
MEMBERS ABSENT: Dale Brandland, Emil Hecht, Jon Ostlund, John Thompson

GUEST ATTENDING: Margaret Rojas, Whatcom Crisis Services

STAFF ATTENDING: Sue Parrott, Domestic Violence Commission Director
Linda Ward, Administrative support

The January meeting of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence was called to order by Kathy Washatka at 10:10 a.m., Tuesday January 8, 2002 at St. Luke’s Community Health Education Center, 3333 Squalicum Parkway, Bellingham, WA.

1. WELCOME
Kathy Washatka chaired the meeting in Dale Brandland’s absence. She welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the year.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT
None

3. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ISSUES PRESENTATION – Margaret Rojas
Domestic Violence and Welfare Reform
Family Support Specialist at Whatcom County Community Services Office: A Model Response

- In 1996 the federal government passed sweeping changes to welfare (TANF: temporary aid to needy families). Out of concern for impacts of welfare reform on domestic violence victims, the federal government allowed states to adopt a family violence option. With this option, states are required to screen for domestic violence, to refer and offer services and to waive certain program requirements for as long as necessary. Thirty-eight states have adopted the family violence option, but only eight states have implemented it. Washington State is one of the eight. In addition, Washington state funded 29 pilot programs to place specialized staff at local Community Services Office to help implement the family violence option.

- Whatcom County is one of the 29 pilot programs and is known as a model program throughout the state. A collaborative partnership between Whatcom Crisis Services and the local CSO office has made the position possible.

- As a result of the pilot program, the local CSO office is screening in a high percentage of individuals who have experienced domestic violence (Over 50%). Margaret stated that this, in part, is due to the training received by the CSO staff as well as by increased awareness on issues of domestic violence as a result of her position.

- DSHS is successful in providing a safe place for women to talk. When a new client is screened in for domestic violence, Margaret’s services are offered to the client. Margaret works with that individual to assist her in accessing community services and in navigating the CSO system.

- The challenges facing CSO clients who have experienced domestic violence are: housing, finances, and substance abuse issues.
The challenges faced by the CSO office are budget cuts, increased case loads and reaching ethnic communities such as Russians.

Commission members asked questions and had an informative discussion with Margaret. Many Commission members commented on the progress that has been made within the CSO system in response to domestic violence issues as a result of statewide trainings and the pilot programs.

4. STAFF REPORT

Community Survey Project Update
- Over 1,100 survey were completed.
- A draft analysis will be ready in late February – The final report will be completed in April.
- The participating sites were surveyed to assess any effects the survey may have had on the sites.

Batterers Treatment Recommendations
- Staff continues to work with court administrator on bench book material. Drafts will be ready soon to share with some judicial officers.

Domestic Abuse in the Lives of Older & Vulnerable Adults Forum
- The forum, which was sponsored by the Commission, had approximately 70 participants.
- The planning committee reviewed the evaluation forms at the follow-up meeting.
- DSHS – Home and Community Services has agreed to take a lead in convening a multi-disciplinary group to discuss and assess cases of abuse of older and vulnerable adults.

Domestic Violence Specialty Court
- Professor Julie Helling from Western Washington University has agreed to facilitate the process. No date has been set for the first planning meeting.

January 9, 2002 Conference: Awareness to Action
- The conference will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sapphire Cove.
- Rose Thalen, trainer, will also be at the Commission’s Victim/Children Support Committee meeting Thursday, January 10th to discuss safety audits.

NW Women Law Center
- The NW Women Law Center is interested in filing a case on housing discrimination experienced by victims of domestic violence. If Commission members hear of such cases they can contact Sue or any of the service providers.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approve November 6, 2001 Commission Meeting minutes

#02-01 MOTION: Dale Baker made the motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Carolyn Jensen seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS/MOTIONS

Executive Committee
Marty Snyder gave the report
- Pat Fabiano has resigned. The committee is looking for her replacement.
- Rick Todd is moving to Florida and is resigning from the Commission.
- Janet Davis is taking Regina Delahunt’s place on the Commission until a permanent Health and Human Services director is found.
- Consideration of new by-law amendment:
  ◊ At the November Commission Meeting an amendment to the by-laws was presented, proposing adding the office of Treasurer.
◊ The Executive Committee distributed a new proposal adding the position of Treasurer; removing the position of Secretary and adding the position of Immediate Past Chair to serve on the Executive Committee for one year. The committee also proposed that the term of officers be changed from 2-year terms to 1-year terms.
◊ After looking at the draft by-law amendments and discussing the two proposals, the Commission decided to adjust the amendment to keep the office of Secretary (restoring the original language) and add a Treasurer and Immediate Past Chair to the Executive Committee structure.

#02-02 MOTION: Kathleen Marshall made the motion to propose a by-law amendment that would add the positions of Treasurer and Immediate Past Chair to the Executive Committee and to have all officers serve 1-year terms. Bruce Van Glubt seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

#02-03 MOTION: Randy Carroll made the motion to wave the 30-day voting notice and accept the proposed by-law changes. Dave McEachran seconded the motion. The motion passed 17 in favor – 2 opposed – 2 abstaining.

