

COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT (CDVSA)

Quarterly Meeting MINUTES

Videoconference Host
State of Alaska Department of Public
Safety Council on Domestic Violence &
Sexual Assault 150 3rd St., Suite 201
Juneau, Alaska

Meeting Date
FY 2026 Quarter 4
June 17, 2026

Board Members Present: Commissioner Jennifer Winkelman, Chair; Ryan Bird; Ginger Baim; Susan Brown, Pat Sidmore; Angie Kemp; Tracy Dompeling; Jim Cockrell

Staff Present: Executive Director MaryBeth Gagnon, Britten Niemi, Mandy Toong, Jennifer LaRoe, Christopher Hardin, David Holmes

Minutes Prepared by: Pam Flores, Precise Transcripts

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2026

CALL TO ORDER – 8:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL – Quorum established

AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Ginger Baim **MOVED** to approve the meeting agenda as presented, **SECONDED** by Angie Kemp. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS AND CDVSA STAFF

APPROVE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Ginger Baim **MOVED** to approve the FY 2026 Quarter 3 and Special Vote meeting minutes, **SECONDED** by Tracy Dompeling. Hearing no objection, the motion

PASSED.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

MaryBeth Gagnon directed the members' attention to the written report in the board packet and highlighted the following information:

Staffing and Personnel

- CDVSA filled the Grants Administrator 3 position with Mandy Toong.
- Lisa Morley left her position as the Criminal Justice Planner. Morgan Stonecipher accepted that position.
- Coordinator 2 position is now empty and we will be beginning to recruit for that this month. Victim Services Program Coordinator and AT Grants Administrator 3 need to be filled.
- CDVSA board is down a public member seat and a rural seat right now. We have nine of 11 board seats filled.

Federal Audits

- CDVSA are still waiting to hear from the Office of Inspector General (OIG) due to the timing with the shutdown and vacancies within the federal government.
- CDVSA is still awaiting the results of the audit conducted under the Family Violence and Prevention Services Act (FVPSA) in December 2024.

CDVSA Subcommittees

- *Governance*
CDVSA will be looking for those who are interested in being on the Governance Subcommittee.
- *Funding Methodology*
The Funding Methodology Subcommittee has stalled just a bit since Lisa Morley left the position. We did decide to wait until the February Network meeting to solicit some information from the subgrantees on their services.
- *Community Outreach*
CDVSA is waiting for reports from commissioners and those who are visiting different shelters.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

CDVSA had some successful outcomes from session that have passed through the legislature, but they have not, as of today, been confirmed by the Governor's Office.

- Add in 1.2 million in state general funds for our Victim Services Program.
- \$500,000 increment of general funds allocated for civil legal

- services to serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.
- The Omnibus Crime Bill, a very big bill that was released that consolidated a lot of our initiatives.

CDVSA Priority Projects Update

- *Prevention*
 - CDVSA established and hosted the new Statewide Prevention Planning Committee in May, which was formerly known as Pathways to Prevention. The Pathways to Prevention group concluded their work and they had developed a new statewide plan. The next phase is taking the statewide plan and have invited different stakeholders and other state agencies to try to identify how we can work together and leverage our departments and resources to push some of those goals and objectives forward.
- *New Approaches for Those Who Cause Harm*
 - CDVSA continues to meet with the Department of Corrections on the transition of those programs to be housed under their umbrella. Come FY27, DOC will officially be overseeing the programs. CDVSA is holding onto the existing providers and continuing to fund them this year with help from DOC. We have a meeting at the end of next week to talk about some timelines and benchmarks to help them establish what their application process and standards and funding structure will be.
 - The Alaska Victimization Study is going very well. You'll hear more about that Nicole Wilkes from UAA.
 - The Stop Implementation Plan, which is from the Violence Against Women Act Grant that we receive, is a four year plan and it is due with our federal grant application this year. I will be sending it out once it's all compiled to the board for your review
 - The network conducted a needs assessment. This was a requirement under the FVPSA grant that we received, which is the Family Against Violence Prevention act granted. ANDVSA conducted the statewide needs assessment and is pretty much finalized. We anticipate the spring of next year that the board can start working on strategic planning based on the outcomes of this needs assessment that was conducted FY27 funding. We have started the application process for our sub grantees so that we can expedite the release of funds in '27.

