

**STATE OF ALASKA
COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT**

**MINUTES OF FOURTH QUARTER FY08 MEETING
June 25, 2008**

**Snowden Training Center
820 W. 4th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska**

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Acting Chair Rick Svobodny called the meeting of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault to order at 9:10 a.m. on Wednesday, June 25, 2008. Five Council members were present at roll call to form a quorum.

Council members present: **Richard Svobodny**, Department of Law (vice chair); **Colonel Audie Holloway**, Department of Public Safety, AST; **Ann House**, Public Member; **Barbara Thompson**, Department of Education & Early Development; **Stephanie McFadden**, Public Member

Council members absent: Bill Hogan (Department of Health & Social Services), and Yvonne Sarren (public member)

Council staff present: **Chris Ashenbrenner**, Executive Director; **Jo Griggs**, Administrative Manager; **Lauree Morton**, Program Specialist (by teleconference); **Ella Nierra**, Administrative Assistant; **Michael Hildebrand**, Statistical Technician (by teleconference)

Others present (in person or by telephone): **Peggy Brown**, Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault; **Saralyn Tabachnick**, AWARE (Juneau); **Lauren Rice**, Department of Public Safety; **Diane Paust**, SCS (Seward); **Louise Conwell**, MFCC (Kotzebue); **Nancy Haag**, STAR (Anchorage); **Beth Adams**, Alaska Court System; **Susanne DiPietro**, Alaska Court System; **Cathy Satterfield**, Department of Law; **Peg Coleman**, SPHH (Homer); **Katie TePas**, Department of Public Safety - AST

COUNCIL CONFLICT INQUIRY

Chair Svobodny said if Council members had a potential conflict of interest with any items on this meeting's agenda now was the time to declare it.

There were no conflict of interest disclosures.

APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

BARBARA THOMPSON MOVED THAT THE COUNCIL ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 13, MARCH 28, AND APRIL 10, 2008 MEETINGS, AS WRITTEN. COLONEL HOLLOWAY SECONDED. The motion passed unanimously.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Chair Svobodny indicated that, although the Council is supposed to elect new officers at the first meeting of each year, it was postponed at the last meeting because there were two new Council members. As vice chair, he has been acting chair since former chair Janna Stewart left the Council.

Colonel Holloway said it is good policy for one of the public members to be the chair, even though it might not be possible every year.

Ms. Thompson said she agreed, adding that government members have run into occasional conflicts over the years when it comes to advocating for funding or their own internal budget priorities. She said a public member has a lot more flexibility and fewer restrictions than a State employee may have. Historically, a public member has often been the chair, and it worked well.

Chair Svobodny expressed his support for the notion as well but noted that there may be times when electing a public member as chair is not practical. As chair, he personally felt uncomfortable during the last legislative session, when the Council view was different than the Department of Law's view on things, although the issues were not major.

Colonel Holloway mentioned that he might have to direct Troopers to perform in a certain way that might be against the CDVSA's view.

Ms. Ashenbrenner reported that following the discussion at the last meeting staff sought clarification about Ann House having been appointed twice to a public seat on the Council, the first time to fulfill an uncompleted two-year term. Staff learned that Ms. House is eligible for reappointment for another two years when her term expires in August.

After a brief discussion about whether to select new officers at this meeting or wait until the next meeting, the Council decided to proceed, despite some probable and pending changes in the membership coming up.

Ms. House said she, too, supported the idea of a public member as chair, as long as that person received full support from the government members who, by their positions, have expertise that public members do not possess.

Ms. Thompson expressed her desire to nominate Ms. House as chair. She said that whoever is elected as vice chair should understand that if Ms. House is not reappointed in August, the vice

chair would most likely move up into the chair position.

Chair Svobodny mentioned that the new chair should be available to run the strategic planning meeting scheduled for late July.

BARBARA THOMPSON NOMINATED ANN HOUSE TO BE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR. COLONEL HOLLOWAY SECONDED.

Nominations were closed, and Ann House was unanimously elected to the position of CDVSA chair.

COLONEL HOLLOWAY NOMINATED BILL HOGAN TO BE VICE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR. ANN HOUSE SECONDED.

STEPHANIE MCFADDEN NOMINATED RICK SVOBODNY TO BE VICE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL. BARBARA THOMPSON SECONDED.

Nominations were closed, a vote was taken, and Bill Hogan was elected as vice chair of the Council.

Chair Svobodny congratulated Barbara Thompson on her upcoming retirement from the Department of Education and Early Development and thanked her for her long and outstanding commitment to the Council.

Ms. Ashenbrenner said that in her year and a half working at CDVSA she has called on Ms. Thompson's years' of Council experience many times and appreciated that input. She said she would miss her very much.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Ashenbrenner reported on the following topics:

Victim Service Programs Quarterly Reports: It was evident from reading the reports that programs have been busier than normal. The number of bed nights went up at shelters in the January to March quarter, staff shortages continue to plague programs, and they are having trouble filling positions. Without actually counting, it appears that homelessness is being mentioned more frequently in the reports because there are not places for homeless people to go. Ms. Ashenbrenner said she has asked Suzi Pearson, the deputy director of AWAIC (Abused Women's Aid In Crisis) in Anchorage and chair of the statewide homeless coalition, to speak to the Council at the next meeting. The quarterly reports also revealed an amazing amount of prevention education services happening at the local level, considering the small budgets available for prevention. It appears that programs are using the media more to reach out with the prevention message.

Ms. Ashenbrenner said the one problem mentioned in the quarterly reports that she continues to work on is lack of a sexual assault response team (SART) in the Mat-Su Valley. There was a SART program at one time, but now people seeking a forensic examination have to travel to Anchorage. The current system is not supporting people during a traumatic time, and a Mat-Su task force is working to remedy that.

On-Site Audits Completed:

- The Legal Advocacy Project at the Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault in Juneau. Everything was in order, and that group is doing a fine job.
- Arctic Women In Crisis (AWIC) in Barrow.
- Cordova Family Resource Center (CFRC).
- Ketchikan Indian Corporation batterers intervention program.
- Life Education Action Program (LEAP), a batterers intervention program (BIP) in Fairbanks.
- Two BIPs in Anchorage: Men and Women's Center, and the Recovery Center.
- All the programs basically were found to be doing very well. The only recommendations were administrative in nature -- to update some policies and procedures, as well as forms.

Programs that CDVSA staff has been following intensely since last year are Bering Sea Women's Group (BSWG) in Nome and Women In Safe Homes (WISH) in Ketchikan. Both those programs are doing very well. WISH has appointed Naomi Michaelson as the director. Given the lack of services in Nome for substance abuse and homelessness, BSWG is doing well working in a difficult environment.

Program Highlight of the Quarter: Barrow's Arctic Women In Crisis (AWIC) has been using the "Transform Yourself" butterfly symbol as an analogy for transforming oneself from a violent and destructive situation into someone healthy and safe.

Implementation "CDVSA Reporter": The CDVSA data reporting tool and instructions were sent to all the grantees last week, and the first data reports are starting to come in. All the data should be collected within a couple of weeks so CDVSA can run reports and make the required reports to federal funding agencies.

Ms. Ashenbrenner thanked the Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault for working so closely with the CDVSA on the data project.

Grant Application Workshop: There has been discussion about helping grantees write better grant applications to secure funding for domestic violence and sexual assault services. Two or three CDVSA grantees have superb grant writers, while others find it a challenge to do as they are busy running the shelters. The CDVSA is sponsoring a free grant-writing workshop, presented by Ginger Baim, the executive director of Safe and Fear-Free Environment (SAFE) in Dillingham. The workshop is scheduled for July 8 in Anchorage and open to any entity that has put in a grant application to CDVSA in the last few years, whether it was funded or not.

New Reporting Requirements:

At the March 13 meeting, Ms. Ashenbrenner had reported that the Family Violence Prevention Services Act (FVPSA) grant, one of the CDVSA's main federal grantors, is implementing new reporting requirements effective October 1, 2008. The two primary outcome measures FVPSA is going to require all shelter services to have are based on exit interviews of both shelter occupants and people who have attended groups run by shelters. The outcome measure questions are the number of survivors who have increased their strategies for planning their safety because of the services they received, and the number of survivors who have increased their knowledge of community resources.

