Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence
DV Commission Meeting
Thursday January 26, 2017 from 8:30am-10:00am
@ Mount Baker Theatre Encore Room

The mission of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence is to provide leadership in the community’s effort to reduce and prevent domestic violence.

Members Attending: Alan Artman; Sherriff Bill Elfo; Bruce Van Glubt; Christina Kobdish; Darlene Peterson; Dave Reynolds; Garret Shelsta; Jon Komorowski; Jon Mutchler; Kathy McNaughton; Katie Plewa Olvera; Ken Levinson; Linda Quinn; Mary Welch; Michelle Zlotek; Mike Riber; Regina Delahunt; Riannon Bardsley; Sharon Rutherford

Members Absent: Chief Cliff Cook; Dave McEachran; Mary Dumas; Peter Ruffatto; Sheri Burgler-Emerson; Silvia Johnson

Staff Present: Susan Marks; Liz Stuart; Elizabeth Montoya

Guests: Grace Scholtz, Community Corrections Officer 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agenda Item</th>
<th>Discussion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1. Welcome and Introductions | Welcome and Introductions  
- Welcome new members and introduce guest presenters  
- Reminder to complete meeting evaluations  
  | Welcome and Introductions  
  - Attendees introduced themselves and what agency they represent.  
  - Introductions included new commission member Mary Welch, Northwest Justice Project, and guest presenter Grace Scholtz, Community Corrections Officer 3.  
  - Susan passed out report cards to all Commission members.  
  - Reminder: Complete your meeting evaluations (provided in packet). |
| 2. MOTION: Consent Agenda | MOTION: Consent Agenda  
- Minutes from November 17, 2016  
- 2017 DV Commission Operation Budget  
  | MOTION: Consent Agenda  
  - Minutes from November 17, 2016  
  - Members were provided copies of the minutes from the 11/17/16 meeting for review. Darlene Peterson made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting. Alan Artman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.  
  - 2017 DV Commission Operational Budget  
  - Members were provided copies of the 2017 DV Commission Operational Budget proposal and the DV Commission Funding Sources. Susan reviewed the sources and distribution of the funding. There was a significant increase in funding from the City of Bellingham and Whatcom County this year and Susan thanked the members for their support in procuring this funding.  
  - Grant funding for 2017 includes the GTEA grant which will end mid-year; the Improving Criminal Justice Responses to Sexual Assault grant, which will begin mid-year; and the Safe Futures grant which will continue throughout the year. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3. Announcement: Office on Violence Against Women Funding</th>
<th>Announcement: Office on Violence Against Women Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Regina Delahunt made a motion to approve the 2017 DV Commission Operational Budget. Kathy McNaughton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</td>
<td>- Susan announced that that in light of recent discussions in the media regarding proposals to eliminate Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), those working in the domestic violence field are discussing the possibility of funding being eliminated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- There is no actual budget proposal at this time, but Susan explained that that loss of funding could have impacts on our community. The 2017 DV Commission Operational Budget lists the funding that the DV Commission receives from OVW grants, which includes GTEA, Safe Futures and the Improving Criminal Justice Responses to Sexual Assault grants. In addition to funding the DV Commission’s efforts, OVW grants also fund DVSAS programs, Northwest Youth Services programs, Lummi Victims of Crime programs, and other community partners.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- The executive committee will continue to discuss and strategize for the potential for loss of funding, and will report back with any updates or action items.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4. Presentation: Offender Monitoring</th>
<th>Presentation: Offender Monitoring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Whatcom County District Court Probation</td>
<td>- Whatcom County District Court Probation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Washington State Department of Corrections</td>
<td>- Bruce Van Glubt presented on the Whatcom County District Court Probation program (DCP). Bruce explained that DCP monitors defendants convicted of misdemeanors and gross misdemeanors throughout Whatcom County. Criteria for monitoring is established by the court and carried out by a team of probation officers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Whatcom County District Court Probation supervises roughly 2000 active cases (cases which include specific requirements such as treatment or counseling) and 500 inactive cases (cases which only monitor criminal activity)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- An intake unit completes needs assessments and risk assessments for all offenders in an effort to place them in the most appropriate probation unit. Bruce explained that there has been a push to ensure that offenders are placed in the most appropriate unit the first time to minimize the disruption caused by changing probation officers. In addition to the general caseloads, specialty units include High Risk Domestic Violence, High Risk DUI, and mental health units. Specialty unit probation officers are limited to 1/3 to 1/2 of the caseload of general probation officers to ensure that POs can have increased contact.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- For DV offenders, POs assess criminal history, court order history, the seriousness of the offense, history of weapons and other factors to assess the offender’s level of risk to the community and to place the most high risk offenders in the specialized DV probation unit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- DV offenders are court-ordered to attend a monthly Accountability Group held at DCP. The group is an informal discussion-based group in which offenders can share advice and support each other’s efforts in being accountable for their actions. Bruce shared that the group has</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
been well-received by clients.

- Bruce explained that research has shown that increased frequency of contact between offenders and probation officers has affected offender behavior and decreased recidivism, particularly in domestic violence and DUI cases. Bruce passed out a handout summarizing the data on recidivism that Whatcom County District Court Probation had collected during the past decade, which indicated that recidivism had dropped after increased, specialized probation had been introduced.

- District Court Probation does not play a role in pre-sentencing investigations, setting requirements, or making recommendations; the court controls the policy, but there is frequent communication between Probation and the judges regarding the overall goals of the probation system.

**Washington State Department of Corrections**

- Grace Scholtz, Department of Corrections Officer 3, presented on Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC) offender monitoring.

- The Washington State Department of Corrections supervises felony offenders in Whatcom County and has specialized caseloads for high risk domestic violence, sex offenders, mental health, homeless offenders and sentencing alternative programs.

- The court orders offender supervision and the Department of Corrections classifies risk and places the offender in the appropriate unit. The DOC assesses offender needs, risks, potential for violence, drug history and criminal history.

- There was a discussion regarding youth offenders and Grace stated that there is one 17 year old being monitored by the DOC, but that this is a rare and complicated occurrence.

- Grace explained the frequency at which offenders are required to have contact with DOC officers, which ranges from once every three months, to three times per month depending on the offender’s risk level. DOC officers meet offenders at their homes, their workplaces, out in the community or at the DOC office, and uses special protocols for monitoring offenders who are homeless.

