



STATE OF ALASKA
COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES OF THE FIRST QUARTER FY2012 MEETING
September 28-30, 2011

Millennium Hotel – Turnagain Conference Room
4800 Spenard Road, Anchorage, Alaska

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Susan Cushing called the meeting to order at 10:10 am on Wednesday, September 28, 2011.

Council Members Present: Susan Cushing (Public Member/Chair), Kristine Tinker (Public Member/Vice Chair), Patricia Owen (Department of Education & Early Development), Commissioner Joseph Masters (Department of Public Safety), Richard Irwin (Public Member), Stephanie McFadden-Evans (Public Member) joined later in morning: Dr. De Anna Hellwich (Department of Corrections), Melissa Stone (Health and Social Services)

Council Members Absent: Richard Svobodny (Department of Law)

Council Staff Present: Lauree Morton (Executive Director), Angela Wells (Office Assistant), Linda Hoven (Program Coordinator), J.C. Cartwright (Administrative Officer), Ann Rausch (Program Coordinator).

Others Present: Peggy Brown (ANDVSA), Ginger Baim (SAFE), Nancy Haag (STAR), Andre Rosay, Katie Tepas.

Due to transportation issues the meeting was not able to be held in Dillingham as was originally intended. The community was very disappointed and the Council extends their deepest apologies for not being able to be there.

Ms. Cushing asked for everyone who comes onto the teleconference to introduce themselves and for everyone speak up for the recorders.

Ms. Cushing stated she saw a Martin Boozer advertisement “Coaching Boys into Men” that was played during NFL Football and there was a “Alaskan Men Choose Respect” advertisement with Nancy Haag from STAR and one of their board members. The ads were very well placed. Chair reports that we have been working hard to get our message out there.

Introduction of Richard Irwin: Mr. Irwin is a Public Member just appointed by the Governor. Richard introduced himself and shared that he has been in Alaska since 1969. He reports that he has been a Pastor for 39 years including in Correctional ministries. He stated he has a particular passion for this workgroup both personally and professionally and is excited about serving with this group of people.

COUNCIL CONFLICT INQUIRY Ms. Cushing asked for statements of Conflict of Interest regarding the agenda. Being no statements issued, she determined that there are no conflicts of interest.

MINUTES APPROVAL AND AGENDA ADDITIONS OR CHANGES Ms. Cushing asked for any revisions, changes or additions to the May 11-13, 2011 Quarterly meeting minutes. There were no changes to be made. Mr. Masters moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Irwin. Minutes passed as presented, all in favor.

June 7, 2011 Executive Director Hiring meeting minutes. There were no changes to be made. Mr. Masters moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Ms. Owen. Minutes passed as presented, all in favor.

August 23, 2011 Increment Request meeting minutes. There were no changes to be made. Mr. Masters moved to approve the minutes; this was seconded by Mr. Owen. Minutes passed as presented, all in favor.

AGENDA CHANGES

Ms. Morton indicated the following changes:

Move Finance report to Thursday 1:00 pm

Move Executive Director Report to Wednesday at 1:00 pm

Change to 4:00 presentation: Dr. Rosay will not be giving the results of the survey but will be giving an overview. Bristol Bay Regional Survey Results scheduled to be given tonight were cancelled and rescheduled for the week of October 10th, and the date and time of the results will be published later.

ANDVSA REPORT:

Ms. Cushing introduced Peggy Brown (Executive Director ANDVSA). Ms. Brown asked that questions be posed at the end and welcomed Mr. Irwin. Ms. Brown discussed the Network's housing policy workgroup reporting a member program survey showing the DV preference is working outside of Anchorage. The other finding that was consistent across all communities is that there is a critical housing shortage, and program participants need safe and affordable housing.

On ANDVSA website there is a News Now link which shows local, statewide and national news that reflect current events around the state.

Federal funding issues: Delta funding from the CDC –currently flat funded. The Preventative Health and Health Services Block Grant and Sexual Offense Set-Aside were eliminated in the Senate side of a bill. They took that money through report language, and they put it over into RPE. There are some proposed cuts, particularly in transitional housing, sexual assault, grant to encourage arrest, and rural.

Fourth R Evaluation: Originally scheduled for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium's (ANTHC) Internal Review Board (IRB) process due to timing constraints, the plans to evaluate the adaptation to Alaska will now be submitted to the University of Anchorage, Alaska IRB.

