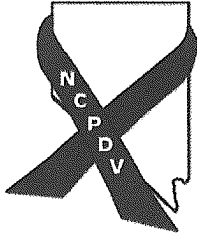


# **Biennial Report from the Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence**

**A report to the Nevada Legislature,  
in compliance with Nevada Revised Statute 228.490**



**February 1, 2011**



RECEIVED

The Nevada Council for the  
Prevention of Domestic Violence

FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION

Legislative Council Bureau  
401 South Carson Street  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

RE: *Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence  
2011 Biennial Report*

To Whom It May Concern:

Please find enclosed the Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence 2011 Biennial Report in compliance with Nevada Revised Statute 228.490.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (775) 688-1872.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

By:

KAREEN PRENTICE  
Domestic Violence Ombudsman

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

### NCPDV MEMBERSHIP

**Catherine Cortez Masto**  
**Council Chair**

**Attorney General**

**Michael C. Sprinkle**  
**Vice Chair**

**City of Reno Fire Department**

**Suzanne Ramos**  
**Treasurer**

**City of Reno Attorney's Office**

**Brett Kandt, Esq.**  
**Secretary**

**Nevada Council for Prosecuting Attorneys**

Barbara Aupperle

Clark County District Attorney  
Victim Witness Assistance Center

Christine Jones Brady

Washoe County Public Defender

Valerie Cooney

Volunteer Attorneys for Rural Nevada

Amy Crowe

Office of the Attorney General

Traci Dory

Nevada Department of Corrections

Toni Downen

Valley Health System University

Michael R. Freda, Ph.D.

Ridgeview Counseling Group

Anya J. Arechiga Gonzalez

Univision

Christina Hernandez

UNLV Jean Nidetch Women's Center

Eileen Herrington

Storey County District Attorney's Office

Honorable Patricia A. Lynch

Reno Justice Court

Susan Meuschke

NV Network Against Domestic Violence

Wendy Sue Ronovech

United Healthcare

Russell Smith

Humboldt County District Attorney

Caryn Sternlicht

Washoe Legal Services

Andrea Sundberg

NV Coalition Against Sexual Violence

Ron Titus

Administrative Office of the Courts

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

Elynne Wernikove-Greene

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Dept.

Robert Zentz, Esq.

Asst. City Attorney of Henderson

*Office of the Attorney General staff to Council:*

Henna Rasul, Deputy Attorney General to the Council

Kareen Prentice, Domestic Violence Ombudsman

Lorraine Webber, Assistant to NCPDV



## **Biennial Report from the Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence**

### **Overview**

The Domestic Violence Prevention Council was established in 1995. The 2005 Nevada Legislature passed Assembly Bill (AB) 219 to formalize the Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NCPDV) (See Appendix C) and outlined its membership and duties. It is located within the Office of the Attorney General and is chaired by the Attorney General.

The mission of the NCPDV is to encourage the elimination of domestic violence and sexual assault and to help break the cycle of violence in Nevada. The purpose of the NCPDV is to prevent and eliminate domestic violence through increased awareness of its existence and unacceptability, to recommend legislation, and to provide financial support to agencies who deal with domestic violence issues.

The membership is limited to no more than 30 people from various geographic regions in the state representing a variety of disciplines, including law enforcement, the judiciary, prosecution, victim services, health care, social services, education, public defenders, and domestic violence survivors. They meet at least three times a year, one of which must be in the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, or Seventh Judicial Districts (which includes Elko, Esmeralda, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Lincoln, Mineral, Nye, Pershing, and White Pine Counties).

The NCPDV continues to implement its five-year action plan that will offer guidance and direction to many agencies and groups in the state for domestic violence prevention programming and policies. The NCPDV should not be confused with the Committee on Domestic Violence<sup>1</sup>, which certifies domestic violence batterer treatment programs.

The NCPDV was requested to (a) study and review all appropriate issues related to the administration of the criminal justice system in rural Nevada with respect to offenses involving domestic violence, including the availability of counseling services; and (b) prepare and submit a report of its findings and recommendations from the study to the Legislature. In preparing the report, the

---

<sup>1</sup> The objective of the Committee on Domestic Violence, which is the state's regulatory commission appointed by the Attorney General, is to effectively evaluate, certify, and monitor programs for the treatment of persons who commit domestic violence in Nevada. The Committee relies on funding from the Domestic Violence Court Assessment Account. The Committee is also responsible for reviewing and evaluating peace officer training relating to domestic violence.

NCPDV shall ask for comments and recommendations from district judges, municipal judges, and justices of the peace in rural Nevada.

## **Bylaws**

The NCPDV operates within Bylaws created by its members. They are attached to this report. See Appendix B.

## **Rural Meetings – 2009 and 2010**

### **2009**

The Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence conducted their 2009 rural meeting in Hawthorne, Nevada in Mineral County in the 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District on Thursday, July 16, 2009, at 10:30 a.m. The meeting was held at the Mineral County Public Library and agenda items included discussion regarding NCPDV goals, a presentation by Clydell Wert, Executive Director of the Advocates to End Domestic Violence in Hawthorne and a Report from the Attorney General Office on Violence Against Women STOP Grant Recovery Act Funds.

Lunch was held after the meeting and the public and local dignitaries were invited for a town hall style meeting to share their concerns regarding domestic violence in their community with the NCPDV members.

Members of the Public included:

Chaletta Speights, Legal Advocate, Mineral County Advocates to End Domestic Violence,  
Cheri Emm-Smith, Mineral County District Attorney,  
Clydell Wert, Mineral County Advocates to End Domestic Violence,  
Mark W. Fox, Nevada Highway Patrol,  
Sergeant Brian Dillard, Mineral County Sheriff's Office,  
Brooke Meyer, Walker River Paiute Tribe Victims of Crime Program,  
Ruby Hamrey, Mineral County District Court (INV),  
Randy Adams, Mineral County Sheriff's Office,  
Lieutenant David D. Cornell, Mineral County Sheriff's Office,  
Wanda Nixon, R.N., Mineral County Public Health Nurse,  
Craig Nixon, Mineral County Fire Department,  
JoAnn Jackson, Consolidated Agency of Human Services (CAHS),  
Loreley Epperson,  
Dolores Gallegos, and  
Edward Jackson.

Public concerns and comments included: Lack of public transportation in Mineral County in and out of Hawthorne, the Statewide Legal Advocacy Program

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

with Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence, excellent relationships among stakeholders in the community, cooperation between law enforcement, courts and legal advocacy program with the community based domestic violence agency, no batterer's treatment program in Hawthorne (the nearest program is located in Fallon, Nevada), difficult commutes for residents, and domestic violence training availability for prosecutors and judges on mutual restraining orders vs. non-mutual restraining orders, and discussion on new statutes from the 2009 Legislative Session to include felony strangulation, and changes to the Victims of Crime Compensation,. The meeting ended with the justice of the peace giving a tour of his chambers and court room.

### **2010**

The Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence conducted their 2010 rural meeting in Elko, Nevada in the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District on Thursday, July 15, 2010, at 10:30 a.m. The meeting was held at the Great Basin College, High Tech Center.

Agenda items included a report from the Committee Against Domestic Violence (CADV), discussion from local law enforcement on domestic violence issues in Elko County, update regarding Supreme Court Justice Hardesty's Hearing on Protection Orders, the annual election of officers, report from the Committee on Domestic Violence, update from the Washoe County Domestic Violence Task Force and the Southern Nevada Domestic Violence Task Force, and update on committee goals.