- Approve 2002 Budget
  ◊ The 2002 budget includes money generated in 2001 for the Survey Project that will be spent in 2002.
  ◊ Randy Carroll indicated that the Bellingham Sunrise Rotary will be making a larger donation than budgeted.

#02-04 MOTION: Kathleen Marshall made the motion to accept the 2002 budget. Carolyn Jensen seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

- Approve the Executive Committee 2002 Work Plan

#02-05 MOTION: Linda Storck made the motion to accept the Executive Committee 2002 Work Plan. Ione Adams seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

- VAWA Full Faith and Credit – role of DV Commission in convening key agencies to develop consistent countywide implementation plan for VAWA Full Faith and Credit.
  ◊ The Commission members reviewed the May 2000 letter from Lummi requesting the Commission to facilitate meetings and training on full faith in credit between the main governmental bodies in Whatcom County.
  ◊ The Commission had agreed to take on this responsibility, however, it is not addressed in any committee’s work plan and staff reported that nothing has been done to date.
  ◊ LAW Advocates is holding a training in March on VAWA. It will address full faith and credit.
  ◊ After discussion it was decided that the Commission should follow up on its commitment to hold a meeting. The meeting will focus on full faith and credit and will follow the training conducted by LAW Advocates. Sue will work with the Law and Justice Committee on the details.

**Education and Outreach Committee**

Jay Clements gave the report

- The Education and Outreach Committee has four main goals in 2002
  ◊ DV Awareness Month
  ◊ Develop a Speaker’s Bureau
  ◊ Produce Annual Report
  ◊ Apply for a Community Education Grant
If time allows the committee would also like to work on a marketing plan and the DV Resource Handbook.

#02-06 MOTION: Shannon Meyer made the motion to accept the Education and Outreach Committee 2002 Work Plan. Greta Lent seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Victim and Children Support Committee
Greta Lent gave the report
- The Victim and Children Support Committee has two main goals for 2002
  - Survey Project
  - Laying ground work for Safety Audit

#02-07 MOTION: Randy Carroll made the motion to accept the Victim and Children Committee 2002 Work Plan. Shannon Meyer seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Law and Justice Committee
Shannon Meyer gave the report
- The Law and Justice Committee is continuing follow-up with the Batterer Treatment Recommendation Committee’s recommendations.
- The committee will also begin work on the full faith and credit issue.
- The committee is interested in asking a family law attorney to join.

#02-08 MOTION: Dave McEachran made the motion to accept the Law and Justice Committee 2002 Work Plan. Karen Summers seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

7. ROLE OF COMMISSION IN RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY TRAGEDIES.
- After discussion members decided it was important for the Commission to respond when there was a community tragedy related to domestic violence. There was consensus that the response should be in the form of general education and awareness around domestic violence as well as information about local services. The Commission’s response should not be in relation to the specifics of the event.
- Sue was asked to prepare a draft general outline of a response and to work with Executive Committee on a more formal process. Sue stated that the Commission has approved a Point of Information Policy, which identifies the Chair as the official contact person. It was suggested that Sue serve as the contact person.

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

The next Commission Meeting will be April 9, 2002 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
The April meeting of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence was called to order by Dale Brandland, Chair at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 9, 2002 at St. Luke’s Community Health Education Center, 3333 Squalicum Parkway, Bellingham, WA.

1. WELCOME
Dale Brandland welcomed Cynthia Bauleke and Rebecca Johnson as new members to the Commission.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT
Blaine Nelson attended to give public comment on the DV homicide that took place last month. He expressed concern that the Commission was too slow in making a public statement. He made the following suggestions:
- Quicker response time (don’t wait ten days) to a dv homicide
- Vigil kit with press releases
- Review hospital response
- Create services for abused men
- Legitimize view of men as victims
- Educate ourselves on abuse – what is our role?
- Look into why DV treatment programs do not see any offenders who are judges, police officers, attorneys or people in positions of power.

3. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ISSUES PRESENTATION – Pat Fabiano
Ending Violence Against Women at WWU: A Federally Funded Pilot College Program
- Pat explained the history to the current program, including Jeanne Clery Act.
- Crime and Sexual Assault Support Services (CASAS) was started in 1999 after two sexual assault incidents at WWU.
- In 1999 WWU was one of the first 19 schools nationwide to receive VAWO grant and was awarded $500,000 to develop and implement a program to end violence against women on campus. In 2002, WWU was awarded $437,000 to continue innovative projects to end violence against women.
- CASAS works as a support broker to help with financial assistance, housing assistance, academic support for victims.
- CASAS focuses on the three most common forms of violence against women on college campuses: dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
• Pat also talked about men being reached through the classroom, workshops, retreats, social norms marketing campaign and a men’s activism group called Western Men Against Violence.
• Pat discussed the concept of social norms marketing which affirms and promotes what is best in people. Its goal is to disinhibit already present attitudes and values in men to do the right thing.

