MINUTES FOR THE
BELLINGHAM-WHATCOM COUNTY COMMISSION
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
January 2, 2001

Members Attending: Ione Adams, Dale Baker, Dale Brandland, Randy Carroll, Regina Delahunt, Patricia Fabiano, Elaine Hanson, Emil Hecht, Joan Hoisington, Gerald Hunter, Kathleen Marshall, Dave McEachran, Marty Snyder, Linda Storck, Karen Summers, Fred Thompson, Rick Todd, Bruce Van Glubt

Members Absent: Cheryl Boal, Gary Goodman, Carolyn Jensen, Bryan May, Jon Ostlund, John Thompson, Kathy Washatka

Guest Attending: Sam Crawford, Whatcom County Council Member; Florence DiJulio, St. Joseph’s Hospital; Kari Galbraith, St. Joseph’s Hospital

Staff Attending: Sue Parrott, Domestic Violence Commission Coordinator
Linda Ward, Receptionist/Secretary, Whatcom Crisis Services

The regular monthly meeting of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence was called to order by Dale Brandland, Chair at 10:30 a.m., Tuesday January 2, 2001 at the St. Luke’s Community Health Education Center, 3333 Squalicum Parkway, Bellingham, WA.

1. WELCOME/REVIEW AGENDA/ANNOUNCEMENTS
Dale Brandland welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new year.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT
Sam Crawford, Whatcom County Council Member stated that he has been supportive of funding for the DV Commission and is using this meeting to familiarize himself with the workings of the Commission.

3. PRESENTATION
   Domestic Violence Screening and Training at St. Joseph’s Hospital
   Florence DiJulio, Social Work Manager, St. Joseph’s Hospital
   Kari Galbraith, Staff Nurse- Ambulatory Care, St. Joseph’s Hospital

   Kari and Florence attended the 1997 Washington Medical Association Conference where they received information on training and screening for domestic violence. St. Joseph’s is the first hospital in the area to start such a program. Studies have shown that there is a five-fold increase in identifying domestic violence in medical settings when there is consistent domestic violence screening in place.

   Florence explained that the screening process for domestic violence at St. Joseph’s follows five steps:
   - Ask questions/ screen
   - Acknowledge
   - Assess for safety
   - Refer
   - Record/document

   The ultimate goal at St. Joe’s is universal screening for domestic violence. The process was started in the Emergency Room followed by obstetrics (Mother/Baby Unit), then most recently to ambulatory care. The mental health and drug/alcohol rehab units have initiated their own screening program.

   New hires at St. Joe’s are educated on the screening process for domestic violence.
Training strategies
- Involve survivors in program
- Make the screening process easy for staff
- Emphasize that screening itself is an intervention
- Resource cards and brochures throughout hospital

Florence concluded the presentation by sharing some of the challenges in implementing domestic violence screening:
- Finding private and safe places to screen patients
- Time for staff education on domestic violence and the screening process
- Resistance form staff to screening
- No dedicated staff time to coordinate/monitor the project.

4. CONSENT AGENDA
   Approve December 5, 2000 Commission meeting minutes
   **#01-01 MOTION:** Gerald Hunter made the motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Dale Baker seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

5. STAFF REPORT
   Sue Parrott gave the report.
   - DV and Child Maltreatment Grant
     - Whatcom County did not receive the grant. The formal letter has not arrived yet. Sue will get the grant-planning group together and see if there is interest to continue any of the efforts identified in the grant.
   - Community Survey Project Update
     - Tosco has committed $2,500 now and will review availability of additional funds by the end of January.
     - The Horn Foundation has said no.
     - Intelco has not committed yet.
     - The project can most likely proceed if only $15,000 of the $20,000 is raised.
   - Some of the local dentists have a program called “Give Back a Smile” which provides pro bono dental work to victims of domestic violence.
   - No information on 2001 legislative issues is available at this time. Sue will continue to seek information and share with the Commission.
   - Commission members were informed that there are still bookmakers left from DV Awareness Month for distribution.
   - Sue passed out the 2001 DV Commission’s Work Plans. One for Commission work with timelines and one for independent work groups with no timelines set.

6. REQUEST FOR SUPPORT
   - Fred Thompson asked for a letter of support for a Probation Department application to the Law and Justice Council, which would add 2 probation officers, whose caseload would be limited to DV and assault cases.
   **#01-02 MOTION:** Randy Carroll made the motion that the Commission write a letter of support for the Probation Department’s request to fund an additional 2 probation officers. The two new officers would be assigned to a specialized domestic violence/assault unit. Elaine Hanson seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

   **Executive Committee**
   Dale Brandland gave the report.
   - At the December meeting the Executive Committee recommended a slate of potential members for the Ad-hoc Batterers Treatment Evaluation/Assessment Committee.
#01-03 MOTION: Marty Snyder made the motion to approve the following membership for the Ad-hoc Batterers Treatment Evaluation/Assessment Committee: Dale Brandland, Thom Cathcart, Jerry Hunter, Bryan May, Dave McEachran, Jon Ostlund, Karen Summers, Fred Thompson, Bruce Van Glubt, Judicial Officer (if possible). Randy Carroll seconded the motion. A friendly amendment was made that Commissioner Debra Lev, Bellingham Municipal Court be added to the committee as an advisory member. An amendment was made by Fred Thompson and seconded by Dave McEachran to add Kathleen Marshall to the committee. The motion as amended passed unanimously.