Messages are being developed for the Sexual Violence Prevention campaign; hosting 4-5 web conferences to explore specific considerations for the messaging.

Lead On, which is a Youth Engagement conference, is happening November 12-14 in Anchorage. Currently there are about 100 applications from kids around the state with 80 scholarships to award. Last year at Lead On there were 120 youth participants and 75% that attended went home to promote Respect, Healthy Relationships and took action in their communities in various ways.

Stand Up, Speak Up Alaska is also a campaign geared towards youth. New posters will be mailed out in the next few weeks geared for an older teen audience. To review: www.standupspeakupalaska.org

When I am an Elder campaign: Bethel's work was featured in Baltimore last month at the National Sexual Assault Conference. Two more locations will be added to the campaign this year.

Alaska Men Choose Respect: Jessie Perry, a former pastor, will be working with Alaska Men Choose Respect facilitators. They will draft a guide for engaging men and boys. Web conferences will be scheduled to provide feedback on that guide. The Network is currently developing a strategic plan required for the Engaging Boys and Men grant.

Website Redesign: Network has helped programs redesign their websites and will continue to do so this year. The use of their website has increased 38% since August 2010. 62% of the visits are new visits.

The Network worked with the Office Victims of Crime, TWC and its partners. Elders were interviewed for a series of commercials and posters which will be aired and shown between September 2011-2012. They are beautiful posters and will be available at www.andvsa.org

The Rural Domestic Violence conference was a huge success last week. It had over 100 conferences participants from across the state.

Last fiscal year the Network provided more than 14,445 hours of training at 69 events.

Ms. Brown invited questions and informed everyone that their annual report will be coming out next week. Mr. Irwin asked for a copy of the report.

Ms. Brown discussed that OVW trainers have been to Alaska and she has requested as a courtesy that they inform the Council and the Coalition when they are in the state for training. There has been some concern because some of their training has been different from the trainings within the state. There has been some language put in the new VAWA that addresses the issue. The issue will require a more coordinated effort. She also discussed the idea of formalizing a list of trainers for SART.

Ms. Morton commented that national providers are conducting training on things that cannot happen in Alaska due to statutory and regulatory reasons. She has been having conversations with OVW and OVC regarding these issues. The Council is currently developing a statewide training list for SART.

Mr. Masters stated National trainers are recognizing they have huge gaps regarding Alaska laws and regulations. Public Safety also brought it up to the federal auditor who was auditing IHS.

Ms. Brown stated that exactly what Commissioner Masters stated was true and that we have things working exactly the way we want them to work within in the state. The State prosecutes Sexual Assault here in Alaska, not the Feds. The biggest concern is that trainings might be confusing for those who attend, for example, medical providers about forensic exams.

Ms. Brown concluded her report.

Ms. Cushing announced more attendees to the teleconference during Peggy Brown's presentation and asked them to identify themselves. They were Nancy Haag from STAR and Ann Rausch from the Council. Melissa Stone had arrived earlier during the meeting and introduced herself for the record.

Ms. Cushing introduced J.C. Cartwright, who works for CDVSA as an Administrative Officer. J.C. introduced himself and invited anyone to call him if they need information or had any questions.

Ms. Morton announced that CDVSA is going to have training at 11:00 am and will be disconnecting from this teleconference. She provided information on how to connect to the webinar via webinar or via audio only. Ms. Cushing announced that Dr. DeAnna Hellwich arrived to the meeting and recessed the meeting for training.

Ms. Cushing reconvened the meeting at 1:30pm

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Ms. Morton provided the Executive Director's report. She stated that there is happy news with staffing. Linda Hoven is the new Program Coordinator II and she will be mentoring the Program I Coordinators and working with the programs on agency interactions, technical assistance and community work. Ann Rausch is the new Prevention Program Coordinator II. These two positions were also in the holdover freeze for salary so this unfreezes them. Mr. Masters made a comment that hiring from within shows employees that they have the ability to move up and be promoted from within.

Interviews for the Program Coordinator I positions will be conducted over the next several weeks-looking forward to being fully staffed by the November meeting.

Being short staffed leaves some funding issues that will need to be addressed maybe through a part-time position to help get caught up on some projects. Ms. Morton stated this may happen between January and June. Ms. Cushing asked if there was a PCN for the position. Mr. Masters stated that it is very difficult to do but there are options to do for a short-term non-perm position.