CDVSA BUDGET REVIEW/FISCAL REPORT

Britten Niemi directed the members' attention to the financial documents in the board packet and highlighted the following information:

- The budget is pretty straightforward, laid out by fund source and our authority granted to us through appropriations by object type. Victim services grantees and other federal fund sources are still encumbered. At

the next board meeting, I'll have the final CDVSA '26 financial report and the projected for '27 as well.

- General fund doesn't have a lot of obligations remaining.
- Recidivism services and grants only have about 5.7 million left in obligations to liquid and pay out.
- Victim Services, which includes our enhanced services, are still encumbered. We expect to pay those out over the next six to eight weeks. VAWA STOP and RSAs with VAWA are the two biggest expenditures.
- Contracts and reimbursable service agreements. We have about 15 contracts that we give out to various vendors. We don't have huge balances remaining for these and we expect to spend them over the next six weeks, about \$700,000 worth of contracts that we give out for specific things.
 - DART which is access to services for survivors with disabilities.
 - Forensic nurse training through University of Alaska Anchorage.
 - Technical assistance.
- Grantee award list has not changed.

Britten Niemi noted she is working on gathering budgets from program coordinators, looking at actuals for '26 and just doing an actual versus budgeted comparison. And then I'll be doing projections in the fall for 2027. We are federally required to perform financial desk review and historically have not been meeting our compliance requirements for those and getting them completed. This year, Chris Hardin has been putting forth a great effort and really diligent and we have all of our desk reviews done for '26.

UPDATE ON ALASKA VICTIMIZATION STUDY PROJECT

Nicole Wilkes joined the meeting to share the update as follows:

- This is the fourth iteration of the AVS. We took a random sample of 20,000 residential addresses, contacted them by mail and then invited them to participate in an online survey. We did start data collection in early February. The survey is still open right now. For people who were selected to participate, they received an initial letter and they completed what we call the survey screener, which is our way of trying to identify which households had adult females in the household. If there was one or more adult women in the house, they were then invited to participate in the survey. Once people completed the screener, if they opted into email and or text reminders, we sent weekly reminders just asking them to participate. I mentioned last time that we had some low response rates so far. We did a number of community outreach efforts through different community organizations throughout the state, local government groups, VPSOs, things of that nature. We also engaged in social media campaigns throughout the state. We also used multiple newspapers and media sources to promote it as well. We saw numbers continue to go up for several weeks. We are approaching about 800 completed surveys, which our

goal is at least 700 for statistical power reasons. We are currently working on running preliminary results with the data. A report will go to the council that will focus on the incidents and prevalence of stalking, sexual violence, intimate partner violence. We'll ask for feedback on changes and edits that they would like to see and then we'll rerun the analysis with all the completed surveys since June 1st. We are going to work with a graphic designer on campus to polish up the report, make it more visually appealing for the public, and then have that released in all the normal channels.

Jim Cockrell asked if she have any trends that she's seeing so far compared to the last surveys.

Nicole Wilkes noted she is still working on the weighting and doesn't want to give an answer and then it be corrected once we get all the weighting finalized.

Jim Cockrell noted he would like to ensure that it's completed before the next legislative session, because it's certainly very useful, testifying on domestic violence, sexual assault in Alaska.

Nicole Wilkes noted she thinks they'll have the report ready for the public hopefully by early August or mid-August.

Ginger Baim asked if there were any incentives offered for filling out the survey.

Nicole Wilkes noted yes, absolutely. There were two available incentives. All people could have received a \$10 electronic gift card for completing that. And then with the survey, initially we started at \$15, but then when the response rates were low, we did bump it up to 25.

Ginger Baim noted she made a direct appeal to the directors of the programs when she heard that there was a low participation rate on the North Slope area and on southwest Alaska. She asked if there a re-letter and if there is another way for them to contact her.

Nicole Wilkes noted they can still contact us if they have questions or if they need a code to complete it. She noted they can't send any more mailings. We want to be cognizant of really focusing on the 20,000 people completing it. In the North Slope, we sent over 700 letters out. More letters would have been sent out to the Southwest.

Chair Winkelman asked if there was some sort of a link between the board members where they could forward it to connections in those communities.