- Offenders must meet certain requirements as ordered by the court, such as not leaving the county or changing addresses, and DOC officers can also impose additional requirements on offenders whose cases they have jurisdiction over, related to risk or to the offender’s crime. DOC officers also have the ability to make arrests and add new charges for cases which they have jurisdiction over.

- High Risk DV offenders and sex offenders complete polygraphs and may also be required to comply with electronic monitoring if there are safety concerns for their victims.

- As a condition of supervision, DV offenders may not engage in any romantic relationships unless the offender discloses their criminal history to their partner in the presence of the DOC officer.

- Grace discussed the impact of the DVHRT and how it has been helpful to connect with others in the field and share resources.

- Grace mentioned that victims of domestic violence who work with the DOC community advocate are also given the opportunity to make
recommendations for the offenders’ release plans and restrict where offenders can go.
- DOC officers limit their caseloads to the mid-thirties to allow for frequent, in-depth contact with offenders and family members.
- Grace expressed that some of the challenges in DOC monitoring include being controlled by state policy which may not have an accurate assessment of the needs, and the fact that 12 to 18 months of monitoring may not be enough time to create significant changes.
- There was a discussion regarding availability of treatment and behavioral health resources for offenders in Whatcom County, in which several members expressed that these resources are lacking.
  - Susan shared that as part of the GTEA grant, Melissa Lacki will be coordinating a conference addressing Offender Accountability in Whatcom County and that information will be sent out shortly.

5. Review and Discussion: DV Commission Scope of Work, 2017-2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Review and Discussion: DV Commission Scope of Work, 2017-2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Members were given copies of the DV Commission Scope of Work 2017-2018. Members reviewed the Scope of Work and then discussed the following questions in small groups:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- What is most exciting?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- What will be most challenging?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- What is missing?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- What questions do you have?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Large Group discussion:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Regina expressed that she appreciated the focus on prevention.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Alan expressed appreciating the engagement piece. He expressed that it is difficult to get the community engaged when they don’t feel the urgency and have not been affected by the issue personally, and felt that focusing on this engagement would be useful. Alan also stated that it seems that faith communities can be more effective through connecting with service agencies through partnership, rather than recreating the wheel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Christina expressed that she appreciated the difficulties of creating new events, and also thought it could be useful to engage with existing groups and communities and make presentations relevant to these groups. She challenged DV Commission members to think about and connect Susan with ideas for these existing groups.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- There was a discussion about the fatality review process. Susan explained that in the past the DV Commission has conducted extensive reviews on local domestic violence fatalities in order to identify gaps, barriers and areas for improvement in our response to DV. Susan stated that the fatality reviews were well-received by the community and helped to foster a personal connection between the community and the issue of DV.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Riannon asked if all homicides were reviewed and Susan replied that only homicide cases that clearly indicated use of power and coercive control were reviewed. Riannon expressed the opinion that perhaps something could be learned from all intimate partner homicides.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|   - Kathy shared her experience in being a part of the last fatality review process and said that many valuable insights came from the process and that it had an impact on the push to implement the lethality
6. **Adjourn**

*Please turn in Meeting Evaluations to Elizabeth*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>assessment protocol and the DV High Risk Team.</th>
<th>@ 10:05am</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence

DV Commission Meeting
Thursday March 23, 2017 from 8:30am-10:00am
@ Mount Baker Theatre Encore Room

The mission of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence is to provide leadership in the community's effort to reduce and prevent domestic violence.

Members Attending: Alan Artman; Sheriff Bill Elfo; Bruce Van Glubt; Christina Kobdish; Darlene Peterson; Dave McEachran; Garret Shelsta; Jon Mutchler; Kathy McNaughton; Karen Burke; Linda Quinn; Mike Riber; Moonwater; Peter Ruffatto; Riannon Bardsley; Sharon Rutherford; Silvia Johnson

Members Absent: Chief Cliff Cook; Dave Reynolds; Jon Komorowski; Katie Olvera; Ken Levinson; Mary Welch; Michelle Zlotek; Regina Delahunt

Staff Present: Susan Marks; Liz Stuart; Melissa Lacki; Elizabeth Montoya

Guests: Ann Bernsten, DVSAS; Caryl Dunavan, DV Specialist; Chief Kevin Turner, Ferndale Police Department; Melanie Campos, Ferndale Police Department; Justin Pike, Ferndale Police Department; Richard Hart, Lummi Tribal Police Department; Bridget Reeves, Lighthouse Mission; Bobbi Virta, United Church of Ferndale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agenda Item</th>
<th>Discussion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1. Welcome and Introductions | Welcome and Introductions  
- Reminder to complete meeting evaluations  
- Welcome new member |
| 2. MOTION: Consent Agenda | MOTION: Consent Agenda  
- Minutes from January 26, 2017  
  - Members were provided copies of the minutes from the 1/26/2017 meeting for review. **Alan Artman** made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting. **Kathy McNaughton** seconded. The motion passed unanimously. |
- Melissa announced that the DV Commission is hosting a conference on Program and System Accountability for Domestic Violence Offenders, featuring Ty Schroyer of Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs (DAIP). The one-day conference will be offered on two dates, April 19th and 20th, and takes place 8:00am to 4:30pm at St. Luke’s Community Health Education Center in Bellingham. Registration is now open online at or by mail. $25 registration fee includes refreshments and lunch. For questions, please contact Melissa Lacki, Project Manager. |
4. Discussion: DV Commission Outreach and Engagement Activities

