

**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 Alaska Victimization Survey
Virtual Meeting – Microsoft Teams
FY 2025 Quarter 2
November 20-21, 2024**

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Board Members Present:

DOC Commissioner Jennifer Winkelman, Chair
DPS Commissioner James Cockrell
Deputy Attorney John Skidmore
DFCS Commissioner Kim Kovol
Elizabeth Jerue
Ginger Baim
Valerie Chadwick
Allison Biastock

Guests:

Sara Chambers, CCED
Brenda Stanfill, ANDVSA
Dr. Andre Rosay

Staff:

Executive Director MaryBeth Gagnon
Chris Hardin
Lisa Morely
Britten Niemi
Anna Ramirez
Danielle Redmond

Minutes prepared by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

CALL TO ORDER – 10:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL - Quorum established

AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL

An unidentified council member **MOVED** to accept the agenda for the Quarter 2, FY '25 CDVSA meeting, **SECONDED** by John Skidmore. Hearing no opposition, the motion **PASSED**.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS AND CDVSA STAFF

MaryBeth Gagnon welcomed attendees to the meeting and opened the floor for introductions.

BOARD TRAINING

Sara Chambers from the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development joined the meeting to provide board training titled: *Executive Ethics Act for Board Members, Open Meetings Act, Robert's Rules, and Decision Making and Strategic Planning*. She stated that the training is a summary of information provided by the Department of Law. The training summarizes many of the requirements of the Ethics Act; however, the actual language of the Ethics Act would determine whether there is a violation, and board members should seek advice whenever they have questions. Sara shared a PowerPoint presentation and highlighted the following information:

Executive Branch Ethics Act for Board Members

- Understanding the Ethics Act is important because:
 - as public servants, we owe the public a duty to behave ethically
 - as individuals, we want to do what's right
 - penalties for violating the Ethics Act can be severe.
- In summary, the Ethics Act requires you not to:
 - misuse your official position
 - accept improper gifts
 - improperly use or disclose information
 - improperly influence state grants, contracts, leases, or loans
 - improperly represent others
 - hold improper outside employment
 - hold improper employment after leaving state service
 - aid in a violation of the Ethics Act.
- The Ethics Act works by relying on you to report your own gifts, outside employment, and interests in state grants, contracts, leases, and loans.
- The Ethics Act also relies on you to report to your designated ethics supervisor any situation that might produce a violation of the Act.
- If you have doubts about what the Ethics Act requires you to do in a particular situation, you should seek advice from your designated ethics supervisor.
- To get that advice, you should:
 - complete a notification of potential violation form (or a request for ethics determination form); submit the form to your designated ethics supervisor; and wait for a determination before taking any action on that matter.
 - The report must be in writing and signed under oath.
 - The designated ethics supervisor will provide copies of the report to the public officer named in the report and to the attorney general.
- A member of a board or commission whose involvement in a matter might violate the Ethics Act must disclose that matter on the public record and in writing to both the designated ethics supervisor (DES) and the attorney general.
 - The latter is typically completed by being included in the DES' quarterly ethics report unless more immediate intervention is needed.

- Disclosing the matter orally during a recorded public meeting of the board or commission satisfies the requirement to disclose the matter in writing, so long as
 - a tape or transcript of each meeting is preserved in accordance with the board or commission's records retention schedule; and
 - a method of identifying each portion of tape or transcript containing the disclosure is used and the identifications are preserved.
- When a member of a board or commission discloses a potential violation of the Ethics Act, the designated ethics supervisor will determine whether the member's involvement violates the Act.
 - The designated ethics supervisor will provide copies of the written determination to the member and to the attorney general.
 - Like the disclosure itself, the designated ethics supervisor's determination is also disclosed at a meeting on the public record.
- If any member of the board or commission objects to the designated ethics supervisor's determination or if the chair discloses a potential Ethics Act violation, the members present at a meeting (other than the disclosing member) must vote on whether the disclosing member may participate in the matter.
 - If a majority of the members voting determines that a violation of the Ethics Act would exist, or the chair rules that there would be a violation and no one objects to the chair's ruling, the member making the disclosure must refrain from voting, deliberating, or participating in that matter.
- A disclosing member who violates the Ethics Act in taking or withholding an action will not be liable for the violation if
 - the member acted in accordance with the chair's (or board or commission's) determination;
 - the member fully disclosed all relevant facts to the chair (or board or commission); and
 - the attorney general has not advised the member, chair, board, or commission that the action violates the Ethics Act.
- A designated ethics supervisor may request advice from the attorney general when determining whether an employee or member of a board or commission is involved in a matter that might lead to a violation of the Ethics Act.
- Boards and Commissions may also seek advice from the attorney general when making those determinations. Your department DES is available to assist with these processes.

