters on that day across the state.
 - Shelter populations have gone up due to the lack of housing.
 - Even with the Empowering Choice Housing Program vouchers, there is literally no housing available in many places. It has been challenging for the programs to figure out what to do.
 - 2018, programs served 557 adults and children who walked in that day.
 - 2023, programs served 87 adults and children who walked in that day.
 - Programs report that the challenges they face with staff shortages impact wait times.

Statewide Needs Assessment:

- The Network is working in partnership with the Council, the Denali Commission, VPSO programs, the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center, and the Healing Native Hearts Coalition on the statewide needs assessment.
- The Network will schedule a meeting at the end of the legislative session and make a push to gather information from an environmental scan and begin to host regional roundtables, reaching out to individuals who have been impacted by crime to offer opportunities for them to talk about systemic challenges and the needs of the state.

Family Justice Center (FJC):

- The FJC held a meeting in Anchorage this year and plans to have another one in Fairbanks this month to look at the model that brings all the service agencies under one roof and develop a feasibility study of the project for Alaska.

Brenda Stanfill reported attending the New Orleans FJC meeting and the Alliance for Hope's Justice Center model. She noted that she looks forward to learning more about the FJC model. If the feasibility study is favorable, it may be a pilot project the Council would be interested in supporting.

Prevention:

Pathways to Prevention (PTP) is a statewide effort to coordinate strategic approaches to primary prevention in Alaska. It is made up of twenty different individuals and organizations. The group uses the best available research and community practices to plan, implement, and evaluate violence prevention efforts across the state.

- The PTP strategic plan was developed in 2019 for 2019 through 2024. There was a pause during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The PTP is scheduled to meet in Sitka in April and will decide whether or not to extend the strategic plan due to the intermission.
- Brenda Stanfill offered a link to the strategic plan and noted that PTP is something the Network would like to see included in the Council's RFPs.
- The Network is eligible to get state coalition funds for prevention (approximately \$135,000 a year), which will be used to focus on consent PSAs.
- The Network is struggling with bystander intervention efforts. Green Dot is no longer affordable.
- The Network is pulling programs together that do prevention, including the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Family and Community Services (DFCS), the Healing Native Hearts Coalition, and other coalitions, to maximize efforts and reduce overlap.

Legal:

- The Network is looking for ways to partner with legal programs. A few agencies have legal programs, but the rest depend on a statewide group.
- The Sitka Tribe of Alaska contacted the Network and said they have funds available that could be used to pay for legal services. The Network can refer individuals and agencies to the Sitka Tribe of Alaska.

Leadership:

- The Network is committed to offering leadership mentoring training to executive directors and mid-level management. The Network developed training for crisis organizations that complements Foraker's leadership training.
- The Network is engaged in its staff exchange program.

Brenda Stanfill reported that the primary issues programs report are housing and sustainability. She recognized the need to elevate voices in advocacy for funding. Brenda suggested that the Council, the administration, and public members need to talk about how they advocate for the budget to come alongside the victim services. She remarked that that type of advocacy shouldn't fall on the shoulders of victim service agencies.

Brenda Stanfill remarked that with regard to HB 259, the Network is concerned about the dilution of CDVSA's efforts. HB 259 proposes the merger of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault and the Council on Human and Sex Trafficking by sharing the executive director of CDVSA to oversee both councils. She encouraged the members to think of an alternative. Brenda suggested that with the creation of the Victim Services Division and the hiring of a service division director, it would be reasonable for the people who are staffing the Council on Human and Sex Trafficking be supervised by the division director.

LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW

John Skidmore shared a legislative report as follows:

HB 67 – Harassment; Sex Offenders & Offenses

- This is a governor's bill
- This bill proposes two primary things:
 - Allowing hearsay at a grand jury.

- Specifically, when a victim comes to a grand jury proceeding, they are required to describe the incident that happened to them. This would allow law enforcement to summarize the incident.
 - Changes with the sex offender registry:
 - The bill proposes that individuals registered in another state who come to Alaska have to register in Alaska.
 - It was prospectively enacted but did not apply retroactively. HB 67 makes it retroactive to make determining who has to register easier.
 - It amends the type of data offenders must provide, bringing Alaska close in compliance with the federal registry requirements.
- HB 67 moved out of the House Judiciary Committee and was referred to the House Finance Committee.