Ms. Ashenbrenner said that Peggy Brown of the Network was involved in the national work group that worked to develop meaningful outcome measures. Part of that discussion was whether shelters should be held accountable for reducing domestic violence, and the prevailing thought was that their charge is safety and crisis intervention. Ms. Ashenbrenner said many of the Alaska shelter directors are already doing some sort of exit interview, so the new FVPSA reporting requirement will not be a huge change for them. CDVSA will be sending instructions to the grantees to begin implementing the reporting changes this summer, ahead of the October 1 effective date, and will be following up with a teleconference to answer questions. The good news is that FVPSA has reduced the amount of data that has been required up to this point.

Chair Svobodny asked how the new FVPSA reporting requirements would be made a condition for the CDVSA grantees. CDVSA Administrative Manager Jo Griggs explained that any program that gets Violence Against Women Act (VOCA) or FVPSA funding gets grant award agreements that dovetail with what that particular federal grant requires. Some programs that get money from all three sources (including CDVSA) sign three sets of grant award agreements.

Ms. Ashenbrenner added that the CDVSA database system that comports with the Network system is designed so the forms gather the data for all three funding sources. CDVSA staff will be able to extract the particular data required to report on each federal grant.

Ms. McFadden asked if users of shelter services are required to fill out the exit questionnaires needed for the new FVPSA outcome measures. Ms. Ashenbrenner said it is optional.

Grant Applications Submitted & Letters of Support Provided:

Ms. Ashenbrenner reviewed a list of grant applications for the quarter:

- Continuation application for Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) STOP grant formula funding.
- VAWA Grants to Encourage Arrest competitive grant application to increase court-based legal advocacy services. This is a follow-up grant that has been used for Tribal-State Forums in the past (the Alaska Native Justice Center has applied to take those on).
- CDVSA assisted Fairbanks' Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living (IAC) in its application for a Safe Havens grant to provide supervised visitation and child exchange services for families with children that have experienced domestic violence.
- Rape Prevention and Education (RPE) grant through DHSS Public Health. Part of this

small grant (about \$84,000) will continue the planning process with Public Health to develop a sexual assault prevention plan. Another piece of this grant goes directly to Standing Together Against Rape (STAR) in Anchorage for their education programs in the schools.

- Provided a letter of support for the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) discretionary grant that the Network applies for. This grant supports the Network's excellent pro bono legal advocacy program, and the CDVSA strongly support that work.
- Worked with the Victims For Justice in Anchorage to put in a memorandum of support for a state victim assistance academy. Thirty-seven states have this week-long academy where people who help victims get intensive training in providing those services. Ms. Ashenbrenner said staff was concerned about the expectation that the VOCA state agency would provide funds after the three-year federal grant expired. They made it clear in the memorandum of agreement that CDVSA would help look for resources to continue the academy because most of the VOCA grant currently goes to shelter programs. Alaska needs more services for victims, and victims constantly fall through the cracks in all the systems. The idea of enhancing the systems that help victims is great, and CDVSA has to keep looking for resources to do that.
- CDVSA is a partner in a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant application. The grant is looking for proposals to create and evaluate comprehensive community based models of prevention that are aimed to decrease relationship violence and increase positive relationship skills, targeted to youth aged 10 to 14. Other partners in this grant are the Network, Department of Education and Early Development (DEED), Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), and the Alaska Native Justice Center. Alaska survived the first review of proposals, and the next round of applications is due next week. Alaska's proposal is to run pilot projects in Ketchikan, Prince of Wales, Anchorage, Bethel, and possibly Homer. Two hundred and fifty thousand dollars would be available for each year for up to four years. It requires a match, some of which must be cash and some of which can be in-kind. The start-up will need \$50,000 cash and in-kind match.

Ms. Ashenbrenner asked the Council for approval to comb through the budget to try to find \$5,000 to put toward the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant match. DEED and DHSS will also be looking at their budgets to find match funding. A further consideration is to request an increment in the FY10 budget for prevention that would help this project. She noted that CDVSA does a small amount of prevention, and this is an opportunity to open the prevention "door" a little more.

Chair Svobodny asked if this required Council action today. Ms. Ashenbrenner replied that she could provide more information later in this meeting so the Council hopefully could make a decision today.

2009 Budget Projections: Staff previously sent Council members an e-mail describing the budget projections. The VOCA grant will be cut but perhaps not by as much as previously anticipated. Staff intends to send the quarterly grant payments to programs in July at the same

amount as they got for the last quarter of FY08. Then in the next few months CDVSA will find out for certain what the VOCA grant will be. The Legislature approved a budget increment for FY09, and that is reduced a bit by a cut in FVPSA and further by a reduction in the VOCA grant. The CDVSA is now fully staffed and does not have any unused administrative funds to distribute to the programs, as it was able to do last year.

DELTA and Rape Prevention Act (RPE) Activities: The Network is one of fourteen coalitions that got funding from the Centers for Disease Control to do primary prevention for intimate partner violence. Ms. Ashenbrenner has agreed to be a member of the statewide steering committee that is developing a strategic plan for reducing intimate partner violence in Alaska. That comports with the RPE grant, which is also being used to develop a strategic plan for rape prevention in Alaska. The steering committee will look at ways to coordinate the two plans instead of them operating as silo plans. The big question is whether or not the agencies promoting the completed plans will be able to secure funding to support the activities. Part of the discussion will be the need for specific prevention money in Alaska and how to make that budget request. An example is that a very good sexual assault reduction plan was done in 2000 that has sat on the shelf for eight years because there is no money to do any of the recommended activities.

Ms. Ashenbrenner said the CDVSA is working with the Office of Children's Services, the Child Welfare Office, the University of Alaska Anchorage's School of Social Work, and the Network to develop a model that will enhance the capacity of the domestic violence and the child protective services systems to respond to domestic violence in families where there are children at risk. One goal is to keep the battered mothers from being penalized by the child welfare system for being in the state of being battered. It is important to have training so everyone involved understands each other's roles and is working for a common goal. Ms. Ashenbrenner said CDVSA might be able to support some of the initial planning costs in this project with Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) discretionary money. She is looking into it and may be coming to the Council for permission to spend on that project.

CDVSA Logo: CDVSA offered a cash prize to the programs for CDVSA logo submittals a while ago but did not receive anything. However, a graphic design firm sent some professional designs unsolicited. Ms. Ashenbrenner provided the Council with a selection of designs that staff found interesting and asked if she could get some feedback by the end of the meeting.

Articles: Ms. Ashenbrenner handed out copies of two articles from the National Online Resource Center on Violence Against Women. One was "A Prevention Primer for Domestic Violence: Terminology, Tools, and the Public Health Approach," written by Alaska's own Linda Chamberlain. The other article was "Substance Abuse and Intimate Partner Violence" by Larry Bennett and Patricia Bland. *[Both articles are on file at the CDVSA offices.]*

Ms. Ashenbrenner asked to add a discussion about ethics at the end of the agenda, as well as action on the prevention project she just reported on.

Chair Svobodny called a scheduled break from 10:20 a.m. until 10:40 a.m.

Following the break, Colonel Holloway had some comments on the Executive Director's report. He said Ms. Ashenbrenner's points about strategic planning and prevention brought to mind some things going on outside this group that parallel some of the CDVSA talk of planning. It is important because it lends strength to the direction the CDVSA is taking, especially regarding strategic planning. The prevention part that the CDVSA keeps hoping there will be planning and funding for is being discussed in a big way in the Criminal Justice Working Group. They are trying to find venues to make prevention a bigger part of the criminal justice system. That impacts domestic violence and sexual assault in a major way. Everybody agrees that preventing something is much preferred to reacting to it. It might be an opportune time to be talking more powerfully about prevention because of synergy going on in other circles. Secondly, strategic planning is occurring in other parts of government. It is going on at all the Department of Public Safety divisions, including the State Troopers. As far as gaining momentum, the environment of the past several years because of the economy and the budget was all about a cutback mode and how to get by with what money the State had. That has changed, at least perception-wise. If CDVSA can get more people in government thinking about operating from a plan rather than operating in reaction to what the Legislature does in a particular year, and if the legislators can see the value in reacting to the Council's plan rather than CDVSA reacting to whatever was popular during the session and then the Council having to change the whole organization to react to that, it would be a very worthwhile change in the way CDVSA does business. It means the Council could plan five or ten years into the future, and everybody would know what CDVSA intended to do, and they could react to that. For example, the shelters could set up their plans according to the CDVSA plan. Everybody in the room talks to legislators and people who talk to other people who can influence the way things occur. It would be worthwhile to change things around to where all different operations at every level of government worked off of a plan rather than reacting to what happened during the legislative session.