- Discussion on the motion:
  - It was decided that Thom Cathcart will be a voting member of the committee.
  - Concern was expressed that there is only one victim advocate on the committee.

**Operations Committee**

Kathleen Marshall gave the report.

#01-04 MOTION: Kathleen Marshall made the motion to approve the revised FY 2001 DV Commission Budget. Joan Hoisington seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Discussion on the motion:
  - The new budget has no discretionary funds.
  - Each committee will need to plan ahead for special projects so that funding can be obtained.
  - Rick Todd expressed concern about funding for reprinting the “Domestic & Dating Violence Hand book”

#01-05 MOTION: Kathleen Marshall made the motion to approve the 2001 Commission Quarterly Meeting Schedule. Fred Thompson seconded the motion. The motion passed 10 in favor – 7 opposed

- Discussion on the motion:
  - Quarterly meetings will allow Commission members to focus on committee work and comp plan implementation.
  - Each committee will have to be diligent in reporting to the Commission.
  - One of the benefits of monthly Commission meetings was the opportunity to come together as a cross section of the community to keep updated on each other’s work.
  - Concern was expressed that it is too soon to go to quarterly meetings. It would be better to be cautious and go to meetings every other month.
  - If it is found that quarterly meetings do not work, the Commission could return to monthly or bi-monthly meetings.
  - A special Commission meeting will be called if something comes out of a committee that can not wait until the next quarterly Commission meeting.
  - Part of the energy generated comes from morale. It will be hard to keep up the energy if only meeting quarterly.

8. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

9. **ADJOURN**

Dale thanked the Commission for their hard work and adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

The next Commission Meeting will be in April.

Respectfully Submitted
Linda Ward
Receptionist/Secretary
Whatcom Crisis Services
MINUTES FOR THE
BELLINGHAM-WHATCOM COUNTY COMMISSION
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
May 1, 2001

Members Attending: Dale Baker, Dale Brandland, Randy Carroll, Regina Delahunt, Elaine Hanson, Emil Hecht, Joan Hoisington, Gerald Hunter, Carolyn Jensen, Greta Lent, Kathleen Marshall, Marty Snyder, Karen Summers, John Thompson, Rick Todd, Bruce Van Glubt, Kathy Washatka

Members Absent: Ione Adams, Cheryl Boal, Patricia Fabiano, Dave McEachran, Bryan May, Jon Ostlund, Linda Storck

Guest Attending: Karen Burke, Lummi Tribal Court Administrator; Sam Crawford, Whatcom County Council Member; Gary Duim, UnityCare Inc; Mary Rebar, Whatcom Crisis Services; Thom Cathcart, Chambers & Wells

Staff Attending: Sue Parrott, Domestic Violence Commission Director
Linda Ward, Administrative support

The Annual Meeting of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence was called to order by Dale Brandland, Chair at 9:10 a.m., Tuesday May 1, 2001 at the St. Luke’s Community Health Education Center, 3333 Squalicum Parkway, Bellingham, Washington.

1. WELCOME/REVIEW AGENDA
Dale Brandland welcomed everyone.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT
None

3. ANNUAL MEETING, PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL REPORT
Current officers are in the middle of two-year terms.
Officers: Dale Brandland, Chair
Marty Snyder, Vice-Chair
Kathy Washatka, Secretary

A new Commission member was introduced:
Greta Lent, DSHS/DCFS Representative

Commission resignations were announced:
Gary Goodman, Tosco Refining (Major Employer)
Fred Thompson, District Court Probation Director
Jerry Hunter, Whatcom County Superintendents
(as of June 30th)

- Dale Brandland reviewed the annual report.

4. PRESENTATION:
Domestic Violence Perpetrator Treatment: What is it and why do we do it?
Gary Duim, UnityCare, Inc.

- Domestic violence perpetrator treatment and the evaluation are seen by the perpetrator as one of the many punishments given when he/she is convicted. Steps: the perpetrators are
assigned a probation officer; the client makes an appointment for an evaluation with a state certified treatment provider; they fill out extensive paper work including a psychological profile; they have a one-hour interview with a provider. The provider makes a recommendation for domestic violence perpetrator treatment, which is a minimum of 26 weekly 90-minute sessions followed by 6 monthly sessions. Classes include information on power/control, cycle of abuse, responsibility for abuse, and recognition of abuse and violence. Clients are taught to replace their weapons of violence with tools such as timeouts, victim empathy, focus, understanding there is no justification for domestic violence, and learning self control rather than control over others.