Open Meetings Act (OMA)

State law expresses a strong policy in favor of opening governmental meetings to the public. The statement of policy says:

- Government exists to aid in the conduct of the people's business;
- Government actions should be taken openly and deliberations conducted openly;
- The people do not yield their sovereignty to government agencies;
- The people do not give public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and not good for them to know;
- The right of the people to remain informed shall be protected so the people may retain control over the government.
 - Further, the OMA is to be narrowly construed to avoid unnecessary executive sessions and exemptions from coverage of the act.

- AS 44.62.310-312, Alaska's Open Meetings Act, requires board meetings to be open to the public:
 - All meetings of a governmental body of a public entity of the state are open to the public except as otherwise provided by this section or another provision of law.
- What constitutes a meeting?
 - A gathering of members of a governmental body when more than three members or a majority of the members, whichever is less, are present; a matter upon which the governmental body is empowered to act is considered by the members collectively; and the governmental body has the authority to establish policies or make decisions for a public entity, or more than three members or a majority of the members, whichever is less, are present; the gathering is prearranged for the purpose of considering a matter upon which the governmental body is empowered to act; and the governmental body has only authority to advise or make recommendations for a public entity but has no authority to establish policies or make decisions for the public entity.
 - Exceptions:
 - Generally, the OMA does not cover individual board members meeting individually with members of the public or staff members/meetings.
 - When the body convenes solely to make decisions in quasi-judicial proceedings. An "adjudicatory proceeding" is generally one in which the rights of specific, identified individuals are being determined. If other matters are discussed, the meeting must be publicly noticed and the quasi-judicial topic held in executive session.
 - Organizational votes, such as electing a chair or scheduling a meeting.
 - A meeting could intentionally or inadvertently take place:
 - In a conference room, at a coffee house, at dinner, at a conference, over the phone—including "serial" or "consecutive" meetings, or over e-mail, including forwarding messages or replying to all.
- Special concerns: A board cannot construct a mechanism to circumvent the OMA, such as:
 - Having two private meetings of three members and/or asking staff or a member of the public to poll individual board members and share information to those members outside of a public meeting.
 - Deliberation of board business requires a public meeting even if a vote doesn't occur, and the OMA still applies.
 - The public has a right to attend.
 - The public has a right to hear the board's deliberation on a topic.
 - The public has a right to know how individual members voted.
- Special concerns: Social gatherings may count.
 - If four board members are present and they are discussing board business:
 - Is it worth the battle over optics?
 - Board reputation
 - Challenge to decisions

- Financial impact on the agency
- When in doubt, public notice in OPN or wherever it is customary.

Robert's Rules for Small Boards

Small boards can use more relaxed procedures.

- Basics:
 - A quorum of the board must be present to discuss or act.
 - A proper motion, second, and majority vote are required to enact anything binding or on behalf of the board.
 - The chair should ensure:
 - The motion is clearly stated by the maker (and restated by the secretary or staff, if necessary) to ensure understanding.
 - Ample discussion that includes all members takes place prior to voting.
 - Votes of "Yes/Aye" or "No/Nay" are clearly stated by individual members for the record.
 - Meetings should include a proactive opportunity for members to declare any potential conflicts of interest.
 - Members with potential conflicts must be recused from voting by the chair until a determination has been made or if the determination is that a conflict exists.
 - Regular meetings should include a brief window of time for public comment. Special meetings on narrow topics of interest may be beneficial times to hear expanded public comment.
 - Meetings may include invited testimony or presentations from stakeholders.
 - All regulations processes must follow the Drafting Manual and Administrative Procedure Act.
- Board decisions are only final when the following criteria are present:
 - A quorum of the board has met in a publicly noticed meeting to deliberate and vote on the issue.
 - The motion is clearly worded and understood by members when deliberating and voting.
 - A majority of members present has voted on the record to adopt the decision.
 - Each person's vote is recorded in the minutes.
 - The decision is consistent with law and within the board's authority.

Decision Making for Board Members

- Types of decisions:
 - Adopt regulations that establish binding standards within the board's statutory purview
 - Provide a public forum for board business and public input
 - Maintain a public record of board deliberations and decisions
 - Propose organizational budget to the Governor's office
 - Allocate funding within the approved budget, as allowed
 - Approve grant awards according to regulatory standards
 - Hire executive staff.
- Types of board decisions:

- Regulations:
 - Must be followed, are not optional, and can be enforced
 - Can only be amended through the formal adoption process in statute
 - A decision-making process is a de facto regulation if it is an inflexible "if-then" formula requiring consistency in all instances.
- Guidelines:
 - General and nonbinding guidance do not have the force of law
 - Can be adopted or amended by board vote.
 - A decision-making process is a guideline if it is used as a reference point along with consideration of the facts and relevant statutes and regulations. The bottom line is that if the board wants to enforce the decision or hold others accountable for it, the determination must be made in regulation.
 - If it wishes to publish nonbinding guidance, that is appropriately done through a guideline or position statement. The board may utilize a decision-making process or tool along with consideration of the facts, relevant statutes and regulations, mitigating circumstances, and other relevant data prior to making a determination.
 - Once a board uses a decision-making process as an automatic "if-then" statement—such as, if you do not complete your continuing education, you are fined a thousand dollars—it becomes a de facto regulation and needs to be abandoned or adopted as such.
- Defensible decision-making:
 - Boards can safeguard decision-making integrity by:
 - Creating one forward-focused vision based on the board's statutory authority.
 - Deciding as a board on the goals and objectives to support that vision, usually over the short term (within the next year) and the long term (within the next five years).
 - Proactively managing its activities at every meeting
 - Using sound decision-making processes and structures during board meetings.
 - Establishing data-driven metrics to help gauge progress.
 - Ensuring all stakeholders have an appropriate opportunity to participate.
 - Evaluating progress based on goals and objectives.
- Is this our decision to make?
 - Authority: Is the issue within the board's statutory mandate and mission?
 - Public protection: If we don't address the issue, is there a significant risk of harm?
 - Public interest: Does our decision make a material difference to stakeholders?
 - Ownership: Are we the most suitable group to lead this issue?
 - Partners: Will we need to collaborate with other groups?
 - Priority: Where does this matter rank among other issues we are facing?

- Resources: Where does this matter rank among other issues we are facing?
- Awareness: Are there avoidable, unwanted impacts if we pursue this issue?
- How do we make decisions?
 - Authority: Is the issue within the board's statutory mandate and mission?
 - Risk: Are we weighing risks and responding appropriately?
 - Objectivity: Can the members of the board maintain objectivity in the discussion?
 - Transparency: How do we ensure the process and outcomes are transparent?
 - Efficiency: Are we seeking the most efficient reasonable outcome?
 - Resources: Do we have the resources needed to pursue this outcome?
 - Timeline: Stay on top of the schedule.
- Good decision-making requires a partnership between the board and staff:
 - Preparation: Think through, ensuring you understand.
 - Information: Gather appropriate information, prepare board packet.
 - Consideration: Ensure the board considers all angles; may need to prep the board to set the stage for the discussion.
 - Deliberation: May need to guide the conversation to ensure they are thorough.
 - Transparency: Ensure proper processes are followed.
 - Documentation: Capture all major discussion points, motions, votes, and due-outs; publish timely on webpage and follow up timely with stakeholders.
- Best practices as a board:
 - Establish criteria on which a decision will be made.
 - Utilize this framework to systematically apply these questions to the matter at hand.
 - Deliberate transparently and create a record. Declare and manage conflicts.
 - Test the board's decision.
 - Publish the record and evaluate the decision on a regular schedule.
- Best practices as a board member:
 - Check your biases before speaking or voting.
 - Maintain focus on matters within the board's statutory scope or mission.
 - Align the process with available resources, such as staff or budget.
 - Safeguard transparency to stakeholders. Avoid ex-parte contact with the public or other board members.
 - Ensure the outcome is consistent with the board's values.

Strategic Planning

- Why create a strategic plan?
 - "Fail to plan, plan to fail"
 - Communicates priorities to staff, stakeholders, and the public
 - Aids in board member onboarding and education
 - Assists in allocating resources and sharing the rationale
 - Combats board member apathy or entropy
 - Ensures timely course correction when needed.

- Key principles:
 - Create one forward-focused vision
 - Ensure appropriate stakeholder participation
 - Encourage each other to recognize biases or blind spots and set up structures to resist these flaws
 - Gather data and set data-driven metrics
 - Set aside time to perform a high-level evaluation at least twice a year
 - Plot every activity of the board or direction to staff into the implementation details portion of your plan
 - Use a prioritization matrix to track activities at every meeting.

REVIEW CDVSA 2020 STRATEGIC PLAN AND FUTURE PLANNING NEEDS

Jennifer Winkelman opened the floor for a discussion about the future planning needs of the Council. Board members shared their sentiments related to the magnitude of the work, the challenges of funding, the importance of the next strategic plan, and the direction of the Council with regard to its statutory responsibility. Remarks included that perhaps the Council has outlived its purpose under the Department of Public Safety, and the Council may be far afield from its responsibility to support programs and be a resource for the state regarding domestic violence, sexual assault, crisis response, and prevention programs.

MaryBeth Gagnon remarked that in her view, the board has not functioned the way it historically functioned, and the expectations of staff and the board are unclear. She underscored that the critical areas that need to be addressed by the board before drafting a strategic plan include addressing the significant funding challenges, getting a clear understanding of the Council's statutory responsibilities, and establishing roles and responsibilities for the board and Council staff.