HB 116 - Restorative Justice Account Appropriations

- The Restorative Justice Fund is created by taking the PFD of those convicted of a crime in that year and for the timeframe convicts are incarcerated and ineligible to receive PFD.
- An application for the PFD is submitted on their behalf. Instead, the money they would have received goes to the Restorative Justice Fund and is distributed to various entities statewide.
- HB 116 proposes to change how some of those funds would be distributed.
 - The current allocation of HB 116:
 - 1 - 3% designated for non-profit organizations to provide grants for services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault (CDVSA)
 - 1 - 3% to non-profits to provide grants for mental health and substance abuse treatment for offenders
 - 2 - 6% goes to the Office of Victim's Rights (OVR) for payments to crime victims and operations of OVR
 - 10 - 13% goes to the Crime Victim Compensation Fund (VCCB) for their operation and payment to crime victims.
 - 79 - 88% is currently assigned to the Department of Corrections (DOC) for costs related to the incarcerated population or programs.
- HB 116 would reverse the percentages of CDVSA and DOC, and the Council would receive 79 - 88% of the fund and DOC conversely 1 - 3%.
- HB 116 is currently in the House Finance Committee.

Jennifer Winkelman remarked that HB 116 would have a net-zero effect on DOC. DOC would request a fund source change in the budget process. She noted that there is an administrative burden that comes with the responsibility.

HB 119 – Cannabis Regulation (tax)

- When the State of Alaska established the legalization of marijuana and the taxing of it, those proceeds from the tax were divided into three pots of money: 25% unrestricted GF, 25% marijuana education and treatment fund, and 50% to Recidivism Fund. The Recidivism Fund divides its portion and distributes it to different entities that work on reducing recidivism. The Council receives some portion of the fund.

- The bill does not appear to change the percentage or amounts of the funds the Council receives, but it does change the tax rate. Currently, it is taxed at \$50/ounce. It would reduce the tax to \$12.50/ounce.
- HB 119 has been referred to the House Finance Committee.
- It would impact the Council's funds if the amount collected is reduced.

HB 259 – Council on Human and Sex Trafficking

- This bill proposes to create the Council on Human and Sex Trafficking. That group only exists in an Executive Order by the governor. One recommendation was to create, in state statute, a council looking at human and sex trafficking. It is not controversial, and most agree it should be done.
- To save administrative expenses, instead of creating a separate council with its own administrative support, the bill proposes to use the executive director of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault as an executive director for both organizations.
- Two additional support staff positions would be added for the Council on Human and Sex Trafficking that would be separate from the support staff at CDVSA.
- The bill is designed so that the current CDVSA director would continue in the director's position and inherit the other new council. At such time the executive director leaves, a new director would be selected, according to the legislation, by having two members of CDVSA with two members of the Council on Human and Sex Trafficking, and the DPS commissioner make the selection and determination of any new director.
- HB 259 passed out of the House State Affairs Committee supported, was referred to the House Finance Committee, and had its first hearing.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

CDVSA BUDGET REVIEW/FISCAL REPORT SFY2024, Q-3 BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES

DPS Finance Officer Craig Douglas joined the meeting and directed the members' attention to the financial report and budget. He highlighted the following information current March 15, 2024:

- Page 1 – Program Budget FY 2024
 - Total budget authority, \$31,992,654
 - State funding authority total, \$18,099,954
 - Federal funding authority, \$13,892,700
 - Total operating budget, \$5,391,600 (does not include subawards)
 - Total program budget, \$22,519,447
- Page 2 – Grants Budgets FY 2024
 - Overview of the current active federal awards
 - Award amount, current expenditures, encumbrances, and remaining balance
 - Overview of grant award by program and funding type
 - Funding sources and allocations by funding sources
- Page 3 – Detailed Sub-Award Plan for FY 2024
 - Overview of all subgrantees and the awards allocated by funding sources

- Page 4 – Contracts and Services FY 2024
 - Overview of RSAs, contracts, and services
- Page 5 – FY 2024 Remaining Balances
 - Total remaining balance across all appropriations
 - Total remaining balances by line-item allocation
 - Note: Shows obligations that have been posted, not accounting for projected obligations

Council members asked for a legend of acronyms used in the financial report.