#### Members of the public included:

Sue Branscomb, Elko County District Attorney's Office,  
Pam Hansford, CADV,  
Diane Hills, CADV,  
Andrea Hollowell, CADV,  
Sarah Hinton, CADV,  
Juanita Joe, Elko Band D.V. Coordinator,  
Tdyi Zarah Y. Magdamo, LCCADV,  
John McCormick, AOC,  
Monique-Cheri Pierre, United Methodist Church,  
Dallas Smales, ITCN-DVPP,  
Toby Templeton, CADV,  
Jo Lynn Wallace, CADV,  
Pamela Webster, UCASA,  
Don Zumwalt, Elko Police Department, and  
Holly Zumwalt

Public concerns included: Lack of pro bono attorneys to assist domestic violence victims with legal issues to include divorce and child custody issues, lack of transportation for victims either by train or bus to safety, funding issues for

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

the domestic violence initiatives, tribal issues for domestic violence offenders and victims, and availability of batterer treatment programs.

Prior to the Elko meeting, NCPDV members held a town hall style meeting in West Wendover, Nevada on Wednesday, July 14, 2010 at 5:30 pm at the West Wendover City Hall Council Chamber Room. Agenda items included NCPDV mission and goals, NCPDV Committee purposes and reports and public comment. Approximately 12 community members attended this meeting with representatives from law enforcement, advocacy (including representatives from Utah), local casinos, judiciary, and the general public.

Public concerns included: Nevada/Utah domestic violence statute conflicts and state-line issues, difficult commutes for residents to Elko for various legal hearings and processes, lack of domestic violence batterer's treatment providers, inability to hire a law enforcement advocate with STOP grant awarded funding, and reciprocity with Utah batterer's treatment providers. The meeting ended with a tour of the West Wendover Criminal Justice Center.

### **JUDGE Comments and Recommendations**

Per Nevada Revised Statutes the NCPDV shall ask for comments and recommendations from district judges, municipal judges, and justices of the peace in rural Nevada and include them in its report as a separate section.

The NCPDV chose not to survey Nevada judges for this review as in previous biennial reports. The 2008 biennial questionnaires were disseminated and collected by mail. The questions and responses for the survey were contained within that report and are strictly verbatim. The 2009 report was the second report written to fulfill this requirement.

The NCPDV invited all rural court judges in the relevant counties to attend the NCPDV rural meetings held in 2009 and 2010 in Mineral and Elko counties. Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto and staff attended the General Jurisdiction Judge Association Conference held in Mesquite, Nevada in April 2010.

General Masto and staff have also been invited to attend the Limited Jurisdiction Judges Association Conference in January 2011. The intent of these meetings is to talk about domestic violence, what the Attorney General's Office is doing to prevent domestic violence in Nevada and discussion regarding the Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and the Committee on Domestic Violence, and to solicit input from the judges on how the NCPDV can work with them. General Masto stated it was her hope that this could be a regular item on the agendas of the judges' associations.

General Masto has also been invited to attend the Family Law Conference in March 2011 and to put together a panel presentation on domestic violence as

*Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence*

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

an agenda item. There will be discussion regarding issues of domestic violence in Nevada.

## **APPENDIX A**

## NEVADA COUNCIL FOR THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMITTEE GOALS

### ByLaws and Structure

#### **2009 Goals:**

- Discuss, Review and Revise Bylaws as required in 2009

**2010 Goals:** This Committee did not meet in 2010.

### Criminal Justice

#### **2009 Goals:**

- Documenting, Investigating and Prosecuting Domestic Violence Strangulation Training
- Statewide Sexual Violence Prevention/Intervention Conference – Criminal Justice Track.
- Review most recent posted items deposited in Central Repository
- Batterer/Victim Perspectives Training Video

#### **2010 Goals:**

- Statewide Sexual Violence Prevention/Intervention Conference – Criminal Justice Track.
- Review most recent posted items deposited in Central Repository
- Develop Victim Witness Best Practice Guidelines
- Batterer/Victim Perspectives Training Video

### Education

#### **2009 Goals:**

- Cut It Out - Cosmetologist Education Awareness Project - collaboration with NNADV and State Board of Cosmetology
- Recommend Statewide Fatality Review Model to AG and NCPDV members
- Survey of Hospital using Delphi Instrument

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

- Construct work plan for future Education Committee projects

### **2010 Goals:**

- Cut It Out - Cosmetologist Education Awareness Project - collaboration with NNADV and State Board of Cosmetology
- Approach EMS Board
- Approach Nursing Board
- Survey of Hospitals
- Boy Scout Domestic Violence Patch Program

### **Judicial Training**

#### **2009 Goals:**

- Develop list of Judicial Training topics.

#### **2010 Goals:**

- Develop list of Judicial Training topics.

### **Legislative**

#### **2009 Goals:**

#### **2010 Goals:**

- Completing the biennial report
- Reviewing proposed bills regarding domestic violence
- Researching possible bills that could come from the Council

### **Nominating**

#### **2009 Goals:**

- Recruit more members from Southern Nevada to include law enforcement, Judge, clergy and possibly someone from POST.
- Complete 2009 Nominating Process for new members.
- Plan rural meeting/tour for 2009
- Update Nominating Application, policies and process



## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

### **2010 Goals:**

- To recruit Council members from the clergy and the Native American community.
- To complete the nominating process for new members.
- To plan the 2010 rural meeting.

### **Public Information**

#### **2009 Goals:**

- Print and Distribute NCPDV brochures in 2009
- Reconstruct NCPDV portion of AG website and links

#### **2010 Goals:**

- Promote prevention aspect of domestic violence
- Increase Media Awareness

### **Underserved Populations**

#### **2009 Goals:**

- I-80 Corridor Transportation Issues
- Domestic Violence Survey – protection orders, and gaps in service
- Hearing Master Survey regarding potential training
- Continue to arrange Council meeting speakers

#### **2010 Goals**

- Domestic Violence Survey – protection order and gaps in service
- Continue to arrange Council meeting speakers
- Outreach to LGBT Community
- Outreach to women in/transitioning from prisons

## **APPENDIX B**

## NEVADA COUNCIL FOR THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BYLAWS

### PREAMBLE

The Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence is a state board established pursuant to NRS 228.480 and NRS 228.490, inclusive, and governed by the Nevada Revised Statutes, including, without limitation, the Open Meeting Law (NRS Chapter 241).

### ARTICLE I

#### NAME

- A. **"Council" defined.** The name of this organization shall be the Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence.
- B. **Use of Name.** Use of the name Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence shall be subject to approval by the Council or its chair.

### ARTICLE II

#### GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

This Council shall cover the State of Nevada.

### ARTICLE III

#### PURPOSE AND DUTIES

- A. The purpose of the Council is to work toward preventing and eliminating domestic violence in Nevada through:
  - 1. Awareness through education;
  - 2. Training;
  - 3. Legislation; and
  - 4. Funding.
- B. The duties of the Council are as follows;

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

1. To make recommendations for any necessary legislation relating to domestic violence to the Office of the Attorney General;
2. To provide financial support to programs for the prevention of domestic violence in the State;
3. To study and review all appropriate issues related to the administration of the criminal justice system in rural Nevada with respect to offenses involving domestic violence, including, without limitation, the availability of counseling services; and
4. With the assistance of the Court Administrator, based upon the study and review conducted pursuant to paragraph (3), to prepare and submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau on or before February 1 of each odd-numbered year, for transmittal to the next regular session of the Legislature. In preparing the report, the Council shall solicit comments and recommendations from district judges, municipal judges and justices of the peace in rural Nevada and include in its report, as a separate section, all comments and recommendations that are received by the Council.

### ARTICLE IV

#### FINANCES

- A. **Funding.** This Council is funded through the Account for Programs Related to Domestic Violence pursuant to NRS 228.460, private donations, legislative appropriations and state and federal grants as available.
- B. **Gifts or donations.** The chair or any Council member may solicit gifts, donations or in-kind services to be used by the Council for the purposes stated in these bylaws in accordance with state law. The Council reserves the right to refuse any gift, donation or in-kind services.
- C. **Fund-raising events.** Council sponsorship of its own or other fund-raising events must be approved in advance by the Council or the Council chair.
- D. **Expenditures.** Expenditures of the Council shall be governed in accordance with NRS 228.460.