With regard to the funding challenges, MaryBeth Gagnon reported that the expectation is that the CDVSA grant line is facing a \$6M cut for FY '27. Knowing that, the Council needs to prepare programs for the inevitable cuts to come. The Council must have a plan and establish some funding methodology to address the fact that there will be a greater need. MaryBeth explained that the current allocations are based on the amount a program historically requested. MaryBeth recommended forming a subcommittee to create a funding methodology that is fair and equitable that the Council could move forward with for the FY '27 RFP.

With regard to the Council's statutory responsibilities and the roles and responsibilities of the board and CDVSA staff, MaryBeth Gagnon indicated there is a need to prioritize the work of the Council according to the statutes and get back on track with what is expected from the Council. She recommended forming a subcommittee to review the statutes and make recommendations to the board regarding statutory priorities, roles, and responsibilities.

Sara Chambers remarked that the most efficient, effective way for the Council to work on an examination of its statutory responsibilities could be done in concert with the short-term analysis of funding issues. She led a review of the 14 statutory responsibilities governing the Council.

Jennifer Winkelman asked board members to think about the discussion and be ready to talk about how to achieve the goals at the business meeting tomorrow, as well as determine whether forming subcommittees would be the most effective way to proceed.

RECESS

The meeting recessed at 3:07 p.m.

Thursday, November 21, 2024

CALL TO ORDER – 9:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL - Quorum established

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, FY25 Q1

John Skidmore **MOVED** to approve the FY25 Q1, September 17, 2024 meeting minutes as presented, **SECONDED** by John Cockrell. Hearing no opposition, the motion **PASSED**.

OVERVIEW OF AGENDA FOR MEETING

Jennifer Winkelman led a review of the meeting agenda.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

MaryBeth Gagnon directed the members' attention to the written report on the activities from September 18th, 2024 through November 19, 2024. She highlighted the following information:

Staffing and Personnel

- CDVSA currently has three vacant positions:
 - Research analyst 3, admin assistant 2, program coordinator 2.

Federal Audits

- The week of September 23rd, CDVSA received federal audits from the Office of Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) and the Office of Inspector General (OIG). The OCFO audit was focused on Sexual Assault Service Program (SASP) funds, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) STOP funds, and the Office of Victims of Crime (OVC) Byrne Discretionary funds. On November 4th, CDVSA received the findings response from OCFO, which focused mainly on non-CDVSA grant funds (other grants administered by the DPS grants office). DPS Finance and Administrative Services Director Dianna Thornton will be compiling a response on behalf of the department, due December 4, 2024.
- The Office of Inspector General (OIG) audit is much more intensive and focuses on all aspects of grant administration: Programmatic, financial, and overarching state policies and procedures. The OIG selected three federal years of the Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) grants to review. As each is a three-year award, OIG is requesting documentation as far back as 2018. Many changes have been made to DOJ compliance requirements over the years, and while CDVSA has done its best to keep up with them, these awards spanned during COVID and times of limited staffing. Due to this, many of the standard operations and

monitoring capacity diminished. This has greatly increased the administrative time and has led to stress for the staff trying to provide the answers.

- CDVSA was informed in October that the Family and Violence Prevention Services Act (FVPSA) team will audit the four FVPSA awards, one being the formula core grant and the other discretionary grants released during COVID. This review will virtually occur the week of December 16, 2024.

CDVSA Funding Release and Monitoring

- Since the Q1 board meeting, CDVSA has remained extremely busy releasing the remainder of the grant award agreements, implementing and teaching new monitoring and fiscal requirements to subgrantees, and conducting onsite and financial desk reviews. As noted, CDVSA changed all of its practices due to the June OVC VOCA Center Technical Assistance visit and has been busy trying to keep up with the packed monitoring schedules. The Council and the subgrantees are learning the nuances of new requirements and adjusting where appropriate. The schedule is rigorous, and the staff is doing a great job keeping up.

CDVSA Staff Day and Subgrantee Meeting

- October 24 – 25, 2024 the CDVSA staff traveled to Girdwood, Alaska to conduct a hybrid subgrantee meeting. CDVSA provided agency updates, changes in programmatic and financial monitoring practices and requirements, prevention programming, data, and information on the status of battering intervention work. The meeting was made possible through the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA), which suggested the staff add a day to their already scheduled director's meeting. Without this invite, CDVSA would not have been able to do any in-person portion as the Council has been over-capacity for years to organize the subgrantee meeting in any format. While the Council staff would have loved to meet all the subgrantees, they were grateful for the opportunity to meet those who could attend, and they were grateful to ANDVSA, who handled all the logistics. Additionally, time was carved out to hold a CDVSA staff team-building day. The Council's goal next year is to host an in-person meeting for all agencies to attend.