Chair Svobodny said the Criminal Justice Working Group also came to his mind when Ms. Ashenbrenner was discussing prevention. Regarding prevention, the Working Group's direction is to establish a "starter kit" of about three programs. One program that appeared to draw interest is the public health nurses going into homes of pregnant women and helping during the pregnancy and for a period after the birth. Another area is dealing with homeless people. Those fit exactly into issues that come up with the CDVSA. Anyone interested can attend the public meetings of the Criminal Justice Working Group. It might be helpful if the executive director could call in or attend, at least for the Recidivism and Prevention Committee, because that is likely where the agenda will be set for the Legislature.

Ms. Ashenbrenner said she would be happy to attend. Chair Svobodny said the next meeting of the Criminal Justice Working Group is July 25 in Anchorage.

VAWA FY09-FY10 GRANTS

CDVSA Program Specialist Lauree Morton stated that everything is on target for being able to

make the October 1, 2008 implementation date for the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grant projects. The discretionary and victim services components RFPs (requests for proposal) were publicly noticed on June 4, 2008 and went up on the CDVSA web site on June 9. There were pre-proposal teleconferences on June 20 for the discretionary grant, which nine people attended, and for the victim services grant, where seven called in. There were good questions and answers, which are posted on the CDVSA web site so those who did not attend the pre-proposal teleconferences can access the conversations. As a result of a teleconference comment, CDVSA amended both the discretionary and victim services grants to allow a faxed copy of the proposal to be submitted to the CDVSA office by the July 25 deadline, as long as there is a written assurance accompanying the fax that the original is in the mail. This change stemmed from the disparity of courier service available in urban and rural areas.

Ms. Morton said that CDVSA staff would be looking at the grant proposals after July 25 to ensure they meet the minimum qualifications to be reviewed. The proposals will then be forwarded to the Proposal Evaluation Committee (PEC), which has three to four weeks to review them. The PEC will meet during the last week of August to review the proposals and make recommendations. The Council will take action on the recommendations at its quarterly meeting in early September. That allows about three weeks to get the awards out to the programs and get their signed documents back in time for the October 1 implementation date.

Ms. Morton requested three Council members to serve on the seven-member Proposal Evaluation Committee. Colonel Holloway, Ms. House and Ms. McFadden volunteered.

2008 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Lauren Rice, Legislative Liaison for the Department of Public Safety, provided a handout of legislation that effects how crimes involving domestic violence and sexual assault will be prosecuted differently after the 2008 legislative session. *[A copy of the handout, dated June 24, 2008, is on file at the CDVSA offices.]* She first described her role as legislative liaison, then reviewed the bills in the handout, as follows:

- HB 307: A three-strikes bill to make the third assault conviction or other qualifying convictions in the prior 10 years a felony. A separate animal cruelty bill was added to HB 307 so that the third offense for animal cruelty is a felony charge. This was added because of the connection between terrorizing animals and terrorizing human victims. Harming or killing an animal as a means to threaten a human victim is now covered under prior animal cruelty.
- HB 334: CDVSA reauthorization through 2014.
- HJR 34: Reauthorize federal grant money for DNA testing.
- SB 185: Adds e-mail and other electronic identifiers to the list of information the Sex Offender Registry collects from convicted sex offenders.
- SB 265: The 2008 omnibus crime bill. Provisions relevant to the CDVSA are increased penalties for bootlegging; allowing a judicial officer to issue a search warrant via the telephone; clarifying language that the aggravating factor may be proven to the court at sentencing rather than to the jury; delaying a permanent fund dividend to a person not in

compliance with the requirements of registration as a sex offender or child kidnapper; and expanding the mandatory reporting requirements to people who process photos or work on computers and observe child pornography or other evidence of abuse.

Peggy Brown, executive director of the Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, voiced her concerns about HB 307, the three-strikes bill. This was primarily within rural Alaska because the Network was hearing that some victims were pleading guilty rather than go through the process. The third time that victim would be penalized with a felony. So the Network supported the intent of HB 307 originally, but not fully because of the unintended consequences. They tried unsuccessfully to get hard data to back up what they were hearing. Currently, the Network is following up to see if HB 307 will have any of those unintended consequences in rural areas. She has heard that some villages are upset with this law and its implications that are related to the unintended consequences.

Chair Svobodny asked if the Network planned to collect statistics. Ms. Brown said the Network and Ms. Ashenbrenner worked hard to get some statistics, but the main concern was how to tease out the numbers on people who are actually the victims but who are saying they are the perpetrators in order to go home and be with their kids. She will continue to look for that data, but it is very difficult to get.

Chair Svobodny asked if the rural concerns were the same as the Network's or if the villages were concerned about young men ending up with felony convictions and losing their ability to hunt, etc. Ms. Brown replied that she was not prepared to elaborate on what she considered word-on-the-streets since May. But the Network is paying close attention to what they hear because there may be other unintended consequences to HB 307 that they did not foresee or hear about. She expected that in a year they would have a fairly good idea about how the new law is going to play out and what the unintended consequences might be.

Chair Svobodny said HB 307 does not have a retroactive effect, so offenders would have to have three new convictions before the bill's three-strikes provision would kick in. So the Network will probably not see any unintended consequences in a year's time. Ms. Ashenbrenner remarked that some of the data she saw showed quite a number of repeat offenders in a fairly short time period.

Colonel Holloway said he wondered if some of what the Network has heard is urban legend or focused in certain areas because of one incident where the telling and retelling of it grew out of proportion. He stated that law enforcement and prosecutors work very hard to not just take the wish of a victim to plead guilty and immediately run with it. He said he would hate to hear that that really did happen.

Chair Svobodny mentioned that he and Colonel Holloway attended a meeting this week where statistics were handed out that there were two people who pled out at arraignments in Anchorage in 2007 -- and that was for all crimes, not just assaults. However, it may happen differently in villages.

Ms. Rice stated that HB 307 was a bill where the Commissioner of the Public Safety Department and the Alaska State Troopers really wanted that bill, but the CDVSA and the Network had reservations about it.

Ms. Ashenbrenner recalled that in the past the Council had a legislation subcommittee that met regularly during the session in order to give Council input to the executive director about supporting or opposing bills. During the last two sessions, she talked to Council members about issues that arose, but there is no formal process for making the decisions. If staff's position is counter to one of the Council members' departments, then she comes to the Council for a determination, but sometimes there is not time for that. She asked the Council to think about whether they should re-activate a legislation subcommittee that holds regular meetings during the session. Chair Svobodny said the Council could have that discussion closer to the next legislative session.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Svobodny opened the floor to anyone wishing to address the Council.

Saralyn Tabachnick, executive director of Aiding Women in Abuse and Rape Emergencies (AWARE) in Juneau, reported that they have been working on prevention for over 20 years. They started by going into the schools and teaching about personal safety. Several years ago, AWARE became a Delta site, which is working on primary prevention with teens. From that program, they have also developed TRAIN (Teens Resisting Abuse & Initiating Non-Violence), where teens get 40 hours of training and then do peer education. This year AWARE trained three TRAIN students who went to Gustavus and Hoonah. AWARE also has a white ribbon campaign where men take the pledge to not commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women.

Ms. Tabachnick related that AWARE's latest strategy is a project with the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Corporation, the Juneau School District, and the National Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependency in Juneau. Girls on the Run is a national program where elementary and middle school age students participate in a 24-week curriculum that works on building self esteem and includes running. Three coaches went to North Carolina for training in this program so it can be implemented fully in the fall. This is primary prevention, without looking for any particular girls to participate, and the curriculum touches on many different topics.