- Challenges: 1) Most perpetrators are forced to do treatment causing resistance. It may take six months to work through this resistance. 2) It is difficult to get perpetrators into treatment in a timely manner. 3) Financial concerns for the perpetrator. 4) Distorted view of family.

- Does Treatment Work? Research shows that treatment works marginally but it is hard to measure. It works to a different extent with each perpetrator. Some perpetrators do say they have gotten something out of the treatment.

- Some clients in class have asked “Why didn’t I learn this in High School?” Some perpetrators express that this is the first time they are learning this information.

- What are the causes of domestic violence? The perpetrator causes domestic violence. Patriarchy, its belief systems and the use of power and control are the primary causes for domestic violence and the foundation for the teachings of the treatment programs.

- Other Risk factors: the perpetrator may have witnessed domestic violence as child or been abused as a child. There is alcoholism in about 30% of the cases and alcohol or drug abuse in 60-70% of cases. There may also be mental health issues. The domestic violence treatment provider cannot deal with all of these problems in a 6 month period, especially if there is an alcohol or drug problem. These issues are assessed and referred for other services if needed.

- There is a coordinated community response in Bellingham. The providers meet monthly. Five years ago they made a standard evaluation form for all Bellingham treatment providers to use. There are new standards being worked on now with outside support.

- Questions/Answers:
  - Q: Is there a follow up interview to indicate progress? What is the drop out rate? A: There is no standard set for a follow up interview, if a perpetrator makes it through six months of treatment it means he/she is doing what needs to be done. There is a large drop out rate, one-third to one-half drop out at the beginning. If a perpetrator is in jail or probation is revoked, it is very likely that the perpetrator will not complete treatment.
  - Q: What is the cost involved? A: The one year program with evaluation averages $900. Fees vary among the providers and some offer a sliding scale.
  - Q: What is the rate of recidivism- and those who return for treatment again? A: The providers do not have this information.
  - Q: What authority do the providers have to release non-compliance information? A: The perpetrator signs a compliance agreement. If he/she does not comply, the treatment provider submits a non-compliance report to probation.
  - Q: Since alcohol plays a role in domestic violence what is being done to get perpetrators the help they need in that area? A: Three of the Bellingham treatment providers also offer chemical dependency treatment, so there is coordination there. All treatment providers screen for chemical dependency and refer if needed. If there is a need for chemical dependency treatment it is recommended before the perpetrator is placed in a domestic violence program.

- Dale thanked Gary for all the time and effort he and the other providers put into the presentation.
5. STAFF REPORT

Community Survey Project Update
- Sue reviewed the update included in the meeting packet.
- Northwest Resource Associates has been hired to do the survey.
- The Commission has raised $17,500 for the project but another $2,500 is required. Emil Hecht suggested contacting the Academy for Facial and Plastic Surgeons for funds.
- The ad-hoc committee will need to decide distribution sites for the survey tool. The tool will be distributed in the community over four months.
- The survey will probably be called a women’s health survey rather than a domestic violence survey.
- Sue has sent out press releases. KVOS did a story on the survey April 27th.

Summary of Washington Fatality Review Report
- The Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence report gave the following information:
  - The number of female homicides by intimate partners has stayed steady for 10 years.
  - Nationally and statewide, 30% of female homicides are domestic violence related.
  - On average 25 women are killed each year in WA as the result of domestic violence.
  - Children, family and friends are also victims.
  - Of 30 cases reviewed by Fatality Review Panels, 50% were homicide – suicide.
  - Out of 130 other domestic fatalities 10% of victims were children; 25% were children/friends/family; and 28% involved a homicide-suicide. Only 10% of the offenders had prior convictions for domestic assault. Guns were the weapon of choice.
- Sue has the complete report, with all its recommendations, available for anyone who would like a copy.

Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment Grant
- Sue read part of letter that was received from the Department of Health and Human Services. The review panel thought that Whatcom County’s weakness was in the judicial system. Even though the grant application was carefully worded and the judges were on board, the reviewers did not feel the judges demonstrated clear and strong leadership.
- The committee that worked on the grant has asked if the Commission would consider addressing the issues identified in the grant or to submit the proposal to other funding sources. The Commission agreed that since so much work had gone into this proposal that further work should be considered. The Program Committee will review this issue and make recommendations as part of the September retreat.
- A discussion needs to take place concerning the role of the judges. The Executive Committee will put this on their agenda and bring it to the September Commission Meeting.

Presentations: City, County, CHP, Law and Justice Council
- City Council – Randy Carroll and Sue presented in late February.
- County Council –Marty Snyder, Jerry Hunter and Sue presented in mid April.
- Community Health Partnership – Dale Brandland and Sue to present May 2.
- Law and Justice Council– Dale Brandland and Sue to present May 9.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

January 2, 2001 Commission meeting minutes
October – December 2000 Fiscal and Activity Report
January – March 2001 Fiscal and Activity Report

#01-06 MOTION: Dale Brandland made the motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Dale Baker seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

7. SPECIAL AGENDA ITEM

Full Faith and Credit with Tribal Jurisdictions - Request for Commission Assistance
Karen Burke, Lummi Tribal Court Administrator
Karen Burke asked the Commission for help in putting the state mandated Full Faith and Credit in effect in Whatcom County. This would make court orders effective in all jurisdictions in Whatcom County. Some Lummi tribal members have had difficulty in having Orders for Protection recognized throughout the county. There are other issues as well. Karen stated that we needed to work together to make the system easier and safer for victims of domestic violence. She proposed a facilitated meeting with all jurisdictions present, sponsored by the Commission and the Lummi Tribe.