Tribal Partnerships and OVC

- In early October, the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) hosted a meeting in Anchorage, Alaska to bring together the statewide administering agencies for OVC funding, CDVSA and VCCB; the statewide domestic violence and sexual assault coalition, ANDVSA; and the two VAWA designated tribal coalitions, Healing Native Hearts and Yupik Women's Coalition. Also in attendance were correlating national technical assistance providers and OVC Director Will Bronson. The purpose of this meeting was to bring together tribal entities and statewide stakeholders to discuss challenges relating to correlating work, the distribution of resources, and the needs and roles of each unique entity. This is a pilot project series through OVC, and Alaska was a natural choice for them due to the unique geography and number of tribes. OVC indicated they would like to continue follow-up meetings to promote tribes and statewide entities working together to end violence.

ANDVSA Statewide Needs Assessment

- As an award condition of the Family Violence Prevention Services Act (FVPSA) grant, the statewide DV coalition (ANDVSA) and the state administering agency (CDVSA) are required to collaborate on statewide planning for domestic violence services. Specifically, ANDVSA is required to conduct a statewide needs assessment to determine gaps in services and resources within the state. On October 10th, ANDVSA kicked off the first meeting to discuss the project, bringing together multiple partner agencies that provide services or funding throughout the state. The initial work was educating each other on what their roles are in service provision and/or funding, identifying existing data and reports that could be used to determine needs, examining who else should be at the table, and exploring how to move forward.

CDVSA Priority Projects Update

Prevention

- Preparations for the 2025 Prevention Summit have begun. The summit is scheduled for March 4 – 6, 2025 to be held in Juneau, Alaska. This year the Council will be streaming the sessions to include more attendees with an online option while still having the opportunity for in-person connection. Additionally, staff have started work on the FY' 26 – FY '28 Request for Proposals for prevention funding, which will also be released in the spring.

New Approaches for Those Who Cause Harm

- The Department of Corrections (DOC) has determined that the agency will be taking the lead on revising the Battering Intervention regulations, as they are held in their statutes. CDVSA and DOC have been in conversation to ensure no past work on this process is lost. In the meantime, CDVSA hopes to hire the program coordinator 2 position whose area of focus is on this unique work to continue moving programming and training forward and to be ready for the work that will ensue after new regulations and standards are passed.

CDVSA Board Member Update and Scheduling of Meetings

- CDVSA continues to have 10 of its delegated 11 seats filled. The remaining vacant seat is a public member seat.

CDVSA BUDGET REVIEW AND FISCAL REPORT – SFY2025, Q2

Britten Niemi directed the members' attention to the financial report and budget and highlighted the following information:

- Page 1 – Program Budget FY 2024
 - Total budget authority, \$32,160,800
 - State funding authority total, \$18,236,400
 - Federal funding authority, \$13,924,400
 - Total operating budget, \$5,360,400
 - Total pass-through subaward budget summary budget, \$22,542,164
- Page 2 – Grant Budgets FY 2024

- Shows the active federal grant balances and grant awards by program and funding type
- Page 3 – Detailed Sub-Award Plan for FY 2024
 - Total amount awarded to subgrantees, \$22,542,164
- Page 4 – Contracts and Services FY 2024
 - Total authority for contracts and services remaining balance, \$1,446,000
 - Total of contracts and services obligations remaining balance, \$879,510
- Page 5 – FY 2024 Remaining Balances
 - Total budget, \$32,160,800
 - Total encumbrances, \$16,155,040
 - Total expenses year-to-date, \$7,984,693
 - Total remaining balance across all appropriations, \$8,021,067

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

ALASKA VICTIMIZATION SURVEY UPDATE

Dr. Andre Rosay reported that the original survey was designed in 2010, and things have changed significantly since then in terms of methodology and the survey structure. He described that the changes included moving from phone surveys to address push-to-web methodology. He noted that the first contact is by mail, and the respondents are asked to complete a survey online. The survey can be completed by cell phone, tablet, or computer. Dr. Rosay indicated that the response rates in other surveys are three times higher with the new methodology, not that better response rates always mean a better survey, but in this case, it does and provides a more representative sample of the population and much more confidence in the results.

Dr. Rosay reported other changes, including changes to the survey instrument designed primarily to reduce the burden on the respondents. He noted that it is a lengthy survey, and things are being done to organize it so people don't have to answer the same question many times. There are also minor changes to update and clarify language.

UPDATE FROM ANDVSA

Brenda Stanfill shared ANDVSA's update as follows:

Joint ANDVSA/CDVSA projects:

- Creation and update of core training, UAA School of Social Work
 - APU (ANDVSA)
 - BIP facilitator (CDVSA)
- Restorative Justice Project in Fairbanks
 - Looking at the criminal justice system from the victim's perspective
- VELA data system
 - 20 of the 24 direct service providers are using VELA
- UAA forensic training
- Lead On
- BIP regulations
- Regulations, federal versus state funding, and changes through grant agreements that are not in regulation
- Legislative session

- Waiting to see pre-filed bills and budget number
- Will focus on the critical nature of victim/survivor services statewide.