Nicole Wilkes noted that would be wonderful.

[ANDVSA Director Report: Brenda Stanfill, Executive Director](#)

Brenda Stanfill noted she was going to be focusing more on what's happening with the network membership and the network programs and then the direct programs that are online. We'll be doing some filling in and I know that we had some that can't be online that have provided some. I've got their written testimony that I'll forward on to you.

- *Background*

- Through our federal dollars, they set this up, expecting that there would be a state administrator that would be doing the dollars, getting them out there, but also recognizing that oftentimes state administration can lose the voice of victims. And it's just because we're being audited by OIG. It really does take a partnership for us to navigate all of this. We are the federally recognized coalition that represents the 24 member programs across the state that are doing the work on the ground, and we work intensely with them throughout. I have been working with boards and commissions on our public members. Each public member comes with their own background and their own experience, and they're selected for that. The rural seat is still open. And one additional seat we have, there are two applications that have been forwarded to the Governor. We have to go through boards and commissions.

One of the things that I've been talking about with Mary Beth is creating some kind of an orientation for when you come onto the CDVSA board. We are excited to finish the needs assessment. Literally, we're putting a map in there. And then I was hearing that the AVS survey might be done by August. We might want to just update that needs assessment with that AVS information, because that would be some great information. I planned to get it done within three months of starting at the network. And five years later, we're almost to a published needs assessment.

- *Network Members*

- We have 24 network members. We also are starting to engage in a strategic plan. We'll be working very closely with the council on this. The network itself has basically five programs. We have our capacity building, our prevention, our legal program, our policy legislative, because it has two parts there. And then we have sexual assault on its own.

- *Advocacy Training*

- The other thing that we have been trying to get back into is our entire advocacy training. Jennifer Winkelman is our trainer for our advocacy area and we have a core 30 hour training that we provide to every new advocate that comes on. In the statute, advocates are required to have 40 hours of training. We provide 30 hours of that expecting the program to do at least 10 more on how everything runs in their organization. But

that core 30 hours started out with being a course that they did through the network. At some point in time it converted over to the APU. Judy Getty is our contractor. We are pulling the course that we refer to often as the APU course and it will go back to being our DV101 course. We'll be doing that through the network, hosting that and doing the facilitation of that and through some very good software through Coalition Manager. The same people who do our VELA software that the CDVSA is using, have a program called Coalition Manager. We were able to put that on our own hosting platform and on July 1st we will begin doing that individually there at the network. I'll make sure that everybody gets those new links because I know a lot of websites are connected to that. We want them to make sure that they can still sign up for that. There's a very small cost to that. It's \$75 if you're not a member program.

- *Shared Service Position*

- This is a position we heard from our programs that oftentimes grant, administration, HR duties, financial. We have a staff member who has been hired and is working with the programs to help them assess how they're doing and do they need to some additional assistance. And we're able to help them if they do.
- We're very excited to be working with the Council as we transition from the Pathways group. Pathways was a great thinking group putting the strategic plan together. We had a lot of voices, but this has been a group that's been together for over 20 years. We'll be working for the next few years on the implementation of that. That group has started meeting and we're very excited to be a participant in that.

- *Legal*

- With the enhanced services going away, that also means that our Lobono project will go away. We're very much hoping the governor signs the upcoming budget once it's transmitted for there to be some additional dollars that would go into legal. The other thing that we found is that our legal advocates that are in organizations, our member programs, oftentimes there's just one. And if that legal advocate leaves and before a new legal advocate is hired, they may lose a whole breadth of knowledge about the legal system. We have spent the last two years creating our legal advocate curriculum. That's a virtual curriculum. It can be done online and again will be hosted by the network where we can work with all of the legal advocates in the state. We've gotten our approval and can go ahead and get that uploaded onto the platform. I would think by mid July, you should start seeing information come out on how to register.

- *Policy and Legislative*

- Many of us just went through legislative session. So many of the bills

had to do with the criminal justice part of it. We are very hopeful that that bill will get signed because all of our bills we were pushing got rolled into that. If it doesn't get signed, it means there was a lot of really good work that unfortunately we'll have to start again next year. One of the big pieces that's in there, we added it where tribal organizations who have victim advocates can be covered under confidentiality.

