

STATE OF ALASKA

Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF June 7-8, 2012 MEETING

Alaska Family Services – 1825 S. Chugach St. Palmer, AK 99645

Call to order: By Chair Cushing at 9:28 am, Thursday, June 7, 2012.

Council Members Present: Chair Susan Cushing (Public Member); Richard Irwin (Public Member); Stephanie McFadden Evans (Public Member); Melissa Stone (Department of Health and Social Services); Patricia Owen (Departments of Education and Early Development); Carmen Gutierrez (Department of Corrections); Rick Svobodny (Department of Law).

Council members absent: Commissioner Joseph Masters (Department of Public Safety); Jackie Hill (Public Member).

CDVSA Staff present: Lauree Morton, Debbie Leamer, Dianne Lanuza, and Ann Rausch.

Others present: Peggy Brown (ANDVSA); Donn Bennice (AFS); Kami Moore (ANDVSA); Susan Christianson (Christianson Communications); Dorothy Edwards and Jennifer Sayre (Green Dot), Susan Sullivan (VDJ).

Present on-line: Linda Hoven, Freda Westman and Annie Whittey (CDVSA)

Chair, Cushing introduces, Angela Long, Chairperson of the Board of Directors at AFS.

Ms. Long informed the Council of the annual retreats taken in January to map out how programs can better serve the Mat-Su Valley and more involve the community. Alaska Family Servicers (AFS) hosted a Homelessness Summit in November, bringing all the stakeholders together and informing them of the issues and concerns at hand and informing the community of different options and needs. AFS has a dedicated and professional staff, working very hard toward their co-accreditation. AFS does a lot of in-house monitoring, self-assessment and continuous auditing, to better meet clients' needs. A range of programs are available that cover; parenting issues, child care assistance, substance abuse, behavioral health, along with the domestic violence program.

Mr. Bennice updated the Council on current issues: grants, expansion of programs, starting a Choose Respect campaign, and the behavioral health/domestic violence integration team.

Agenda Changes: There is a possibility of the board going into an executive session, if necessary, at 10:30 am tomorrow during the funding decisions, for matters pertaining to the financial status of the Council. No decisions will be made at that time, but it needs to be on the agenda.

Ms. Stone asked for some time to address Batterer Intervention Programs. Ms. Morton advised that she would be updating the Council on that issue in her Executive Director's report and could discuss it at that time.

Chair Cushing asks for a quick vote to approve the agenda changes.

****Vote:** unanimous to approve agenda changes.

Conflict Inquiry: Chair Cushing asked the Council to disclose any potential conflicts of interest on matters within the agenda.

As Chair, Ms. Cushing disclosed a possible conflict of interest on funding; she has known Susan Sullivan (Executive Director of Vicitms For Justice) since the 7th grade. The Council does not feel there will be a bias.

Ms. Gutierrez also has known Susan Sullivan since her junior year of high school and has discussed funding issues with Susan, pertaining to VFJ. Chair Cushing asked Ms. Gutierrez if she was unbiased in matters pertaining to VFJ. Ms. Gutierrez replied that she felt no bias. Chair Cushing ruled there was no bias.

Approval of Minutes: Chair Cushing asked for any changes or corrections to the February 22-24, 2012, 3rd Quarter meeting minutes. Ms. Evans asked that her attendance be changed. Minutes were approved with the correction, as submitted on a motion made by Mr. Svobodny and seconded by Ms. Owen.

****Vote** All in favor: Motion approved unanimously

Network Report: Peggy Brown, Executive Director of the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

Ms. Brown reported on:

Helping with the Violence Against Women Act, both Alaskan Senators were very supportive.

Having a budget for new programs (there are several programs that are looking for funding through the Council).

The Network has put together a small working group regarding trauma informed care

FVPSA will be coming to Alaska to review the SAFTEE grant

Legal highlights

Difficult and involved cases that we are monitoring closely

Have two attorneys in Anchorage, now.

Meeting with AHFC and working on housing issues.

250 vouchers for survivors of Domestic Violence (may do something different in the Anchorage area).

Eligibility requirements

How things are going to work

Referral system

All preferences will be gone at the end of this month, and the new plan, we hope to implement in September 2012.

Lots of activity in the Prevention area being done.

Joint meeting in June with the Council staff members.

Media campaign, about to do the 2nd sexual violence prevention PSA, on consent.

Break

Green Dot – Bystander Intervention: A Green Dot overview was presented by Dorothy Edwards. Green Dot is a prevention model intended to address child abuse, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault as well as bullying. The foundation is based on the idea that, if we are going to realistically consider a reduction in violence, we have to use language like “culture change”. The kind of violence and the kind of numbers we are talking about exist in every state. Cultural change is one simple, tiny thing at a time. The red dot is, when one of us, in our gut, notices a potential high risk thing happening, and we choose not to act. Green Dot is the image of an individual decision in epidemic proportions, preventing one red dot at a time. It is just a moment.