#01-07 MOTION: Kathleen Marshall made the motion to have the Program Committee make a recommendation on working with the Lummi tribe on Full Faith and Credit issues in Whatcom County. Carolyn Jensen seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Karen Burke was invited to attend the Program Committee meeting to provide more information on who and what would be involved in such a meeting/forum.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS/MOTIONS

Executive Committee

- Funding request to Rotary Clubs
  - Sue Parrott passed a sign-up sheet for service club affiliations. These affiliations may be sources for contributions.
  - The Executive Committee approved a request to each of the four Rotary Clubs for $1,000 each for Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

- Survey Project – contract, need to raise additional $2,500
  - This subject was covered in the staff report. The Executive Committee approved a contract with Northwest Resource Associates that will require the Commission to raise an additional $2,500.

- Commission staffing – Director and Administrative Support
  - Sue Parrott has been asked to take more of a leadership role in the Commission. Her new title will be Director.
  - Sue has volunteered to cut her hours to .8 FTE to allow for 18 hours per week for administrative support. Linda Ward has agreed to fill the position of administrative support. The administrative support structure has been changed and will be more dedicated to the Commission.
  - Randy Carroll often has interns that could be used by the Commission for special projects.

- Proposed County Ordinance for Uniform Terms
  - The County has proposed an ordinance that would make all board and commission terms consistent. If the ordinance is approved, all terms will run from January through December and all DV Commission terms would be extended through December.

Operations Committee

- Quorum at committee meetings
  - It is the charge of the Operations Committee to keep attendance
  - At the last 10 committee meetings only 6 have had a quorum present

- Committee roster
  - The Committee roster shows who is on which committee

- Domestic Violence Training/Orientation:
  - Tuesday, May 29th, 10 am – 1 pm, 1407 Commercial
  - Commission members can bring “guest” with RSVP

- Update on vacancies
  - The Lummi DV Task Force has been asked for a recommendation for Barbara Revey’s vacancy.
  - Jay Clements has been asked to serve as the major employer representative, completing Gary Goodman’s term.
#01-08 MOTION: Kathleen Marshall made the motion to recommend Jay Clements for Major Employer (County appointment) vacancy. Dale Baker seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

- Kathleen Marshall reviewed the 2002 budget. It includes a $10,000 item (city-county funded) for special projects. The exact focus of the special projects has not been determined, although the Operations Committee thought a Community Safety Audit would be a good focus.

#01-09 MOTION: Kathleen Marshall made the motion to approve 2002 Budget with request for Program Committee to bring a recommendation to Executive Committee in June regarding special project focus for the $10,000 request to City/County. Carolyn Jensen seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Ad-Hoc Batterers Treatment Evaluation-Assessment Committee

- Jerry Hunter thanked everyone who served on the committee. The ad-hoc committee held seven meetings.

#01-10 MOTION: Jerry Hunter made the motion to approve recommendations as included in the Final Report. John Thompson seconded the motion. It passed unanimously after discussion.

- Jerry led the Commission members through the final report.

- Comments:
  - Impressive job of putting it together.
  - At this time it is not required that an evaluation be given by a certified provider. The Commission needs to monitor the providers to see how things are progressing.
  - Sue Parrott mentioned that if the Commission approves this report the next steps would include contacting the courts, implementing the recommendations, and monitoring.
  - Bruce Van Glubt commented that these recommendations go a long way in addressing ongoing issues and concerns on the part of the courts/judges. The recommendations represent a great deal of work from the treatment providers. If the Commission didn’t adopt anything else, this work would justify the Commission’s existence.
  - There needs to be a strategy in place on how to present to the courts.
  - The Commission should write a letter of thanks to all ad-hoc committee members.
  - Sue gave members a copy of issues that need follow-up.
  - A new ad-hoc committee should follow-up with the issues identified on the list, starting with a strategy to present the recommendations to the courts. It was decided that there should be some continuity from the last ad-hoc group. Bruce Van Glubt, Karen Summers, and Kathleen Marshall volunteered to serve on the new ad-hoc committee. Joan Hoisington will ask someone from her office to serve on the committee. Bryan May and Dave McEachran will be asked to join. Sue will head up the first meeting and coordinate schedules.

Outreach Committee

- Outreach Presentations
  - The Outreach Committee will be making presentations to increase the exposure of the Commission.
  - Randy Carroll has made presentation to the City of Bellingham and is setting up other presentations with the local municipalities in the county.
  - Rick Todd is working on the local clergy.
  - Pat Fabiano will be talking to local school boards and John Thompson will set those up.
  - Ione Adams will make presentations to local medical associations.