- What works in prevention and engagement?
- DV Action Month
- Responding to DV: A Toolkit for Faith Communities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DV Commission Outreach and Engagement Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• What works in prevention and engagement?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Chris reviewed the “What works in prevention education” handout, included in packets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- What works in prevention:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Comprehensive plan with multiple strategies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Multiple sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Based in a sound theory of change and/or relevant data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Administered by well-trained individuals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Socio-culturally relevant (including developmentally appropriate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Building on or supporting positive relationships (between participant and their peers, families, or communities)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Addressing beliefs and behaviors at individual, relationship, community, and societal levels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Utilizing varied teaching methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Building trust in community support systems (e.g. law enforcement, victim services, courts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- What might work in prevention: (these approaches have positive outcomes in short term and need more research on longer-term outcomes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Building relationship skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Organizational policies or practices to improve safety or climate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Addressing social norms and behavior with messages from trusted and influential voices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Training bystanders to intervene or speak up against violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- What doesn't work in prevention: (these approaches may be useful as one component of a comprehensive strategy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Brief, one-session educational interventions to change awareness, knowledge, or attitudes/beliefs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Chris asked members to consider this information throughout the meeting's activities. Chris also clarified that the DV Commission's goal in developing prevention strategy is for community messaging for Domestic Violence Action Month (DVAM), and possibly throughout the year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Susan asked members to consider the following questions and discuss in small groups:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Is there something that is new for you in this overview?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Think of a time that you came away from a presentation and it had no impact on your learning or future actions. What was ineffective?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Think of a time that you came away from a presentation and it changed your perspective or your actions. What was effective?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Discussion on what was not effective:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Kevin Turner: When a problem is presented without any solutions or a plan for follow-up or follow-through.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Karen: When it doesn’t feel applicable to me. When we think...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
about DV/SA messaging we should think about what feels applicable to our audience, and that they might not identify with words like, “domestic violence.”

- Discussion on what was effective:
  - Kathy: The words “connection” and “trust” came up. Engaging in the community’s sense of shared responsibility. When you can connect to your audience and they can connect with you.
  - Darlene: Connecting with other players involved in your work. For example, learning about the experience of law enforcement, advocates and victims in the domestic violence protection order process, when I have only had the court perspective.
  - Liz: Challenging your assumptions.
  - Moonwater: Relevancy, the ways that it applies to your life and the invitation to take action.

- DV Action Month
  - Susan asked members to brainstorm strategies for Domestic Violence Action Month in small groups. Members brainstormed and discussed the following prompts in small groups; themes are noted below as well.
    - Target sub-population/community (e.g. parents)
      - Faith communities
      - Youth groups in faith communities
      - Neighborhood associations
    - Ideas for activities (e.g. vigil)
      - Hosting event conversations
      - Book club
      - Train youth group to reach out to faith community with an event
    - Target numbers for success
      - 3 doses per participate
      - After each dose, less participants but engaged more intensively
      - Each participate motived to take 3 actions
    - Desired outcomes (e.g. increased awareness of DV)
      - Engage the community to take action
      - Invoke sense of relevancy and connection
      - Connect to applicable tools and resources
      - Build momentum for conversations

- Responding to DV: A Toolkit for Faith Communities
  - Melissa asked members to brainstorm ideas for proactive prevention activities and actions for the Faith Communities Toolkit. Small groups brainstormed the following activities:
    - Panel discussion
    - Small group discussion (book clubs, women’s group)
    - Education program in youth groups
    - Organizing a conference or inter-faith event for youth
    - Bathroom and bulletin board signage
    - Divorce groups/support groups
- Fundraising
- Creating care packages/donations for children/families
- Connect with the “Let Love Be Our Legacy” campaign
- Opportunity to move from sermon to smaller group with specific outcomes (what to do if...)
- Train leaders about DV warning signs
- Church bulletin – messaging, awareness, resources, web links
- Individual conversations (avocation)
- Small groups activities
- Third party referrals
- Refer to internet checklists and risk assessments
- Faith trust institute – raise awareness
- Incorporating action plans
- Youth group talks
- Training with elders or governing bodies
- Safety cards in bathrooms
- Resources to dispel myths about domestic violence
- Getting to the “why” – relevancy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5. <strong>Annual Meeting</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Invitations in packets, please note time and location and RSVP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Recruitment for DV Commission Officers and Executive Committee at-large members</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Annual Meeting**

- Mike announced that the DV Commission will take place on Thursday, May 25, 2017 from 8:00am to 10:00am at the Leopold Chandelier Room in Bellingham. Elections will take place, followed by strategic planning for Safe Futures. Please RSVP by May 15th to Elizabeth Montoya.
- Mike announced that the DV Commission is currently recruiting for Officers and Executive Committee at-large members. Interested parties should contact Susan, and/or respond to the email that she will send out to all DV Commission members. This is a great opportunity to help shape the DV Commission’s meetings and operations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6. <strong>Adjourn</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| *Please turn in Meeting Evaluations to Elizabeth*

**Adjourn**

@ 10:00am
**Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence**  

**DV Commission Annual Meeting**  
Thursday May 25, 2017 from 8:00am-10:00am  
@ The Leopold Chandelier Room

*The mission of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence is to provide leadership in the community's effort to reduce and prevent domestic violence.*

**Members Attending:** Alan Artman; Riannon Bardsley; Beth Boyd; Karen Burke; Regina Delahunt; Lorayne Dennis; Silvia Johnson; Jon Komorowski; Ken Levinson; Kathy McNaughton; Jon Mutchler; Darlene Peterson; Linda Quinn; Dave Reynolds; Mike Riber; Peter Ruffatto; Garrett Shelsta; Bruce Van Glubt; Mary Welch; Mary Welch; Moonwater

**Members Absent:** Chief Cliff Cook; Sheriff Bill Elfo; Christina Kobdish; Dave McEachran; Katie Plewa Olvera; Michelle Zlotek