Ms. Morton stated they intend to have a staff retreat when the office is fully staffed.

Upgrading the Research Analyst position was discussed and it was noted that the computers have been upgraded and installation is waiting on an on-site visit from IT.

Funded Programs Update: On page 46 of the report Ms. Morton called everyone's attention to the bottom of the page. This is the third year that we have had outcome measures. Of the 3,035 surveys completed by victims that responded, 91% stated that they did know more about resources and how to access them and 93% stated that they knew more about safety and safety planning after an interaction with one of our funded programs. These are federally required outcome measures specifically in these four categories in ways in which people might interact with the funded programs. In 2013 we will talk about adding rate of response and some narrative discussion on how to improve the response to get everyone to say that they know more about the programs and safety. The national average is 60%, so the program response is in the 90th percentile, showing good program efficacy when compared to the national average.

Ms. Morton asked the Council to look at page 47. To see the increase in shelter nights, reviewed trend from 2008 to 2011. There was a 28% increase in shelter nights. Ms. Morton indicated that all measures have increased and none have declined. Significant in relation to the Public Awareness Campaigns in FY10 2,035 volunteered with our agencies, and in FY11 there were 3,533. Volunteer hours were 54,832 in FY10 and in FY11 almost doubled to 95,698. Shows people in communities are engaged with the programs and participating.

Ms. Morton also highlighted protective orders on page 48 and a new graph on page 49 showing domestic violence-related deaths as reported by the programs. Accuracy in reporting and using data points in addition to the programs was discussed.

Follow-up from prior meeting: Question on requiring by-law revisions to be part of the public meeting notice—not required. Direction to ask Data Subgroup to examine protective order issue as possible measures-Subgroup is looking at protective orders considering whether might be population or outcome measures.

Ms. Morton reviewed progress on Strategic Plan Goals-report on file at Council office.

Ms. Morton highlighted progress in response to the funded programs satisfaction survey-revising the request for proposal process-grant committee will present work later in meeting; on-site training for database issues-Research Analyst hired; training for Council members. Ms. Morton asked members to let her know of trainings attended to document measure.

SART (Sexual Assault Response Teams) The Guidelines committee has come up with a final draft of a base model SART response. The Cost group came up with a single payor in the state for forensic exams. The Violent Crimes Compensation Board has agreed to be that single payor. The Department of Administration is drafting some legislation to allow that to happen. Ms. Morton discussed funding sources and mentioned that some municipalities have funding set aside for that purpose. The discussion right now involves all municipalities/communities participating in payment process. The outcome measures group, did some initial groups and decided to wait until after the guidelines group had completed the protocols to develop measures based on the recommended guidelines.

Ms. Morton reviewed questions submitted for the Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey. If each of the questions get admitted to the survey, it would be \$2,500 per question, so that would be \$12,500.

One thing Rick Svobodny wanted to bring forward was the idea of meeting substitutes. If someone cannot attend a meeting, could there be an option having a substitute attend the meeting in their stead and could this be an option Ms. Cushing clarified it would involve changes in the by-laws. There was some discussion regarding how an alternate would function within the Council. This point was brought up to be considered for discussion in November.

Ms. Morton concluded her report and responded to questions posed. Kristine Tinker also introduced herself and indicated she has been on the conference since the start.

PROPOSED BY-LAW REVISIONS

Ms. Cushing directed everyone's attention to page 85 for the Proposed By-Law Revisions as of September 2011. Revisions are on file at Council office.

Mr. Masters made a motion to accept the changes in the by-laws with the noted change on Section Four which states five members would constitute a quorum. Ms. McFadden-Evans seconded the motion. The motion passed all in favor. The by-laws are accepted as revised.

POLICY ADOPTION

Grantee Failure to Expend Grant Funds. Ms. Cushing read the draft policy recommendation for approval. Ms. McFadden-Evans wanted some background on the need for the policy. Mr. Masters addressed the matter and explained that there were two programs that did not expend funds that they said they would this past fiscal year, and the amount of money was significant. The Council staff should have some tools available to them and be able to take some action. He clarified that this is a strong incentive for programs to have fiscal accountability.