- Outreach Notebooks for Presentations
  - Sue made a binder for community presentations so that presentations will be consistent.

- DV Resource Handbook
  - There are 400 handbooks left. They will be distributed at the presentations.
There are changes that need to be made in the publication prior to re-printing. Funds will need to be raised to pay for the re-printing whenever it is done.

- Domestic Violence Awareness Month

#01-11 MOTION: John Thompson made the motion to approve proposed Domestic Violence Awareness Month activities and the commitment to raise $6,500 towards the cost of all activities. Rick Todd seconded the motion. It passed unanimously after discussion.

- In the past DV Month has had a dedicated amount of funds. This year there are no funds, thus $6,500 will need to be raised.
- Colin Emmett (Bellingham Police) has agreed to do the vigil again this year. The Outreach Committee will meet with him to coordinate the activities as the Commission has agreed to take a lead with the Vigil.
- Sue Parrott will coordinate the forum “Domestic Violence and the Elderly”
- A new banner will be made for DV Awareness Month. It will be hung for three weeks on Holly Street.

Special Funding Issues

- The Commission’s Fund Development Policy states that outside funding requests must be approved by the Commission. Sue distributed a list of potential funding sources for DV Awareness Month and the Survey Project.
- Sam Crawford stated that GP and Intalco may be possible sources of funding due to the correlation between unemployment and increased risk factors for domestic violence among employees/former employees.
- If an organization donates funds for DV Awareness Month they should be recognized at the Vigil and/or with written acknowledgments.

#01-12 MOTION: Marty Snyder made the motion to approve the funding strategy for DV Month and Survey Project. John Thompson seconded the motion. It passed unanimously after discussion.

- It was suggested that an ad-hoc committee be formed to brain-storm about funding issues and provide staff with support and ideas as needed.
- Volunteers for the new Ad-hoc Fund Development Committee: Dale Brandland, John Thompson, Rick Todd, Emil Hecht and Marty Snyder..

Program Committee

- Reviewed charge of committee re: monitoring comp plan implementation
- Reviewed first quarter comprehensive plan report
  - The main challenge is the absence of addressing the guiding principles in the reports.
  - The Commission members took a few minutes to review the report summary.

#01-13 MOTION: Marty Snyder made the motion to approve the First Quarter 2001 Comprehensive Plan Update. Randy Carroll seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

- Marty thanked Greta Lent for filling the vacancy on the comp plan work group left by the resignation of Marijo Olson.
- The Program Committee will be looking at a number of issues and making recommendations to the Commission in September:
  - Community Safety Audit
  - Full Faith and Credit Meeting
  - DV and Child Maltreatment Grant
  - Comp Plan priorities for 2002

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- None
10. **CLOSING COMMENTS**
   - Dale stated that now that the Commission is meeting on a quarterly basis, the strength of the Commission lies with its Committees. It is imperative that committees accomplish their work.
   - Dale thanked Jerry Hunter for the time and hard work he has spent on the Commission. Jerry will be leaving the Commission the end of June. Dale gave a plaque in recognition of the Commission’s gratitude for all of Jerry’s efforts.

11. **ADJOURN**
    Dale thanked the Commission for their hard work and adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

The next Commission Meeting and Retreat will be September 4, 2001 from 8:00 a.m. - noon.

Respectfully Submitted
Linda Ward
Administrative Support
MINUTES FOR THE  
BELLINGHAM-WHATCOM COUNTY COMMISSION  
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
September 4, 2001

Members Attending:    Ione Adams, Dale Baker, Cheryl Boal, Dale Brandland, Randy Carroll, Jay Clements, Regina Delahunt, Patricia Fabiano, Emil Hecht, Joan Hoisington, Carolyn Jensen, Greta Lent, Kathleen Marshall, Dave McEachran, Marty Snyder, Linda Storeck, Karen Summers, John Thompson, Rick Todd, Kathy Washatka

Members Absent:      Bryan May, Jon Ostlund, Bruce Van Glubt

Guest Attending:      None

Staff Attending:      Sue Parrott, Domestic Violence Commission Director, Linda Ward, Administrative support

The September Meeting of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence was called to order by Dale Brandland, Chair at 8:10 a.m., Tuesday September 4, 2001 at Whatcom Crisis Services, 1407 Commercial Street, Bellingham, Washington.

1. WELCOME/REVIEW AGENDA  
   Dale Brandland welcomed everyone and had them introduce themselves

2. PUBLIC COMMENT  
   None

3. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS  
   Dale welcomed Jay Clements, Tosco Refining, as a new Commission member. Jay took a few minutes to introduce himself. Burton Dickerson, Meridian School Superintendent, was introduced as another new member. He was unable to attend the meeting.