Overview: Requirements to be the federally recognized statewide coalition:

- The membership must include representatives from a majority of the primary purpose domestic violence service providers operating within the state
- The board of the coalition must be representative of such programs and can include additional representation in areas where services are provided
- The financial sustainability of the coalition must be supported by the membership, including those members who are representatives on the coalition's board of directors.

Three core functions:

- Provide education, support, and technical assistance to members
- Serve as an information clearinghouse, primary point of contact, and resource center on domestic violence and sexual assault for state
- Support the development of policies, protocols, and procedures to enhance domestic violence interventions and prevention in the state.
 - ANDVSA also provides direct legal services to survivors in the civil justice and tribal justice systems.

Brenda Stanfill shared a variety of other work the Network is involved in including training and technical assistance; conducting statewide needs assessments; participating in planning and monitoring of the distribution of subgrants and administration of grant programs and projects; collaboration; resource facilitation; working with law enforcement agencies, judges, and child protective service agencies; providing information to the public about prevention of family violence, domestic violence, dating violence, including targeted underserved populations; and collaborating with tribal organizations to address the needs of victims of family violence; domestic violence; and dating violence.

Capacity Building Project:

- Strengthen direct service providers:
 - Leadership training, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) training, leadership mentoring and peer support, board training, assistance with executive director search, intersectionality specialist, and shared services.

Needs Assessment:

- In the planning stage, formed a statewide advisory group
 - Partners include CDVSA, AMHTA, Denali Commission, Department of Justice, MMIP Workgroup, Alaska Native Justice Center, UAA Forensic Academy, DPS, AJIC/UAA Justice Center, Alaska Criminal Justice Data Analysis Commission, Alaska Small Business Development, and Alaska Native Women's Resource Center.
 - More partners will be invited to address underserved and culturally and linguistically specific populations.
- The first meeting was held in October where they developed three questions:
 - What does a survivor need to live a life free of family violence?

- What services are available and accessible to survivors of family violence in all areas of Alaska to achieve a life free of family violence?
- Where are the gaps in services, supports, and available resources to survivors of family violence to meet their needs?
- What information is already available:
 - Alaska Victimization Survey
 - Sub-reports from the survey
 - Services – amount of Alaska women who experienced IPV, SA, or stalking (September 2024)
 - CDVSA dashboard
 - Alaska Criminal Justice Commission DV Report
 - AHFC/HUD Homeless Point-In-Time Count
 - Alaska Criminal Justice Data Analysis Commission: DV in the Alaska Court System

Brenda Stanfill shared slides from the various reports to demonstrate the existing data that will be useful in the needs assessment work. She reported that the future work on the needs assessment includes survivor focus groups or other methods of hearing those voices, mapping statewide funding and services, and analyzing the data for future decision-making.

Network monitoring support for members:

- Onsite monitoring/desk reviews, questions and responses
- Federal regulations and requirements
- Continue to address administrative overload

Brenda Stanfill reported that the Network hosted a Civil Legal Services Roundtable in October 2024. She reported that the group targeted judicial education as the most important topic to focus on moving forward, and a subcommittee has been formed to continue working on that. Brenda said that the court system is focusing on domestic violence as a topic in an upcoming training for magistrates and judges.

FUNDING FORMULAS – REGIONAL ALLOCATION DISCUSSION

Lisa Morley joined the meeting to share information about creating a funding methodology to implement statewide funding distribution. She highlighted the following information:

- Developing and implementing a funding methodology provides a framework to ensure equitable, predictable, and targeted funding to ensure funds are being used effectively and efficiently. It will also inform funding decisions in the case of funding increases, decreases, new program development, and shifting resources.
- Variables include:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Core services and available services by region ○ Population ○ Geographical services areas ○ Weighting factors ○ Cost of living allowance ○ Number of victims served 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Base funding for emergency shelters ○ Base funding for non-emergency shelters ○ Availability of local match resources
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- Funding methodology workgroup:
 - Develop guiding principles and should include:
 - DV/SA agencies, partner organizations, and tribal organizations with equal representation from regions, victims, CDVSA Council members, and other stakeholders.
- Weighing factors:
 - Greatest economic and social needs
 - Minority, poverty, rural, resources, prevalence.

CDVSA COUNCIL BOARD MOVING FORWARD

Jennifer Winkelman reported that housekeeping items include setting the next meeting date, deciding on rural outreach meetings, and the formation of subcommittees to address funding and governance/strategic planning.

The board members engaged in a discussion about the benefits of community outreach meetings. Ginger Baim suggested sending a small delegation to different regions for community outreach versus the entire board, and the board considered ways to achieve that. The board discussed forming a community outreach subcommittee to begin developing a process. MaryBeth Gagnon noted that the board taking responsibility for those decisions is very helpful.