Proactive Green Dots are people who ask themselves: What are the things we could be doing, to make it clear to those people in our life, that we have two values:

1. violence won't be tolerated
2. we all look out for each other here

The challenge of the proactive green dot is: Do you influence the people in your life, around this issue?

Simply, when there are more green dots than red, the numbers will come down. When we get more individuals to do “their single moment”, very quickly the green dots outnumber the red. Most people are green dot generators. The challenge is, why aren't they acting?

Some reasons are:

It would be breaking a rule

Afraid for own safety

Embarrassed

Grief from

friends (heavily peer pressured group)
me stand out

Don't make

Direct, delegate or distract are three options that Green Dot gives you. It is important to train the right people in the community first. It is those people that will then do all the work, by role modeling in that community. We want people to recognize the early sign of a potential red dot (child abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence) before it gets to the extreme form. By doing this it gets two things done:

Reduces the amount of harm that actually ends up happening
It becomes more realistic and manageable

One of the goals for Green Dot and Train the Trainer is to be able to hand it over; Alaska would be the first state to be totally internally sustainable. Ms. Edwards and Ms. Sayre then answered questions from the Council.

Ms. Sayre explained that their connection with Alaska started when Ginger Baim (SAFE) attended training. She gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Council that covers some of the training in the by-stander intervention program.

Ms. Rausch explained how the Council was working with Green Dot and what to expect in the future. Ms. Brown added that her thought was that the Council would organize and maintain this prevention piece.

Lunch Break

Green Dot for Alaska 2013-15 and beyond: The Council's efforts will be to build on the work of Green Dot currently under way in the state and to serve as a central contact point.

A PowerPoint presentation showing the 3 year plan was presented by Ms. Rausch, Ms. Edwards and Ms. Sayre. They answered questions from the Council about the implementation, training, technical assistance and follow up that the programs may require statewide. Approval of this plan is currently in the works.

Mr. Svobodny encouraged contacting the Tribal Courts and getting everyone involved. Ms. Edwards and Ms. Sayre listed the different organizations within Alaska that are currently training Green Dot, or working on modifying their training to their communities.

Mr. Svobodny then inquired about how do you monitor this contract? Ms. Morton stated that there would be timelines and deliverables, some of those are in hours, but some of them are parts of the actual project getting done.

Media Messaging in Alaska: Chair Cushing introduced Susan Christianson of Christianson Communications. Ms. Christianson has been working on the media campaigns for both the Council and the Network.

Ms. Christianson shared with the Council her current projects and also explained how far we have come in media efforts by getting a variety of people involved and starting with a broad topic, “Real Alaska Men Choose Respect”. The PSA’s (public service announcements) were also made in partnership with GCI, Clear Channel, Alaska One and ABC Alaska. At the next level of this campaign, the PSA’s become more specific, asking for help. Along with the commercials, Ms. Christianson explained how improving the Network’s website made a noticeable difference and was measurable by the number of hits the website had after the transition. It also had an impact on the shelters, which were at or above capacity while airing the PSA’s. Now we are moving into “bystander intervention” and will continue to build on, and enhance this program.

Break

Alaska Men Choose Respect: Chair Cushing introduced Kami Moore, from the Network, who discussed the Alaska Men Choose Respect. One thing this program does is gives out mini grants to communities to do prevention work around engaging men and boys. There was an overwhelming response. There were 21 communities apply, requesting over \$220,000 in funds. ANDVSA was able to give out \$70,000 in 10 of those communities. These are one year grants that must be expended by June of 2013. By July there will be reports in on how these programs went. There were 3 main categories for grant projects; culture based, sports based and arts/music/media based. Technical assistance is provided to these communities. Also, the construction of a tool kit is in the works and we hope to have it complete by next spring. Ms. Moore then listed the 10 communities that received these mini grants and answered questions from the Council.

Coaching Boys Into Men: Chair Cushing introduced Ati, Mark and John to present the PowerPoint on Coaching Boys into Men. Ati started by saying that Coaching Boys into Men is a program offered by Futures Without Violence. The program was created based on communities identifying 1) that most men are not perpetrating this kind of violence 2) that men want to be involved and have a role and 3) that they don’t necessarily know how. Coaching Boys into Men realizes that coaches have a unique and powerful role in mentoring youth and athletes have a very powerful role in affecting social change amongst their peers. Marc Calvert and John Blasco (Thunder Mountain Basketball Coach) elaborated on the program, its curriculum, implementation and evaluation. It has proven to be a very successful program. Ati, Mark and John then answered questions from the Council.