MaryBeth Gagnon shared the Council’s appreciation to Craig Douglas and the DPS budget team, who have assisted CDVSA with financial accounting and reporting. She apprised the board that the DPS budget team helped CDVSA run their last quarter numbers to see the projected funds. The Council appears to have a surplus mainly due to staff shortages and a lack of monitoring travel costs. MaryBeth reported that CDVSA proposes applying an inflation boost for the agencies CDVSA funds. The proposal intends to use the same geographical differential calculator tool used for the supplemental utility payments and distribute those funds in a way that would negate the need to amend grant award agreements.

The board had a brief discussion related to the disbursement of funds. John Skidmore noted that before the Council can take official action, it needs to get a better sense of the amount of money and understand the methodology.

ALASKA VICTIMIZATION SURVEY (AVS) UPDATE

Dr. Ingrid Johnson from the University of Alaska Justice Center joined the meeting to share a PowerPoint presentation titled: *Looking Forward: 2025 Alaska Victimization Survey*. She highlighted the following information:

What is the AVS?

- A statewide survey meant to provide estimates on the lifetime and past-year prevalence of violence against women in Alaska.
- Traditionally, it has been a joint effort between the Alaska CDVSA (funders) and the UAA Justice Center (research implementation).
- The survey is modeled after the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey administered by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).
- The AVS conducted statewide surveys in 2010, 2015, and 2020
 - Thirteen regional surveys were conducted from 2011 – 2015.
- Almost 13,000 Alaskan women have participated.

Why use the victimization surveys to track violence against women (VAW)?

- Because of the “dark figure of crime.” For example, every four of five and every one of two physical partner assaults are not reported to the police.
- Victimization surveys tell about harmful behaviors that are not illegal and thus don’t get reported, such as psychological abuse, controlling behaviors, certain types of threatening behaviors, sexual coercion, and sexual harassment.

Is VAW in Alaska getting worse or better (2010 – 2020)?

	Lifetime %		
	2010	2015	2020
Physical intimate partner violence (IPV):	47.6	40.4	48.0
• Threats of physical violence	31.0	25.6	28.5
• Physical violence	44.8	39.6	48.8
Rape:	37.1	33.1	40.5
• Alcohol or drug-involved sexual penetration	26.8	22.6	27.5
• Forcible sexual penetration	25.6	23.6	27.7
IPV, rape, or both	58.6	50.3	57.7

	Past year %		
	2010	2015	2020
Physical intimate partner violence:	9.4	6.4	6.9
• Threats of physical violence	5.8	3.0	2.6
• Physical violence	8.6	5.9	6.5
Rape:	4.3	2.9	3.4
• Alcohol or drug-involved sexual penetration	3.6	2.0	2.1
• Forcible sexual penetration	2.5	1.6	2.2
IPV, rape, or both	11.8	8.1	8.1

What could a 2025 AVS tell us?

- Statewide prevalence (lifetime and past-year)
 - Are we still treading water?
 - Have we improved or gotten worse since 2020?
- More information on relationships between health and VAW.
- New information on protective factors, resiliency, help-seeking behaviors and experiences, and justice definitions and expectations or what victims want.

What could a 2025 AVS look like?

<u>2020 AVS:</u>	<u>2025 AVS (recommendations)</u>
Respondent characteristics	Keep unchanged
Health	Keep – modify
COVID 19	Remove?
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE)	Remove?
Psychological aggression	Keep unchanged
Coercive control/entrapment	Keep unchanged
Physical violence	Keep unchanged
Stalking	Keep unchanged
Sexual violence	Keep unchanged
Reporting of victimization	Keep – modify (add justice expectations)
Victim identity	Keep? Add protective and resiliency factors?

Dr. Johnson shared an example of the survey revision process and noted that part of the review process for the 2025 survey would include revisiting all the questions, deciding whether to keep, modify, or leave unchanged, and decide on new questions. She reported the timeline as follows:

- August 2024 – May 2025, design and preparation

- June – September 2025, data collection (sample size – 2,000)
- October 2025 – February 2026, data cleaning, weighting, analyses, and preparation of final report
- March 2026, dissemination of final results and additional analyses.

John Skidmore commented that the board looks forward to discussions regarding what information would be valuable to gather. He suggested that a copy of the 2020 survey and an analysis of the reports generated, along with the costs of the survey, would be helpful to share with the board before the discussions at the next board meeting. Dr. Johnson noted that strategic changes have been made to the surveys over the years being mindful of the time required to conduct the survey.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATE AND DISCUSSION OF BOARD CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR VACANCIES

John Skidmore confirmed a quorum was present for the following board business.