Ms. Tabachnick stated that the majority of AWARE's prevention funding does not come from the CDVSA, which pays for more of the immediate safety and direct services. AWARE gets prevention money from the City and other grants they apply for.

Ms. Tabachnick reported that AWARE's shelter usage has really increased in the April to June quarter, but the reasons for the increase are unclear. The added cost when Juneau lost its hydro electricity in April could be a factor. Higher usage means the shelter needs more relief advocates. AWARE recently was able to hire an Alaska Native advocate funded by a federal

grant they wrote jointly with Tlingit and Haida Central Council. The shelter has had difficulty hiring Alaska Native people, in part because of the pay range versus the pay range at Tlingit and Haida.

Ms. Tabachnick said the batterers intervention program is growing - 22 men are enrolled now, and AWARE is looking at starting a second group and finding other co-facilitators.

Ms. Ashenbrenner asked about the balance between prisoners at the halfway house in the batterers program and men from the community. Ms. Tabachnick said it was weighted toward community batterers.

Ms. Tabachnick said that, with doing prevention work, AWARE is bursting at the seams in terms of space for staff. She has been at AWARE 20 years, and even back then people were talking about the need for transitional housing. This year AWARE purchased the land adjacent to the shelter, with help from the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority. AWARE is working with the Foraker Group, the Rasmuson Foundation, and Alaska Housing Finance Corporation to determine the feasibility and appropriateness for building. The McDowell Group is currently doing a needs assessment.

Ms. Tabachnick reported that AWARE is experiencing a financial strain for electricity, fuel, and health insurance, as are the people who work there. The health insurance increased 35%, and the board has been looking for alternatives and solutions.

Ms. Ashenbrenner asked if AWARE was able to get aid for the high electricity bills. Ms. Tabachnick said they could work through United Way for grant funding to pay half the increased electricity costs. The shelter's bill in April was \$830, and in May it was over \$3,400.

In closing, Ms. Tabachnick thanked Council members for putting their energy into serving and said she appreciated what they are doing.

Louise Conwell, the new executive director of Maniilaq Family Crisis Center (MFCC) in Kotzebue, said they had five positions vacant when she started in April. They are fully staffed now and are doing a lot of catch-up. MFCC is concentrating on safety plans and doing referrals for their clients. The next step is to get out to the villages and start recruiting safe home providers. One issue is the SART (sexual assault response team) program, which they are in the process of restarting. Maniilaq is a very large organization with staff in the villages besides in Kotzebue. Internal problems within Maniilaq are affecting the services for victims. The Alaska State Troopers and the Kotzebue Police Department have expressed frustration. MFCC is hoping to have that resolved in the next month or so. Katie TePas and Trooper Main have been very vocal, which is appreciated to let MFCC know how they are doing. There has also been some frustration from MFCC's side as far as response from the Troopers and from the Kotzebue Police Department. Everyone is working to establish relationships so they can work as a team.

Ms. Conwell reported that they recently had a tribal state forum, which was an eye-opener for

her, being new to the program. The Court System was there, and the local judge addressed the group. It was very interesting listening to the various agencies that presented training. The makeup of the audience was very diverse: AST, Kotzebue Police Department, advocates, representatives from the IRAs (Indian Reorganization Act) at the village level, and some village-based councilors. It became very adversarial, and there was a lot of resentment from the village folks. The feeling she got in speaking to the village people was that the new laws and the Western culture are still being pushed on the Native culture. So there was a lot of frustration at that level. One speaker from North Pole generated a lot of interesting in getting him back in the region to work with the IRAs.

Ms. Conwell said most of the safe home providers are elderly ladies, and they told her of their frustration that the new laws are tearing families apart and there needs to be a balance between protecting victims and keeping families together. If someone goes to jail, they cannot provide food for their family, and the safe home providers are seeing a lot more of that. She just received a letter from one of the villages requesting information and assistance on prevention, which she was excited to hear about. Regarding the tribal state forum, some of the village reps were kind of upset because they didn't realize how much power they actually had and expressed interest in getting tribal courts up and running to deal with issues. That was not too well received by the judicial system and law enforcement. So it will be an interesting road ahead. Another thing that came up was the lack of services for teens and adolescents. The judicial system is very frustrated with that. MFCC is frustrated about it, because it seems like the kids are just lost.

Ms. Conwell said Maniilaq has a social services division and a health division, and MFCC works hand-in-hand with the health division with the same examiners. As in the rest of the country and in the state, they are short medical providers, both doctors and nurses. That has been an issue, especially for the SART. There is one woman who is really good, but she is married to a Trooper, so that is a conflict. They are having issues with one doctor who has good intentions but wants to run everything.

Peg Coleman, executive director of South Peninsula Haven House (SPHH) in Homer, addressed the Council by teleconference. She said the shelter is at maximum capacity and oftentimes over capacity. The growing concern is that the families the shelter is getting seem to be at a new level of desperation. A lot of poverty issues, so that people are staying in family situations that are unhealthy longer, and their needs are greater when they come to the shelter. However, SPHH is managing well. They are always concerned about the tight staffing at Alaska State Troopers, especially in the smaller villages on the Peninsula. The collaboration between SPHH, the Troopers, and other community partners is probably at an all-time high.

Ms. Coleman reported the success of SPHH's Safety and Sobriety Women's Group, which has grown enough for them to be starting another group. This group was started with a partnership with Staccata(?), who, when their cost reviewers came down, noted that it was very innovative and provided a tremendous amount of access to services in a rural area, really maximizing the resources of two organizations to tighten up the safety net for families. It was good to get that feedback from an outside organization that was reviewing that collaboration.

Ms. Coleman stated that, because of requests from men within the Domestic Violence Intervention Program and from the Office of Children's Services, they are looking at starting an addendum group for fathers. SPHH is looking at existing models for parenting after violence. They have started another evening of the batterers group because that is at an all-time high, due in part to the monthly status hearing that the judge has locally. It sends the message that this is a community response that is taken very seriously.

Ms. Coleman reported that SPHH received notice of an award for a developing Child Advocacy Center grant to increase the response on the Kenai Peninsula to child sexual assault. They are looking forward to furthering the collaborations. She thanked the Council members who have been part of making that happen and said she would be tapping into their expertise in developing protocols that will meet the needs of all the partners.

Ms. Coleman said SPHH is receiving a lot of requests for teen groups and different prevention programs. Sometimes there is a sense of being overwhelmed in responding to everything, and she has to step back and recall that the first feedback the Council gave her was how much work SPHH needed to do in Homer because there wasn't community support. That has completely shifted, and there is a lot of ownership in the community. For example, the local Rotary completely refurnished the children's playroom and the child advocacy room. So when she is busy in the moment dealing with the next crisis, she takes a moment to acknowledge that they have a tremendous amount of community support that was not there a short time ago. SPHH sees the Council as very much a partner and vested in the program's success, and that has not always been the case. She said she appreciated the Council's efforts, and the input from CDVSA staff has been very supportive and helpful.

Chair Svobodny thanked Ms. Coleman for the work SPHH is doing on the Peninsula and for the update. He said he knew there were still issues with the CRC (what is CRC??) to work on and he hoped those would get resolved in the summer.

Diane Paust, finance director at Seaview Community Services (SCS) in Seward, said they are a domestic violence program within a multi-service agency located under one roof. They work collaboratively to make sure all the health and social service needs in the community are covered. She said she was glad to hear the Council was working toward prevention. Two to three years ago in Seward there was a large ring of middle school and young high school girls involved in a prostitution ring, calling themselves prosti-tots. The ring was busted by the police, with the help of SCS's domestic violence staff and others. Out of that, different community agencies got together and created a prevention coalition, with Dixie Landenburger, SCS's dv/sa prevention team leader, taking the lead on that. They hold regular meetings with the Troopers, school representatives, Boys & Girls Club, the teen center, the police, the medical facilities, and other participants.