4. STAFF REPORT
Community Survey Project Update
• Sue reported that the survey’s final report is in the draft stage. The summary of the report will be ready by the June Commission Meeting.
• When referring to the survey it is important to clarify that the report reflects only the opinions of the respondents (women 18 and over) who filled out the survey and is not a reflection of Whatcom County.
• Commission members reviewed the summary tables that were distributed.
• The Victim & Children Support Committee will review the report and develop recommendations for action.

New Member Orientation/Training: April 30th, 8-11:30 a.m.
The new member orientation/training is open to colleagues or staff of Commission members would like to attend.

Batterers Treatment Recommendations Benchbook
The Benchbook has been a large project that should be ready in May. The Law & Justice Committee will bring a copy to the next Commission Meeting.

Domestic Violence Specialty Court
The steering committee has included regular judicial attendance. One of the current tasks is to develop standardized forms for domestic violence orders in all jurisdictions.

Domestic Violence Fatality Reviews
The Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence has been involved in a federally funded DV fatality review project the past three years. As a part of this project, the Coalition supports the creation of Fatality Review Panels in select communities. The Coalition will be selecting two new communities in which to create fatality review panels starting in July 2002. The Coalition is interested in a community in northwest Washington. The community needs to be interested and to have had 3 – 4 domestic violence fatalities in the last 5 years. In light of this, Sue asked if the Commission was interested in putting its name forward as a community that would like to create a fatality review team. The Coalition will do most of the background work and the panel would meet quarterly. It was suggested that the Victim-Children Support Committee look into the question and return to the June Commission meeting with a recommendation.

#02-09 MOTION: Karen Summers made the motion that consideration to create a Domestic Violence Fatality Review Panel be sent to the Victim-Children Support Committee for review. The committee will report back with a recommendation at the June Commission meeting. Emil Hecht seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Commission Office Move to 1407 Commercial Street
The Commission Office has moved next door to 1407 Commercial Street. All of the Committee meetings will be held downstairs at that address.
Letter of Support for Whatcom Crisis Services
Whatcom Crisis Services is applying for a Philip Morris Doors of Hope Grant and asked the Commission to give a letter of support.

#02-10 MOTION: Emil Hecht made the motion to write a letter of support to Whatcom Crisis Services for the Doors of Hope Grant. Greta Lent seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

5. CONSENT AGENDA
Approve January 8, 2002 Commission Meeting minutes

#02-11 MOTION: Kathy Washatka made the motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Dale Baker seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS/MOTIONS
Education and Outreach Committee
Emil Hecht gave the report
- Schedule of Presentations/Target Audience
  Commission members suggested that groups like the Kiwanis, Lions, Rotaries, legal community, and Lummi school board be added to the target audience list. The current schedule of presentations was reviewed.
- Requests for Speakers
  Dale Baker will do the Ferndale School Board. Ione and Emil are still working on the medical community. Emil encouraged all Commission Members to be presenters. The Committee has a presentation notebook that gives all of the information needed for a presentation.
- Annual Report
  Commission members were encouraged to take multiple copies of the Annual Report.

Law and Justice Committee
Sue Parrott gave the report
- Batterers Treatment Recommendations
  A sub-committee has been working to set up the monitoring process. District Court Probation has developed a draft MOU outlining many of the recommendations for all domestic violence perpetrator programs to sign. The judges are now reviewing the form. A meeting with probation and domestic violence treatment providers to explain the MOU and the monitoring process will be held within the month.

  The benchbook for all judicial officers has expanded to include not only information on the batterers treatment recommendations, but also guidelines on Domestic Violence and Anti-harassment Protection Orders. A document developed by the Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts was integrated into the benchbook. It should be done within a month.

  Commission members asked to see a copy of the benchbook when completed and suggested that one of DV education sessions at the beginning of the meeting focus on education around the criminal/civil systems.

- Full Faith and Credit
  Cheryl Boal and Sue are still working on finding a speaker and date.
Victim and Children Support Committee

- Community Safety and Accountability Audit
  ◊ Sue provided an overview of the audit based on the handout in the Commission packet.
  ◊ Praxis International is the organization that would provide consulting services for the audit and will train an audit team of community members. Members could include representatives from 911, public defender, victim service agencies, prosecution, law enforcement.
  ◊ The systems to be audited include What Comm (911), Bellingham Police Dept., Whatcom County Sheriff and the jail.
  ◊ Prior to the audit, Praxis International will conduct a text analysis of randomly selected forms (i.e. police reports) from the systems to be audited.
  ◊ Once the team has been trained, it will be possible for the Commission to continue to audit other systems without the need for as much consultation. Praxis would still be needed for text analysis.
  ◊ Janet Davis spoke about the importance of conducting the audit at this time.
    - No one else in the community will do the audit – it is a function that fits the roles and responsibilities of the Commission.
    - At this time there is community support and momentum for the audit.
    - An audit provides a benchmark. It will tell the systems what they are doing well and what they need to improve. Benchmarks are needed in order to create a plan for change and to measure change.
  ◊ Dale announced that Randy Carroll has suggested that city and county Federal Asset Sharing Funds (money that is generated through the sale of seized property as a result of drug related arrests) be used towards the audit. Dave McEachran has given approval to release $10,000 of the county funds and Randy will be requesting the City Council to authorize the release of $10,000 of city funds. Including the funds already generated by the Commission, this will cover the cost of the audit.
  ◊ Commission members praised Randy, in his absence, for this creative funding strategy.