John Skidmore recommended selecting individuals at the meeting for chair and vice chair and allowing the ability to have those individuals removed by further action when the vacant board seats are filled. He opened the floor for board chair nominations.

Laurel Shoop **NOMINATED** Jennifer Winkelman for chair, **SECONDED** by Steve Williams. Jennifer Winkelman **ACCEPTED** the nomination. Hearing no other nominations, John Skidmore closed the floor for nominations. A roll call vote was conducted, and Jennifer Winkelman was unanimously elected board chair.

John Skidmore opened the floor for board vice chair nominations.

Jennifer Winkelman **NOMINATED** Laurel Shoop for vice chair, **SECONDED** by Steve Williams. Laurel Shoop **ACCEPTED** the nomination. Hearing no other nominations, John Skidmore closed the floor for nominations. A roll call vote was conducted, and Laurel Shoop was unanimously elected board vice chair.

UPDATE ON CDVSA Q4 MEETING

John Skidmore suggested conducting board training on the Executive Ethics Act. The board agreed that the ethics training would be valuable. Other suggested trainings included Open Meetings Act training and the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Affairs (DCCED) board training.

Regarding the location and means of the 4th quarter meeting, MaryBeth Gagnon relayed the feedback she received from the board that the preference was to conduct a hybrid meeting (in-person/online). She noted the staff had no preference. Currently there are three days scheduled for the meeting. MaryBeth outlined the business for the next meetings as follows:

- Discussion/vote on the continuation funding for the subgrantees
- Removal of the chair and vice chair and revoting
- Review of the bylaws
- Discussions/vote related to the Alaska Victimization Survey
- Executive Ethics Act training.

Jennifer Winkelman **MOVED** to schedule a Teams-only meeting for June 11, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. to discuss/vote on the continuation funding for subgrantees, **SECONDED** by Steve Williams. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

The board agreed to schedule a meeting June 17th – 18th, 2024 in Anchorage to focus on the remaining board business.

John Skidmore noted that the selection of three vacant public member board seats is currently with Boards and Commissions. Once chosen, the individuals will serve on the Council until the following legislative session. At that point, they will be confirmed by the legislature.

CLOSING REMARKS

John Skidmore opened the floor for board member closing remarks, a summary of which follows:

- Ryan Bird shared that he is honored and happy to be part of the board and is working his way through meeting everyone face-to-face. He's looking forward to June's meeting.
- Steve Williams remarked that it was a productive meeting, and he appreciated John Skidmore's facilitation of the meeting. He thanked Jennifer Winkelman and Laurel Shoop for volunteering for board leadership. He noted that he is impressed by the Council's staff and appreciates the board members' investment and willingness to support the Council.
- Elizabeth Jerue thanked the Council for a good meeting, and she looks forward to continuing to learn more about the Council and how the board operates.
- Laurel Shoop thanked John Skidmore for chairing the meeting and for the informative legislative update. She thanked Executive Director MaryBeth Gagnon and the CDVSA staff.
- Jennifer Winkelman echoed the appreciation from the board members. She noted that executive director MaryBeth Gagnon and the CDVSA staff have continued to show great effort through the challenges the Council has faced for quite some time.

John Skidmore closed the meeting by expressing appreciation to Jennifer Winkelman and Laurel Shoop for accepting Council leadership. He stated that Council members have an obligation to become more active and engaged in the work the Council does. Particular attention should be paid to the strategic plan and how to spend the limited resources the Council receives. He noted that exciting proposed legislation might give the Council additional resources to work with, but there will be difficult decisions related to future funding. In addition, he believes there are opportunities for the Council to find funding streams and sources beyond government dollars. Though they have contributed in some ways in different regions, the private sector is largely untapped.

ADJOURNMENT

Steve Williams **MOVED** to adjourn, **SECONDED** by Jennifer Winkelman. Hearing no opposition, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 4:20 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
March 28, 2024
2:00 p.m.

ROUGH DRAFT TRANSCRIPT
Pages 1 - 17, inclusive

Council Members Present:

Elizabeth Jerue
Ryan Bird
Laurel Shoop
Steve Williams
Commissioner Jennifer Winkelman
Deputy Attorney General John Skidmore
Commissioner Kim Kovol
Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow (for Commissioner
Cockrell)

CDVSA Staff:

Executive Director MaryBeth Gagnon
Catherine Mohn
Chris Hardin
Kay Riley-Rowland
Morgan Stonecipher
Danielle Redmond

Transcribed by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

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

2 JOHN SKIDMORE: We are at 2:00, which is
3 the time that we have designated for public comment,
4 and that's the one piece that we do stay on track with
5 in terms of our schedule.