## ARTICLE V

### MEMBERSHIP

- A. Members shall serve a three (3) year term and may be reappointed.
- B. Members shall serve without compensation but while engaged in the business of the Council, are entitled to receive the per diem allowance and travel expenses provided for state officers and employees generally.
- C. Members who have two absences per year may be subject to removal by the chair.
- D. Members may be recommended for removal by a two-thirds vote of the quorum present, subject to the chair's approval.
- E. All vacancies shall be recommended to the Council for replacement by a geographically balanced nominating committee, and subject to a two-thirds vote of the quorum present. The chair has the right to accept or reject the Council's recommendation in appointing new members.
- F. There shall be no more than 30 voting members of the Council. It is the Council's goal that the Council be comprised of a group of individuals who are geographically balanced, culturally diverse, and representative of the various disciplines involved in domestic violence issues.
- G. The chair may appoint other members as deemed necessary.
- H. The Domestic Violence Ombudsman shall serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of the Council.

## ARTICLE VI

### OFFICERS

- A. The officers of this Council will be comprised of a chair, a vice-chair, a secretary, and a treasurer.
- B. The chair will be the Attorney General or his/her designee.

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

- C. The vice-chair, secretary, and treasurer will be elected by the Council annually, at the first meeting of the calendar year.
- D. The Council may remove the vice chair, the secretary, the treasurer, or any chair elected by the Council by a two-thirds vote of the quorum present.
- E. The duties of the chair will be as follows:
  - 1. To serve as presiding officer during Council meetings;
  - 2. To plan the agenda and schedule meetings;
  - 3. To serve as spokesperson for the Council;
  - 4. To respond to correspondence on behalf of the Council; and
  - 5. To perform the duties as prescribed in these bylaws; and
  - 6. To perform other appropriate duties as they may arise.
- F. Should the chair be absent or unable to fulfill duties as outlined in section E, the vice-chair shall act in their place.
- G. In the event that both the chair and the vice-chair are absent, the Attorney General's designee will act as presiding officer.
- H. The secretary shall ensure that the minutes are accurate prior to being presented to the Council.
- I. The treasurer shall deliver a budget report at each Council meeting.

## ARTICLE VII

### MEETINGS

- A. The Council shall meet at least three (3) times each calendar year and may meet at other times upon the call of the Chair.
- B. At least one meeting in each calendar year shall be held at a location within the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, or Seventh Judicial Districts.
- C. A simple majority of the voting members shall constitute a quorum.
- D. Council meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the Open Meeting Law (NRS Ch. 241).
- E. Minutes will be taken at each meeting and draft minutes will be furnished to Council members prior to the next meeting.

## ARTICLE VIII

### VOTING

- A. Action on any matter requires a simple majority vote of the quorum present in accordance with NRS 241.015(1)(a).
- B. No proxy voting will be allowed.

## ARTICLE IX

### COMMITTEES

- A. Every member of the Council, with the exception of the chair, shall serve on at least one committee.
- B. Committees may be formed at the discretion of the chair upon advice of the Council or pursuant to Council action. Each committee will exist until its work is completed. Committees may consist of Council and non-Council members.
- C. Each committee shall designate a chair or co-chairs.
- D. The committee chair or chair's designee shall be prepared to report on the committee's progress and recommendations at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting following the committee meeting.
- E. Committee meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the Open Meeting Law (NRS Ch. 241).
- F. Minutes will be taken at each committee meeting.
- G. A simple majority of the committee's membership shall constitute a quorum.
- H. Each committee chair shall hold regular meetings. If the committee has not met prior to two consecutive council meetings, the committee may vote to replace the existing chair.
- I. Committee members may be removed by a simple majority vote of the quorum present at the meeting or by the Chair of the Council.

**ARTICLE X**

**AMENDMENTS**

Bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Council, provided that a notice of the amendment has been sent to all members one month prior. Amendments shall be passed by a simple majority vote of the quorum present in accordance with NRS 241.015(1)(a).

**Accepted and approved by the Council on this 29th day of January 2009.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO  
Attorney General, Chair to the  
Nevada Council for the  
Prevention of Domestic Violence



## **APPENDIX C**

**Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence**

**NRS 228.480 Creation; appointment of members; compensation of members.**

1. The Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence is hereby created within the Office of the Attorney General.
  2. The Council must consist of not more than 30 members appointed by the Attorney General from the various geographical regions of the State.
  3. The term of office of a member of the Council is 3 years.
  4. A vacancy on the Council must be filled in the same manner as the original appointment for the remainder of the unexpired term.
  5. Each member of the Council:
    - (a) Serves without compensation; and
    - (b) While engaged in the business of the Council, is entitled to receive the per diem allowance and travel expenses provided for state officers and employees generally.
- (Added to NRS by 2005, 940)

**NRS 228.485 Chairman; meetings; adoption of rules.**

1. The Attorney General or his designee is the Chairman of the Council.
  2. The Council shall annually elect a Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer from among its members.
  3. The Council shall meet at least three times in each calendar year and may meet at other times upon the call of the Chairman. At least one meeting in each calendar year must be held at a location within the Fourth Judicial District, Fifth Judicial District, Sixth Judicial District or Seventh Judicial District.
  4. The Council shall adopt rules for its own management and government.
- (Added to NRS by 2005, 940)

**NRS 228.490 Duties.**

1. For the purpose of preventing and eliminating domestic violence in this State, the Council shall:
  - (a) Increase awareness of the existence and unacceptability of domestic violence in this State;
  - (b) Make recommendations for any necessary legislation relating to domestic violence to the Office of the Attorney General; and
  - (c) Provide financial support to programs for the prevention of domestic violence in this State.
2. The Council shall:
  - (a) Study and review all appropriate issues related to the administration of the criminal justice system in rural Nevada with respect to offenses involving

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

domestic violence, including, without limitation, the availability of counseling services; and

(b) With the assistance of the Court Administrator, based upon the study and review conducted pursuant to paragraph (a), prepare and submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau, on or before February 1 of each odd-numbered year, for transmittal to the next regular session of the Legislature. In preparing the report, the Council shall solicit comments and recommendations from district judges, municipal judges and justices of the peace in rural Nevada and include in its report, as a separate section, all comments and recommendations that are received by the Council.

3. The Council may apply for and accept gifts, grants, donations and contributions from any source for the purpose of carrying out its duties pursuant to this section. Any money that the Council receives pursuant to this subsection must be deposited in and accounted for separately in the Account for Programs Related to Domestic Violence created pursuant to NRS 228.460 for use by the Council in carrying out its duties.

(Added to NRS by 2005, 940)

## **APPENDIX D**

STATE OF NEVADA  
**NEVADA COUNCIL FOR THE  
PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

**Minutes of Meeting**

---

*January 29, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.*

---

Office of the Attorney General  
100 North Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701

**Committee Members Present**

Tammy Whatley, Ellen Ewing, Caryn Sternlicht, Russell Smith,  
Vic Hutchings, Dr. Michael Freda, Sue Meuschke, Traci Dory,  
Suzanne Ramos, Mike Sprinkle, Adriana Botello, Valerie Cooney

**Committee Members Present Via Videoconference**

Toni Downen, Susan Filon, Elynne Greene,  
Andrea Sundberg, Robert Zentz

**Committee Members Absent**

Barbara Aupperle  
The Honorable Patricia Lynch  
Rebecca Smokey  
Ron Titus

**Public Present**

Sheila MacDonald

**Attorney General's Office staff present**

Catherine Cortez Masto, Attorney General  
Henna Rasul, Deputy Attorney General  
Kareen Prentice, Domestic Violence Ombudsman  
Kathryn K. Menke, Assistant to NCPDV

1. **\*Call to order, roll call of members, and introduction.**

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Mike Sprinkle at 10:22 a.m. A roll call was performed and quorum was established.