Executive Committee
Dale Brandland gave the report

#02-12 MOTION: Greta Lent made the motion to move ahead with implementation of safety audit in 2002. Jon Ostlund seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

- Response to Tragedy-Policy and Implementation
  Commission members agreed that the response to a tragedy should be handled in a thoughtful – precise manner and not be hurried. Vigils should be kept neutral and presented in the community where the incident occurred.

- Executive Committee Charge Between Meetings.
  The Executive Committee needs to make decisions more often than the quarterly Commission Meeting.
  ◊ Approve quarterly fiscal and activity reports
  ◊ Recommend candidates for vacancies. Right now two individuals are being considered for the major employer vacancy.

- Meetings with Pete Kremen and Mark Asmundson
  Sue and Dale met with both Pete Kremen and Mark Asmundson to update them on the progress of the Commission. They are very supportive of the Commission’s endeavors. Sue invited all Commission members to attend the DV Commission presentation to City Council on April 22nd and County Council on April 23rd.
7. ANNUAL MEETING

- The annual report was presented to Commission members.
- Election of officers
  The slate of officers was presented to the Commission. There were no additional nominations from the floor.

#02-13 MOTION: Jon Ostlund made the motion to accept the slate of officers as presented. Karen Summers seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

  Marty Snyder, Chair
  Kathy Washatka, Vice Chair
  Linda Storck, Secretary
  Bruce Van Glubt, Treasurer

Dale Brandland expressed his thanks for the opportunity to serve as chair for the Commission. The Commission members thanked Dale for all the time and energy he put into the Commission as chair. Dale turned the meeting over to Marty for adjournment.

8. ADJOURN

Marty expressed her thanks for the opportunity to serve as chair and adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

The next Commission Meeting will be June 11, 2002 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
June 11, 2002


Members Absent: Dale Baker, Cynthia Bauleke, Randy Carroll, Joan Hoisington, Carolyn Jensen, Greta Lent, Jon Ostlund

Guest Attending: Blain Nelson, Ninek Hadi-Samtoso, Lummi presentation: Terri Brown, Michelle Hall, Bernard Haggerty

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

The June meeting of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence was called to order by Marty Snyder, Chair at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, June 11, 2002 at St. Luke’s Community Health Education Center, 3333 Squalicum Parkway, Bellingham, WA.

1. WELCOME
Marty welcomed all to the meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT
Blain Nelson attended to give public comment on the DV shooting that took place recently. He asked the Commission to have a pre-planned response for DV cases. A discussion was held on when cases should be responded to both in terms of timing and the nature of the incident.

3. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ISSUES PRESENTATION – Natalia Calhoun
Lummi Nation Response to Domestic Violence
• The Lummi Victims of Crime program has been in effect for 12 years. They have 2 victim advocates, a DV attorney, 2 college interns and an administrative assistant. It is a full service program with a 24-hour hotline that is funded through state and federal grants.
• Lummi works closely with law enforcement and the prosecutor’s offices of both the Lummi Nation and Whatcom County.
• The Lummi DV task force meets monthly.
• Lummi is in the process of developing a DV shelter that will provide housing for DV victims for up to one year. The shelter should open in September 2002.
• In 1999 the Lummi Nation created a DV code. The code defines DV in very broad terms and gives examples of what is considered DV. A judge is available 24 hours a day for emergency protection orders. Lummi has been working with Whatcom County for Full Faith and Credit.
• The Lummi VOC program includes a staff attorney who assists victims with civil legal issues. This allows victims opportunities to address complex issues such as custody.
• Terri Brown, a detective of Lummi Law and Order, reported that Lummi police officers receive DV training. When officers are called to a DV incident the police officer gives family members informational brochures and a laminated card for contacting a VOCA advocate. The delivery of the information is documented in the report. The report goes to the prosecutor and CPS may be contacted.
• Terri explained that a child does not have to actually witness DV to be a victim. Children are considered victims if they hear the violence. By listing children as victims they are eligible to receive counseling through VOCA. Child abuse can also mean neglect and/or living in a poor environment.
• Lummi is also working on issues of elder abuse and is trying to increase preventative education in the schools.