6 I do note that we have a number of
7 guests that are with us online, and I want to give
8 members of the public an opportunity to comment or
9 share anything with the Council they want to. I would
10 ask that anyone who wishes to speak to identify
11 themselves by their name and any organization that
12 they may or not be with.

13 I would ask folks to try and limit
14 comments to three minutes or less, and then once we
15 get through everyone that's here, if people wanted to
16 say more than just those three minutes, I'm happy to
17 give more time to the people that are present. But I
18 do want to be respectful so that any and everyone who
19 wants to provide public comment has an opportunity to
20 do so.

21 So I'm going to start with -- I'm in
22 Anchorage, and in the room that we have here are only
23 myself and Mr. Bird, so we do not have any members of
24 the public in the room here with us. I see Juneau and
25 the folks there. Everyone is either Council staff of

1 a member of the Council with the exception of Ms.
2 Stanfill, and she's already had a chance to talk to us
3 in her update. I don't know if she has a public
4 comment she wants to make as well. I see a finger
5 raised. I want to come back to you for that purpose,
6 Brenda, since you've already had a chance to talk. I
7 want to give an opportunity to -- I want to make sure
8 I give an opportunity to the other people online, and
9 I promise you, I'll come back, because I know you have
10 something you want to share, and I think I heard you
11 say you're going to read something from somebody out
12 in Bethel.

13 Let me start with the folks online. Do
14 we have anyone online that wanted to make public
15 comment?

16 Rowena, I see your hand raised. Why
17 don't you go ahead, ma'am.

18 ROWENA PALOMAR: Good afternoon,
19 everybody. I'm Rowena Palomar, executive director of
20 Advocates for Victims of Violence here in Valdez. I
21 would like to share with everybody that AVV hired our
22 prevention coordinator and our youth services
23 coordinator. Those positions have been vacant for the
24 last eight months, and I am so grateful that I was
25 able to hire those two individuals. It was a long

1 challenge, but I have them. I am still looking and
2 hoping to hire for a shelter advocate, which is a very
3 important position in our agency.

4 AVV has been very busy. Our shelter has
5 been continuously full to capacity for years now, and
6 I mean years. There were times that I must provide
7 the air mattress for children to sleep in the same
8 room with their mother. I also provide -- I must also
9 provide alternative housing, such as hotels and B&Bs,
10 to accommodate other victims and survivors that I
11 cannot accommodate at the shelter due to capacity, and
12 they are also in need for a safe place to stay. This
13 also includes the victims and survivors that are
14 located at the Copper River Basin that cannot come to
15 the shelter due to the road conditions.

16 This past winter has been very difficult
17 for us. Flights to and from Anchorage have been
18 cancelled almost everyday. The only road that we have
19 has been closed many times for 12 miles to 69 miles
20 due to avalanche. Just like what I said, this is the
21 only road that would bring us in and out of Valdez.
22 And this situation has been going on on top of having
23 a full shelter here in Valdez.

24 And you have heard from Brenda earlier
25 that most of the people that are staying at the

1 shelters stay longer because of the difficulty in
2 finding a reasonable place for them to stay at the
3 transition from the shelter to an apartment. And even
4 though we do have Empowerment voucher, they still have
5 to wait for available apartment.

6 So the Empowerment voucher is entirely
7 different from the apartments that they would be
8 moving in to. The voucher is just a way for them not
9 to be on the waitlist.

10 So our youth programs and after-school
11 programs are going, including our prevention programs,
12 and we are getting ready for our summer camps programs
13 as well.

14 Next month for our Child Abuse
15 Prevention and Sexual Assault Month, AVV planned on
16 several events. With a partnership of other care
17 providers, community college, our police, the police
18 department, counseling center, and the hospital, we
19 will have our Walk a Mile in Her Shoes. Men are going
20 to wear the red high heels, and they would lead the
21 march. So everyone listening are willing to come.
22 Please come and join us. I know this is a beautiful
23 drive now, the roads are open, so please come join us.
24 This is going to be on April 12th.