Dr. Hellwich moved to accept the policy recommendation. Ms. McFadden-Evans seconded the motion. The motion to accept Failure to Expend Advance Funds Policy passed all in favor.

GOVERNOR'S INITIATIVE REPORT

Ms. Cushing reported sending letter to Governor's office regarding the Initiative as requested by the members at the last Council meeting. The September Initiative Big Workgroup meeting concerned with core victim services highlighted housing as a prime issue across the state. Discussion on possible solutions involved vouchers, faith community involvement, the Delancey Street Model, and concern to address victim lethality.

ALASKA VICTIMIZATION SURVEY

Dr. Andre Rosay stated he would give a summary of the FY11 survey, give an overview of the FY12 and discuss the language barrier issue. He provided the census information on language barriers. He reported for FY11 areas included were Bristol Bay, Juneau, Anchorage and Fairbanks. 2,440 interviews were conducted-710 Anchorage, 374 Bristol Bay Region, 601 Juneau, 755 Fairbanks North Star Borough. Within that sample 615 which were in the city of Fairbanks. The cost of the survey was \$212.00 per

completed interview. That is significantly less than in FY10. This year with about twice the amount of money we completed three times the amount of interviews.

The FY12 surveys include Kodiak, Sitka and Bethel. The Kodiak sample is limited to the Borough of Kodiak Island, Bethel Census Area and the Wade Hampton Census area just north of Bethel, the Sitka sample will include the Sitka Borough.

Discussion included future surveys of incarcerated women and men, homeless, male population in general, and other regions. All populations are being considered and funding being sought.

RECESS 4:30pm

September 29, 2011

Ms. Cushing noting a quorum called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Agenda Changes

Council comments will be switched to 9:15 with Ginger Baim's presentation moved to 9:45 am.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Attending Domestic Violence Awareness Month activities was discussed. Members agreed to participate in the events in their communities. Mr. Masters will be attending several events around the state and will be sending members of his department to others.

Fall meeting locations: discussion on best times to visit rural communities, having a grace period to get into communities in case of inclement weather, moving forward with meetings when less than a quorum makes it into the rural area. Scheduling flexibility is important.

Meeting locations for winter and spring: Juneau in February and Palmer in May.

Ms. McFadden-Evans and Mr. Irwin agreed to go to Dillingham when the victimization survey release is rescheduled.

Answering an inquiry, Ms. Cushing announced the Vice-Chair appointment will be discussed at the November meeting.

Mr. Masters stated DPS is working on the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) program. Based on the 2003-2004 data of all the trooper cases, and comparison studies that the Justice Center did, the presence of a VPSO in a community reduces the incidences of a serious physical injury due to assault by 39% and when a sexual assault happens in a community, the likelihood of prosecution increases by 40%. VPSOs are able to be a conduit for safety in the community and a conduit to mobilize victim services. The internet crimes against children unit added a Technical Crimes Unit Investigator and another position doubling capacity to work internet predation cases and distribution cases. Three specific DV Follow-Up Troopers, one in Fairbanks, Palmer and one in Bethel have been added to the Troopers. Public Safety has put together a Domestic Violence Response training video and interactive DVD for VPSOs and VPOs (Village Police Officers). The department is looking at ways to increase the level of training for VPOs.

Dr. Hellwich gave her update for Corrections and stated that she attended DV Initiative Workgroup for two days. She reported DOC is reviewing the parenting programming in the institutions and looking at incorporating more information about domestic violence and sexual assault, potentially adding a program that addresses family dynamics and family of origin for perpetrators and how that affects their cycle in their family and intimate relationships. She also reported that Deputy Commissioner Gutierrez is working on a PACE DV pilot project in Fairbanks. The courts would like to have more anger management classes to refer perpetrators to, but there are few programs that offer anger management programs in the communities anymore.

Ms. Owen gave her report on the Department of Education reporting continued involvement in training and implementation of the Fourth R program, which is a healthy relationships curriculum for middle and high school age children. The DEED is having their next training in conjunction with the School Health and Wellness Institute October 24, 2011. She reports she is working with the Council on plans for formally evaluating that curriculum in Alaska.

SAFE AND FEAR FREE ENVIRONMENT

Ginger Baim introduced herself as the Executive Director of SAFE servicing the Bristol Bay region. SAFE serves 33 villages in an area of 40,000 square miles, about the size of West Virginia with a permanent year round population of about 8500 people. 2400 of that population are adult women, which we found out from Dr. Rosay's victimization study.