**2. \*Review, amend, and approve minutes from the December 16, 2008 Council meeting.**

Mr. Sprinkle asked if everyone had a chance to review the minutes. He allowed the Council members time to review the Minutes.

Dr. Freda suggested a few changes. On the third paragraph on page nine, Ron Titus was referred to as Judge Titus as well as on additional pages. There were no further amendments to the minutes.

Traci Dory moved to accept the Minutes as amended; Russell Smith seconded the motion. There were two abstentions, Elynn Green and Sue Meuschke. The motion carried with two abstentions, and the Minutes from the December 16, 2008 meeting were accepted as amended.

**3. \*Introduction of new Council Administrative Assistant, Kathryn K. Menke**

Kareen Prentice stated that last week Kathryn K. Menke was officially appointed to the Council as the Administrative Coordinator.

**4. \*Report, discussion, and possible action on reports/updates from the following Committees of the Council:**

**Bylaws and Structure Committee**

Russell Smith reported the committee had met and reviewed the Bylaws. There were some concerns regarding Council members not attending their committee meetings. In Article 9, Subsection I, the committee proposed a change to the Bylaws.

Right now the situation is that a committee does not have the authority to remove a member whose attendance is problematic. The real problem is not having a quorum to reach that decision in the first place.

The Committee Chair should be able to approach the Attorney General and ask to remove the person from the Committee. That should solve the problem. That is the Committee's recommendation to the Council as a whole.

Dr. Michael Freda made a motion that the Council accept the Bylaws as written with the one change; Tammy Whatley seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion carried.

Mr. Smith stated in terms of their goals there were a couple of things they wanted to do with the Bylaws Committee. They are going to schedule

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

their next meeting based on Council meetings, and at that time will take care of the smaller clean-up issues in the bylaws themselves.

### **Criminal Justice Committee**

Brett Kandt reported on the Committee goals and ongoing efforts. One is working with the Limited and General Jurisdiction Judges Associations and the A.O.C. to identify further recommendations for the Biennial Report to identify possible areas for appropriate training for the judiciary. They can hopefully get those issues addressed.

In terms of multidisciplinary training for other professions, they are putting on another presentation of Investigation, Documentation, and Prosecution of Strangulation cases, like they did the previous year. It will be in Henderson on June 9, 2009. He acknowledged the assistance of the Henderson City Attorney's Office in putting that together. The faculty and curriculum will be the same as it was last year.

He stated the Prosecution Advisory Council anticipates funding to co-sponsor the Statewide Sexual Violence Prevention Intervention Conference again this November. It will be in Las Vegas. The exact dates have not yet been established. The Prosecution Advisory Council will be co-sponsoring the Criminal Justice track of that.

Another area they have been looking at is the issue of reporting and improving reporting for both domestic violence and Elder Abuse cases as required by statute. The next meeting will be on February 10, 2009. At that meeting they will receive a report from the people at the Department of Public Safety who are responsible for taking in that reporting and are trying to improve it. The committee will see what DPS is doing, and what they can do to help.

They had also considered creating an instructional video that focuses on the perspective of the batterer, including and in addition to the perspective of the victim. They are planning to utilize existing videos for and build upon them.

### **Education Committee**

Sue Meuschke reported the Education committee had met and outlined goals for 2009. They are involved in a number of different projects. One of their major goals is to develop relationships with State Boards & Commissions, to use that as a conduit to reach out to their constituencies around the issue of domestic violence.

The first board they are reaching out to is the Cosmetologist's Board. They are scheduled to address them on February 9, 2009, to discuss a program called "Cut it Out". This is a program for salon professionals to

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

help them make referrals for customers who are experiencing domestic violence. They have also begun research a number of other Boards & Commissions, and over time the committee will be addressing them to try to figure out how to provide information and training on domestic violence.

One of the priorities will be the Nursing Board and other health care Boards & Commissions. Health care is an issue the committee has identified as one they want to work on. Linda Lilleboe is going to modify a Delphi Instrument Survey that will be sent out to hospital administrators to find out what kind of education and protocols are in use in hospitals in Nevada. That survey was done a number of years ago. They are going to follow-up and see if there has been any change.

One of the projects that Council worked on many years ago was the development of RADAR cards for health care professionals. That is a laminated card that provides physicians and nurses instructions on how to ask the questions, how to screen for domestic violence. The committee reviewed the contents and made a couple of modifications to the card. Working with the Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence they have received a donation for the printing costs. The cards should go to printing shortly.

One of the other tasks given to the Committee was to review Statewide Fatality Review Projects around the country, and to bring back to the Council a recommendation for how Nevada might want to proceed on the issue of Fatality Review. The committee narrowed it down to two states where they like the process. The committee is continuing to have discussions regarding which one they will recommend to the Council. The recommendation will be made at a subsequent meeting.

The committee is also focused on working with youth. They partnered with the Girl Scouts of the Sierra Nevada and other groups to put together a patch program on domestic violence, which is now continuing to the southern part of the state with the Frontier Girl Scouts. Their launch program is April 25. They also intend to do outreach to other groups, such as the Boys & Girls Clubs, Boy Scouts, and Planned Parenthood, particularly around their pregnant teen programs. They also will continue to work on their workplan for the future.

Andrea Sundberg requested further details regarding the Cosmetology Board meeting. Kareen Prentice indicated she would provide the address and time of the meeting to the Council members, and try to obtain a meeting agenda.

Dr. Freda asked Ms. Meuschke if they were going to reach out to the Board for Mental Health Professionals. She responded the committee has



## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

a long list of Boards & Commissions they need to approach. Dr. Freda offered his assistance to the committee in this matter.

### **Legislative Committee**

Mike Sprinkle reported they had one meeting since the last Council meeting, this was yesterday. The committee went over some of the recommendations that came out of their last Council meeting for the Biennial Report. Everyone should have received the updated copy of the Biennial Report.

The deadline to have the report submitted to the legislature is this Monday. If there are not any last minute changes, revisions, or amendments, it would be acceptable to take a motion on this report and send it to the legislature. Kareen Prentice stated the new Bylaws the Council had just voted on should replace the old Bylaws and be included in the Biennial Report.

Kareen Prentice stated there was a new Committee, Judicial Training. They had discussed whether they wanted to redact the names of the Judges from the Biennial Report, or leave the names in. General Mastro responded by stating that she would discuss this briefly.

They are reaching out to the judges to try to start working with them to develop that relationship, with the goal of getting them to do more training. She had contacted Judge Vega and Judge Tatro to explain that the Prevention Council wants to develop an ongoing working relationship with the judges. They want to do more training with them, and let them know the Council is a resource on domestic violence issues. Both judges were very accommodating and stated they would take it back to their associations and would be willing to work with the Council.

Judges have not wanted to work with the Council in the past because they felt targeted by the advocates. Now the Council has to overcome that. They could do this by not naming the judges by name in their briefing documents. She asked the Council how they would like to move forward to develop a relationship with the judges without them necessarily being targeted.

Mike Sprinkle indicated the statute did not require name identification with the responses. It indicates there must be a separate section with judges responses; the Council does not need to have the names associated with the responses. No one on the Council is opposed to taking the names out of the survey. Based on this, along with the new Bylaws, the Biennial Report should also have the judges names deleted from the survey.

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

Russell Smith made a motion that the Biennial Report be approved with the two additions just discussed. Dr. Mike Freda seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mike Sprinkle indicated he would talk with Kareen Prentice at the close of the meeting and make sure the applicable changes are made to the document.

Mr. Sprinkle reported at the meeting yesterday they set up some ground rules as to how the Committee should approach the legislative session over the next four months. It was determined they should meet approximately every three weeks. He is going to discuss some of the bills shortly. He would like the Council to review them, discuss them, and determine whether or not they are going to support them. The committee is a voice for the entire Council and the Council can have confidence in the way they respond to the bills.