25 We also have -- this is the first time

1 that we're going to do this, which is an exhibit and
2 we called it as What Were You Wearing? This are the
3 clothing that the victims of sexual assault were
4 wearing during the time that they were assaulted, and
5 that is going to -- that activity is going to be at
6 Prince William Sound College.

7 We will also have the Child Abuse
8 Prevention Walk. We will have the school
9 presentations. We will also have the Go Blue Day, the
10 child abuse prevention and the classroom presentation.
11 And we have more. We have a lot planned for April.

12 Well, on a side note, I am disappointed,
13 I'm very disappointed that you guys are not coming to
14 Valdez this summer. As I was reading the minutes from
15 December, it was a statement that the board requested
16 the Council staff to work on setting up Quarter 4
17 rural meeting in Valdez for June 12 - 14.

18 Unfortunately, nobody coordinates it with me. I have
19 not heard anything since December until four weeks
20 ago. When I was talking with Commissioner Cockrell
21 and he said, "Row, you know that we're coming to
22 Valdez, right?" And I choke, because I did not know
23 from December to four weeks ago. Had I known that
24 earlier, I could have changed my plans, I could have
25 planned better. But, you know, it is what it is.

1 My invitation to everybody to come to
2 Valdez is still open, just let me know ahead of time.
3 As you all know, Valdez is a tourist place. We have
4 cruise ships coming in, hotels get filled easily. As
5 a matter of fact, hope against hope that you would
6 still be coming, I was checking on the hotels, and one
7 of the hotels can only accommodate three rooms. The
8 other hotels can only accommodate four rooms.

9 So coming to Valdez really needs
10 planning, and I would really expect that, you know, if
11 you guys can let me know ahead of time and I can help
12 with the planning, I can help get good rates from the
13 hotels, because I use them all the time. So yeah,
14 hope that you would be able to come next time.

15 Thank you for the opportunity.

16 JOHN SKIDMORE: Thank you, ma'am. We're
17 going to talk more about where our rural meeting would
18 be, and I am sorry that things did not work out for
19 Valdez. I think it just has to do with transitions
20 that we had within the Council, and we do very much
21 want to get out to Valdez. And I am sorry that I
22 won't be able to be there for Walk a Mile in Her
23 Shoes.

24 ROWENA PALOMAR: You know, one of the
25 governors -- one of our former governors has to walk

1 on that red high heels.

2 So, you know, John, as I was talking and
3 I was telling MaryBeth that incident, I only found
4 that out from the commissioner, MaryBeth almost choked
5 the same way, she almost had the same reaction as I
6 did. And I said, "MaryBeth, I really don't know what
7 to tell you, but I will be out of town. I have two
8 children that are graduating this summer, and we have
9 to make plans." And just like I said, I could have
10 planned better had I known the date that you are
11 really coming. But it's not too late. You guys are
12 always welcome to come anytime.

13 JOHN SKIDMORE: I appreciate that.
14 We're going to move to Cheri Smith who also has her
15 hand raised for public comment. Ms. Smith. Cheri, I
16 think you have your line muted at the moment. So it
17 says your line is unmuted, but I don't hear you yet,
18 Cheri. Cheri, can you hear us?

19 So I don't know what technical
20 difficulties we're having here. I'm sorry, Cheri,
21 we're getting silence completely on this end. And so
22 Steve Williams was just suggesting that maybe she can
23 e-mail her comment in to us.

24 Do we have anyone else that wanted to
25 make public comment? And Brenda, I haven't forgotten

1 about you, I just want to check online. We've got a
2 couple of other folks, somebody by the name of Crane
3 and somebody from a 907-257 phone number. I don't
4 know if either of them had public comment today or
5 not.

6 KEELEY OLSON: This is Keeley Olson from
7 STAR in Anchorage.

8 JOHN SKIDMORE: Go ahead, Keeley.

9 KEELEY OLSON: Hi. Thank you. Sorry
10 that I couldn't be online, I had some technical
11 difficulties of my own.

12 Yeah. But Keeley Olson with STAR or
13 Standing Together Against Rape here in Anchorage. I
14 wanted to share a few successes with you.

15 We recently started presenting Stewards
16 of Children training here in Anchorage. So at the BP
17 Energy Center three to five times a month, we will be
18 presenting evidence-based prevention program
19 specifically to prevent child sexual abuse. So we're
20 presenting to parents, caregivers, youth serving
21 organizations, churches. So far, we have presented to
22 about 56 individuals.