4. STAFF REPORT

Full Faith and Credit Regional Forum
• One year ago the Commission was asked by the Lummi Tribal Court Administrator to convene a meeting to address implementation of full faith and credit of foreign protection orders in Whatcom County. Cheryl Boal and Sue were working on this when we learned that the Northwest Tribal Judges Association/Office of Crime Victims Advocacy was planning a regional training on this issue in Bellingham. A Full Faith and Credit Conference on Tribal Orders for Protection co-sponsored by the Lummi Indian Nation and NW Tribal Court Judges Association will be held July 11 & 12, 2002. The first day will be a tribal session. The second day is for tribal and non-tribal stakeholder groups, including law enforcement, prosecutors, attorneys, court administrators, and advocates. A draft agenda was distributed and members were encouraged to attend and spread the word. Kathleen Marshall will take the information to the Law and Justice Council meeting tomorrow.

Domestic Violence Specialty Court
• Linda Storck reported that at a recent meeting a judge from Clark County spoke on how a domestic violence specialty court was started in Clark County with no extra funding.
• The Steering Committee has been focused on short-term goals, specifically improving Judicial access to records so as to avoid duplicative or contradictory orders. Without additional funding, this process can be put in place. Linda Storck and N.F. Jackson have taken a lead in this and will be developing a training manual to instruct Judicial Officers on how to access other court orders. A plan is also in place to develop a consistent No Contact Order form to be used by all courts in Whatcom County, which will greatly enhance the ability of law enforcement officers to enforce orders.
• Next steps for the Steering Committee include addressing compliance monitoring and the long-term goal to look at other models for a court response.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approve April 9, 2002 Commission Meeting minutes

#02-14 MOTION: Dale Brandland made the motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Shannon Meyer seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS/MOTIONS

Education and Outreach Committee
Jay Clements gave the report
- Schedule of Presentations/Target Audience
  Jay reviewed the list of presentations in the packet. At this time the target audiences are community leaders (rotaries) and school district boards. The city and county presentations will be addressed later this year.
- Media Strategy for Survey Report
  An article about the survey was in the Herald, KVOS did an interview, KJMI has run a story. Other media has been contacted with no response.
Domestic Violence Awareness Month
The Commission involvement will be limited. The Commission will work on the vigil; Sue is contacting Senator Murray’s office to see if she is available to speak. At the first DV month planning meeting two interns volunteered to work on putting the efforts together. Bruce Van Glubt suggested having an evening vigil to allow more working people to attend. The next DV Awareness Month planning meeting is scheduled for June 19th.

Victim and Children Support Committee
- Presentation of Survey Report - Sue Parrott
  ◦ Sue reviewed the survey press release (page 6 of packet).
  ◦ Three key recommendations emerged from the Survey findings: Whatcom County providers should routinely screen for domestic violence; Whatcom County providers should develop policies and protocols on screening for domestic violence, including confidentiality and reporting policies; Whatcom County should increase domestic violence education efforts.
  ◦ Rebecca Johnson mentioned that an outline for reporting and making policy would be helpful.
  ◦ A sample presentation outline was reviewed by the Commission members (page 12 of packet).
- Implementation plan to disseminate findings
  Diane Wood has completed two presentations at St. Joseph’s Hospital for ER doctors and staff. The new hospital intake forms ask about DV. Sue has made four presentations.
- Update on Safety Audit (page 14 of packet)
  The Commission reviewed the dates of the audit process. The process will proceed as outlined.
- Update/report on Fatality Review Project and option for 2003
  The WA State Coalition Against Domestic Violence does not have funding to create any new domestic violence fatality review panels. However, after the next Fatality Review Report has been issued (December 2002) they are willing to come to Whatcom County and facilitate a meeting on any issues related to the report and identified as an area of concern in Whatcom County. If the Commission would like to host such a meeting, the WSCADV would need to be notified by January 2003. The meeting would occur between January and April 2003.

Law and Justice Committee
Shannon Meyer gave the report
- Monitoring Process for Batterers Treatment Recommendations (pages 21-26 of packet)
  The committee has been focusing on consistency for domestic violence perpetrator treatment programs. District Court and the treatment providers met on May 13, 2002 and all signed a MOU with the regional judges. Commission staff will monitor a percentage of the DV perpetrator treatment evaluations for conformity and consistency. The evaluations will start in November, six months after implementation of the MOU.
- Benchmarking
  How do we measure prevention and intervention? Linda Storck and Sue will continue to explore other communities to see how they use the recorded data.

Executive Committee
Marty Snyder gave the report
- Budget
  The Commission reviewed the proposed budget with the understanding that it is dependent on all of the revenue being realized.
**#02-15 MOTION:** Dale Brandland made the motion to accept the proposed 2003 budget. Dave McEachran seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

- Requests for letters of support
  A draft policy for responding to letters of support was reviewed. After discussion the Commission decided to change the suggested 21-day notice to 14 days.

**#02-16 MOTION:** Karen Summers made the motion to accept the policy for responding to letters of support as amended. Linda Storck seconded the motion. No vote was taken. After a lengthy discussion on the wording of the guidelines and its message the subject was tabled until the next meeting.

**#02-17 MOTION:** Randy Carroll made the motion to table the motion on letters of support. The motion was seconded. It passed unanimously.