- Then the policy area, we are really looking at the housing. A lot of stuff is changing with the Housing and Urban Development in the federal and a lot of that trickles down to us. One of the things that we just found out is some of the rapid rehousing money which we use to get people into housing. Housing quickly is changing and so nonprofits won't be the primary person. Sometimes our confidentiality gets in the way of us partnering with a state government or a local government. We're working on the policy side of that here in this next few months to figure out what does that mean for our program.
- *Sexual Assault Component*
 - The leadership has shifted back over to CDVSA and we really appreciate that they picked that back up. We are also working on a translation project. A lot of our materials are not yet in all of the language they should be that the member programs have. Some of our sexual assault packets are not in the language they should be. And so this next four months, we're going to be working on a translation package with AIJ in order to make sure that we can have all of those in all of those in writing in the languages we need.
 - I want to do a big shout out to the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority. They were added on as the member in the last iteration of the council when it was in its sunset years. We added in one more public member, which was our Alaska Native representative, and we added in the Alaska Mental Health Trust. Since coming to the table, there had been a lot of focus on recidivism and reentry in the criminal justice system. But through this meeting, they were able to hear how many of their trust beneficiaries also were in the shelter programs. They were able to provide a \$200,000 a year housing grant to the network that we then reimbursed any of the programs that we're providing. We reimbursed up to \$4,000. Alaska Mental Health Trust this year have actually upped it to 300,000 that they're giving us. Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority is definitely only funding if it is a trust beneficiary. And so we were able to get some federal dollars that we can partner on that.
- *DFC*
 - One of the things that they're working on is updating the mandatory reporter training. All of the DV shelters are mandatory reporters. However, we're a little bit different when it comes to domestic violence. Witnessing domestic violence does not automatically trigger an OCS report because that would discourage people from being able to come to

shelter. But when a program sees that there's been a change in a child's behavior, that is when the OCS report is made. We haven't had any specific training that OCS created that was specific to the DV shelter. We'll be working with them to create a specific unit that's going to be available for our DV providers. All your member programs have to go through this every 12 months. There has to be an approved curriculum.

- DOC, the Batters Intervention program, has not been funded the same. It lost all its funding. So it had a specific line item when it was made back in 1997, 1998 was 250,000. It said bipartisan. And then somewhere along the line they took it away. The council said, we're already funding these programs, they're already established, so they have put general funds into that. We've been able to keep them going. It's very, very important that all the pieces are in place and that programs are being monitored. We're very excited to be having these conversations about how document can look at being able to possibly be able to have some funding that could be to move this into a contractor relationship. You heard Mary Beth talk about this next 12 months, they're still going to be grant funded.
- The Data Analysis Commission have actually come out with some really good reports. The domestic violence report that came out last year was really, really impactful. We use those in our needs assessment, but it's kind of diluted in the needs assessment because it's just part of the information. It's not the specific report. And then also the sexual assault report that was done in 2019, we are updating that and making sure that it's got current numbers. We'll continue to work with the Department of Law. We only have about 1% of sexual assaults reported that actually go into any type of trial or plea deal.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

FINAL REMARKS

Chair Winkelman noted they will be in quarter one for the next meeting. What I would like to do is send out a doodle poll. Typically we do that August, September. We have for the most part avoided July to be in the middle of summer. I would just ask council members to take a look at it and get some feedback so we can get a date locked in for that.

We're going to need to kind of resurrect, for lack of a better word, our subcommittees and get going on those.

For doing the outreach, essentially just a reminder to folks, if you're in areas and can stop in and get that information back to Mary Beth and staff, they can make sure that they get it out to the group and in a report of what's going on or we can allow for time to share in the next upcoming meeting if there's

something that we want to make sure that the group is aware of. Just because we aren't doing the community outreach subcommittee doesn't mean that the work isn't still happening with visits and such out in our communities. Getting that going is going to be important and being able to report out on that.

And then obviously I think it was the Governance that we're going to need to resurrect. We're going to need to reestablish essentially that board. We had a couple that are outgoing. So if any council members are interested in the governance subcommittee, please contact Mary Beth.

Some subcommittee work will probably go through emails in the upcoming months before our quarter one meeting and then I would like to make sure that we are touching on those and still moving forward on those initiatives at our quarter one meeting.