Ginger Baim **MOVED** that CDVSA establishes a subcommittee on community outreach coordination and delivery, **SECONDED** by John Skidmore. Hearing and seeing no opposition, the motion **PASSED**.

John Skidmore **MOVED** to form a subcommittee on governance, **SECONDED** by an unidentified council member. Hearing and seeing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Kim Kovol **MOVED** to form a funding subcommittee, **SECONDED** by Elizabeth Jerue. Hearing and seeing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

John Skidmore noted that the subcommittees are all in existence until the end of the fiscal year and **MOVED** that the subcommittees are reviewed and reauthorized to continue beyond the end of the fiscal year, **SECONDED** by Valerie Chadwick. Hearing and seeing no objection, the motion **PASSED**. Jennifer Winkelman clarified that all three subcommittees will need to be reviewed at the end of this fiscal year, June 30, or during the meeting near then to determine whether the board will extend the subcommittees.

Sara Chambers shared draft documents titled *Governance Subcommittee Environmental Scan* and *Financial Subcommittee Environmental Scan*. She created the documents as a starting point for the subcommittees. Lisa Morley provided a document of current victim services and prevention funding by region compared to population.

The board agreed that the Community Outreach Subcommittee should have at least two members, and the Governance Subcommittee and the Funding Subcommittee should have at least four members each. Board members expressed interest in which subcommittee they would like to serve on.

The board members agreed to schedule the Quarter 3 board meeting for Wednesday, February 26, 2025.

Jennifer Winkelman opened the floor for nominations for vice chair. John Skidmore **NOMINATED** Ginger Baim. Ginger Baim **DECLINED**. Ginger Baim **NOMINATED** Elizabeth Jerue, **SECONDED** by John Skidmore. Elizabeth Jerue **ACCEPTED** the nomination. Hearing no other nominations, Jennifer Winkelman closed the floor to nominations. A roll call vote was taken, and Elizabeth Jerue was unanimously elected vice chair.

The board members broke out into small groups to begin organizing the subcommittees and returned to report progress as follows:

Commissioner Kim Kovol reported that the Community Outreach Subcommittee intends to explore the following items:

- communication mechanisms
- calendaring
- structure
- staff liaison
- areas of outreach
- travel calendars
- program needs in regions
- coordination for public members
- report mechanism

Elizabeth Jerue reported that the Funding Subcommittee intends to work closely with the Governance Subcommittee to figure out core services. They plan to focus on the entire community part of funding and how to help communities with grant writing and identifying funding streams. The next meeting is scheduled for December 19, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

John Skidmore reported that the Governance Subcommittee reviewed the 14 statutory items listed and began to prioritize. The next meeting is scheduled for December 19, 2024 at a time to be decided.

BOARD COMMENTS

Jennifer Winkelman opened the floor for board member comments, a summary of which follows:

Jennifer Winkelman thanked Sara Chambers for her expertise and training session. She appreciated Sara's guidance throughout the process. She thanked the CDVSA staff and MaryBeth Gagnon for their work and the board members for taking the time to attend the meeting.

Ginger Baim expressed respect for the board members and is hopeful that the Council will be back on track with the information needed to make decisions about the welfare of programs and victims/survivors statewide. She appreciated the two days of learning and thanked the CDVSA staff.

Valerie Chadwick echoed the sentiments expressed by other board members and noted that she feels hopeful.

John Skidmore echoed the comments and felt like significant strides had been made. He thanked the CDVSA staff and Brenda Stanfill with ANDVSA.

Commissioner Cockrell echoed remarks from board members and appreciated the tough conversations that had to be had to move forward. He thanked the CDVSA staff for preparing the meeting.

Allison Biastock thanked the Council for including her and making her feel welcome. She thanked the staff for the meeting preparations.

Elizabeth Jerue remarked that it was the best board meeting since she's been on the board. She thanked CDVSA staff for seamless travel arrangements and felt excited and hopeful.

Commissioner Kim Kovol appreciated the hard work of preparing for a CDVSA board meeting and assured the staff that the board does care.

Commissioner Kim Kovol **MOVED** to adjourn, **SECONDED** by Elizabeth Jerue. Hearing and seeing no opposition, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

DRAFT

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
November 21, 2024
10:00 a.m.

ROUGH DRAFT TRANSCRIPT
Pages 1 - 6, inclusive

Council Members Present:
Commissioner Jennifer Winkelman, Chair
Commissioner James Cockrell
Deputy Attorney John Skidmore
Commissioner Kim Kovol
Elizabeth Jerue
Ginger Baim
Valerie Chadwick
Allison Biastock

CDVSA Staff:
Executive Director MaryBeth Gagnon
Chris Hardin
Lisa Morely
Britten Niemi
Anna Ramirez
Danielle Redmond

Reported by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

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

2 JENNIFER WINKELMAN: We are set at 10:00
3 for public comment. And I am not noticing anyone
4 online, but I'm curious, we may have someone on chat.
5 I did wonder if this may happen with the -- I think
6 the STAR training that's happening also at the same
7 time, I wondered if those that call in quite
8 frequently are over at that instead of on the call
9 today.