If something becomes urgent, the committee can convene within the three day limit of the Open Meeting Law. They can discuss bills as they come up. Brett Kandt is taking a very active role for the Attorney General's office on their legislative work. Between him, Keith Munro, and Mr. Sprinkle, they will be able to stay on top of what goes on at the legislature.

In the past the committee has taken a very active role in testifying down at the legislature on bills that they have supported. This year, based on friendly advice from legislators as well as the environment they are seeing down in Carson City, they do plan to simply send letters of support for the bills that they do support, rather than testifying. They will also send letters of non-support as applicable. There will be very minimal public testimony down in Carson City during this legislative session. This is what he foresees, although it can be changed if necessary.

Yesterday the Committee took action on five pre-filed bills. These are the bills the committee has been able to identify to this point that impact domestic violence, and which the committee plans to support.

AB33 provides a certain penalty for subsequent convictions of battery which constitute domestic violence, without regard to the period between such convictions, as well as other related matters.

AB120 authorizes a victim of sexual assault to seek a protective order against the person who allegedly committed the sexual assault, establishes procedures for obtaining sex orders as well as penalties and other related matters.

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

SB14 increases the portion of fees for a marriage license that funds the account for Aid to Victims of Domestic Violence, from \$20.00 to \$25.00.

SB113 creates statutory subcommittees of the Advisory Commission on the Administration of Justice.

AB116 provides provisions concerning compensation for Victims of Crime.

Mr. Sprinkle stated there are some other bills that are pending and are in Bill Draft Request format, they have not been pre-filed and so the committee has not yet been able to take action on them. There will also be other upcoming bills the Committee will be taking a look at. There are also other Bill Draft Requests out there; the committee does not yet know what the language is going to be. There is one that Brett Kandt has been assisting with that has to do with strangulation. They have been working with some legislators on that, and he expects strong support from the committee as well.

If anyone hears of anything that needs to be addressed by the Legislative Committee, Mr. Sprinkle requested that they get in touch with him or Kareen so the committee can review the bill to see if they should support it or fight it.

With regard to AB33, General Masto asked if Brett Kandt had any statistics. He replied that had talked with some of the legislators about this bill. Although there seems to be support for the bill in principle, there is concern about the fiscal impact of the bill. What was previously prosecuted as a misdemeanor would now constitute a felony, and subsequent events would constitute a felony. The legislators wanted to know what that would mean in terms of caseloads and the fiscal impact. He did not have that information at this time; that is something they are going to need to answer.

General Masto indicated the legislators had questions regarding statistics of occurrences for the past year, and how many people would be impacted by this bill, and would go to jail. She was not sure the Council had those statistics. Russell Smith indicated they should poll the District Attorneys for each county, and find out how many of them were prosecuted this last year who would have been impacted by the "Once a third, always a third" law. Maybe that would be the best way to get a number back.

Brett Kandt had anticipated since the vast majority of cases occurred in Washoe and Clark County, he was going to reach out to those offices for information. Those offices in turn will reach out to their respective City Attorneys for information because they prosecute the misdemeanor cases. They will try to get a feel for how those numbers might be impacted.

General Masto solicited further comments and questions with respect to the five bills discussed. She thanked the committee for the update, for taking the lead, for pursuing the bills and taking a look at things. She stated that, if during the course of the legislative session a bill does come out that they feel needs to come to the Prevention Council, they would be willing to call a meeting to get together to discuss it.

### **Nominating Committee**

Suzanne Ramos reported that they are working on the application process for applicants for the coming summer. Presently they have three members from the south. She would like to encourage members from the south to join the committee, because they really don't have input from the south. In looking at the configuration of the Council right now, they have twenty-four members. They have lost two members since they last met. Kelly Langdon and Gail Palchikoff have resigned from the board.

In terms of the breakdown of Council members, they presently have five members from the south, eight members from the north, five members from the rurals, and statewide they have six. Since the majority of Nevada's population is in the South they would like for the area of Nevada to have greater representation on the Council. She would like the Council members from the South to assist the Committee in recruiting more people from that region. She invited Council members from the South to join the Nominating Committee. The Committee only has three members. It is a working Committee; they do applications, etc. Hopefully if members from the south are interested, it is a really good Committee to work on. She invited interested persons to contact her.

Andrea Sundberg indicated she would be willing to join that Committee and help out. Suzanne Ramos had hoped she would. The next meeting of that Committee is at 11:00 a.m. March 12, 2009. She also invited other interested persons to attend that meeting.

Ms. Ramos stated at the last Committee meeting on Monday, they set as one of their goals the planning of the Rural Tour or the Rural Meeting for 2009. They are reviewing their budget, and with the problem's the State of Nevada is having, they are hoping to have a meeting July 7, July 8, July 14, or July 15, depending upon what the Council members would prefer. The Committee has recommended Hawthorne as the location for the next rural meeting. She mentioned that on the Channel 2 News there had been a story regarding an increase of domestic violence incidents on the military base. They are planning to invite the military base staff in Hawthorne to their meeting. It is a really good thing to invite them and others from the surrounding community. She mentioned the Committee put back the date of the Rural Tour one month owing to the legislative

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

session this year. She recommended Council Members check their calendars and determine what dates and weeks are good for them. They will work on the details to either have a morning breakfast or a lunch meeting with community leaders in Hawthorne. Or perhaps something the night before for those persons who will be coming from the south. She reiterated the possible dates in question and stated staff will email all Council Members to determine their preferences.

The Committee is also working on the application process. They have pushed back the application due date to July 31, 2009. The application is to be received by the Attorney General's Office by 5:00 p.m. on that day. They are updating the application is on the website; it is almost done. Once it is completed they will review the changes. They are hoping that by then they will send out P.S.A.'s that they are accepting applications as of May 1, 2009. Their goal is to have everything done by May 1, 2009.

She encouraged Council Members to talk up the Council and persuade people to apply. They are looking again at selecting members from the South to encourage participation from people in the south. In particular the Committee is interested in recruiting someone from the law enforcement arena, judges, clergy, and persons from P.O.S.T. They are really looking to have those categories have representation on the Council.

The Committee's goals are basically to recruit more members from the south, including law enforcement, to complete their nominating process for new members, to plan the Rural Tour for 2009, and to update the application process. The Committee is currently working on those items.

The Committee suggests that the next Council Meeting be in April or May in Carson City. Members from the south should come up so the Council can invite the legislators to attend a Council Meeting.

Ms. Ramos ended her report by sharing the attendance record for the Council. Attendance was very good; everyone had done really well. This past year no one fell below 50% attendance.

Mike Sprinkle commented he thinks it is really important to stress that the Council needs to talk up the Council. In reviewing the minutes from the last meeting it became clear that everybody needs to get the word out about this Council, what they are about. Trying to get really qualified people to join the Council has always proved very difficult in the past.

He further stated it is almost impossible for a small Committee of three people to recruit effectively all on its' own. All of the Council members

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

should try to think of people they know in their professional environments who can be encouraged to apply to join the Council.

General Masto asked if they had ever invited a Legislator to participate on the Council. Sue Meuschke responded the Genie Ohrenschall had been on the Council, Sheila Leslie was on the Council for a brief amount of time, and Berniece Matthews was on the Council for a very short time as well. General Masto suggested they try again to recruit a Legislator to be on the Council; she recommended seeking out someone who is partial to domestic violence issues.

Sue Meuschke mentioned one of the issues they need to be aware of is that the Legislature is going to change enormously at the end of this session. Many of the people who have been sympathetic to domestic violence issues will be gone. The Council needs to be sensitive to this.

Ms. Meuschke mentioned Debbie Smith as someone who will be back, who has been supportive of domestic violence issues. It was also suggested that Richard Perkins might be willing to lobby Legislators on behalf of the Council.

### **Public Information Committee**

Tammy Whatley reported that the Committee had met on January 27, 2009, with 100% attendance. She was elected as the Chair. The Committee set two goals for 2009.

One is to recommend to the Council that the Domestic Violence Ombudsman Kareen Prentice be allowed to print and distribute the NCPDV Brochure that they brought forth today as it was approved in Committee.