- 2002 meeting schedule
  The retreat has been rescheduled for January 2003. The September meeting will be a regular Commission Meeting from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

7. **ADJOURN**
   The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

   The next Commission Meeting will be September 10, 2002 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
September 10, 2002


Members Absent: Dale Baker, Emil Hecht, Joan Hoisington, Jon Ostlund, Marty Snyder, Linda Storck

Guest Attending: Michael Sledge
CPS presentation: John Campbell, CPS Supervisor for Whatcom County

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 Kathy Washatka, Vice Chair, at 10:05 a.m., Tuesday, September 10, 2002 at St. Luke’s Community Health Education Center, 3333 Squalicum Parkway, Bellingham, WA.

1. WELCOME
Kathy welcomed George Godzik, Area Administrator, Department of Children and Family Services, as a new Commission member. Kathy also welcomed Michael Sledge, Judicial Officer for Residential Life at Western Washington University. Michael has been recommended for appointment to the Commission by the Executive Committee.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT
None

3. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ISSUES PRESENTATION – John Campbell, Child Protection Services Supervisor for Whatcom County
John Campbell provided an overview of CPS and discussed specific issues related to working with families where domestic violence is present.
• John stressed the progress that has been made in identifying domestic violence as an issue that impacts children. This office was one of the first to screen for domestic violence. He also stressed the cooperative working relationships between key players in Whatcom County.
• Some challenges facing CPS include a change to a centralized statewide intake system. The centralized intake will determine whether or not cases are screened in at a local level. Prior to this change, the local office was making that determination. It is not clear how domestic violence will be addressed in the centralized screening.
• Another challenge is that the new W.A.C.’s no longer include a definition of emotional abuse. It has typically been very difficult for CPS to prove emotional abuse if a case progressed to the point of a dependency hearing. Without a definition in the W.A.C., CPS involvement with cases where children witness domestic violence may decrease.
• The other primary challenge is working with the non-offending parent when domestic violence is present. The non-offending parent will be asked to take actions that show they are protecting the child. Sometimes that may mean leaving an abusive partner. If CPS believes the non-offending parent is not acting in the best interest of the safety of the child, it may need to resort to dependency actions. This can be very difficult for a victim of domestic violence. This has historically been an issue between domestic violence service providers and Child Protection Services. CPS interventions may feed the threat that abusers can make, such as, “you are a bad parent”, or “CPS will take the kids away if you ever report.” CPS is aware of this dynamic and is always looking for ways to improve its ability to work with the non-offending parent in the interest of safety for children.

4. STAFF REPORT
Domestic Violence Specialty Court
• The DV Specialty Court Committee is a grant-funded project of the Law and Justice Council.
• One of the focus areas of the Steering Committee has been to standardize judicial DV orders and judicial access to information, including information from tribal courts. The committee is developing a handout for both the criminal and civil courts that provides standard information for victims and alleged offenders.
• The committee is writing a report summarizing its work and making recommendations for areas that need additional work.

Full Faith and Credit Regional Forum Report
• The regional forum was held in July in Bellingham with representatives from 3 counties to discuss problems and solutions. Based on the conference, it does not appear there are any systemic problems with Full Faith and Credit implementation in Whatcom County. Sue reported that she resolved a few minor issues by providing information.
• A statewide forum will be held in a few months.

Presentation of Benchbook: Whatcom County Judicial Guidelines for DV Matters
• The Benchbook is completed and 75 copies have been distributed to police, prosecutors, judges, public defenders, court administrators and probation throughout Whatcom County. Sue noted that the Commission’s name was listed on the cover letter in the benchbook, as the Commission was a key partner in producing the benchbook. The benchbook includes the Commission’s recommendations on a standard process for domestic violence perpetrator treatment evaluations.

Intimate Partner Violence Article
• Ilene Stohl, a new employee of Whatcom Crisis Services, conducted and published research on intimate partner abuse with a weapon threat (included in the packet). This information can be useful in risk assessments.

5. JUNE 11, 2002 COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
A correction was made to Motion #02-17 - Dale Brandland made the motion, not Randy Carroll.

#02-18 MOTION: Carolyn Jensen made the motion to accept the June 11, 2002 Minutes as corrected. Dale Brandland seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.
6. COMMITTEE REPORTS/MOTIONS

Executive Committee
Randy Carroll gave the report
- Draft By-law Changes
  The proposed by-law changes reflect the current committee structure. A few other minor changes are included. The proposed by-laws changes will be voted on at the November Commission Meeting.
- Scope of Work/Contract
  There will be no changes in the current contract. The suggested changes are for next year’s contract and help to clarify the responsibilities of the contractor.
- Commission Director Performance Review
  Sue received an excellent review. The committee clarified that the evaluation was conducted by the Executive Committee. The process will be improved next year so that the full Executive Committee can review the draft evaluation before finalizing it and presenting it to the Director.
- The Executive Committee revised the 2002 budget, with the primary change being $25,000 for the Safety Audit.