4. STAFF REPORT
   Community Survey Project Update  
   - The project is proceeding at a steady pace  
   - Contributors to the project were noted and Dale suggested that individual members send thank you notes  
   - Northwest Associates has already completed:
     - Literature review  
     - Key informant interviews  
     - Two focus groups  
   - Work to be done:
     - Finalize survey sites – possibly 12  
     - Complete the survey tool (questionnaire) – approximately 99% completed  
     - Evaluate survey response as the surveys are completed

   Batterers Treatment Recommendations  
   - In June and July a Batterers Treatment Recommendation Ad-hoc Committee met to develop a strategy to present the recommendations to courts. A summary of the recommendations was mailed out to all judges along with an invitation to a meeting. Police Chiefs, prosecutors, public defenders, probation officers of all Whatcom County courts, batter treatment providers, Department of Corrections and the president of the Bar Association received a letter with a summary of the recommendations and notice that a presentation would be given to judicial officers.
On August 30th a meeting was held with 16 of the 19 Whatcom County judicial officers in attendance. The meeting went very well. The judges were pleased with the recommendations and the work of the Commission.

Some of the judges suggested that a single evaluator system would relieve some of the inconsistencies in the current structure.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

- Sue has been facilitating the gathering of information for all of the events and the overall planning process.
- There will be posters, calendars, bookmarks, and buttons available again this year.
- The Commission has decided to purchase a DV Awareness Month banner to be hung across Holly Street. It will be hung the end of September.
- The forum on domestic violence with older and vulnerable adults (which came from the Comprehensive Plan) has turned out to be very complex. A very diverse group has been working on the implementation.
- On October 10th a conference for intervening agencies will be held with Matthew Weise as one of the trainers. This will be by invitation only for 100 participants. The Commission is co-sponsoring with the Law and Justice Council, Whatcom Crisis Services and the County Executive.
- Commission members were shown a current draft of the DV Awareness Month Calendar. All members are asked to attend at least one event during the month (as part of the performance standards).

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approve May 1, 2001 Commission meeting minutes
Approve April – June 2001 Fiscal and Activity Report
Approve recommendation to appoint Natalia Calhoun as county human service provider representative
Approve 2001 revised Commission budget

#01-14 MOTION: Dale Baker made the motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Dave McEachran seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS/MOTIONS

Executive Committee

- Resignation of Elaine Hanson
  - The Commission received a resignation letter from Elaine Hanson. The Commission is recommending to the County Executive, that Diane Wood (Womencare) be considered fill the vacancy.
- The Operations Committee “disbanded”
  - The Executive Committee plans to recommend a new committee structure at the November Commission meeting based on priorities set at retreat.
- The Commission has approved $500 towards October 10th conference with WCS and L&J Council.
- 2002 Funding Request - $89,000
  - The request is still in the city budget. A request has also been submitted to the county. The 2002 request is $14,000 higher than this year’s allocation.
- The Executive Committee approved a recommendation urging the Law and Justice Council to thoroughly examine and consider implementation of Specialized DV Court in 2002.
  - N.F. Jackson made a presentation to the Executive Committee asking for the Commission’s support and leadership in examining a specialized DV Court in Whatcom County.
  - A grant for the project is being pursued by Superior Court with support from Whatcom Crisis Services and the Commission.
- A discussion was held about what the response of DV Commission should be to community DV fatalities/tragedies.
  - What is the Commissions role, if any?
  - Further discussion will be held at a future Commission meeting.

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Outreach Committee

- Outreach Presentations
  - Presentations for the Bellingham School district have been put on hold.
  - Randy Carroll has made presentations to the Bellingham City Council and the Everson City Council. He has a presentation scheduled for Blaine.
  - The presentation notebook is standardized so that anyone on the Commission could make presentations.
  - Ione Adams volunteered to make presentations to some of the medical community.

- Domestic Violence Awareness Month Budget
  - The Domestic Violence Awareness Month budget is less than last year. There are no funds for media coverage.
  - Ideas for publicity were discussed, including a public presentation at the City Council Meeting and putting the information in the Herald’s guest columns.

- Point of Information Policy
  - The committee recommended that if a Public Information Officer is needed to speak for the Commission, the Commission chair would be the contact person. The chair may wish to delegate the matter to a more informed member of the Commission or to another if there is a conflict.

  #01-15 MOTION: John Thompson made the motion to approve the Point of Information Policy. Karen Summers seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Program Committee

- Full Faith and Credit Update
  - LAW Advocates is taking the lead in setting up a meeting with key stakeholders to address concerns brought forward by Lummi Tribal Court re: full faith and credit issues.

- Second Quarter 2001 Comprehensive Plan Update
  - Monitoring the plan has been the bulk of the work of the Program Committee. The report represents the work and focus of the Commission with help from independent work groups.

  #01-16 MOTION: Marty Snyder made the motion to approve the Second Quarter 2001 Comprehensive Plan Update. Carolyn Jensen seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Operations Committee

- Domestic Violence Training/Orientation
  - Kathleen Marshal thanked all members who have gone through training. There are still 7 members who need the training.

- Commission attendance
  - Four Commission members have been contacted to see if their schedules could be adjusted to attend more Commission meetings.