The second is to recommend to the Council the reconstruction and continual updating of the NCPDV web page which is contained within the Attorney General's website. It should be more user friendly and should better reflect current membership lists, Minutes, Agendas, and related data.

She used a Power Point presentation to familiarize the Council with the website so they might see the need for the second recommendation. She stated the NCPDV information is located under the heading of "Nevada Attorney General's Domestic Violence Unit". Within this there are four further selections.

Under the Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence section there are several things that need to be updated. They need to update the number of Council committees from six to eight. There are

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

also outdated phone numbers and contact information. Under that same section it is possible to read the NRS from which the Council derives its' authority. The membership list also needs to be updated. The Committee lists are also outdated. The application is on the bottom, in outline and download form.

This gives the Council members an indication of what the website looks like. The Committee is seeking authorization from the Council to work on the website and create a more user friendly and updated site for the Council. They would bring their suggestions to the next Council meeting.

General Masto supported this, she thought it was a great idea. She encouraged the Committee to move forward. Suzanne Ramos stated this affects the Nominating Committee also, since the application is on the website. The changes have to be done by May 1, 2009, since that is the day the Council is going to announce they have openings. Ms. Ramos mentioned in the Attorney General's Office only the IT people are authorized to make changes to the website. She suggested they designate a staff member in the Reno office to make the changes, to expedite the process.

General Masto asked Kareen Prentice if she had spoken with the office Webmaster. Ms. Prentice stated they had exchanged emails with James Norman, Webmaster, and Edie Cartwright, Public Information Officer. They send everything through Edie, she approves the changes, and then she sends the changes to James Norman, who then uploads the requested changes to the website.

Yesterday they had sent all of the Agendas for this year, as well as a new committee list, and an updated membership list. General Masto recommended they invite Edie Cartwright to the next Public Information Committee meeting. They should discuss the desired changes with her. She can then coordinate with the AG office Webmaster to make the changes.

Ms. Whatley sought a motion to accept the NCPDV brochure as it was presented to the Council at this meeting. It was mentioned that the copies distributed contained a clerical error; therefore a motion to accept the brochure with corrections is necessary. Suzanne Ramos made the motion; it was seconded by Mike Sprinkle.

They also need to have a motion for the Domestic Violence Ombudsman to have the funds to be able to print and distribute the brochures. Kareen Prentice explained that there is \$250.00 designated for brochures in the budget. Russell Smith made the motion; it was seconded by Dr. Mike

Freda. Kareen Prentice stated the brochure will be uploaded onto the website. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Underserved Populations Committee**

Suzanne Ramos reported the first goal for this Committee for 2009 are to look at transportation issues for Victims on the I-80 corridor who are fleeing domestic violence situations. They are working on that, contacting various agencies such as Greyhound and Amtrak, and support shelters in the rural communities on I-80.

They are also working on a domestic violence survey regarding protections orders and gaps in services in the rural communities and also statewide. They are conducting Hearing Master surveys regarding potential training for them. There is a big issue for Hearing Masters in the south so they are going to be looking at that to help them find potential trainings to assist them in reaching their goals. They are continuing to arrange for meeting speakers for the Council meetings who deal with the Underserved issue in the State of Nevada.

That is a lot to be working on for the next year. Their next meeting is schedule for April 6, 2009, at 11:00 a.m. Interested persons may attend. The issues listed above are what the Committee will be working on.

Caryn Sternlicht mentioned the issue of an underground transportation network for the area in question. This would be so that people will be transporting domestic violence victims to safety rather than those persons having to use public transportation. This was discussed by the Committee with regard to the I-80 corridor, but they can include I-95 also. Russell Smith mentioned there would certainly be liability issues connected with this plan. Suzanne Ramos stated that had been brought up before and would be discussed.

Kareen Prentice stated she had done a lot of research with regard to Amtrak and Greyhound on I-80 and I-95, and she could bring that to the next meeting.

### **Judicial Training Committee**

General Masto mentioned Brett Kandt would have copies of the letters that had been sent out to the Judges. Judge Tatro is the President of the Nevada Limited Jurisdiction Judges. They had also sent a letter to Judge Adair who is the President of the Judges Association. In addition to the letter both had been telephoned. They were both very receptive. General Masto stated she had received a response in writing from Judge Tatro but did not have a copy with her. She would make sure the Council receives a copy. He was very accommodating and talked about some of the training that is coming up that he would like to have the Council



## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

participate in. He indicated he would like to become directly involved in closing the loop with the training for some of the judges. At least with the Limited Jurisdiction judges they seem to be receptive and willing to work with the Council. She has not yet had a response from the District Court judges but she wants to let them know the Council wants to be partners with them.

Generally the judges choose what type of training they want to have, so the Council is just going to have to take it one step at a time to find people who are willing to work with them. They will work towards their goal, and hopefully at some point in time they can reach a majority of the judges. It is important they not give up.

There is not yet a chair for this Committee. They are meeting for the first time on February 10, 2009. The Committee will at that time elect a chair and set their goals for the year.

### **5. \*Report, discussion, and action on reports/updates from the following Council Officers:**

#### **Vice Chair**

Mike Sprinkle indicated he did not have a report at this time.

#### **Treasurer**

Suzanne Ramos reported everyone should have received a copy of the financial report. It reflected expenditures made through December of 2008. The Council had spent \$413.93 to date, leave them \$3,150.07. They have a very small budget to work with. They are working diligently to make their budget work. This will be true especially if they have an April meeting where members from the South will need to fly up to the north to attend the meeting.

General Masto confirmed this is the remaining budget the Council has, which will end at the end of the fiscal year, at the end of June of 2009. Ms. Ramos mentioned they had just allocated \$250.00 of that to the printing of the NCPDV brochures; the Council therefore has under \$3,000.00 left. They also have certain amounts allocated under each category, travel, operating, building rental, printing, etc.

#### **Secretary**

Brett Kandt indicated he did not have a report at this time.

### **6. \*Report from the Domestic Violence Ombudsman**

Kareen Prentice reported that down in the South she and Henna Rasul, Andrea Sundberg, and Elynne Greene had all gone to the Civil Justice Victims of Crime Conference. It was in September, and they sent several

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

brochures to the participants. It was very interesting and helpful, and presented a whole new way of helping domestic violence victims. The brochure is Nevada specific and there are several available for distribution. Andrea Sundberg added that more copies of the brochure can be ordered free of charge.

Ms. Prentice stated she is attending a National Attorney General's Victims of Crime training in Florida February 4<sup>th</sup>. April 25<sup>th</sup> is the Frontier Girl Scouts domestic violence patch launch at 1:00 p.m. in Las Vegas. Council members are invited to attend. There will be booths. It will be very similar to the patch launch which took place in Reno. They are changing the name on the patch. They are also making a patch that is ringed in purple for the older girls, with a teal patch for the younger girls. There is a difference in the patch based on the age of the Girl Scout.

There is a meeting with Elynne Greene, of the Southern Nevada Domestic Violence Task Force, the Girl Scouts, and Katy Hanson, of the Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence, in March, to finalize and plan everything.

On April 29 there will be a Victim's Rights Candlelight vigil at the Reno Justice Center. The Girl Scout event previous to this will signify the start of Victim's Rights Week.

Kareen Prentice and Traci Dory, from the Department of Corrections, wrote a grant that was submitted January 8, 2009. It is a collaboration between the Attorney General's Office and the Department of Corrections regarding a statewide fine system. It is for the counties that do not have one. It falls under the category of the Statewide Automated Victim Notification Grant. They should hear back on the decision in August; Kareen will update the Council at that time.

Included in the papers distributed to the Council at the meeting today is a study compiled by Kareen Prentice and Lisa South, on behalf of the Victims of Crime Subcommittee. It is the Victim Advocacy in Nevada report. It covers funding sources, statewide agencies, and breaks the information down into the counties, and what is available.