An update will go out on whether or not the HB239, which is the public safety bill, I believe we should know tomorrow. I think the deadline is the 18th, if I'm not mistaken, on whether there is a signature that lets it go into law or if there's going to be any vetoing on that.

ADJOURNMENT

Ginger Baim **MOVED** to adjourn, Tracy Dompeling seconded. Hearing no opposition, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 10:21 a.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
June 17, 2026
9:55 a.m.

Pages 1 - 10, inclusive

Council Members Present:
Commissioner Jennifer Winkelman, Chair
Ryan Bird, public member
Ginger Baim, public member
Pat Sidmore, DEED
Angie Kemp, DOL
Tracy Dompeling
Susan Brown
Jim Cockrell

CDVSA Staff:
Executive Director MaryBeth Gagnon
Britten Niemi
Jennifer LaRoe
Christopher Hardin
David Holmes
Mandy Toong

Transcribed by: Pam Flores, Precise Transcripts

Precise Transcripts
45 N. Broad St., Ridgewood, NJ 07450

P R O C E E D I N G S

COMMISSIONER WINKELMAN: I think we are at perfect timing to move into public comment. Chris, if I could have your help in running the timer that is so helpful for me and for those that -- Thank you, thank you, thank you. And for those that are wanting to participate in the public comment, if you'll raise your hands and I see Rowena and Sherry got their hands up already. That's fantastic. I will call on those that are in order. Excellent. So I will call on you in order of that, your hand being up. Just a reminder for those that are speaking public comment is limited to three minutes. I know that everyone has so much they want to say and share by limiting and we will certainly we will take written comments at any point and you can get those to the board and we'll get those included in in our packet and our minutes that we send out. Keeping the public comment in this forum to three minutes keeps everybody very consistent and we can exercise the same respect for everybody that is on the call. So I appreciate everybody keeping it at three minutes. And like I mentioned, Chris is going to be helpful in keeping us there. And with that, Rowena, good morning. Thank you for being here. We will start with you.

ROWENA PALOMAR: Thank you. Good morning everyone. Thank you for the opportunity to talk with you this morning. I am Rowena Palomar, Executive director of Advocates for Victims

1 of Violence here in Valdez. First off, I would like to thank
2 CDVSA and the council members for the additional funds awarded
3 to our agency. In addition, I realized that this meeting is
4 one of the ways for you guys to learn what is happening in our
5 communities and what we are doing in our agencies. I would
6 like to share with you one of the serious incidents our client
7 had experienced. Her perpetrator followed her from another
8 community who have multiple charges of domestic violence and
9 strangulation. While in Valdez, the victim experienced
10 multiple physical victimization and the last incident was
11 strangulation. The perpetrator was arrested and was further
12 released with \$1,000 bail. With the knowledge of the victim,
13 he is still incarcerated. Little that we knew, he was released
14 two days prior to the victim coming to the shelter. That
15 information made more fear to the victim and put the lives of
16 the advocates working in a dangerous situation. After further
17 investigation and working with the local law enforcement in
18 Valdez, we found out the perpetrator had not been reporting to
19 his parole officer. And the other strangulation cases from the
20 other community was closed. Nobody knew what was going on in
21 that department. Somebody dropped the ball after my meeting
22 with the Belize Police Department. Surprisingly, the case from
23 that other community was reopened. Our concern here is the
24 accountability of the perpetrators. The job of the advocate is
25 to make sure that advocates that Victims are in a safe place

1 | while they are at the shelter. But if other agency does not
2 | keep the perpetrators accountable, how can we do our job
3 | efficiently? I know that this is not an isolated case. There
4 | are more perpetrators that were not held accountable for their
5 | actions. Where and who dropped the ball is often the case.
6 | And pointing fingers to victims at all times is very
7 | frustrating. How many more victims will keep running to save
8 | their lives and their children? At this point, she and her
9 | children is in a safe place. For how long? We don't know.
10 | This is just one of the cases that we have to work here in
11 | Valdez. Perpetrators needs to be accountable.

12 | CHRIS HARDIN: Your three minutes is up. Can you
13 | please wrap up your testimony?