Ms. Paust said SCS has seen the level of services for domestic violence change, and they attribute some of that to the community effort. SCS does not have a shelter: their domestic

violence program tries to hold the perpetrator accountable by working with the police and the court system to keep the perpetrator out of the home and to keep the family in the home. Then kids are not removed from the school system or their sense of community. In severe cases that need shelter services, people are sent to Anchorage or Kenai, and that disrupts the whole family. SCS believes that because of the size of the community they would not be using the public's money well to have a shelter, so they operate under a shelterless model. Because of community prevention efforts, SCS feels like they have a close-knit community working together. She said she was glad to hear what the Council was doing on prevention and looked forward to real things happening.

Ms. Paust pointed out that the Seward program did not request any additional funding from CDVSA for fiscal year 2008. This year they are seeing a lot of increases in utility costs, insurance, etc. and hope to get some assistance there. She praised the professionalism of CDVSA and for the legislation it supported during the year.

Ms. House said SCS is doing a great job in Homer.

ALASKA NETWORK ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT REPORT

Ms. Brown indicated that Ms. Ashenbrenner had already reported on many of the joint efforts of the Network and CDVSA. She said prevention seems to be the buzzword of the day. She agreed with Colonel Holloway that there is a synergy around prevention: the group heard Rep. Fairclough tell the Council at the March meeting to come to her with ideas for prevention dollars. If the Network gets the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant they are poised to dovetail a lot of work with prevention. There is an evaluation component that the foundation does. It will work very well with the Delta project, which is domestic violence primary prevention. The Network is going into the fifth year of the Delta grant: it may or may not get reauthorized. That project will be evaluated, and the Network can provide Council members with any details they wish to know about.

Ms. Brown said the biennial conference would be September 22-26. The Network is using a grant from the Allstate Foundation to do a mini summit on prevention that will coincide with the conference at Aleyska. The mini summit will be youth informed and youth led, and the Network will pay for youth to attend. The CDVSA has given about \$25,000 toward the conference. On the agenda will be prevention, disabilities, social marketing, media work, and self care. The theme is "Knowing Your Message."

Ms. Brown reported that in May she and Ms. Ashenbrenner traveled to Washington, D.C. to speak with the congressional delegation and the governor's office. The Network was asking for reauthorization of the FVPSA and increased VAWA funding. She recently returned to Washington for the National Network to End Domestic Violence's big lobby day. This year five other people from Alaska were there: two from Nome, two from Anchorage, and the director from Ketchikan. Senator Stevens and Senator Murkowski spoke in favor of an increase for VAWA funding at the breakfast. For years she has been pushing to change the formula of

population-based grants for domestic violence and sexual assault, and Senator Murkowski's office is going to look into it. There are ten other states with high rural populations that are the least funded, and they have many of the same problems as Alaska.

Ms. Brown stated that the Network is supporting an advocate and a journalist to go to the Pointner Institute in the fall. The National Sexual Violence Resource Center has partnered with the Institute to do an intense seminar on how to report and write about sexual violence. She has proposed having an Alaskan version of that training.

Ms. Brown said that in addition to what programs are reporting about staff turnover and increased costs, another trend is that a lot of programs are working with youth and teens and they are getting excited hearing the Council talk about prevention. The caveat is that the programs need the crisis intervention dollars, but they would also like to start work on prevention. The program quarterly reports seem to be reporting increased violence in terms of murders and suicides, and most of them are domestic violence related.

Ms. Brown stated that the Network staff has been traveling all over doing various training. Christine Pate, the pro bono project attorney, along with Tom Schultz, chairman of the WISH board, did legal training in Ketchikan. Patty Bland also went to Ketchikan to do an intensive shelter program board training. The requests for housing, custody, and attorneys are quite high, which probably reflects the state of the economy. A big concern is how that will play out as young men and women return from the Iraq war, particularly in Anchorage and Fairbanks.

Colonel Holloway commented that the incidents of murder are actually down in Alaska, and thankfully, there are not many in the state. The caveat is that because the number of murders is so small, the trend can change quite quickly. There are plenty of unsolved murders, and so news stories as these older cases reach closure may make it appear that murders are actually up. However, suicides are up, and there are a lot of assaults.

Ms. Ashenbrenner reported that she attended an all-day training yesterday on doing danger assessments. It was well attended by a broad cross-section of people from Anchorage and beyond. It is a tool that the Anchorage Domestic Violence Task Force is looking at that helps identify factors and situations that are at lethal or near lethal levels. The tool has been evaluated extensively and fairly well validated. If the most at-risk victims can be identified, they can be told of the dangers and do something to keep themselves safe. Assessing danger and risk is something to try and incorporate all over the state.

Colonel Holloway stated that the Governor would be reviewing the Alaska State Troopers 2007 annual report in the next few days. If she approves that, one of the first places to receive the report will be advocacy groups and the Council so that everyone can see what AST has been doing. The 2007 report will help when talking to legislators and people in communities who need to know what the situation is in their area of the state. This is the first AST annual report since 1999, so it took a while to complete.

LUNCH BREAK

Chair Svobodny called a break for lunch around noon and called the meeting back to order at 1:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ANNUAL EVALUATION

The Council convened in executive session at 1:30 p.m., per Alaska statute 44.62.310(c) pertaining to the Open Meetings Act, to discuss the performance of Chris Ashenbrenner, CDVSA Executive Director. This topic falls under subsection 2 of that statute as subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided that the person may request a public discussion.

When the Council returned to regular session at 1:52 p.m., Chair Svobodny said they discussed only the performance evaluation of the executive director during executive session and he would be drafting a written report by next week.

Ms. Ashenbrenner reported a staffing change at the CDVSA office: associate coordinator Paul McCarthy resigned to do other work. She received permission from the Governor's Office to recruit and will proceed next week with filling that vacant position.

CDVSA LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE REPORT - RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS

The CDVSA Legislative Task Force issued a report to the Legislature on March 1, 2008. The report's recommendations were grouped under the six areas the Task Force was mandated to examine. The Council met March 28 and April 10 by teleconference to review all the recommendations in detail and to discuss the Council's responses.

Chair Svobodny stated that he would have a draft response to the Task Force report ready by the July strategic planning meeting. He thanked CDVSA staff for transcribing the meetings because the minutes would be very helpful in drafting the response.

Ms. Ashenbrenner indicated she was preparing a list of statutory changes that were needed in order to follow through on some of the recommendations, and she would get that to the Chair shortly.

STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION - PREPARATION

Ms. Ashenbrenner reported that Sheinberg & Associates was awarded the bid for strategic planning facilitator, and Barbara Sheinberg is the person who will be working with CDVSA. The date for the strategic planning meeting is tentatively set for July 23-24.

There was a brief discussion about getting important input from Barbara Thompson in the

strategic planning process, whether she was still the DEED representative on the Council at that point or not.

Ms. Ashenbrenner commented that this is a fast-moving strategic planning process. She asked Council members if they thought this process would be viable and if they had suggestions about other ways to approach it.

Colonel Holloway said it is fairly clear what all the Council needs to do, so it is a matter of putting it on paper. A strategic plan is not just for CDVSA but also to advertise to everybody else what the CDVSA is doing.

TRIBAL STATE FORUMS REPORT

Katie TePas, Program Coordinator with Department of Public Safety -Alaska State Troopers, addressed the Council. Her position is largely funded through the VAWA STOP grant that comes through CDVSA. The first grant paid for 13 tribal state forums, and this is the second round. In 2007, forums in Soldotna, Bethel, and Dillingham had a total of 149 participants. So far in 2008, forums have been held in Fairbanks (80 people), Juneau (71), and Kotzebue (46). A core group of trainers are presenters and discussion facilitators at the forums, and they bring the concerns they hear back to their respective agencies. She presents on mandatory arrest. The Network presents domestic violence 101 (baseline information that many people do not have), civil remedies for victims or survivors of domestic violence, and alcohol and DV (by Patty Bland). The Network also helps facilitate an issues and solutions session on the last day. The Department of Law has a piece on prosecutorial decision-making. (The first round of tribal forums several years ago focused on law enforcement, and they found that people had questions on what happens after the "what, why and how" of law enforcement.) The forums also added a piece regarding the Court System, with either a retired judge as presenter or a city judge, depending on the region. Another component is the State presenting its position, as well as the Alaska Native Justice Center talking about what that agency does and about tribal court protective orders.