10 It does not look like we have any
11 public -- anybody for public comment. We don't have
12 anybody here in the room for public comment. Brenda
13 is here to do her presentation from ANDVSA. She is
14 willing to do a swap. Andre is coming, I think, at
15 10:30, Andre Rosay for the victimization survey
16 update, so we just swap Brenda and him and we can get
17 started.

18 And Brenda, if somebody were to come
19 online before Andre Rosay, we'll just put a pause and
20 go from there, but otherwise, we will turn the floor
21 over to you.

22 (Pause)

23 JENNIFER WINKELMAN: Eileen from TWC is
24 on. I can see if she is on for public comment.

25 BRENDA STANFILL: Perfect, I will pause.

1 JENNIFER WINKELMAN: Good morning,
2 Eileen.

3 EILEEN ARNOLD: Can you guys hear me?

4 JENNIFER WINKELMAN: We can. Wonderful.
5 Are you -- we just are checking. Are you online for
6 public comment?

7 EILEEN ARNOLD: Yes.

8 JENNIFER WINKELMAN: Beautiful. Well,
9 we will allow you. We didn't have anybody right at
10 10:00, so we started on a different part. But we
11 paused that and we would be pleased to hear your
12 public comment. If you could keep it to three
13 minutes, we will turn the floor over to you.

14 EILEEN ARNOLD: Okay. I'm in the
15 process of completing our CDVSA onsite visit and
16 wanted to give you a flavor of what that's like.

17 Usually I try to tell you about what's
18 going on for people and our program, but in terms of
19 my time, this is what takes up the majority of it.
20 You know, not a ton of people love an audit or site
21 visit or whatever you want to call it, compliance
22 stuff, but most of us get that there's a reason it
23 exists.

24 These days it just seems excessive, not
25 just with CDVSA, though CDVSA is one of the more

1 persnickety regulators. In the last five months I've
2 had nine audits, and I expect two more before the end
3 of the calendar year. These include accreditation
4 audits, insurance audits, commodity audits, federal
5 and state grant audits, and of course our independent
6 financial audit. I feel fully exposed.

7 I'm starting to get sort of cynical
8 about the amount of regulation and bureaucracy that I
9 feel like I am sustaining. There is money to regulate
10 the work, and there's money to technically assist the
11 people doing the work when it doesn't seem like
12 there's enough money to do the work. My empty
13 positions and my underpaid staff are evidence of that.

14 Recently I applied for federal money for
15 our medical partners to be at the table for SART,
16 which we can all agree is critical services. I just
17 heard Brenda say it's the most used services. The
18 total amount of money that we could apply for was
19 500,000 over three years, and the total amount that
20 technical assistance could apply for was \$1M. Why?
21 Implementation costs more than assisting those who
22 implement.

23 I dislike the amount of time and energy
24 that is lost to regulation. I dislike the time and
25 energy that it takes from me from getting and keeping

1 good staff, managing partnerships, and having the
2 space and time to critically think about how best to
3 respond and prevent violence in our community. These
4 audits don't help us do a better job at helping
5 survivors, and they don't impact the rate of violence
6 in our region.

7 And I know that that's not the point of
8 them either. It's to comply with all the regulations.
9 It seems like the bureaucracy is sustaining itself,
10 and that fact is really frustrating me these days,
11 because at the CDVSA grantee conference that, you
12 know, we were told we should brace for cuts again.

13 I've been director for ten years, and
14 every year we're on the state chopping block, either
15 with state money or federal money. And every year I
16 and my colleagues spend a ton of time trying not to
17 lose fiscal ground, which we haven't, but we're also
18 not gaining anything either, which is the same thing
19 as a loss.

20 Having lived in Bethel for 15 years, I
21 truly believe that rural Alaskans get more bang for
22 the state's buck from programs like ours. We hire
23 locals. We can be creative and flexible. We're
24 invested in improving the community because we live
25 here, and not just for the length of a work contract,

1 but for a lifetime.

2 And I need you to keep this in mind as
3 we enter another budget season. When I speak to
4 legislators about our budget, they heavily imply or
5 directly question why we haven't solved violence in
6 our community yet, as if it were only up to us, the
7 least-resourced member of the multidisciplinary team.

8 So that's it. That's what's on my mind
9 these days. Do what you can with it.

10 JENNIFER WINKELMAN: Thanks, Eileen.
11 Thank you for sharing. We appreciate that very much.
12 We've heard that from MaryBeth this morning, lots of
13 audits as well. Thank you.

14 All right. It doesn't look like we have
15 anybody else online. We will return to you, Brenda.

16 (End of public comment)

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