**Staff Present:** Susan Marks; Liz Stuart; Melissa Lacki; Elizabeth Montoya

**Guests:** April Barker (Bellingham City Council); Jessica Bee (Opportunity Council); Charles Burleigh (Mt Baker School District); Sydney Donaldson (Western Washington University); Jon Dukes (WWU Prevention and Wellness); Randy Elsbree (Blaine School District); Geneva Graham (Brigid Collins); Christine Hagstrom (Mt Baker Planned Parenthood); Jeralyn Heil (Catholic Community Services); Jill Iwasaki (Ferndale School District); Michael Lilliquest (Bellingham City Council); Jennifer Moon (UnityCare NW); Emily O’Connor (Lydia Place); Riley O’Leary (Whatcom Prevention Coalition); Blanca Ortega (DVSAS); Michael Parker (Whatcom Homeless Service Center); Jeff Parks (Whatcom County Sherriff’s Office); Kelsey Peronto (Northwest Youth Services); Amanda Robins (Northwest Youth Services); Kathleen Roy (Brigid Collins); Jessica Sankey (Bellingham School District); Flo Simon (Bellingham Police Department); Olivia Solomon (Lummi Victims of Crime); Ron Spanjer (Blaine School District); Annie Taylor (DSHS Children’s Administration); Bobbi Virta (United Church of Ferndale); Kathy Washatka (Opportunity Council); Emily Wilson (Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center); Page (Northwest Youth Services)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agenda Item</th>
<th>Discussion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Welcome and Introductions</strong></td>
<td><strong>Welcome and Introductions</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| • Reminder to complete meeting evaluations | • Mike Riber welcomed the group and members and guests introduced themselves and their organizations.  
| • Welcome new member | • New Domestic Violence Commission members, Beth Boyd, Peace Health, and Lorayne Dennis, Lummi Victims of Crime were introduced. |
| **2. MOTION: Consent Agenda** | **MOTION: Consent Agenda** |
| • Minutes from March 23, 2017 | • Minutes from March 23, 2017  
  o Members were provided copies of the minutes from the 3/23/2017 meeting for review. **Alan Artman** made a motion to |
• Regina Delahunt presented the slate of Executive Committee officers:
  o Chair: Mike Riber
  o Vice Chair: Chris Kobdish
  o Secretary: Riannon Bardsley
  o Treasurer: Alan Artman
  o Executive committee at large: Darlene Peterson
  o Executive committee at large: Kathy McNaughton
  o Executive committee at large: Beth Boyd

• Regina Delahunt made a motion to approve the slate of officers. Linda Quinn seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3. Strategic Planning for Safe Futures: Promoting Healthy Relationship and Consent through Partnerships with Schools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Background on DV Commission and Schools:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Susan gave an overview of the history of the DV Commission’s work with schools and school districts. Members received a handout highlighting the information in their packets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1998: As part of founding ordinances, City of Bellingham and Whatcom County designate Whatcom County superintendent as standing member on the DV Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 2007: Developed and adopted school policy for response to DV for both students and employees for Meridian School District; first of its kind in Washington State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 2013: Ferndale School District adapts and adopts policies and procedures for employees experiencing domestic violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 2011-2016: STEP Grant funds a pilot project in the Ferndale School District to address relationship abuse and sexual assault with secondary students. Achievements included:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Youth advisory groups to provide peer education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Multi-disciplinary school protocol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Annual all-staff training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Ferndale Community Coalition formed and institutionalized</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Full-day county-wide youth summit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Advocacy, support groups, and prevention education at schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 2012-2013: Key recommendation (1 of 12) of Whatcom County DV Fatality Review Panel: Whatcom County schools/school districts address relationship abuse and sexual assault as it impacts students. Strategies to include: developing policies and procedures, identifying a prevention liaison for each school, training all staff in identification and response, working with community partners to ensure on-site prevention education and services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 2015-2018: Goal (1 of 4) of the DV Commission’s Strategic Plan is established to increase capacity in the community to address domestic violence as it impacts children and youth. Strategy: Expand efforts to address the response to and prevention of dating and sexual violence in local schools and school districts. Target outcome: Expansion of the</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
pilot program in the Ferndale School District into the elementary, middle, and high schools in other Whatcom County school districts

**Overview of Safe Futures:**

- Liz Stuart presented an overview of the Safe Futures project to members. Members received handouts highlighting Safe Futures goals, strategies and activities in their packets.
- The Safe Futures project is a collaborative, school-based project between the DV Commission and Ferndale, Blaine, and Mt. Baker School Districts to identify and institutionalize enhanced response and prevention for relationship abuse and sexual assault through:
  - developing policies and providing training
  - increasing capacity among influential adults
  - engaging youth in action-oriented solutions
  - implementing school-based services and prevention education
- Liz informed members that the Safe Futures Task Force will meet again in July for strategic planning regarding marginalized communities, with a focus on Native youth, LGBTQ+ youth, and youth experiencing homelessness or housing instability. Date to be announced.

**Safe Futures Strategic Planning**

- Susan Marks introduced guest facilitator, Kathy Washatka, who would facilitate the Safe Futures Strategic Planning session.
- Kathy Washatka introduced the strategic planning activity and encouraged participants to use this opportunity to bring their unique perspectives and fields of knowledge to the planning process.
- Each table was provided with data packets specific to the following categories: Elementary School Themes; Middle and High School Themes; District-Wide Themes; Community Service Provider Themes; and Community Member Themes. Data included survey responses from youth and school staff, as well as notes from interviews and focus groups with school administrators, school counselors, teachers, parents and social services providers from all school districts.
- Members were given time to review their table’s data packet and then discussed the data in small groups, documenting their responses to the following questions:
  - What about this data makes you feel optimistic?
  - What surprises you about this data?
  - Based on this information, what are we missing?
  - What is the burning issue for you here? What is your top priority or what needs the most attention?
- After the discussion, members shared their groups’ responses with the large group. Responses are recorded in a separate document.
- Kathy concluded the strategic planning process and reminded the group that the follow up Safe Futures Strategic Planning meeting would be held in July.

4. Adjourn  @ 10:00am
**Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence**

**DV Commission Annual Meeting**

Thursday July 27, 2017 from 8:30am-10:00am

@ The Mount Baker Theatre Encore Room

*The mission of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence is to provide leadership in the community's effort to reduce and prevent domestic violence.*

**Members Attending:** Beth Boyd; Karen Burke; Chief Cliff Cook; Regina Delahunt; Sheriff Bill Elfo; Christina Kobdish; Dave McEachran; Kathy McNaughton; Moonwater; Jon Mutchler; Linda Quinn; Mike Riber; Peter Ruffatto; Sharon Rutherford; Mary Welch; Michelle Zlotek

**Members Absent:** Alan Artman; Riannon Bardsley; Lorayne Dennis; Silvia Johnson; Jon Komorowski; Ken Levinson; Katie Olvera; Darlene Peterson; Dave Reynolds; Garrett Shelsta; Kevin Turner; Bruce Van Glubt