23 We have more trainings coming up. I
24 believe we have a training April 12th, April 17th, and
25 April 27th, and those are all available for folks who

1 would like to participate either online or in person.
2 They can register for those trainings. They are
3 two-and-a-half hours. It's a very comprehensive
4 training, and we've gotten great responses from folks
5 about it. So we're going to be continuing that
6 throughout the year, and we just hope to continue that
7 and be able to have our facilitator become a train the
8 trainer and be able to provide this training statewide
9 so that it can be available in -- you know, through
10 all of our programs throughout the state. So we're
11 super excited about that.

12 That is on top of all the personal
13 safety presentations that we do in schools. So we
14 have several hundred students through the Anchorage
15 School District who have received personal body safety
16 training.

17 We are currently doing our quarterly
18 crisis line responder training where we train
19 community members who have gone through background
20 checks and, you know, have been interviewed and
21 screened who would like to volunteer answering the
22 statewide sexual assault crisis line. And so we have
23 the largest group that we've had since before the
24 pandemic. We have 15 participants this time around.
25 They will go through a three-and-a-half week training,

1 three nights a week and Saturdays for that period of
2 time, and then they will be able to volunteer
3 answering the crisis line 24/7. It really relieves
4 our full-time staff from answering the crisis line
5 after hours and on weekends and holidays. So we're
6 excited to have such a large contingent of trainees.

7 We also are providing -- we have
8 contracts -- subcontracts with four trauma therapists
9 in the local area who are providing counseling
10 services to our clients. We have, since January 1,
11 served 125 individuals with 391 trauma therapy
12 sessions, and the survey results from those
13 participants have been really spectacular. Folks have
14 been stating that they're better able to manage their
15 emotions, their triggers, they have hope for success
16 with their counseling and that they are optimistic and
17 hopeful about the future. So that is great.

18 I also wanted to bring up that April
19 20th is our annual masquerade ball at the Marriott in
20 Anchorage. Our theme this year is "Wildlife Under the
21 Aurora." So we change up our theme each year, and
22 this year we're dressing kind of like animals and
23 different things that would -- that you would see in
24 Alaska. And we have a lot of great live auction
25 packages and silent auction packages. So we would

1 encourage you to get your tickets now if you're
2 planning to attend. It's always a great time, and it
3 benefits STAR. So we hope to see you there.

4 We're also gearing up for Sexual Assault
5 Awareness Month. So we have a lot of events, and many
6 of them can be found on our website, which is
7 STARalaska.com. But just looking at the calendar
8 quickly, we have our Sexual Assault Awareness Month
9 proclamation through the Anchorage Assembly on the
10 9th. We have several The Stewards of Children
11 trainings coming up, the UAA Spring Wellness Carnival.
12 We will be participating in National Crime Victims
13 Rights Week April 21st through the 27th. And we have
14 one of our staff being honored at their victim service
15 awards at the Sydney Laurence Theatre downtown.

16 So we're -- yeah, we have a lot going on
17 in April, and we just wanted to make everyone aware of
18 it. And thank you all, and I'll leave it with that.
19 Thanks.

20 JOHN SKIDMORE: Thank you, Keeley. One
21 of my favorites was the steam punk theme that you all
22 did in Anchorage a number of years ago. It's a great
23 event for anyone that's able to attend. It's a lot of
24 fun, it's good food, it's a really nice night.

25 KEELEY OLSON: I didn't know what steam

1 punk was before then, so we learned something new that
2 year.

3 JOHN SKIDMORE: I didn't know it before
4 that either, Keeley.

5 Do we have anybody else online that
6 wanted to comment? Again, we have a guest that has
7 just the name of Crane listed on our list over here,
8 but I didn't know if we had anybody -- any other
9 public comments from folks online.

10 Okay. Brenda, you have a comment for us
11 from Bethel, and then Cheri indicated she was going to
12 try and e-mail her comments in. I don't know who that
13 is going to come to, so Kay, MaryBeth, if one of you
14 can look at an e-mail just to make sure it's not
15 something she's sending to you. And Brenda, I'd ask
16 you to check yours as well just in case it comes to
17 you. But Brenda, why don't you go ahead with Bethel,
18 please.

19 BRENDA STANFILL: Okay. Irene wasn't
20 able to be here today but asked that I would just pass
21 on a bit of a success that they had in Bethel.