- Self assessment tool
  - Only 2/3 of the Commission members filled out the assessment tool.

7. ADJOURN

Dale thanked the Commission for their hard work and adjourned the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

The next Commission Meeting will be November 6, 2001 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at St. Luke’s Community Health Education Center, 3333 Squalicum Parkway, Bellingham, WA.

Respectfully Submitted

Linda Ward
Administrative Support
MINUTES FOR THE
BELLINGHAM-WHATCOM COUNTY COMMISSION
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
November 6, 2001


Members Absent: Dale Brandland, Patricia Fabiano, Carolyn Jensen, Jon Ostlund, Marty Snyder, John Thompson, Rick Todd, Bruce Van Glubt, Kathy Washatka

Guest Attending: None

Staff Attending: Sue Parrott, Domestic Violence Commission Director
Linda Ward, Administrative support

The November meeting of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence was called to order by Kathleen Marshall at 10:10 a.m., Tuesday November 6, 2001 at St. Luke’s Community Health Education Center, 3333 Squalicum Parkway, Bellingham, WA.

1. WELCOME
Kathleen Marshall agreed to chair the meeting, as no members of the Executive Committee were able to attend.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT
None

3. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS
Kathleen welcomed new members: Burton Dickerson, Meridian School Superintendent; Shannon Meyer, forensic psychology; Natalia Calhoun, Lummi Nation; and Diane Wood, Womencare. Each gave a short profile.

4. STAFF REPORT
Community Survey Project Update
- Sue distributed a list of participating sites. The number of sites has expanded to offset a lower than anticipated rate of returned surveys.
- Currently, 725 surveys have been returned. The original goal was 2,000, which has been adjusted to 1,000.
- It has been a high maintenance project.
- Sue suggested that Commission members who use any of the healthcare providers’ sites thank them for their participation.
- Sue reported some very preliminary findings:
  - The survey is reaching a wide age range
  - Top five barriers to disclosing:
    - I thought I could manage by myself
    - Embarrassed
    - Not sure that what I experienced was abuse
    - Guilt
    - Fear of partner finding out I had told someone
  - The results may help providers expel some of the barriers
Top five reasons for disclosing to provider:
- Provider took time to listen
- Provider asked questions
- Provider expressed concern for the children
- The person was in crisis and ready to tell someone
- It has been exciting to see the results
- The survey will continue through November. Some of the sites that started in mid-September will be finished earlier.

Batterers Treatment Recommendations
- A follow-up letter was sent to all judges and key stakeholders re: progress toward implementing the recommendations.
- Sue is working with Linda Storck, Bruce Van Glubt and NF Jackson to develop bench book material for judicial officers as related to the recommendations.
- The materials given to the judges will be a quick reference/guideline to help the courts with documentation. The sentencing and disposition forms with all alternatives for treatment will be listed for judges to check in civil and criminal courts.
- It is anticipated the recommendations will go into effect the first of the year.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- All of the events were well attended except for the Domestic Violence Perpetrator Treatment Panel, which had only two participants. “DV: Responses & Resources for Faith Communities” had 50 participants.
- AT&T Broadband has started a new program “Whatcom Matters”. The first program was on DV Awareness month and the DV Commission. The show featured guest panelists Sue Parrott, Jeff Parks, Manca Valum, and Debbie Little.
- The DV Awareness Month Banner can be used every year for promotion.

Domestic Abuse in the Lives of Older & Vulnerable Adults Forum
- There will be an article in the paper next month by Marian Yunghans on “Domestic Abuse in the Lives of Older & Vulnerable Adults”.
- The forum, which was sponsored by the Commission, had 60 participants from law enforcement, probation, prosecution, mental health and services for elderly and disabled.
- At least a dozen participants who filled out the evaluation indicated some interest in being part of an ongoing task force.

Domestic Violence Specialty Court
- Sue provided support to Superior Court in submitting the final grant request for DV Specialty Courts, requesting $15,000.
- The money would be used for the planning process. There is no assumed “end product” – the planning process will be the vehicle for defining the end product.
- NF Jackson had asked the Commission to take a leadership role in facilitating the planning process for DV specialty court, however, the Law and Justice Council has agreed to take the lead. Commission members, and hopefully Commission staff, will participate in the planning process.
- A conference “Awareness to Action” is planned for mid January. This will be scheduled when the judges can attend. A month or two after the conference the first meeting for DV Specialty Court will be held followed by a 6 month planning process.

WSCADV Annual Conference
- The DV Task Force is an important vehicle for communicating the needs and experiences of victims of domestic violence. After attending the Community Organizing track at the conference, Sue expressed a desire to support the Task Force in getting organized so that issues and needs can be communicated back to the Commission.
5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approve September 4, 2001 Commission meeting minutes and Retreat Summary
Approve July-September 2001 Fiscal and Activity Report

#01-17 MOTION: Dave McEachran made the motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Randy Carroll seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS/MOTIONS

Executive Committee

- 2002 funding request update
  - The Commission will not be getting an increase in funds from the county. The budget will be the same as last year.
  - Randy stated that an increase ($7,000) is still in the City budget. It was suggested that the Commission ask the County for a similar increase mid-year in 2002.