SAFE opened its doors in 1982 in the old Alano club and operated mainly with volunteers and a safe home in Dillingham. In about 1988-1990 through a rural and economic development grant SAFE was able to open an 8 bed shelter. Ms. Baim has been at SAFE since 1990. SAFE has tripled the space at the shelter since her arrival and in any given year the agency provides 3,000 nights of shelter. In particular SAFE has been able to be a shelter for people who are at very high risk of lethality and a very good hideout due to the nature of Dillingham. There is a separate 4-bed shelter in King Salmon which fits a special niche that provides about 100 nights of shelter there. SAFE has to plan to be ready every day even when the shelter is not used every day. SAFE was just funded for a stand-alone safe home in Togiak and will be hiring more trained advocates now that they know they were funded.

Today, SAFE has a 16 bed shelter, provides crisis intervention assistance, legal advocacy, court accompaniments, coordinates the regional Sexual Assault Response Team; and, serves as back-up for the child advocacy center. SAFE offers a regular series of support groups and services. There are some things about the program that are unique. From 1999-2009 SAFE operated a 5-bed emergency receiving home for children in need and this was coordinated with OCS. SAFE basically worked themselves out of a job with that program, which is a good thing. SAFE was the only one in the state (and possibly the nation) that operated that kind of program and it was to the great benefit of the children and the families.

For 12-14 years now SAFE has operated a program called SISTR (Safety in Sobriety Through Recovery). It is a program where the agency has been able to provide access to intensive treatment. In this program SAFE provides the space for women with small children to come while they attend treatment at Jake's Place across the street. For a period of time we were reimbursed by the hospital for providing child care for the children while the women were in treatment. SAFE was just awarded a new behavioral health grant to fund this program and it is evident that this is a much needed program. Whenever they have had surveys, focus groups or interviews, every person who has been through the program rates this program as the most important program out of the services they have received. SISTR focus is for women who are battered and chemically dependent or in danger of relapse.

Ms. Baim further reported on the MOMS program (Maintaining our Moms Safety and Sobriety). It is funded through a grant from Division of Behavioral Health. This program addresses both sobriety issues and safety issues. Unplanned pregnancy prevention is part of the MOMS program. SAFE has a unique relationship with the women and help them work on the safety and sobriety issues. There is overwhelming need for childcare. All of the programs across the state provide some level of child care. SAFE recognizes that women with children are a package deal and provide child care from 8 am to 9 pm. That requires 3 full time child care providers. These positions are funded by different funding sources.

SAFE has a policy about pets, and knows that they are integral to families. People will not leave their pets behind because they knew their pets would be killed. SAFE has helped transfer pets but also houses them. There is a kennel and they have a PAWS grant. SAFE also has a pet in the workplace policy. 25% of Fortune 500 companies have a Pet in the workplace policy due to added productivity.

SAFE also allows babies in the workplace and children in the workplace. The agency strives to show that there is not much difference between the people that work there and the people receiving services. If you make a person choose between their child and the workplace, both are going to come up short. So SAFE tries to work with employees. The board has been very progressive in employee development. SAFE also believe in the Power of 5 Program, which states that if a child has 5 or more positive adult role models in their life they will have a better chance of success. SAFE will pay our employees 2 hours per month to volunteer in the schools.

Right now SAFE has seventeen separate funding sources and the Council comprises about 30% of the funding source for the agency. Council funding covers a good portion of the administrative costs and with that and other funding sources they are able to provide a wide variety of services that they might not otherwise be able to provide.

SAFE applied for the Rural Pilot Project Implementation grant and was awarded, \$ 800,000. A big focus of CANDU is youth, particularly the 12-18 age group. The My Space Youth Wellness Center is open six days a week for 6-7 hours per day and is a safe place for kids to go to. There is always something to do with crafts, a music center, a media center--opportunities to engage them. There is a tutoring and peer mentoring program four days a week. A community schools liaison helps facilitate relationships between the children, parents and schools and helps improve relationships. There is funding for a half-time position in the alternative high school. Prior to the program, their graduation level had dropped by nearly half. SAFE's goal is a 75% graduation rate this year with the additional support. There is also a youth leadership group called Lake which SAFE supports including summer youth services and the culture camp. During the culture camp elders teach traditional ways to harvest fish, moose and berries.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Cushing asked for public comment and being none, the Council continued discussion with Ms. Baim.