Ms. TePas reported that they did presentations in Ketchikan and Prince of Wales. From that, Prince of Wales has started their own entity for helping survivors, a quite positive outcome for a rural community. One issue is that people feel very disenfranchised from state government, and there is a huge lack of understanding. So the state tribal forums are providing some baseline information to people that they probably would not get because they do not feel confident about calling and asking questions. In Fairbanks, the Alaska State Troopers' captain was able to answer questions from individuals about cases after the session, and AST checked up on some things that needed to happen from law enforcement's end. So people who would not normally have called had access to information. The same goes for people being able to talk to Network attorneys about their legal rights or going to the Department of Law to ask about how cases work.

Ms. TePas stated that she would advocate for a session on government 101 or civics 101 in the

future because some people need training about government at a very basic level.

Ms. TePas said it would be interesting to see what happens on the tribal court side of things from the information that tribal representatives have been given - whether there will be an influx of tribal protective orders in one area of the state or another. She anticipated a slow but sure increase.

Ms. Ashenbrenner mentioned that the CDVSA web site contains reports from each tribal state forum held. She added that the Alaska Native Justice Center has applied for the grant to continue doing the tribal state forums.

Ms. TePas said that if the Alaska Native Justice Center is successful in getting the grant she has heard that they are not going to change things much. She personally would like to see more on sexual assault and not just domestic violence: two rounds of forums have had that focus. She suggested asking individual communities what they wanted. For example, Kotzebue has significant concerns about vulnerable adult (elder) abuse. People in Dillingham asked so many questions about sexual assault that she did an overview of sex crimes and sexual assault.

Ms. TePas said there was money set aside to bring in two or three people from each rural community to the forums. These are people who would never otherwise be able to attend, so it is targeting this population with basic level training.

Ms. Ashenbrenner stated that once the interest has been built and a basic level of knowledge and education disseminated in a rural infrastructure, the next step is what to do with that. Are we going to take their well-thought-out recommendations of what needs to happen in their village or town and get another round of conferences that help them put that community response together? There hasn't been much thought beyond what has turned out to be very successful training at these tribal state forums. She said she hopes the Alaska Native Justice Center recognizes that and works on the next step to build upon a very successful initiative.

IMPLEMENTATION OF ANONYMOUS REPORTING FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EXAMS

Ms. TePas handed out copies of a document the Office of Violence Against Women sent out and asked everyone to read page two about changes in the VAWA language in 2005 because that would be the starting point for her comments.

Note to staff - no copy of this document included in materials supplied to typist so I can't follow along what Katie is making reference to, such as turning to page two, read, etc. etc. etc.... [A copy of this is on file at the CDVSA offices.]

Ms. TePas stated that in 2005 VAWA language changed regarding what to certify for in order for Alaska to keep its VAWA funding. She said there was a big discussion that some victims of sex crimes do not report to law enforcement and thus might not be offered the forensic medical

exam. Alaska has to certify that it offers victims the forensic medical exam regardless of whether the victims report and/or cooperate with law enforcement or the criminal justice system. However, the requirement does not mandate that Alaska have anonymous reporting, but the State is going to offer anonymous reporting. The reason is that it might be the only option. Under anonymous reporting, the victim will present either to victim advocacy or to a medical provider and indicate that they do not know what they want to do. The victim will be offered the opportunity to report to law enforcement, and if they do not want to report, they will be told they can have an examination without having to report. A forensic examiner would do the exam, and law enforcement would get billed for that exam. Alaska will be using the VAWA earmark money to cover the cost of the forensic portion of that exam for all municipal police departments in the state, excluding the Anchorage Police Department, which has a separate grant to cover that cost right now. The goal is to have this in place by January 1, 2009. Compliance in order to be able to certify to VAWA is required by January 5, 2009.

Ms. TePas said there are a lot of questions about victims not being required to report to law enforcement. One is what happens to the evidence: the law enforcement agency that would normally have had jurisdiction over that case will pick up the evidence and store it for a five-year period. After five years, the State hopes to have developed a central repository for the anonymous kits. The intent is to never destroy that evidence, which well exceeds any threshold put out by VAWA. The Department of Public Safety is not certain how many anonymous cases will happen, so it is not known if local law enforcement storage lockers will be overwhelmed.

Colonel Holloway explained that at this time the State is going to say no time limit on storing the exam kits, knowing that it could be changed in the future. It takes the argument of how long to store the evidence off the table so the State can move ahead with the process. The idea of a central repository, if it is needed, is to take the burden away from smaller agencies having to keep the evidence indefinitely, because it costs money to store, safeguard, and periodically audit evidence.

Ms. TePas said she would be developing a brochure for the programs and for medical providers to explain what anonymous reporting is and is not. Law enforcement is concerned about victims being informed that while the evidence is collected and stored under the anonymous reporting provisions, other things are not happening: such as a suspect evidence collection kit, an immediate suspect interview, the initial crime scene, and witnesses. Victims also have other options besides anonymous reporting. They can report to law enforcement and go through the process, they can choose to never report, or they can simply have a medical evaluation that is not a forensic exam. The VAWA funding will only pay for the forensic portion of an examination, so if a victim has injuries, needs antibiotics or morning-after pills, or requests pregnancy testing, those services are not covered by VAWA. The victim has the option to have certain costs billed to insurance.

Ms. TePas stated that the anonymous reporting issues to work out are storage of the exam kits and the long-term payment (VAWA earmark funding is available for 3-4 years). She made it clear that anonymous reporting will only be offered to adults: it is not offered to children or

vulnerable adults.

Council members and Ms. TePas spent a few minutes discussing the technicalities and difficulties of anonymous reporting.

Ms. Brown asked if advocacy agencies should be looking for training funding for this issue. Ms. TePas said she had to get with Colonel Holloway to see what AST is doing with law enforcement's VAWA earmark portion. AST has money set aside for training, some of which is for advanced SART and forensic nurses, and they have to figure out the priorities. However, working with advocates on how victims' options are being broadened is a different area. Ms. Brown said she hears about troubles with SARTs, and it might be a good idea to bring law enforcement, victim advocates and medical people together for trainings on the topic in general but including the new anonymous reporting. Ms. TePas said it would have to be added to the SART curriculum for the next SART training.

Ms. TePas confirmed for Chair Svobodny that, in practice, all Alaska has to do by the January 5, 2009 date is offer a sexual assault victim a paid forensic exam without them having to cooperate with law enforcement.

VAWA GRANT ACTIVITIES - ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

Ms. TePas stated that 25% of the VAWA STOP grant goes to law enforcement, specifically the Alaska State Troopers. Besides the day-to-day activities of grant management, she is one of the lead trainers in the state, specific to domestic violence, sexual assault, child sexual abuse, stalking, elder abuse, and some tribal state conferences. She also does a lot of the coordination for SART training around the state, and recently has been working with the Department of Law on the new sexual assault evidence collection kits (victim and suspect).

Ms. TePas reported that AST has historically used a large chunk of VAWA funding every year to send people to the National College of District Attorneys Conference on Domestic Violence. Next year they are not going to be sending people outside for that training but will be rolling the money into a statewide conference to be held in conjunction with the Network and the Forensic Nurses Association. It was felt that they would get a bigger return on the dollar with the in-state training that will be combined with the Personal Violence Conference. More people will be trained with the exact same presenters from outside and inside Alaska that they would normally have.

Ms. Ashenbrenner encouraged Council members to attend that training to be held April 1-3, 2009 in Fairbanks.

Ms. TePas said there was a SART training in Fairbanks in October 2007, predominantly funded by the military, which has been under pressure to address sex crimes. There was another SART training in Anchorage in April, and the municipality provided significant dollars toward that one. An interpersonal violence conference was held in February with the majority of presenters from

outside Alaska. Topics were elder abuse, online enticement of minors, vicarious trauma, prevention, lethality and danger assessments, domestic violence and sexual assault, and anonymous reporting.