Recess

Tour of AFS-Shelter: Council members toured the AFS facility.

Call to Order: Day 2 Friday June, 8, 2012

Chair Cushing reminded all of the possibility of an Executive Session on Funding Decisions and also, of the Conflict of Interest that were mentioned in the prior session. Chair Cushing added her

potential conflict of interest with South Peninsula Haven House. The Council voted that Chair Cushing can remain unbiased in her decisions.

Executive Director Report: Chair Cushing then asked Ms. Morton to give the Executive Director's report.

Ms. Morton relayed: "For the record, Commissioner Masters called in this morning and has had a personal emergency and is not going to be available for the day. We have not heard from Jackie Hill. I understand that Stephanie McFadden was going to try to come in today, but she is not here yet. Ms. Morton asked for a roll call.

Ms. Morton then gave a staff update. We are now fully staffed and have a dedicated, experienced group. Both, Debbie Leamer and Angie Wells have been there for over a year in their positions. We are starting to build longevity and seeing stability in our office, along with updating office equipment and office space. "I have a feeling that the Council will be pleased with the work coming out of our staff in the future," stated Ms. Morton.

Ms. Morton handed out the Operating Budget for FY13 and explained funding for the year: federal funds, interagency receipts, general fund, some of the grants that we have applied for will not be awarded until September. There is also a possible grant evaluating Village Public Safety Officers and how effective they may be from a victim's perspective. Those results should be available in September also. Ms. Morton listed the grants that will soon be expended, and stated that using older money first is a priority. Ms. Morton then answered questions from the Council and clarified an error found on page 1.

Moving on to housing, the next meeting will be June 21, 2012. Staff will meet with the Network and AHFC to continue work on the vouchers. The 11 communities that currently use the voucher program will continue to use them. Anchorage will be doing something different. AHFC would like to use some of the Councils research funds to start this program to have some outcome measures in place and look at the ability of access to housing increasing victim's safety. Comments from the Council to strengthen existing relationships with tribal entities.

Ms. Morton updated the Council on the transfer of the initiative workgroup from the Governor's office to the Council and will report further at September's meeting.

Ms. Morton clarified that she approves travel for the Council staff and that the Executive Director's travel is approved by the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and Administrative Director. Ms. Morton explained her travel within the state and outside of the state, staff travel, workgroup travel, data research travel and the reason for the increase in the budget. Ms. Lanuza will submit the Legislative financial travel report to the Council in the future in January when it is due for the calendar year.

Last, Ms. Morton reported on the Sexual Assault Response Team/Outcomes group. Things have been postponed due to a few key people leaving. The group will reform and have something to submit at September's meeting. The Victim Service Outcome group will continue to meet to work on short, mid-term and long term measures. A funding streams group will be gathering and also the BIPs group. Ms. Stone asked for a summary or history of what has happened with BIP evaluations. Ms. Morton then answered questions from the Council.

Chair Cushing asked Mr. Svobodny to give a summary of the Trafficking bill that passed. Mr. Svobodny explained the bill.

Public Comment: Donn Bennice, AFS commented about the SART team that is starting back up. Getting a lot of community involvement, but afraid that the law enforcement (State Troopers) is not quite on board and not buying into a local SART team. The last hold up we had was with the Medical portion. Funding is still an issue. Another issue is the misreporting of incidents. The numbers seem to show sexual assault going down, but can assure that they are not.

Cheri Smith, LSC; clarified 2 points to the Council: 1) that in the BIP Request for Proposal for LSC for \$20,000.00, there was some confusion as to giving back \$5,000.00 that had been another programs unused fund. Cheri would like it to be on the record that, that money was not in our original proposal because it was money we did not know existed, it was not that we did not need it or want it. 2) during the RFP process review, the program directors were not allowed to comment and clarify issues that were questioned and discussed. Those details are critical to our agencies.

Susan Sullivan, VFJ; would like to agree with Cheri Smith about the RFP process. Also, like to respond to the letter from Suzi Pearson. Susan discussed the concern about the mission for the Council aligning with Victim's for Justice.

Brenda Stanfill, IAC; appreciates the work that has been done coming up with this process, but hope that by the new grant cycle we are all in good positions when we go into the PEC funding.

Peggy Brown, ANDVSA; makes the suggestion that we look at coming up with a formula for distributing funds.

Saralyn Tabachnick, AWARE; brought a few changes to the Council's attention.

1. Experiencing a great deal of people using our shelter for overnights.
2. We anticipate changes to our Batterer Accountability Program. Ms. Tabachnick then answered a few questions from the Council.

Chair Cushing added that the letter from Suzi Pearson, (AWAIC) was submitted as public comment. Ms. Morton clarified that this letter was submitted as the attachment to an email from Ms. Pearson.