14 | ROWENA PALOMAR: I'm almost done. Perpetrators
15 | need to be accountable and this is a big part of the victim's
16 | lives. Thank you.

17 | CHAIR WINKELMAN: Thank you for your testimony. I
18 | very much appreciate hearing the real stories. And when I
19 | close this out at the end and I talk a little bit about our
20 | subcommittee of getting out to the communities and coming
21 | around, and I encourage all the council members to hear about
22 | these specific stories so we can come together and figure out
23 | how to collaborate on these. So thank you. Sherry, good
24 | morning. You're next.

25 | SHERRY SMITH: Good morning. Thank you so much

1 | for the opportunity to talk a little bit. Just wanted to kind
2 | of give you an update. I'm Sherry Smith, the director of the
3 | Lee Shore center in Kenai. And you know, we're coming up on
4 | the end of the fiscal year and just wanted to kind of fill you
5 | in on how busy we've been. Don't have the total numbers yet,
6 | but it looks like we've got about a 24, 25% increase in
7 | shelter clients in fiscal year 26. Our bed nights went up by
8 | about 17%. Our crisis calls were 140% increase. So, you
9 | know, we're pretty busy around here. We did a lot of in
10 | school presentations through our violence prevention Healthy
11 | relationships program. So that's going into the schools,
12 | kindergarten through 12th grade during the school year. So we
13 | did, we did 89 of those presentations to about 1600 students
14 | that, you know, that's funded through our prevention program.
15 | And we have one person, well, one point, I don't know, 1.5,
16 | doing all of that work. That's just a piece of the
17 | prevention. So we are, you know, pretty, pretty strapped. I
18 | want to thank you very much for the increase in funding. I
19 | was thinking back, this is the first time since fiscal year 18
20 | that I have been able to, am going to be able to raise staff
21 | salaries. And prior to that it was 23 years. So in the last,
22 | I've been with this agency 33 years, and this is now the
23 | second time I've been able to raise staff salaries. We have
24 | had an extreme. It's very challenging to not only hire
25 | people, but to retain them. I'm actually doing interviews for

1 | our finance assistant position. She left just recently left
2 | because we weren't paying her enough. And I, I called this,
3 | this person the other day to get a see if she wanted to
4 | interview and, and I told her what we paid and she goes, no,
5 | thank you. So, yeah, I'm hoping great things will come. Just
6 | real quick, I know my time is almost up. I want to encourage
7 | you, you know, during the legislative process, I, you know,
8 | this is, I think, the first year in my history that, that the
9 | council hasn't been so involved in that. We really, really
10 | need your voice to be a part of that. Not only for some of
11 | the bills that we're trying to encourage the governor to pass
12 | with the public safety bill, but budgeting, you know, anything
13 | to do with victim services, that's what the council is for. I
14 | have great respect for the council staff. Anytime that I need
15 | to get in touch with them, they are more than, Oops, I'm
16 | sorry, I had myself timed on this. But anyway, that's, I'm
17 | sorry, I can't go on because I, I'm out of time. But thank
18 | you very much for the opportunity.

19 | CHAIR WINKELMAN: Thanks, Sherry. I appreciate
20 | your sharing and good reminders to all of us council members
21 | and our roles. So, Erin, good morning. Thanks for being
22 | here. We will start your public testimony, your three
23 | minutes. Thank you.

24 | ERIN MOROTTI: Thank you. Good morning, council
25 | members. My name is Erin Morotti. I'm the executive director

1 | for the Interior Alaska center for Nonviolent Living, or IAC. |
2 Thanks for the opportunity to speak with you today and also
3 for your commitment to victims and survivors across Alaska.
4 The Council's investment, especially recently in victim
5 services, has really helped ensure that survivors can access
6 safety across the state. For almost 50 years, IAC has served
7 as Interior Alaska's only domestic violence and sexual assault
8 emergency shelter and comprehensive victim services agency
9 serving Fairbanks and 42 Interior Alaska villages and the
10 surrounding rural areas, including a 24 crisis line, sexual
11 assault response team, housing programs, legal advocacy,
12 prevention, education, and a range of supportive services
13 designed to help survivors achieve safety and healing. Our
14 vision is super simple, a safe and supportive community for
15 all. But the need for these services remains especially
16 significant. Last year, IAC served more than 700 survivors of
17 domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking into trafficking,
18 including over 100 children. We provided nearly 10,000 nights
19 of emergency shelter, helping survivors and their families
20 find safety during some of the most dangerous moments of their
21 lives. Our sexual assault response team continues to see a
22 significant demand as well. Based on response activity during
23 the first half of this fiscal year, we are on track to respond
24 to more than 100 sexual assault response team activations by
25 year end. We also continue to serve some of Alaska's most