Ms. TePas reported that AST recently did an evaluation with the University of Alaska Fairbanks on sex crimes cases from 2003-2004. One of the issues that was identified was the lack of evidence documentation. There were legitimate reasons why that might not have been documented, but there were also some that could not be accounted for. So there is room for improvement. VAWA funding was used to purchase equipment for C Detachment (Western Alaska) and to pay for training on how to use the equipment, in order to enhance crime scene documentation. Trainings for law enforcement officers were held in Dillingham, Bethel, and Kodiak. Further trainings will start again in September.

Ms. TePas explained that law enforcement is required by statute to provide victims with certain information. AST had new information booklets printed in 2007 to include domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking in one booklet.

Chair Svobodny called a scheduled break from about 3:30 p.m. until 3:45 p.m.

VAWA ACTIVITIES

Report from Department of Law

Department of Law (DOL) statewide victim witness coordinator Cathy Satterfield described the coordinating efforts of DOL and the Department of Public Safety (DPS) with the VAWA STOP grant, which funds her position. She works with DOL paralegals around the state, is involved in recruiting and hiring paralegals, puts together conferences, and participates in committees and task forces as assigned. There are 32 victim witness paralegals, and during the last fiscal year they recruited seven new paralegals. They just got funding to add a paralegal to the Barrow office and are currently recruiting.

Ms. Satterfield stated that one project she works on is putting together an annual district attorney and victim witness paralegal conference. Last year over 125 prosecutors and 28 victim witness paralegals attended, where the topic was reaching a fair resolution in domestic violence cases. VAWA STOP grant money was also used to send three prosecutors and three paralegals to the SART and SANE (sexual assault nurse examiner) training that Ms. TePas mentioned earlier. STOP grant money was used to send prosecutors and paralegals to the multi-day specialized training on domestic violence and sexual assault both in state and outside Alaska. During the last year four paralegals and Rick Svobodny participated on a panel at the Network's annual legal advocacy training.

Ms. Satterfield said that the first year of the VAWA earmark money was concentrated on trial advocacy training and a victim witness paralegal conference.

- Twenty-five prosecutors attended a five-day training on trial advocacy in Homer last

September. Four faculty members from the NCDA National Advocacy Center were expert trainers, as well as two expert witnesses in domestic violence and sexual assault, an ER doctor from San Diego, and a SANE from Homer. The goal of the conference was to provide hands-on trial advocacy training techniques that can be used to enhance domestic violence and sexual assault prosecution. Some of the presentations included direct examination of the problem witness in dv/sa cases, injury causation in dv/sa cases, and a roundtable discussion with medical experts on various cases throughout the state on dv/sa. Most of the prosecutors who attended had one to three years of trial experience and were fairly new.

- The two-day victim witness paralegal conference was held in Sitka in May. This was the first time in her experience that all the paralegals met together. Of the 32 positions at the time, 19 of them had less than four years of experience, and 11 of those had less than two years of experience. It was a great opportunity to bring all these new paralegals together and start with the basics. The first day had guest speakers from Abused Women's Aid In Crisis (AWAIC) and the Network. The paralegals also did teambuilding and exercises on how multiple systems can impact the daily decisions that abuse victims make. Patty Bland spoke on how to more effectively communicate with victims and witnesses who are experiencing multiple forms of trauma. The second day was for DOL staff to instruct on practical applications: prosecutors talked about crime victims rights laws, the criminal division's domestic violence policy, trial preparation; and paralegals spoke on understanding sexual assault prosecution from a paralegal perspective and presented an array of helpful hints for paralegals. There was also an administrative segment on expert witness contracts, travel, bringing witnesses in, etc.

Ms. Satterfield explained that DOL has a reimbursable service agreement with DPS for \$90,000 of the earmark money to pay for the SART/SANE advanced training. The remaining earmark money is allocated for domestic violence and sexual assault expert witnesses, private DNA testing, equipment, and some additional regional training for paralegals. She expected DOL would start using those funds at the beginning of the fiscal year.

Report from Alaska Court System

Susanne DiPietro, the judicial education coordinator at the Alaska Court System, said she primarily trains judges but also assists in training magistrates. She has been managing the VAWA grant since 1999: the Court System gets 5% of the VAWA STOP grant, which amounts to about \$37,000 a year. In the beginning, the Court System focused on domestic violence training for judges. Then they were able to get some other grants to use for judicial training. The difficulty of training judges is that the domestic violence training available tends to focus on advocates. Judges view themselves as impartial and as arbiters, and they need to have training that is specialized for them. A few years ago some advocates put together a four-day judicial curriculum that is offered about three times a year. It is quite expensive to send judges to that training, but there has been a lot of interest from the bench, and the Court System has been able to send every judge and magistrate to that training that has requested it. They even sent one judge to the advanced session, at his request, and they just received a request from another judge

to go. That has been a very positive development.

Ms. DiPietro reported that the Court System also has focused VAWA STOP grant money on interpreters. Many of the women who come in for domestic violence protective orders do not have English as a first language. The Court System for years has offered the Language Line to any victim or witness in a domestic violence protective order proceeding. They actually had to get special dispensation from the federal VAWA Office to do that because a batterer might have English as a second language and be testifying in the protective order proceeding, and the Court System wanted to be able to get an interpreter for the batterer as well. That was partly to make sure that the batterer understood the judge's order about what the batterer was not supposed to do. So the VAWA Office relaxed its prohibition against spending any VAWA money on batterers. The Court System is continuing the interpreter service again this year and using some of the VAWA STOP money to invest in recruiting and training of actual physical interpreters, instead of people on the telephone. They have partnered with the Alaska Immigration Justice Project to develop a cadre of highly qualified -- and eventually certified -- interpreters in Alaska in all the important languages.

Ms. DiPietro said the third project the Court System is doing this year is a bail conditions of release project. It is a difficult project that stemmed from a call from Ms. TePas that a Trooper in Palmer had encountered a defendant whom he believed was out on a condition of release who had done something that was likely against the bail conditions. The Trooper was very worried about the victim in this case, and he wanted to know what the conditions of release were - and he could not find out because conditions of release are not accessible in criminal cases. So the Court System is determined to be able to get conditions of release entered into some kind of electronic database that would be accessible to law enforcement, as a pilot project at first. Hopefully, if that goes well, it would be available later to the public. The Court System has hired retired Judge Steinkruger from Fairbanks to engineer that process, and she has traveled all over the state talking to judges about their bail practices.

Ms. DiPietro stated that she hired Beth Adams with the earmark VAWA money to be the domestic violence outreach person. She had been wearing that hat herself but was too busy to do it right.

Beth Adams said she started the job in January and has been working on specific projects at Ms. DiPietro's direction: continuing revision of the domestic violence protective order forms and forms that judges issue; developing training materials with Ms. DiPietro; updating judges resource manual; seeing what kind of statistics can be gleaned from the new database system (Court View); working on outreach, including going to every training available since January; attended DV Task Force in Palmer; and responding to calls about judges. She hopes to improve the internal procedures that the Court System uses for handling domestic violence and to get more resource materials out to the judges and magistrates so they have current information.

Ms. DiPietro noted that the state has many new judges because a large number of experienced judges retired in the last four years. It has been a challenge for the Court System: some of the

new judges come from practices where they did not have much experience with domestic violence.

Colonel Holloway said it struck him that the effort to get the protective orders on line is part of prevention. With the previous system where the victim received a copy of the protective order, the perpetrator was served a copy, and then it was filed, any problems were addressed only after an event happened. Changes in technology are making it possible to do something in a preventative way.

Ms. DiPietro again mentioned the Trooper in Palmer who was quite sure if he could get the conditions of release he would be able to arrest the person or at least warn the person they could not go on a particular street or approach the victim.

Colonel Holloway stated that there has been a pilot project going on for about three years to supply information to Anchorage police officers through the radio system that connects to their car computers. Fairbanks is about to have a similar system, and Sitka and Juneau are also interested. But it means building a new system. AST is trying to build a statewide method of getting that information into Alaska Public Safety Information Network (APSIN), which every police agency has access to.