Ms. Prentice requested the Council members review the Council Membership List and provided updated information if necessary. Council members should also update the Committee List; indicate what committees they wish to be one, and whether or not they are receiving emails. The Judicial Training Committee meets on February 10, 2009, at 4:00 p.m., and the Criminal Justice Committee meets on February 10, 2009, at 2:00 p.m.

Kareen Prentice introduced Sheila MacDonald with the A.O.C. Ms. MacDonald presented the new Protection Order Forms to the Council, as well as information on how to obtain the forms from the A.O.C.

She stated they had a Committee that addressed the changes in the standardized Protection Order Forms. They did an excellent job. The forms are now done. They addressed the 2007 legislative changes and a number of other changes as well. The court is currently trying to compile a list of people, such as advocates, who would like to have those forms. Ms. MacDonald requested that Council members contact her regarding the forms.

**7. \*Report from the Southern Nevada Domestic Violence Task Force**

Elynn Greene reported that they have been pretty busy. Back in October they had hosted a one day workshop on teen dating violence. About 150 people attended. Part of the purpose was to start identifying what they need in their community to improve their response to teen dating violence.

They are going to have a general meeting in Las Vegas on March 12, 2009. The participants from last October are going to be invited back to the meeting, so the Task Force can start looking at what changes have been made and if there are barriers to making some of these changes. Then the Task Force can begin to address those gaps. Anyone who wishes to attend the meeting may do so.

There is a faith-based Christian school in the area that is doing an event in April. The Task Force is also supporting the Girl Scout patch launch. The north has been awesome in giving them a lot of direction.

The Task Force is also going to co-sponsor the Victims Rights Week awards banquet on Friday, May 31, 2009. They honor and recognize volunteers and professionals who have done really great things. The Task Force will also give out their award at that time.

An issue that is arising because of the economy, in addition to layoffs and the housing crisis, is the fact that offices are shrinking owing to hiring freezes. The Task Force has been impacted greatly by the fact that people are unable to get away from their offices to attend meetings, etc. At this time their annual fundraiser is on hold. They do not have volunteers available to host the event. Suggestions regarding how to bring life back into the Task Force and navigate this difficult time without folding would be welcomed.

**8. \*Report from the Washoe County Domestic Violence Task Force**

Dr. Michael Freda reported that the Task Force is going through a number of the same things the Task Force in Southern Nevada is dealing with. The economy is impacting donations.

They are starting to work on their big fundraiser which is at the end of September. It will help kick off Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The fundraiser is a walk-run in Idlewild Park, put on in conjunction with the fair.

They are also looking at other funding sources as well as getting other people involved with the Task Force. They are also having a problem with offices cutting back on staff, which leaves the staff who have been attending committee meetings with less time available to them to participate on the Task Force.

The Task Force is trying to navigate these issues and come through this period of time as unscathed as possible.

**9. \*Report from the Nevada Network Against Sexual Violence**

Sue Meuschke reported that as with everyone else they are certainly looking at funding. She thanked the Council for agreeing to support SB14. It is an important bill that will increase the marriage license fee that goes to fund the domestic violence program. They are distributing postcards for people to fill out and send to the legislators. Russell Smith has copies of the postcards for Council members.

The Network is putting on two regional trainings. The first is Saturday in Yerington, it is on domestic violence and suicide. Misty Allen will be talking with advocates regarding how they can assist survivors who are having suicide issues. In the spring in southern Nevada, possibly on April 24, they will be doing another regional training regarding domestic violence and plural families. This is an issue, particularly in the Southwest region of the United States. They are bringing in an expert from Utah who will talk with shelter folks and other advocates about how to assist folks in plural families who are experiencing domestic violence.

The Network is also working with the Council and the Education Committee on the Cut it Out Program; they will have staff who will be able to provide training of trainers. They will talk to salon professionals about how to do good referrals.

They are working with Head Start, training staff and teachers regarding the intersection of domestic violence, mental health, and substance abuse, and the impact on the children that they are working with.

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

They have a variety of materials available on their website. Ms. Meuschke gave the web address for the Network. There are brochures, posters, and a number of things which can be downloaded. The Network can also be contacted and the requested items will then be sent free of charge.

The Network has been working on issues of health care for the past several years. They have a leadership team composed of health care professionals, advocates, and other assorted folks who have been looking at ongoing education for health care professionals.

As an outgrowth of that, there will be a conference in March, at S.A.F.E. Nest in Las Vegas that will have a number of different focuses. One is the faith-based community. One day will be devoted to health care. That information should be coming out soon.

The Network has done a lot of work in terms of helping local agencies provide services. They have a statewide legal advocacy program they have been operating for the last several years. They assist local domestic violence programs improve their legal advocacy efforts.

The Network will be hosting a topical meeting in February for the National Court Monitoring Project. They will be inviting coalitions from around the country to come and talk about doing court monitoring in their state.

They also have a rural transitional housing program where they are helping two rural programs develop transitional housing capacity in those communities where a transitional housing facility cannot be built.

### **10. \*Report from the Nevada Coalition Against Sexual Violence**

Andrea Sundberg reported the Coalition held its' annual conference in November, in Verdi, Nevada. It was co-sponsored with the Nevada Prosecution Advisory Council. It was a very interesting conference with about 800 people in attendance. Brett Kandt had brought in a great speaker from Chicago to talk about criminal justice issues.

They also elected new Board Members. Ms. Sundberg took the opportunity to thank Russell Smith for all of his work with the Coalition and for keeping it going at a very difficult time. It has been wonderful to work with him.

The new President of the Board is Denise Eagle, a nurse from the northern part of the state. Christina Hernandez is the new Secretary. Glenn Puliz from the Crisis Call Center is the new Treasurer. Miranda Smith is their new Vice-President. They also have been able to expand the Board and have a lot of really great involvement.

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

The Coalition's outreach person up in Reno, Keri Ramos, has been doing a fabulous job of reaching out to the rural communities. She has gained a lot of interest in from the rural communities in terms of doing work with schools to educate people about domestic violence. She has also set up a training for one community that is doing a peer activity training program.

The Coalition has worked with the Victims of Crime Compensation program to address some of the issues there. They have also been working on forensic compliance, and have worked with Dorene Whitworth of the Attorney General's Office to make sure they are in compliance with the regulations from 2005. They are working on developing a model protocol to make sure they are complying on that.

Ms. Sundberg reported she had been in training in San Diego for the past three days. One of the things that came out of the training is that with the economic stimulus package that has been introduced, there is going to be a one time infusion of money that is going to go into S.T.O.P. funds and to all of the V.O.C.A. funds. Three hundred million will be for S.T.O.P, one hundred million will be for V.O.C.A. They are also going to have a few million dollars for a transitional housing program. That passed the Senate and is now in the House. They plan on having it to the President by February 13, 2009. They are going to be pushing that through, so, if people could pay attention to that and support it that would be absolutely fabulous.

One of the other things the Coalition is working on for the State is National Denim Day. It will take place during Victims Rights Month in April. It actually came out of a case in Italy where a girl was kidnapped and raped by a taxi driver, who was then arrested and convicted of the crime. On Appeal it was determined that the jeans the victim was wearing had been too tight, so she had contributed to the assault that took place. The court held that this was the case. The women of the Italian legislature protested this decision by wearing jeans to promote the issue of not blaming victims for their own victimization.

It became an international event. Once a year people hold denim day to bring awareness to the issue of how often victims of sexual assault are blamed for it. The Coalition is encouraging people to participate in Denim Day. They actually have two banks that are encouraging their employees to participate.

This is a good example of how activism can actually pay off. Six months ago the Italian Supreme Court did actually reverse the ruling in question. This happened because of the awareness that was brought to it. It is never appropriate to blame the victim of a sexual assault. Council members should encourage their employers to allow employees to

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

participate in this day. General Masto recommended Denim Day be a free jeans pass day for all AG office employees. Kareen Prentice stated she would send out that information.