- Commission Director Performance Evaluation
  - Sue received an “Outstanding” Evaluation

- Discussion on the Commission’s response to community tragedies to be held at January 2002 meeting

- Restructure
  - The proposal is for four committees: Executive, Education/Outreach, Victim/Children’s Support, and Law & Justice.
  - The Executive Committee would consist of the officers and chairs of the standing committees.
  - The proposal also includes a new office of treasurer. A change will need to be made in the by-laws. This serves as 30-day notice as per by-laws.
  - By law amendment as written on pages 20-21 of the packet will be voted on in January
  - The Executive Committee will continue to send minutes to Commission members between Commission meetings to keep them informed.
  - The chairs of the committees have been selected, but can be changed at any time.
  - Sue reviewed the proposed committee responsibilities as listed on page 17 of the packet.

#01-18 MOTION: Greta Lent made the motion to approve the Commission Committee Re-structure. Emil Hecht seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

  - A sign-up sheet was passed around for members to select a committee.
  - There will be a six-month trial period to assess the new committee structure before suggesting changes to the by-laws.

- Proposed Commission meeting schedule listed on page 19 was reviewed.
  - It is difficult to have a retreat at a business meeting. The retreat is proposed for September.

#01-19 MOTION: Ione Adams made the motion to approve the 2002 Commission Meeting Schedule. Karen Summers seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

  - Consider a change in ordinance to include county executive and mayor
    - A discussion was held as to whether or not the Mayor and County Executive should be members of the Commission.
    - In view of time restraints and possible conflict of interest it was decided that Dale Brandland would approach both Mark and Pete and invite them to attend any Commission meetings, and in particular, the annual retreat.
    - In the past Sam Crawford has attended a few Commission meetings. He should be sent a schedule and invited to attend.
    - A letter will be sent to the City and County Councils inviting them to attend Commission meetings.

7. 2002 COMMISSION PRIORITIES

- As the Commission did not have time at the retreat to finish deciding priorities, a discussion was held to finalize priorities.

  - The Commission affirmed that the four activities in process be continued to completion in 2002.
DV of older and vulnerable adults
Batterer Treatment recommendation follow through
Community Education, such as DV month and presentations
Survey Project

Other projects for consideration in 2002
Safety audit
Bench marks
DV specialty court
Community education grant

The Commission discussed the following criteria for evaluating priorities.

#1 What is desired scope of each program and how will this be impacted by the selection of any combination of these projects?
   – After discussion the Commission members decided that it would be better to do a few high profile projects in depth rather than a lot of projects lightly.

#2 How does the Commission’s ordinance, purpose, and function contribute to identifying key programs that must be addressed in 2002?
   – After reviewing the six functions in the ordinance, the Commission agreed that the proposed 2002 priorities covered all the functions.

#3 How do the proposed projects address the Commission’s intention to reach, serve, and involve the diverse communities identified at the retreat?
   – comes with territory
   – keep working on it

#4 What external conditions are present in the community that may impact the timeliness of the proposed project’s objective and successful implementation?
   – Keep an eye on what is happening in the community
   – The January conference could be the kick off for a safety audit
   – There should be more emphasis on prevention
   – The Commission added three projects for consideration that relate to current community efforts
      – DV specialist within CPS
      – Increase courthouse security
      – DV advocate in hospital

#5 Do the proposed projects for 2002 address equitably the six focus areas of the Comprehensive Plan?
   – There are no activities from section on children/adolescents

#6 How do the projects uphold the Commission’s mission, values, and guiding principals?
   – Not addressing issues of diversity

#7 What are the committees needs for involvement in these proposed projects, how will staff time, budget and resources be impacted by any combination of these priority actions?
   – The committees will look at the priorities assigned and bring a work plan to the January Commission Meeting.

Committees were asked to prioritize from the following list and bring a 2002 work plan to the January 8th Commission meeting.
Education and Outreach Committee
   – Pro-active/ prevention efforts
   – Education of community
   – Speaker’s Bureau
   – DV Month
   – Community Education Demonstration Grant
   – Annual Report
◊ Victim/Children’s Support Committee
   – DV specialist within CPS
   – Have DV Advocate at St. Joseph’s Hospital
   – Children and Adolescents outcome from Comp. Plan
   – Safety Audit
   – Survey Project
   – DV of older and vulnerable adults
◊ Law and Justice Committee
   – Increase security in court house
   – Benchmarks
   – DV specialty court
   – Batterer Treatment recommendation
   • Each committee should have a meeting prior to the January Commission Meeting to develop a work plan.

8. Adjourn
   Kathleen thanked the Commission for their hard work and adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

   The next Commission Meeting will be January 8, 2001 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at St. Luke’s Community Health Education Center, 3333 Squalicum Parkway, Bellingham, WA.

Respectfully Submitted

Linda Ward
Administrative Support