Ms. Baim reported on two additional CANDU components: The second component is direct services, the legal services and a complete reinstitution of the SISTERS program and child care to support the SISTER program. The third component is primary prevention which focuses on changing community norms. That consists of a large sub-grant to the Bristol Bay Native Association for their Wellness Warriors Initiative. Small stipends of \$1,500 are granted to villages to use at their discretion to help victims of domestic violence keep safe. One of the things that happened with that is that it has facilitated discussion on how communities would be use the money. There are no restrictions other than the funds be used for domestic violence intervention. CANDU asks communities to focus on the areas that are unique and wonderful, the things that make the region strong and healthy. CANDU works toward culturally empowered communities of healthy, connected people who treat each other with dignity and respect.

Ms. Baim discussed outcome measures and working with ANTHC. What is expected is to change people's minds, belief systems and what is accepted as community norms. SAFE conducted a series of surveys and focus groups in a wide geographic area among the community. Ms. Baim stated that there has been some changes in the community norm, in particular with the men, in focus groups and those are areas that they are depending on to gather information and statistics now

Council members thanked Ms. Baim for her report and the tremendous work SAFE is doing.

COUNCIL STAFF HIGHLIGHT

Angela Wells, Office Assistant I presented. Ms. Wells noted that this is her tenth month working at the Council. She reported that before she got the position she heard it was vacant quite often and she plans on changing that problem and stick with the Council for a while. Ms. Wells stated that there is a great team at CDVSA. The Council is getting ready to hire two more Coordinators. She reported that there has been a re-designation of duties so her job now entails being the workplace hiring manager, arranging travel for the Council, logistics of all the meetings and updating the website. Ms. Wells also helps Ms. Morton with her very busy schedule as well as communicating with the Council members. She also does

a lot of special projects including the Domestic Violence Awareness boxes that were sent out to 64 communities which contained 26 items per box. Included in the box was a flash drive from CDVSA with a lot of awareness materials. We were proud of the boxes and the contents of the boxes. The boxes went out on September 16, 2011. The response to the boxes went very well.

Ms. Cushing inquired about a hiring manager test and Ms. Wells said a lot of training is required to be able to serve as a hiring manager and she successfully completed the training. Ms. Cushing thanked Ms. Wells for her service.

J.C. Cartwright is the new administrative office in the division of finance responsible for CDVSA budgets. He reported attending a federal Financial Management training last week. He is learning a lot from this meeting. Ms. Cushing thanks Mr. Cartwright for his service.

The Council recessed for lunch and reconvened at 1:00pm.

FINANCE REPORT

Ms. Morton reviewed FY11 financials. The report is on file at the Council office. Ms. Morton asked for comments and in response explained the permanent fund dividend funding source for victim service providers, noted that the prior year financials would be included in future year-end reports, asked Mr. Spencer for clarification regarding the receipt and expenditure of interagency receipts, and agreed to provide grant award periods for grants

DVSA INITIATIVE REPORT CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS DAY

Ms. Stone indicated a housing report was available containing Anchorage homeless data. Ms. Morton stated that if Ms. Stone gave her a copy of the report she would email it out to everyone.

Ms. Cushing reported the following: Victor Kester, Director of the Office for Victims Rights, gave a presentation on legal matters and the Alaska Constitution. He also stated that attorneys need to put more pressure on their peers to do pro bono work for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. He does a lot of work toward victim safety. Melissa Stone and Patty Bland gave a great report on co-occurring substance abuse issues/behavioral health issues for people coming into the shelter. Hopefully there would be more substance abuse treatment, trauma informed care and more collaboration between agencies in tending to those needs of people who do come to the shelter. She stated they received a report from Corey Bryant from Alaska Children's Alliance and Saralyn Tabachnick from AWARE on Shelter services and child advocacy services and about children exposed. There was a very compelling presentation by Nicole Nelson (ALS) and Christine Pate (ANDVSA) about the sore need for more legal services, both attorneys and advocates for victims. In 1996 there was \$1.3 million for legal services and in 2011 the amount was only \$300,000.