Funding Decisions: Ms. Morton

An appeals committee needs to be formed, must be Chair and two other members. Rick Svobodny and Carmen Gutierrez volunteered.

The Council board should have received the abstracts, proposed sheets for funding. Ms. Morton highlighted the PEC process again. Some programs are not on the list due to missing documentation.

Mr. Svobodny explained that he was not ready to make any decisions on funding at this time and suggested tabling this issue. The Council can meet before the 1st of July and vote on the funding decisions. Mr. Svobodny also recommended that the PEC meet again to allow the 4 programs to comply and be responsive.

Mr. Svobodny makes a motion to table the committees report and have the PEC meet again, allowing victim service programs to submit missing documentation. Ms. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Vote: motion passes unanimously

Ms. Gutierrez makes a motion to table the committees report and have the PEC meet again, allowing BIP and PBP programs to submit missing documentation. Mr. Svobodny seconded the motion.

****Vote:** motion passes unanimously

Ms. Morton reminded the Council that surveys were sent out to evaluate the new process.

Ms. Stone recommended that the Council Staff not use Goldstreak anymore. She also requested a summary of scoring.

Ms. Gutierrez suggested Ms. Morton do an overview of the PEC.

Mr. Svobodny feels that the volunteers on the PEC did their job.

Both Chair Cushing and Ms. Owen participated in this long process and felt it went well. Ms. Owen has experience being on other PEC's and says our process that was set up worked very well and the PEC members had read the applications thoroughly.

Ms. Gutierrez then asked a question about the proper way for a Council member to respond or add to public comment. Ms. Morton and Ms. Stone advised that Public comment was a time for comment and not for questions and personal interjections which could be misconstrued as a group comment from the whole Council.

Council Comments:

The Court System came out with their quarterly numbers and Mr. Svobodny explained that both felony and misdemeanor cases have gone down for the last three quarters, but a majority of those are still flagged as domestic violence.

Ms. Gutierrez announced that on June 25th, DOC will sponsor a train the trainer session that will be implemented into the prison population. DOC is also opening its Institutional Sex Offender Treatment Program, for medium and low risk offenders. DOC also received funding for 3 new probation officers for DV/SA cases.

Ms. Stone reported that HSS has increments available for FY13 that focus on domestic violence.

Ms. Owen will give her information during her 4th R presentation.

Mr. Irwin reported that he has been in contact with the Anchorage Mayor's office and received a list of property possibilities for DV/SA housing. A Christian Law Association chapter is opening up in Alaska and he will be trying to get some of them to do pro-bono work for DV/SA. There is also a group which is looking at strategies for housing in Anchorage with focus on domestic violence issues. His church will also be holding another healing session for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Chair Cushing talked about her involvement in the Marches and the PEC. She also stated that she was chosen as The Woman of Wisdom for the year by Haven House.

Lunch

Rural Domestic Violence and Substance abuse Prevention Grants: Chair Cushing introduced Diane Casto, prevention manager for the division of behavioral health. She explained the 4 rural pilot programs funded by the Governor's Initiative and updated the Council on where those programs are now. Ms. Casto presented a PowerPoint to the Council. Also, the Healthy Families Yupik Style has become a centerpiece for the work that they are doing in Bethel and was nominated them last year for a Service to Science Recipient award.

Break

Fourth R Overview/Implementation Chair Cushing introduced Patricia Owen who gave a PowerPoint and informed the Council on the 4th R its history and implementation. 4th R is a school based comprehensive prevention approach, developed in Canada. The 4th R actually stands for "relationships". Ms. Owen gave statistics on dating violence, bullying, sex, substance abuse, and other related issues within our high schools and middle schools. Ms. Owen explained the training involved in this curriculum. Ms. Owen then answered questions from the Council. Ms. Rausch also reminded the Council of the handouts that go along with Wendy Seibold's slide show presentation.

Fourth R Evaluation: Wendy Seibold gave an in-depth presentation on the 4th R evaluation process, how it came about, what partners are involved, the design and the time line.

Committee Update: Chair Cushing reminded the Council of the committee membership:

MOU = Melissa Stone, Patricia Owen, Rick Svobodny and Commissioner Masters

ADMIN = Susan Cushing, Rick Svobodny and Commissioner Masters

BIP = Melissa Stone, Stephanie Evans and Carmen Gutierrez (with Stephanie leaving we will have an open position)

Susan Cushing, Richard Irwin and Commissioner Masters

Melissa Stone (Patricia Owen volunteered to be on)

GOV=

Grants =

Chair Cushing then thanked Stephanie McFadden-Evans for her great service to the Council.

Ms. Morton handed out the corrected operating budget before everyone left.

Adjourn at 3:55 pm.