1 remote communities. The area that we cover encompasses a vast
2 region that some say is larger than California, New York and
3 Pennsylvania combined. These realities make strong local
4 victim services and coordinated community partnerships not
5 just important, but essential. 32% of shelter residents
6 identify here in our shelter as Alaska Native, underscoring
7 the importance of importance of culturally responsive services
8 and really strong relationships with tribal organizations like
9 we have. Taken together, these numbers demonstrate both
10 ongoing prevalence of violence in interior Alaska and the
11 critical role of victim service organizations like IAC and how
12 we play in helping survivors achieve safety and healing. I'd
13 like to highlight one area of growing concern, and that's
14 survivor access to legal services. For many survivors, safety
15 does not end when they leave an abusive relationship.
16 Survivors often face custody disputes, protective order
17 hearings, divorce proceedings, housing issues, and so many
18 other legal barriers that directly affect their ability to
19 remain safe and rebuild their lives. Over the past two fiscal
20 years, IAC's legal program has demonstrated both significant
21 need and meaningful impact. In fiscal year 24, the program
22 provided almost 300 family law services and consultations. In
23 fiscal year 25, in 2005, despite staffing and funding
24 challenges, the program provided over 500 family law services
25 and consultations. Unlike many larger communities, survivors

1 | in interior Alaska often have few alternatives when legal
2 | services disappear. For many of our clients, IAC's leave the
3 | program.

4 | CHRIS HARDIN: Your three minutes is up. Can you
5 | please wrap up the testimony? Thank you.

6 | ERIN MOROTTI: Yeah. Unfortunately, despite many
7 | other efforts and despite the demonstrated need, IAC is
8 | evaluating the closure of our legal program. Without
9 | sustainable funding, we're unable to maintain the staffing and
10 | infrastructure needed to provide high quality legal
11 | representation. I could go on, but on behalf of IC staff,
12 | volunteers, board members and community partners and survivors
13 | that we serve every day, I really want to thank you for your
14 | leadership and your continued commitment to creating safer
15 | communities across Alaska.

16 | CHAIR WINKELMAN: Great. Thank you, Erin.
17 | Appreciate that update. And if you do have written comments
18 | that you want included in this that you weren't able to share,
19 | please feel free to forward those and we'll make sure those
20 | get distributed. So excellent. Appreciate it. It's Boy.
21 | Are there any others here for public comment today?

22 | MARYBETH GAGNON: Chair Winkleman, I see that
23 | Monarch women's shelters on here and I don't know if they're
24 | just on phone, but if they wanted to provide public comment,
25 | they're more than welcome to. And I think also you save is on

1 | here and sometimes just our small rural communities can't
2 | connect with teams. So I just wanted to say if you are
3 | wanting to make public comment, please feel free to chime in.

4 | CHAIR WINKELMAN: Okay, well thank you for that,
5 | MaryBeth and oh, Joanne unable to unmute herself. Just going
6 | to see if there's any way on our end to unmute Joanne.

7 | CHRIS HARDIN: We can force mute. We can't
8 | unmute, unfortunately. Joanne, if you -- I don't know if
9 | you're using the browser or the Teams app, but there should be
10 | a microphone icon on both. It's up in the upper right corner
11 | next to the -- between the camera and the share option.

12 | CHAIR WINKELMAN: Okay, well, still unable to get
13 | on, Joanne. Sorry about that. And if you have written
14 | comments that you want to send, we will make sure that it gets
15 | out to the council members here to make sure that your
16 | comments are shared. So appreciate you being here. Hopefully
17 | you're able to hear us all. Excellent. With that, it does
18 | not appear as though we have any additional individuals for
19 | public comment. So again I thank the those that participated
20 | today and shared with us.

21 | (End of Public Comment)
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