**Staff Present:** Susan Marks; Liz Stuart; Melissa Lacki

**Guests:** Amanda Watson, Minnesota Indian Women’s Sexual Assault Coalition; Diane Docis and Denise Eng, Praxis International; Regina Madison, Office on Violence Against Women; Olivia Solomon and Terrance (TJ) Adams, Lummi Victims of Crime; Amber Icay and Hannah Nectel, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services; Cassandra Kuestermeyer, Department of Corrections; Kathy Hanbury, St. Joseph’s Hospital; Matt Huffman, Ferndale Police Department; Claudia Murphy, Bellingham Police Department; Kelsey Peronto, Northwest Youth Services; Margaret Vlahos, Whatcom Community College

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agenda Item</th>
<th>Discussion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **1. Welcome and Introductions** | - Reminder to complete meeting evaluations  
- Introduce DV Commission members and guests  
- DV Commission members were reminded to complete their meeting evaluations at the end.  
- DV Commission members introduced themselves and their agencies. Introductions included:  
  o Guest presenters and visitors: Amanda Watson, Minnesota Indian Women’s Sexual Assault Coalition; Kata Issari, Diane Docis and Denise Eng, Praxis International; Regina Madison, Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)  
  o Focus group members: Olivia Solomon and Terrance (TJ) Adams, Lummi Victims of Crime; Amber Icay and Hannah Nectel, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services; Cassandra Kuestermeyer, Department of Corrections |
| **2. MOTION: Consent Agenda** | - Minutes from May 25, 2017  
- Members were provided copies of the minutes from the 5/25/2017 meeting for review. **Karen Burke** made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting. **Regina Delahunt** seconded. The motion passed unanimously. |
3. Overview: Sexual Assault National Demonstration Audit

- Exploration of DV Commission mission expansion to include sexual assault
- Audit process

Exploration of DV Commission Mission Expansion to Include Sexual Assault:

- Mike Riber provided an overview of the history of considering a mission expansion, noting two documents in the packets: one from the Strategic Plan, and the other providing basic data about sexual assault. He explained that our entity has the authority to make recommendations to the City and County governments for approval. To move forward, we have received a grant to do a Safety Audit for our criminal justice response to sexual assault. We have done Safety Audits four times before, and because of that experience, we have additionally been selected as a national demonstration site for adapting these Audits from domestic violence to sexual assault. The findings of this Audit will be brought back to the Commission and we will decide on whether to recommend an expansion of our mission, or not. This will likely occur in May 2018. Then we will let the City and County make their decisions based our recommendations. As you think about this, we want to think about how this impact partners, such as DVSAS.

- Karen Burke added that as a service agency, DVSAS has a mission to end domestic violence and sexual assault. She reminded attendees of the role of DVSAS as a service provider and the role of the Commission to assess and make recommendations for systems. She stated that DVSAS would fully support the help of the Commission in also assessing how our systems respond to sexual assault, as it is difficult for service providers to step out of their day to day response to also advocate for systems change.

Audit process

- Denise Eng from Praxis International presented a brief overview on the Safety Audit process. The Audit has its foundation in institutional ethnography (referred to as “the sociology of the people”) and observes and studies institutions from the perspective of the people who use those systems.

- Ellen Pence, founder of Praxis International, studied this methodology and Praxis uses this method as its primary tool for improving systemic responses to gender-based violence. It is a systemic method for looking at how safety and accountability for survivors of domestic violence are incorporated in the everyday practices of institutions. This is not an assessment of individual actions and motives, but how work is organized to authorize responders to act.

- There are 8 categories identified by practice for assessing those authorizations. These categories include: mission, purpose and function; rules and regulations; administrative practices (including forms, which tell us what is institutionally valid information); linkages; accountability; training and education; resources. The Audit is completed with an interdisciplinary team, who are trained and then begin an investigative process to highlight gaps in our responses, including mapping out a process. From there, they complete interviews, text analysis (looking at documents and case files), focus groups, and observations. The next step is a debrief to discuss what
they saw and learned, to identify gaps and formulate recommendations for improvements.

- Mike Riber asked if there were any specific elements we should be paying attention to in adapting the Audit from domestic violence to sexual assault.
- Denise Eng stated that there have been a few examples of sexual assault Audits around the country, however, the toolkit uses all examples from DV. One question to ask for sexual assault is: What does safety mean in the context of sexual assault? For example, physical safety might mean something different for survivors of sexual assault, they may not need physical safety as their primary concern---they might need justice, or emotional safety, or some other thing that we have not yet identified.

4. Practitioner Focus Group: Advocates for Survivors of Sexual Assault

- Data collection instructions
- Introduce focus group participants
- Focus group
- Report out and next steps for Audit

- Melissa Lacki introduced the sexual assault panel and project. She specifically stated that this Audit limits its focus to how we respond to sexual assault survivors who are age 16 and older. Melissa pointed out Audit Team members in the room (there are thirteen total members on the Audit team).
- Attendants were instructed to take notes during the practitioner focus group. These notes will be used to collect information regarding identified themes and help to shape the Audit question and process.
- Focus group participants included Olivia Solomon, Victim Advocate for LVOC; Cassandra Kuestermeyer, Community Corrections Officer for the WA State DOC; Hannah Nectel, Volunteer Advocate for DVSAS; Amber Icay, 24-hour Services Manager at DVSAS; and Terrence Adams, Advocate at LVOC. Diane Docis from Praxis International was the facilitator.
- During the focus group, Diane Docis posed several questions to the participants regarding the experiences of sexual assault survivors in navigating local systems. Focus group participants discussed the questions among themselves while DV Commission members observed and took notes on themes, gaps, strengths and questions.

Report out: themes, gaps, strengths, and questions:

- **Focus group notes are located in a separate document.**
- **Observer notes are located in a separate document.**
- Margaret: That first contact stood out, with the need for feeling validation and believed.
- Moonwater: The need for justice, empowerment, accountability, healing, and safety. I also heard some differences in how justice is defined by the legal system and individual survivors. Curious about exploring this conversation through the lens of restorative justice, because I think that philosophy touches on those themes in a salient way.
- Beth: Cultural differences, not just for Tribal, but I hear that Terrence and Olivia are looking at healing in the context of their whole community. There is an offender and also they came from a family
and it can absolutely tear families apart. What was the root cause, what was the beginning of that?

