



CDVSA Executive Director's Update

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November 21st, 2024-February 25th, 2025

FY2025 Quarter 3

An update of CDVSA activities/highlights November 21st, 2024-February 25th, 2025

Staffing and personnel

CDVSA is happy to announce that we have filled our Administrative Assistant 2 position as of February 11th! Shannon Mclucas has joined our team, bringing with her previous State of Alaska experience and a passion for the work. Many thanks to both Chris Hardin and Britten Niemi for covering these duties the past 6 months as we waited to fill this critical position.

Currently, CDVSA is operating with 2 vacant positions-we have 9 of 11 filled. In December, our Research Analyst 3 (RA3) position became vacant with the resignation of Catherine Mohn, who worked remotely from Anchor Point. Being without an RA3 is extremely difficult; it is critical to meeting our federal reporting requirements and involves knowledge and duties that cannot be easily transferred to other staff. CDVSA has created a short-term, non-permanent RA3 position to complete the work until a permanent RA3 can be hired and trained. We are fortunate to have Morgan Cruz-Erisman (a previous CDVSA RA staff) return to assist us with these duties and bring us back into compliance with our reporting requirements and data requests.

The second vacant position is the Domestic Violence Intervention Program (DVIP) Coordinator 2 position, which has been vacant since April 2024. CDVSA will be updating the position description to incorporate other agency needs along with the DVIP coordination until we can fully assess the scope of work this position will be providing, which is dependent on the outcome of the DVIP regulations. The regulations are currently with the Department of Corrections for revision.

Federal Audits

On December 17-19, CDVSA underwent an audit from the Family and Violence Prevention Services Act (FVPSA) on our four FVPSA awards. This review occurred virtually and involved not only CDVSA's management of the grant(s), but also our coordination with the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA) who also receives a FVPSA formula grant



and partners with us to conduct the work and meet grant requirements. We have not yet received the results of this audit, though are feeling confident recommendations will be minor and or resolved with clarification on our processes.

CDVSA continues to provide documentation and information to the Office of Inspector General (OIG), who began our audit is in late September 2024. This audit is much more intensive and focuses on all aspects of grant administration-programmatic, financial, and overarching state policies and procedures. As noted in the last E.D. Report, the OIG selected three federal years of our Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) grants to review. As each award is a three-year award, this means OIG is requesting documentation as far back as 2018. This has required a large amount of the Director's, CDVSA staff, and the DPS Finance Officer's time the past 5 months. OIG has scheduled a meeting with us in early March to go over pre-liminary findings; CDVSA anticipates many staff hours will be needed to address the results of the audit.

Federal Funding Challenges

With the turnover of the new federal administration, the issued Executive Order to freeze federal grant funds caused much confusion and panic for our subgrantees, most of whom are operating with limited reserves and rely on these funds to keep their doors open and services uninterrupted. In response, CDVSA urged programs to submit all federal reimbursement requests as soon as possible to expedite processing of payments in the case the order was in effect long-term. CDVSA also coordinated with DPS Finance staff to expedite drawdowns from our federal grant funds to ensure CDVSA received reimbursement for our incurred grant expenditures to date. We are thankful the freeze was reversed, though continue to encourage programs to submit expense reports as quick as possible in the case of another unexpected freeze or government shutdown.

An additional challenge has been the revocation of new grant funding opportunities and the unknown future of what will be available, either as discretionary (competitive) funds or our formula (non-competitive) funds. There has been little information or direction from our federal contacts; for now, we must simply wait and see. CDVSA will disseminate any information as it is received.

CDVSA Supplemental Funding Release

In January, the CDVSA Board voted to release supplemental funding to the 26 Victim Services subgrantees to assist with costs of inflation. These payments were issued with state general funds in the form of amended grant award agreements. Subgrantees have been very grateful of



the boost as they struggle to pay for heating fuel, food costs, and the overall higher cost of service provision today.

34th Alaska State Legislature

January 21st kicked off the 34th session of the Alaska State Legislature. Our new legislators went straight to work, organizing their committees quickly and requesting information within the first few days of the session. Two bills (SB 73 and HB 91) that would be of financial impact to CDVSA tie to the Recidivism Reduction Fund, commonly known as the "Marijuana Tax". Simplified, each bill seeks to change the tax structure and shift taxation from the cultivator to the distributor, resulting in a much lower tax revenue stream. As CDVSA receives a percentage of this tax for Prevention programming, we are following these bills closely as the reduction would have a large impact on our Prevention efforts.

Another bill that could be a positive (indirect) impact for CDVSA is HB 48: Civil Legal Services. This bill seeks to increase the percentage of filing fees from the Alaska Court System from 10% to 25%. This increase could potentially assist with the critical need for legal assistance to survivors.

CDVSA Subcommittees

As a result of the Q2 meeting in November, the CDVSA Board voted to form subcommittees to address areas needing Board vote and discussion that require more time than our quarterly meetings allow. Areas identified as needing more focus are:

- Governance
- Funding Methodology
- Community Outreach

CDVSA Board members will give an update on the progress of their subcommittees during the Q3 meeting.

CDVSA Priority Projects Update

▪ Prevention

Lots has been happening with our Prevention program since our last meeting!



February 4th-5th, the Pathways to Prevention statewide workgroup met to further develop the 2025-2030 Pathways Plan and set a finalization date the end of May. This document helps guide the goals, objectives, and activities for implementing prevention programming across our State. As we know the landscape is often changing, routine assessment of the plan will build into the plan scheduling to ensure we continue to reach the needs of our state throughout time.

The 2025 Prevention Summit is scheduled for March 4th-6th in Juneau, Alaska. This will be the first in-person Summit in over four years. This year, CDVSA partnered with the Department of Behavioral Health to incorporate both prevention models, which has received a positive response across the State. If you are in Juneau, please stop by!

Simultaneously, staff have been developing the FY26-FY28 Request for Proposal (RFP) Solicitation to be released early this spring. As we have received decreases in our Prevention funds, the amount available for disbursement will remain current with FY25 funding levels. While historically CDVSA staff have internally set the parameters and criteria for RFP's, CDVSA staff discussed the outlined changes from the FY23-26 with the Funding Subcommittee in case any concerns were noted (which there were none).

- **New Approaches for Those Who Cause Harm**

CDVSA continues to hear there is great need for increased Domestic Violence Intervention Programming (DVIP) across the state; however, no funding is available to support additional programs or increase funding levels of existing programs. Out of concern for victim safety, CDVSA is not approving new programs until regulations are complete and monitoring of the programs is possible.

- **Victim Services Regulations Update**

CDVSA is pleased to report that we have contracted with former staff member Meggie Stogner to move forward the Victim Service Regulations Revision project. Meggie was previously leading the project during her employment with CDVSA and will be able to pick up where she left off in coordination with the Department of LAW. We are very thankful to have an experienced contractor to take on the final push of the project, which has been difficult due to staff capacity issues.



Alaska's Council on
Domestic Violence
& Sexual Assault

CDVSA Board Member Update

CDVSA continues to have 10 of its delegated 11 seats filled-the remaining vacant seat is a public member seat. Spread the word that we have an opening!