Education and Outreach Committee
Randy Carroll gave the report
- Presentations
  The outreach presentations are going well. The Medical Society presentation on September 9, 2002 was very successful. The committee plans to make presentations to the city councils when the budget process is completed.
- Resource Handbook
  The committee is looking into printing a second edition of the Resource Handbook.
- DV Awareness Month Update
  The Commission’s involvement in DV Awareness Month this year is limited due to the time commitment for the Safety Audit. There will be buttons and 1 style of bookmark for distribution. The Bellingham Bay Rotary has donated money for printed material (Herald ad, bookmarks, posters etc.) The vigil will be held on October 30th at 6:00 p.m. at the Whatcom County Courthouse.

Victim and Children Support Committee
Sue Parrott gave the report
- Update on Survey Report Presentations
  Pages 43-45 of the packet show the presentations that have been made to date and those planned for the future.
- Update on Safety Audit (pages 51-59)
  Sue gave an overview of the audit. She thanked Dave McEachran, Randy Carroll and Dale Brandland and their staff for all the preliminary work they have done in preparation for the audit and Whatcom Crisis Services for their assistance in a number of areas. Sue stated that the consultant has been well worth the money spent. Focus group summaries are in the packet. Over 200 invitations were sent for the October 2, 2002 Community Forum.

Law and Justice Committee
Bruce Van Glubt gave the report
- Domestic Violence Perpetrator Treatment
  The standardized procedure for domestic violence perpetrator treatment evaluations has been approved and signed by all treatment providers.
• Benchmarking Process
  The committee is working on a proposal for an annual benchmarking report and will bring a proposal to the November Commission meeting.
  The committee is beginning to look at new areas of focus and whether or not it will work on any other areas around domestic violence perpetrator treatment standardization.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES
Earlier in the meeting Dale Brandland announced that the citizen academy would be starting Wednesday, September 18th. The 10-week course is held Wednesdays 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

8. ADJOURN
The meeting adjourned at 11:40 p.m.

The next Commission Meeting will be November 12, 2002 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
Marty Snyder, Chair, called the November meeting of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence to order at 10:05 a.m., Tuesday, November 12, 2002 at St. Luke’s Community Health Education Center, 3333 Squalicum Parkway, Bellingham, WA.

1. WELCOME
Marty welcomed Michael Sledge, Western Washington University Residences Judicial Officer, as a new member or the Commission. She also welcomed three WWU students as guests.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT
None

3. 911 AND LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE TO “DOMESTICS” – Greg Erickson, What Comm Call Taker/Dispatch and Sgt. Colin Emmett, Bellingham Police Department, Family Crimes Unit

Greg Erickson began the presentation by stating that 911 dispatchers handle all city and county calls except for Blaine, Lynden and Sumas, which are dispatched by the Border Patrol. The 911 Center has two different consoles - one for 911 call takers and the other for dispatch. Greg gave the Commission a handout outlining the protocol for responding to domestic violence calls. Any in progress assault or any assault that has just occurred is considered a high priority call. The call taker needs to gather enough information to ascertain safety for both the officer and caller. Generally, the call taker tries to keep the caller on the line to ensure safety, which can be a challenge when other 911 calls are coming in. Callers are usually victims, children, or neighbors who have heard the dispute. Domestic calls can also come in the form of hang-ups. Call takers will always call back on a hang-up call (if the number appears on the panel) to try to determine what prompted the call. The role of dispatch is to dispatch the call to the appropriate law enforcement officer, to monitor the location and
safety of the officer and to conduct any background checks on the parties. Greg reported that he is always surprised by the volume of domestic calls 911 receives.

Sgt. Colin Emmett stated that domestic violence is a high law enforcement priority. In the last twelve months the Bellingham Police responded to 2,581 calls related to domestic violence- 949 verbal domestics (no assault) - 323 assaults – 320 order violations- 48 malicious mischief and 20 burglaries. Prior to the 1984 Domestic Violence Protection Act the victim had to press criminal charges against the abuser. The Protection Act was a significant change as it mandated officers to make an arrest provided certain conditions were met. Colin stated that a good law enforcement response is dependent on producing a good report. At the Bellingham Police Department two supervisors review each report for thoroughness and for risks. Colin provided the Commission with a list of the types of charges that can be brought in the context of a domestic. He also discussed the officers responsibility to determine the primary aggressor. Steps in 911 dispatched calls:

- 911 call taker takes call
- Dispatcher coordinates with officers over radio
- Officers responds, approach is as silent/invisible as possible
- Officers when at scene: listen – knock – secure scene – contact participants – separate – look for weapons
- Officers separate and interview participants – primary officer checks for drugs or alcohol
- Officers meet and confer – if arrest is determined remove alleged offender as soon as possible
- Evidence is gathered – pictures of victim and batterer – pictures of scene
- Children are talked to if appropriate
- Talk to victim about immediate alternatives for safety – give victim resource material
- Officers write report
- 2 supervisors review reports within a few hours
- Follow-up and review

Community Volunteers Against Domestic Violence within the Bellingham Police Department provide follow-up outreach to victims in verbal domestics.