- Kathy: Everyone mentioned trauma-informed care. The simple knowledge of how important it is at sentencing and the well-placed expressions of compassion, and the opposite of what happens in the lack of that in a police interview or in any other point in the process.
- Karen: One of the most important things is that the survivor has been heard, and then the chance to be supported by the community. That they feel that validation at all points in our community response.
- Claudia: SANE nurses were reported as strengths.
- Christina: Policies in schools seemed to be a gap.
- Moonwater: A gap of responsiveness in letting the survivor lead and then being ready to respond when they are ready to disclose or move forward.
- Sharon: Is there some collateral material that a survivor walks away with? Legal system is cumbersome for anyone, but with trauma, it seems important that victims have something physical to review later.
- Karen: I want to be trauma-informed, but also want to make sure that the community is responding regardless of whether a victim wants that. Our community needs to respond in a way that says we do not tolerate violence in our community, so it’s a balance between prioritizing justice as a community and letting victims lead.
- Margaret: Gap in victims needing to repeat their stories again and again.
- Margaret: Gap that Commissioners or Judges are not appointing an attorney to represent victims in civil cases, when the offender has an attorney.

Next steps for Sexual Assault National Demonstration Audit

- Melissa will compile notes from Commission members, Audit Team members, and guests. Notes will be shared with Audit Team, and used as a key method to help identify the focus/scope (“Audit question”) that we will research.
- Melissa and technical assistance providers from Praxis and MIWSAC will be conducting several “big picture” interviews and observations this week. Melissa and Audit Team members will also do focus groups with survivors of sexual assault, and with SANE nurses, later this summer and early fall.
- Melissa will set up training for Audit Team members in the fall, and the Audit Team will continue data collection with interviews, observations, and text analysis.
- The DV Commission will receive periodic updates about the direction of the Audit, with findings likely to be presented in May 2018 as part of the discussion and decision about Commission’s mission expansion.

5. Adjourn
- Turn in your meeting evaluations and focus group worksheets

@ 10:00am
**Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence**

**DV Commission Meeting**

**Thursday September 28, 2017 from 8:30am-10:00am**

@ Mount Baker Theatre Encore Room

*The mission of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence is to provide leadership in the community's effort to reduce and prevent domestic violence.*

**Members Attending:** Alan Artman; Riannon Bardsley; Beth Boyd; Chief Cliff Cook; Regina Delahunt; Sheriff Bill Elto; Silvia Johnson; Christina Kobdish; Jon Komorowski; Jon Mutchler; Katie Olvera; Linda Quinn; Sharon Rutherford; Garrett Shelsta; Kevin Turner; Michelle Zlotek; Moonwater

**Members Absent:** Karen Burke; Lorayne Dennis; Ken Levinson; Dave McEachran; Kathy McNaughton; Darlene Peterson; Dave Reynolds; Mike Riber; Peter Ruffatto; Bruce Van Glubt; Mary Welch

**Staff Present:** Susan Marks; Liz Stuart; Melissa Lacki; Elizabeth Montoya

**Guests:** Sgt. Claudia Murphy, Bellingham Police Department; Chris Roselli, Western Washington University

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agenda Item</th>
<th>Discussion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Welcome and Introductions</strong></td>
<td><strong>Welcome and Introductions</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Reminder to complete meeting evaluations</td>
<td>• DV Commission members introduced themselves and their agencies. Introductions included new DV Commission Member, Ferndale Police Chief Kevin Turner, Chris Roselli (Western Washington University), and Claudia Murphy (Bellingham Police Department).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Introduce DV Commission members and guests</td>
<td>• DV Commission members were reminded to complete their meeting evaluations at the end.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MOTION: Consent Agenda</strong></td>
<td><strong>MOTION: Consent Agenda</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Minutes from July 27, 2017</td>
<td>• Members were provided with copies of the minutes from the 7/27/2017 meeting for review. <strong>Jon Mutchler</strong> made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting. <strong>Garret Shelsta</strong> seconded. The motion passed unanimously.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Review, questions, comments</td>
<td>• Members were provided with copies of the DV Commission Expansion flowchart and timeline.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Chris introduced the flowchart and asked members to review.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DV Action Month</strong></td>
<td><strong>DV Action Month</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Susan introduced the Domestic Violence Action Month (DVAM) calendar and asked members to choose one action per week to take.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Members were also asked to “like” the DV Commission page on Facebook and write posts asking their followers to do the same. Members were also asked to post the DVAM calendar at their workplace where others can see it.

- In October, DV Commission members were asked to complete their weekly action and share with their networks; comment on DVAM Facebook posts; share the DVAM Facebook posts; and tag other leaders in the community in the posts and ask them to comment, share, and take action.

### Review of Domestic Violence-Related Data

- Petitions for DV protection orders in Whatcom county
- Lethality Assessment Program and victims who identify as LGBTQ+
- DV High Risk Team (DVHRT) and offender accountability outcomes
- Report out to large groups

### Review of Domestic Violence-Related Data

- Regina introduced the data review activity. Members were divided into three groups, reviewing data regarding Petitions for DV Protection Orders in Whatcom County; Lethality Assessment Program and victims who identify as LGBTQ+; and DV High Risk Team and Offender Accountability Outcomes. Members were asked to review the data packets in their small groups, discuss the following questions and document their responses:
  - **What?** What data did you review? What observations stood out?
  - **So what?** What impact could this have on people who are victims, children in the home, or offenders of domestic violence?
  - **Now what?** What actions make sense? Who takes those actions? When?

- After giving groups times to review and respond to the data, groups shared their observations.

- Petitions for DV protection orders in Whatcom county
  - Michele Zlotek reported out on the Domestic Violence Protection Order (DVPO) data. The group observed how the law enforcement calls for DV have maintained steady but victim services have gone up. The number of petitions for DVPOs in Whatcom County has gone down significantly.
  - The overall rate that DVPOs are granted in the state of Washington is high, but very low in Whatcom County District Court.
  - The group observed several comments from survivor focus groups regarding challenges and barriers in obtaining DVPOs. The group commented that survivors could become discouraged by the confusion of navigating systems.
  - Survivors may not report in tribal areas or in certain cultures because of family members and cultural barriers. There may also be a distrust of law enforcement or fear of getting relatives in trouble.
  - The group commented on challenges with commissioners in district court, ongoing cultural barriers, and opposite trends of service requests and POs petitioned for granted.
  - The group shared that they would like to develop a better understanding of why POs are not being granted. Whatcom
could lead state-wide efforts to figure out why this is happening, look at the history of the issue, and focus on the specific populations that are least likely to apply.