Ms. Cushing said based on recommendations from the Initiative Workgroup, the Council may want to include a legal services increment request in the FY13 budget and asked Ms. Morton to expand on the discussion. Ms. Morton explained the group decision-making process employed by the Initiative Workgroup and reviewed various proposals made regarding legal representation/advocacy. Responding to questions she stated previous federal funds were granted directly to victim service providers to hire legal advocates and specific legal representation requests had not previously come before the Council because organizations were waiting for the Initiative Workgroup to do its work.

After Council member debate on several possible legal representation/advocacy scenarios, Ms. Cushing called for a motion. Mr. Masters made a motion to include a \$500,000 placeholder in the Council's FY13 Budget Request to the Department for increasing civil legal services. Dr. Hellwich seconded the motion. The motion passed all in favor. The Council directed Ms. Morton to request a funding proposal from the three legal services agencies involved in providing services to victims.

FUNDING FOR REGULAR VICTIM SERVICE GRANT AWARDS: FVPSA, VOCA, SASP AND STATE GENERAL FUNDS

Ms. Morton's presentation is on file at the Council office.

There were no questions regarding FVPSA or VOCA funding. Discussion focused on SASP funding—the relatively small amount available for sexual assault intervention services, composition of planning committee, which programs were granted the funding, whether or not it could be used for other purposes. Ms. Morton agreed to provide the SASP purpose language to members of the Grants committee.

Ms. Morton stated Mr. Masters was exactly right during earlier comments--most of the Council's funds are state funds. It has been that way since the inception of the Council. The Network has always been a very strong advocacy group and worked closely with the legislature and administrations so they understood the need for these programs. From FY09 through FY12 there has been a 26% increase in funding. Ms. Morton also noted that the Council requires a 15% match to general fund dollars which can be cash or in-kind donations.

Mr. Masters made a motion to amend the agenda to consolidate the remaining discussion to today and adjourn. Ms. McFadden-Evans seconded. The motion passed all in favor.

GRANTS COMMITTEE REPORT- Ms. Stone

The report is on file at the Council office. The Grants Committee is comprised of Melissa Stone, Dr. De Anna Hellwich and Stephanie McFadden-Evans. The Grant Committee met previously in February and presented those recommendations in the May meeting. They also met July 20, Aug 1 and Aug 26th.

Grant committee conversations have been around the topic of grants management, RFP construction and the solicitation process. There have been discussions about reporting, and what the Council requires grantees to report. Ms. Stone asked the committee to use the criteria of information being meaningful, necessary and used for determining what to include in the RFP and reporting processes.

Ms. Stone presented the committee's six recommendations. Mr. Masters made a motion that the Council accept the Grants committee's recommended changes to the RFP process as well as the reporting requirements. Ms. Owen seconded the motion. The motion passed all in favor. Ms. Owen expressed her interest in serving on the proposal evaluation committee mentioned in the report. Council members directed Ms. Morton to act on the recommendations and report at the next meeting.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Masters commented that as far as the direction the Council has been going and the expansion and involvement of people and the ways the Council can meet statutory obligations, it has been heartening and that he wants to be part of it.

Ms. McFadden-Evans asked Ms. Morton how she plans on moving the Council forward. Ms. Morton responded by saying increasing awareness of the Council on a statewide level, highlighting the Choose Respect Campaign and prevention work, encouraging the Council to build skills and increase knowledge of the issues, being more involved in legislative session—understanding what that means in advancing protections for victims.

Ms. Stone stated that it is always good to be here and progress is being made. She reported it is good to have Ms. Morton on board.

Ms. Owen commented that her only regret is that the Council didn't get to Dillingham. She is glad the Council staff is getting built up to capacity.

Mr. Irwin enjoyed his first meeting and is looking forward to learning.

Ms. Tinker thanked the Council and the staff for their work. She thanked the Council for allowing her to serve and encouraged the Council to keep coming out to the rural communities. Ms. McFadden-Evans commended Ms. Tinker for bringing to the Council a different perspective and a much needed perspective.

Ms. Cushing thanked Ms. Tinker for serving and commended her for being a strong voice for victims and for all people and stated it has been an honor to serve with her. Ms. Cushing thanked SAFE and Dillingham for everything and again extended regrets for not being able to meet there.

Ms. Cushing asked for a motion to adjourn and Mr. Masters so moved. The meeting adjourned at 4:37pm.