4. STAFF REPORT

Domestic Violence Specialty Court

The STOP grant that funded the DV Specialty Court is almost over. The DV Court Steering Committee will present the recommendations and work to date on December 4, 2002 from 9:00 –11:00 a.m. at Sapphire Cove. The Steering Committee has recommended that the committee continue as an ad-hoc committee of the Whatcom County Law and Justice Council as there are still many issues to discuss. A number of Judges and Commissioners are involved in the committee and are eager to continue the work.

Safety Audit

- The audit of 911, Whatcom County Jail, Bellingham Police and Whatcom County Sheriff’s office went well. Each member of the audit team was given 2 days of training. Natalia Calhoun and Diane Wood from the Commission were team members. The audit week and audit training consisted of reviewing flow charts, learning about interviews and observations, and conducting text analysis of random cases from 911, law enforcement and jail booking and release. The consultant conducted a more thorough text analysis and additional findings from her analysis will be included in the final report.
• Sue reviewed the audit week schedule and the list of participants on the four audit teams as per material in the Commission packet.
• Each of the four audit teams were asked to make 3-5 recommendations on the last day of the audit. The teams were asked to develop recommendations that were doable, as well as ones that would require additional resources. Recommendations were made in six areas: technology, resources, rules and regulations, administrative forms and procedures, systems linkages, education and training, and social status assumptions.
• When asked, the audit team agreed that the audit was worth doing and they would recommend doing it again. Team members representing the audited systems all stated that the process was respectful.
• The final report will be completed in late December. Audit team members will be given a draft to make additions or corrections before the report is made public. A press conference will be held in January and the Outreach Committee is working on the details. At this time, the committee is recommending that all Commission members attend the press conference.
• Audit team members recommended that probation, prosecution and the courts be audited next.

5. SEPTEMBER 10, 2002 COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
#02-19 MOTION: Karen Summers made the motion to accept the September 10, 2002 Minutes. Kathleen Marshall seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS/MOTIONS
Executive Committee
Kathy Washatka gave the report
• 2003 City and County budget request updates
  No changes have been made in the requests (City: $44,500 and County: $37,500)
• Commission resignations and reappointments
  Cheryl Boal has resigned from LAW Advocates and the Commission, which leaves a Commission vacancy. Cynthia Bauleke, Natalia Calhoun and Michael Sledge will be recommended to serve another term. Ione Adams regretfully will not be able to serve another term, which leaves a vacancy open after Dec 31st.
• Third quarter fiscal and activity report (packet pages 5-7)
  There are no changes or concerns regarding the budget
• Approve 2003 Meeting Schedule (packet page 8)
#02-20 MOTION: Emil Hecht made the motion to accept the 2003 Commission Meeting Schedule. Rebecca Johnson seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.
• Approve proposed By-Law amendments (packet pages 9-17)
#02-21 MOTION: Randy Carroll made the motion to accept By-Law Amendments. Shannon Meyer seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.
• January 2003 Commission Retreat
  The retreat agenda was reviewed. Half of the retreat will be spent selecting priorities for 2003 and the Executive Committee proposed that the second half of the retreat be spent introducing and beginning a strategic planning process. Randy Carroll has agreed to give a presentation about strategic planning at the retreat and to chair the process in 2003. A strategic plan could take the comprehensive plan and a business plan to set goals, tasks, and responsibilities. Commission members were asked to think about strategic issues to discuss at the retreat. Randy indicated that plan should be a 3 to 5-year plan, which would be reviewed each year by the chair and Commission.
Education and Outreach Committee
Randy Carroll gave the report
- DV Awareness Month Update
  The vigil was very successful with the largest attendance to date.
- Presentations (packet pages 27-28)
  Randy reviewed the list of presentations that have been made.
- Resource Handbook
  A printer has possibly been found to print the Second Edition of the resource handbook.
  The next step would be to put the book on a web page.

Victim and Children Support Committee
Natalia Calhoun gave the report
- 2003 Priorities
  The committee is in the process of selecting its 2003 priorities. The committee has been reviewing the comprehensive plan and updating status of the outcomes.
- Report From Safety Audit
  The committee is looking forward to helping with the implementation of the safety audit recommendations as it pertains to the committee.

Law and Justice Committee
Shannon Meyer gave the report
- Benchmarking Process
  The committee has been working on a proposal for an annual benchmarking report, which was included in the packet. The committee would like to collect a variety of statistics and then determine which are meaningful. The committee hopes to have data ready by the end of the first quarter of 2003, with assistance from Linda Storck.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES
Kathleen Marshall announced that Whatcom Crisis Services Fund Raising Fashion Show – Auction will be December 6th.

8. ADJOURN
The meeting adjourned at 11:45 p.m.

The next Commission Meeting Retreat will be January 14, 2003 from 8:00 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