- **Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) and victims who identify as LGBTQ**
  - Linda Quinn reported out on the LAP and victims who identify as LGBTQ+ data.
  - The group observed the following themes from interviews LGBTQ+ survivors of DV: Fear of being believed; Fear of identity being misunderstood; Need for LE and service providers to be able to identify the aggressor; Isolation and further victimization; Need for education on healthy relationships and definition of DV; Lack of an LGBTQ+ community center; Need for first responders to be openly affirming about support for LGBTQ victims.
  - The group noted that Whatcom County’s LAP data on DV in same-gender relationships does not match national data—this gap raises questions. Is DV being underreported in LGBTQ communities in Whatcom county?
  - The group considered this data to be a cause of concern because victims and their children may be less likely to report abuse, which can lead to a continuation of the cycle of abuse. There may also be insufficient opportunities for support and prevention education for LGBTQ victims of DV, and resources and education for service providers.
  - The group discussed the following strategies: 1) Sharing resources among agencies, including training; 2) Capitalize on social media to market resources; 3) Edit forms to make them more LGBTQ-friendly; 4) Create a culture of safety by asking genuine, open questions, listening, and believing; and 5) Review the LAP screening to determine if all questions are relevant to the LGBTQ community.

- **DV High Risk Team (DVHRT) and offender accountability outcomes**
  - Claudia Murphy reported out on DVHRT.
  - The group noted that there is a lack of apparent data on recidivism, and questions remain as to whether the DVHRT is impacting it.
  - The group noted that DVHRT has been meeting for the last three years and the data that was reviewed ended a year ago in October. Since then, DVHRT numbers of referrals have increased significantly and we don’t yet have data reflecting the most recent progress.
  - Claudia reported that DVHRT has seen huge differences in accountability, convictions and time between reporting and arrest, and that the biggest asset of the DVHRT, according to its members, is communication between systems.
  - The question remains: How much is batterers treatment and counseling happening and what effect does it have?
  - One of the statistics reviewed in the data was concerning bail. The group was pleased that bail in increasing in some circumstances, but the group also noted that there are other
movements regarding jail alternatives and bail reduction or elimination. Claudia noted that the concern from the group was victim safety in the time between the arrest and the bail release for offenders.
- The group would like to collect additional data on cases occurring throughout the past year to see if there has been additional change.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Adjourn</th>
<th>@ 10:00am</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Turn in your meeting evaluations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The mission of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence is to provide leadership in the community's effort to reduce and prevent domestic violence.

Members Attending: Alan Artman; Riannon Bardsley; Beth Boyd; Regina Delahunt; Chief David Doll; Sheriff Bill Elfo; Christina Kobdish; Ken Levinson; Dave McEachran; Jon Mutchler; Katie Olvera; Darlene Peterson; Linda Quinn; Mike Riber; Peter Ruffatto; Sharon Rutherford; Garrett Shelsta; Kevin Turner; Mary Welch; Michelle Zlotek

Members Absent: Karen Burke; Lorayne Dennis; Silvia Johnson; Jon Komorowski; Kathy McNaughton; Moonwater; Dave Reynolds; Bruce Van Glubt

Staff Present: Susan Marks; Liz Stuart; Melissa Lacki; Elizabeth Montoya

Guests: Chris Roselli, Western Washington University; Asia Fields, Western Washington University

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agenda Item</th>
<th>Discussion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Welcome and Introductions</td>
<td>Welcome and Introductions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Reminder to complete meeting evaluations</td>
<td>• DV Commission members introduced themselves and their agencies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Introduce DV Commission members</td>
<td>• DV Commission members were reminded to complete their meeting evaluations and commitment forms at the end of the meeting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOTION: Consent Agenda</td>
<td>MOTION: Consent Agenda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Minutes from September 28, 2017</td>
<td>• Members were provided with copies of the minutes from the 9/28/2017 meeting for review. Regina Delahunt made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting. Alan Artman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Members were provided with copies of the DV Commission’s newly adopted social media policy. Members reviewed the procedure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DV Commission 2018</td>
<td>DV Commission 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Calendar of meetings</td>
<td>• Members were provided with the DV Commission meeting calendar for 2018. Chris noted that in May 2018 is the Annual Meeting and the time is extended.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Commitment form</td>
<td>• Members were provided with their 2018 commitment forms and were asked to complete the forms and turn in to Elizabeth.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DV Homicides
Susan shared an update regarding the DV Commission’s role in responding to local domestic violence homicides.

KC McClanahan was killed by her husband Anthony in Utah, but they had previously lived (and met and married) in Bellingham. According to media reports, she was actively leaving him when she was killed. He has been charged and is in custody. Her family and friends say that there is a history of abuse and she was fearful of him. He has past civil custody cases in Whatcom County.

The most recent homicide in the community was that of Tanya and Benton Rowe by her husband, Kevin Rowe. This is currently under investigation by BPD.

Chief David Doll noted that BPD has reached out to the Bellingham School District because of their connection to Tanya, for support and to inform them of the investigation process. BPD is also supporting their officers through support groups and debriefing. The officer support program in the community is also an important resource for families, and the team of support officers work with families 24/7 to help them through trauma.

Sharon shared that the recent victims were her neighbors and mentioned that she may try to approach Tanya Rowe’s mother to talk about the impact, and what is needed.

Susan noted that our role as a Commission may include completing case reviews on the offender and victim and their contact with local systems. We may ask if we can learn from this, and discover if there are things we can to differently in the future. The Law and Justice meeting will be meeting next week and will discuss this further.

Susan also noted that we are available to reach out to local media for accurate data on domestic violence statistics locally, DV dynamics, and resources. We are also available if requested to talk with employers, faith communities, health care providers.

Susan noted that the Bellingham City Council reached out to us last week about doing a vigil for Tanya and at this point we are not going to move forward. We haven’t heard of this being a desire from the family and people who are close to Tanya at this time, but if it is requested, the DV Commission can support it.