22 You know, housing is truly a tremendous
23 challenge for them. They don't have the E-CHIP
24 voucher. The Empowerment Choice voucher is one that
25 we have a partnership with Alaska Housing Finance

1 Corporation on, but that's not in Bethel, so they have
2 some limitations that some other communities don't.

3 But they wanted me to share that Bethel
4 opened a 24-unit permanent supportive housing
5 building, and some of TWC's residents that have been
6 through hundreds of times will be moved into there.
7 And these were residents that -- when they say they've
8 been through hundreds of times, that means they've
9 been victimized hundreds of times, because each time
10 they come, it's in relationship to something they've
11 experienced.

12 They will be moved into the housing, and
13 we will continue to make recommendations under the
14 coordinated entry. This is under the Bethel winter
15 house officially, but it's under the direction of the
16 Housing Coalition, which TWC leads.

17 So I just wanted to share with you all
18 the great work that these organizations do out in
19 their communities.

20 JOHN SKIDMORE: Fantastic. Thank you
21 for sharing that with us.

22 So I'm just checking my e-mail. I noted
23 in the chat Kay said that she did not receive the
24 e-mail. I don't seem to have anything from Cheri.
25 Can I, Brenda, just ask to see if you got anything

1 from her, because if she had sent --

2 BRENDA STANFILL: I didn't receive
3 anything.

4 JOHN SKIDMORE: You did?

5 BRENDA STANFILL: I didn't receive
6 anything, so we'll make sure that we get it submitted
7 if it comes in later.

8 JOHN SKIDMORE: Okay. So I will make
9 sure that we make that part of the record when it does
10 come in.

11 Steve, you are absolutely correct, she
12 may be taking time to draft something, and that might
13 be longer than the few minutes we've had here thus
14 far. I just wanted to make sure that we were being
15 respectful in offering time for it.

16 Are there any other public comments at
17 this time?

18 Okay. I'm going to go ahead and move on
19 to the next item on our agenda, and we will come back
20 and close out public comment in ten minutes. And if
21 we happen to get an e-mail from Ms. Smith before the
22 end of the day, we'll make sure to read that into the
23 record today, since she was available during public
24 comment and was trying to share with us a public
25 comment at the appropriate time.

1 (Break).

2 JOHN SKIDMORE: We are at 2:36 now, so I
3 wanted to close public comment. But before I do that,
4 let me go ahead and read Cheri's comment into the
5 record. I recognize that some people could see it in
6 the chat, but I do want to actually read it in.

7 And Craig, before you drop off, Steve
8 Williams was expressing his gratitude for your
9 presentation. So thank you, Craig.

10 CRAIG DOUGLAS: No problem. I will get
11 an updated acronym list to you for the third page.
12 And thank you all for your time.

13 JOHN SKIDMORE: Thank you, Craig. We
14 really appreciate your work on that.

15 CRAIG DOUGLAS: Bye.

16 JOHN SKIDMORE: The Cheri comment, and
17 I'm just looking at this in the chat. I'll just, as I
18 indicated, read it into the record. Those of you that
19 have seen the chat may have already seen this, so
20 forgive me if you've already read it.

21 But Cheri says: I just wanted to let
22 the Council know how things are going in Kenai. As
23 others spoke about, we have also experienced lack of
24 housing for victims that are staying at the shelter.
25 Victims are having to stay for longer periods of time

1 in shelter, which becomes problematic when our shelter
2 is full.

3 Staff turnaround continues. We hire,
4 but once they become familiar with the workload and
5 pay, we lose them again.

6 On a positive note, I met with the new
7 ABI sergeant with the troopers in Soldotna yesterday
8 and talked about partnering in prevention efforts in
9 schools and in the community around sexual assault,
10 consent, et cetera.

11 We also conducted our annual Choose
12 Respect event yesterday, which was well attended.

13 On a last note, we now have four new
14 board members, which is very exciting since we've been
15 functioning with three members for a while now.
16 Thanks for the opportunity to comment. Cheri.

17 And then Cheri had also left the chat.

18 So I am glad that Cheri was able to
19 provide her comment to us. I have not seen anybody
20 else come online. The one other public person who is
21 not a staff member or member of the board seems to
22 have dropped off a little bit ago, so there are no
23 other members of the public. We will go ahead and
24 close public comment.

25 (End of public comment)