Ms. DiPietro said one of the biggest problems is the third-party custodian practice that is sweeping the state. The Court System is finding that a significant amount of the pre-trial work involves people's third-party custodians. Right now no one is entering this particular information into a computer, and to do it will impact clerical resources around the state.

FINANCIAL REPORT & DENALI COMMISSION COP FUNDING PROJECTS

Jo Griggs reported that the State's fiscal year ends June 30. The CDVSA FY08 budget is on target, with some adjustments she expects to make in July and August. There were no huge hurdles in FY08: the biggest adjustment was changing some resources from administrative services into grant services, because there were so many grants that ended up in FY08 that staff thought were going to be spread out over other years.

Ms. Griggs indicated she would provide information on the FY09 budget at the September meeting.

Regarding the Denali Commission capital improvement projects for repair and renovation and new buildings for domestic violence programs, Ms. Griggs reported that the work has been completed and Denali Commission and CDVSA reconciled the books and agreed that there was an additional \$116,300 available to programs for repairs and renovations with a 50% match. Seven programs participated: South Peninsula Haven House in Homer, Advocates for Victims of Violence in Valdez, Abused Women's Aid In Crisis in Anchorage, Safe and Fear-Free Environment in Dillingham, Seaview Community Services in Seward, Women In Safe Homes in Ketchikan, and Standing Together Against Rape in Anchorage. It was a quick turnaround on this

additional grant, and the programs did great work in six weeks -- updated heating systems, new computer systems, alarm systems, refurbished rooms, new doors and windows, and roofs and gutters. All the Denali Commission grant money has been spent and the reports have been submitted.

In an exchange with Colonel Holloway, Ms. Griggs said she doubted the VAWA earmark money would be extended beyond one year. Colonel Holloway said he was concerned that it looked like the AST money was sitting not being used. Ms. Griggs said she would send a balance sheet to the different components roughly every three months so they can see the status of their spending.

Ms. Ashenbrenner mentioned that the State recruited for a DNA analyst and did not get anyone so was holding a second recruitment for a lower level DNA analyst. She has been talking to Katie TePas about changing the money from personal services into contractual so they could send the DNA kits out.

ETHICS

Ms. Ashenbrenner stated that Mr. Svobodny is ethics supervisor for the Council and she is ethics supervisor for CDVSA staff. It is their responsibility to make sure that Council members and staff understand the State Ethics Act. She said she would send Council members a link to the Department of Law web site where they could view a PowerPoint presentation on state ethics. That would be followed by the Department of Law's Ethics Attorney making a presentation at the next meeting, where Council members would also be able to ask questions about what behavior is and is not allowed in their appointed positions.

Chair Svobodny indicated that at the beginning of the meeting he received a booklet on ethics from the executive director and he would pass it on to Ms. House as the new chair.

COUNCIL MEETING AT A RURAL LOCATION

Ms. Ashenbrenner asked the Council to consider meeting once a year at another location, preferably a rural community, and taking public testimony while there. She said the CDVSA Task Force met in several other locations and heard from the people in the community, and it was a very powerful way to tune in to what is going on at the local level. She felt it would help the Council to make more informed decisions about the things that come before them.

Ms. House said she agreed totally and thought it should be expanded to visiting the shelters so Council members can see what is happening at the programs that are being funded.

Chair Svobodny inquired about travel costs for holding a meeting outside Juneau or Anchorage. Ms. Griggs said there was enough money in the budget as long as the meeting was not held in the most remote locations. She asked for plenty of lead time for making the arrangements.

Ms. Ashenbrenner said a way to save on meeting costs is to meet at state facilities when

possible.

There was a brief discussion about which quarterly meeting to hold at a different location and where might be a good place. Chair Svobodny said it appeared that Council members were in favor of the idea, but it was a matter of deciding when and where. Ms. Ashenbrenner was asked for a list of potential locations and dates for the Council to review at the September meeting.

Ms. Thompson was excused at 4:30 p.m.

ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION GRANT FOR PREVENTION

Ms. Ashenbrenner explained that the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant would establish pilot projects in Prince of Wales, Ketchikan, Bethel, Anchorage, and possibly Homer, to develop curriculum and activities in the schools for youth ages 10 to 14 to focus on the prevention of interpersonal violence. The hope is that "promising practices" could be transferred to other communities in the state and nation. The grant is \$250,000 a year for four years, and the first year requires \$50,000 of cash and in-kind match. The Departments of Health and Social Services and Education are looking in their budgets for some match funding, as well as the Justice Center and the Network. Ms. Ashenbrenner asked the Council for approval to search the CDVSA budget for \$5,000 to put toward the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant match. She added that staff's contribution to working on the project could be additional in-kind match.

Responding to Colonel Holloway, Ms. Ashenbrenner said she agreed that it would be dependent upon being able to get new and identifiable funds in the FY10 budget to continue past the first year with the grant. She confirmed that the only commitment from CDVSA at this point is getting an application in and getting started.

MOTION BY COLONEL HOLLOWAY THAT THE COUNCIL COME UP WITH \$5,000 TO GET INTO THE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR THE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION GRANT PREVENTION PROJECT. MS. HOUSE SECONDED.

Chair Svobodny added that CDVSA could contribute more than \$5,000 if it were an in-kind contribution of staff's time. Colonel Holloway said he was fine with that amendment.

The motion passed unanimously, 4-0 (Svobodny, Holloway, House and McFadden present).

CDVSA LOGO

The Council and staff spent a few minutes looking at the array of logos that Ms. Ashenbrenner had distributed earlier in the meeting. By unanimous consent, they selected a draft logo with some minor changes to improve it.

SPECIAL PROJECTS FOR VAWA DISCRETIONARY AND EARMARK MONEY

Ms. Ashenbrenner mentioned that she had spoken to Bill Hogan about setting aside some of the VAWA discretionary and earmark funding in order to have money for special projects as they arise over the next year or two. She said she wanted to develop a meaningful plan for the work CDVSA will be doing with the Office of Children's Services, DV advocacy, and the University of Alaska as the evaluator. The best way to come up with a really good project is to bring together the people from the field who actually do the work to say what needs to be done. It would take \$5,000-\$8,000 to hold a one-day meeting to get ideas on how to improve the systems. Those ideas would be written up in a plan that would be used to search out grant opportunities to support a project.

Colonel Holloway said he favored spending the money for that purpose because there is a problem.

Chair Svobodny stated that he saw it a bit differently, that two agencies ought to be able to work on this themselves, with a bit of gentle persuasion. He would rather the executive director develop a list of potential uses for that VAWA discretionary money; for example, getting the conditions of bail release from the courts into police hands. That would achieve more preventive work early on than paying for two agencies to get together.

Ms. Ashenbrenner asked Ms. Morton if VAWA STOP grant money could be used to enhance law enforcement's data system, for instance. Ms. Morton replied that she would have to research specifically about data systems, but she knew it could be used for strengthening law enforcement's response.

Chair Svobodny said his point was not specifically to do the conditions of bail release project at Public Safety. Rather, advocates get together a lot during the year, including several conferences, and if the problem is with the Office of Children's Services the advocate group should spend another day with OCS to work on that.

Ms. House indicated that she agreed with the chair that the two groups should try to work on the problems first before CDVSA steps in to pay for a day-long meeting. Colonel Holloway also thought the chair was making a good point. He added that the executive director is trying to get the two groups to make it a priority to work on their different approaches.

Chair Svobodny requested that the executive director provide a list of about ten projects that CDVSA could choose to spend the \$100,000 of VAWA discretionary funding on. Ms. Ashenbrenner stated that the strategic planning process would likely lead the Council in that direction, but she was hoping to proceed with her suggestion without waiting for the strategic planning meeting.

Following up on the earlier question about VAWA discretionary funding being used for data collection, Ms. Morton said the answer is yes.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next quarterly Council meeting was set for Wednesday, September 3, 2008, in Juneau.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m., on a motion made by Colonel Holloway and seconded by Ms. McFadden.

Note: The summary minutes are extracted from staff's tape recording of the meeting and are prepared by an outside contractor. For in-depth discussion and presentation details, please refer to tapes of the meeting and staff reports on file at the CDVSA office.

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