2017 DV Commission Project Updates
- Full Faith and Credit in DV Protection Orders
- Toolkit for Faith Communities
- Safe Futures
- Sexual Assault National Demonstration Audit

2017 DV Commission Project Updates
- Full Faith and Credit in DV Protection Orders, presented by Ken Levinson.
  - “Full Faith and Credit” refers to the issue of protection orders being honored in jurisdictions other than the one in which it was issued. It is a protection guaranteed by the Violence Against Women Act. It has come up in our community largely due to jurisdictional issues between the county court and the tribal courts. Protected individuals may travel from tribal to city communities, and need to ensure that they are protected wherever they choose to go.
  - In a panel of local providers, it was noted that there are challenges with enforcing tribal protection orders. City and county
law enforcement have experienced challenges in determining whether protection orders are valid if they are not entered into the county data system.

- The Full Faith and Credit Task Force identified that tribal members had several obstacles to overcome to get their orders entered into the state system, and worked to lessen the burden on survivors by improving the way systems can interact with one another regarding these orders.
- Sandy Kiele from Superior Court noted that tribal members could come to the courthouse and could fill out paperwork to have their order stamped into the state system. However, we learned that this was not an easy process for survivors who may be experiencing trauma, crisis, and lack of transportation. We identified that it would be helpful if the courts could talk to each other directly.
- Now any time an order is put into place in a tribal court, it is automatically emailed to superior court and entered into the state system. Anytime a tribal court order is modified or dismissed, it’s also sent to county courthouse. Now the burden is not on the petitioner, but on the systems.
- Riannon asked if there has been any follow up on how this process has been working. Susan noted that what we have heard from the tribal courts has been positive, but we have not run any data at this time. Susan will try to gather data in January 2018.
- Beth asked if there have been any issues after hours or over the weekend. Ken noted that the process is as immediate as any other process can be in the courthouse, and is limited to weekday hours. The tribal orders are sent to the county court immediately, so there should not be a delay there.
- Darlene commented that the wheels of justice ride exceedingly slow and that she finds it amazing that the task force was able to implement a change in such a short time.

• Toolkit for Faith Communities, presented by Garret Shelsta.
  - Garret presented an activity about the importance of relationships. The toolkit attempts to hone in on the importance of relationships—faith communities are one of the largest social gathering places in the county and it’s where relationships are formed. That’s where we want to infuse this knowledge. These are familiar relationships and there is a feeling of safety there that we can harness to have difficult and important conversations.
  - Faith communities are often trusted with the aftercare of DV situations. There have been horror stories about how faith communities have perpetuated harm, so giving them the tools to address good aftercare is something the DV Commission wanted.
  - Some of the Commission’s goals include reaching youth, and faith communities are one of the largest points for reaching youth, outside of school and sports.
o One of the primary challenges is competing needs inside of a community. There are many social interests within the community, and it can be difficult to make time for this topic.

o Wins: Being connected to the DV Commission and to the faith communities helps the DV high risk team. There was an incident with a high-risk case and because we knew that the family was involved with a faith community, we were able to reach out and get this on their radar. Every time the toolkit gets into someone’s hands, we have the opportunity to have conversations about it and they are very thankful for it. It has very actionable items that they can use. Not just issues of DV, but also building healthy relationships and other preventative measures.

o One challenge that we ran into was developing presentations, sermons, lectures, and workshops—all of which required extensive time and planning. We were able to get the toolkit into the hands of small group leaders, and we are working on giving the leaders the tools they can use to inform their congregations through their own means.

o Garret shared a clip from a sermon addressing DV that reached 3500+ people in the community.

- Safe Futures, presented by Linda Quinn
  o Linda asked the group to think about what they would hope young people in their lives would gain from school. The group listed confidence, safety, belonging, community, health, kindness.
  o Linda pointed out that it is very difficult to measure how well our young people have attained these things by using standardized testing. With the Safe Futures project, we want to reframe the way we look at prevention. When the No Child Left Behind act was adopted, it was framed as an achievement gap—teachers and youth had to work harder. Teachers and youth were to blame if they didn’t succeed. The way we frame an issue is the way we solve it, so we are now moving to identify opportunity gaps. What do teachers and students bring to the classroom, and what are the gaps?
  o The DV Commission and the Ferndale School District received the STEP grant several years ago to increase prevention, services, and systems in the middle and high schools. Because of the STEP project, the Ferndale School District now has mandatory trainings on responding to domestic violence and sexual assault for all school staff. Youth prevention programs were also developed.
  o The group transformed after the grant ended, and became the Ferndale Community Coalition. A year ago, the Ferndale school board was asked to present on the Ferndale Community Coalition at the annual school board conference and it was so well-received that it’s become a state model.
  o The Safe Futures grant now includes the Mt Baker and Blaine school districts and has expanded to address elementary school. It has also brought several additional partners to the team: Brigid Collins and Northwest Youth Services.
The Safe Futures project: supports a whole child frame for addressing the way schools work with children and youth; promotes a systems approach to developing healthy relationships; fosters strong partnerships because schools can’t do it alone; moves the focus from “all youth” to each individual young person, placing particular emphasis on those most vulnerable and/or marginalized; and acknowledges and amplifies the power of student voice and youth activism.

- Sexual Assault National Demonstration Audit, presented by Katie Olvera
  - Earlier this year, Katie and Melissa attended a training with Praxis International on conducting institutional audits. A local Audit team was formed, which includes a diverse group of representatives from various systems, and the team also attended a day-long audit training.
  - The goal of the community audit project is to assess, strategize, and answer the question: How is the Bellingham-Whatcom County criminal legal system organized to meet the justice needs of sexual assault victims, particularly those of young adult and Native victims?
  - The focus is on improving our systems together, not critiquing.
  - We completed a one-week intensive data-collection process and within a week we collected data from 30 interviews, several focus groups, observations, and case reviews.
  - Findings are very limited so far, but we are beginning to identify strengths and gaps. We also heard from survivors about what is helpful and not helpful in systems responses. One broad conclusion that we are seeing is that there are delays in responses in the criminal legal system and this is discouraging for victims.
  - Next steps: we have more data to collect, we will narrow down strengths and gaps, make our recommendations and bring them to the community and the DV Commission.

1. Adjourn
   - Turn in your meeting evaluations and commitment forms to Elizabeth @ 10:00am