Ms Sundberg ended her report by stating she would send the Council more information on Denim Day, in the hope of getting more people involved. Employees will pay to wear jeans and the funds collected will support domestic violence programs which provide direct services to victims.

Brett Kandt asked Ms. Sundberg if there was a date and location set for the Sexual Assault Prevention and Intervention Conference for this year. There was not yet. They have a planning meeting coming up, and she will email him the applicable information.

Mike Sprinkle suggested emails regarding special dates and events should be sent to the Council's Administrative Coordinator for distribution. Centralizing this will make it easier to keep track of the information.

Brett Kandt suggested the Council should create a website as a resource center, containing a calendar of upcoming domestic violence related events. That idea is already under consideration and is being worked on by the Public Information Committee.

Sue Meuschke remarked that regarding the contents of the stimulus package, the version referred to above had passed the Senate, but the version that passed the House yesterday does not contain any of the same provisions for the V.O.C.A. and S.T.O.P. programs. The first step is to encourage your Senators to vote in favor of that, so that when they go to Conference there is an opportunity to discuss it and agree on it. It still has to be reconciled with the House version and has to be passed.

At Mike Sprinkle's request, Andrea Sundberg gave the Council the name of and contact information for her Outreach Coordinator in Northern Nevada. It is Keri Ramos and she works for the Crisis Call Center.

### **11. \*Report from the Attorney General Office on Violence Against Women**

There was no report regarding this matter at this time.

### **12. \*Report from the Committee on Domestic Violence**

Kareen Prentice read the report from Jennifer Kandt, the Administrative Coordinator for the Committee. At the November 2008 meeting, Humboldt County District Attorney Russell Smith resigned after two years of dedicated service.

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

Attorney General Masto recently appointed Lyon County District Attorney Robert Auer to fill the position vacated by Russell Smith.

The Committee has spent a great deal of time discussing how to conduct site reviews within a decreased budget and continues to discuss possible solutions should the budget forecast not improve.

Currently the Committee is finalizing a report due to L.C.B. on March 1, 2009, which contains a summary of the Committee's work and suggestions for legislation.

The next meeting of the Committee will be video-conferenced between Carson City and Las Vegas, on February 5, 2009, at 10:00 a.m.

### **13. \*Update on Best Practices Project**

Brett Kandt indicated he could address this. They have a monograph of the project that was supposed to be completed. The National Office of Violence Against Women retained Praxis International to do the monograph with input from the Attorney General's office. This monograph could be replicated in other states. It has not yet been finalized. It has never been published. He will check with Dorene Whitworth regarding the status of the monograph.

He stated Kareen Prentice had told him it would be appropriate to make a Power Point Presentation regarding this project at the next Council meeting. This will give the Council members a broader view of what the project is about and what they have accomplished. He will also give each Council member a copy of the finalized monograph.

### **14. \*Report from the Victims of Crime Subcommittee**

General Masto reported the subcommittee had a very productive meeting yesterday. They reviewed and discussed the Victims of Crime Compensation Policy Manual which Brian Nix is working on. They are trying to finalize it to bring to the next Board of Examiners meeting in March. If Council members have changes regarding the manual, or concerns, they may contact Mr. Nix directly. He is still taking information regarding changes from individuals. Subcommittee members are working with him on some of the language for the manual.

The subcommittee also reviewed a Bill Draft Request brought to them by Andrea Sundberg. It would amend NRS 171.1228. It states that victims of sexual assault are not required to submit to psychological or psychiatric amnesia. They had testimony from Andrea regarding this matter. They also had two prosecutors from the Clark County District Attorney's Office come and talk to them and educate them on the state of the law with respect to this issue. More importantly, they indicated



## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

their support of the bill and the reasons for that support. Based on the information received, and comments from committee members, the subcommittee moved to recommend that Justice Hardesty's Advisory Commission adopt this Bill Draft Request and send it to the legislature.

The next step with the B.D.R. is to send it over to Judge Hardesty, at which point in time he will likely have a hearing on it. General Masto stated she is sure the Public Defender's Office will want to weigh in on the bill. That is where they are with respect to that bill. That was the final bill that went from the Victims of Crime Subcommittee to the Advisory Commission.

The next Advisory Commission meeting is February 4, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. They are going to try to talk with Justice Hardesty before that next meeting.

The Advisory Commission had adopted a motion to recommend changes to the contributory conduct language, stating that it is not applicable to victims of domestic violence or sexual assault. That is moving forward. Kareen Prentice stated it is out in final form. It is AB116. It has two parts. One requires law enforcement agencies and juvenile courts to provide requested police reports. The second part requires contributory conduct from domestic violence and sexual assault victims be excluded from the determinations. The Legislative Committee has approved to support this bill.

General Masto reported that Brian Nix had some statistics on the turn-around time in which Victims of Crime should respond to requests for compensation. Traditionally in the past it has taken some time to get compensation to victims. Now, more of the cases are taken care of in approximately eight days. There will also be a future discussion on that once more statistics are available. That will come before the committee.

At one of their meetings Justice Hardesty had requested that a business plan be put together by the subcommittee. They are in the process of getting somebody on the outside who is familiar with strategic planning to work with them. Elynne Greene has taken the lead on this; she has already made the initial contact with the gentleman who is going to help the committee out. This will also be on the agenda for the next subcommittee meeting.

### **15. \*Comments from the Chair**

There were no comments from the Chair.

**16. \*Discussion and scheduling of future meetings and agenda items**

Mike Sprinkle stated the Council needed to schedule their next meeting sometime in April. Brett Kandt stated that according to the Legislature's calendar, bills have to make it out of their House of origin by April 21, 2009. If the Council met after that date they would have a better idea of whether certain bills they are interested in are still alive or not.

April 22 or April 23 were suggested. These dates were discussed. Brett Kandt suggested meeting in the afternoon because some Council members may be at the Legislature that morning. Most of the Council members preferred to stay with a morning meeting time. An afternoon meeting might run too long. Ms. Rasul stated the length of the meeting is determined by the Agenda items.

Kareen Prentice stated for the April meeting the Council had wanted to invite legislators and fly up people from the South. Because of this an afternoon meeting might be good.

The Council decided to stick with a 10:00 a.m. meeting. April 22, 2009, was set as a meeting date as the majority of people can make it on that date. Timely reminders will be sent out.

As far as agenda items are concerned, Brett Kandt indicated they would have to wait and see if he can do a presentation that day. If not, he can make the presentation during the rural tour in the summer.

Sue Meuschke asked what the plan is for inviting legislators to the Council meeting. Mike Sprinkle responded the suggestion had been made just yesterday and no further planning had been done at this point. It may be something formal, or it may just be a standing invitation to join the meeting. Suggestions would be welcomed. The next Legislative Committee meeting is February 19, 2009, at 4:00 p.m.

**17. \*Public Comment.**

Sheila MacDonald indicated she would send her contact information to Kareen Prentice who could then forward it to interested parties.

**18. \*Adjournment**

Sue Meuschke made a motion to adjourn; Tammy Whatley seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00.

**STATE OF NEVADA**  
**NEVADA COUNCIL FOR THE**  
**PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

**Minutes of Meeting**

---

***July 16, 2009 at 10:30 a.m.***

---

Mineral County Public Library  
110 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Hawthorne, Nevada 89415  
(775) 945-2778

**Committee Members Present**

Barbara Aupperle, Valerie Cooney, Traci Dory, Toni Downen, Susan Filon, Vic Hutchings, Patricia Lynch, Suzanne Ramos, Mike Sprinkle, Andrea Sundberg, Robert (Bob) Zentz

**Committee Members Present Via Teleconference**

Caryn Sternlicht

**Committee Members Absent**

Adriana Botello, Ellen Ewing, Dr. Michael Freda, Brett Kandt, Sue Meuschke, Russell Smith, Rebecca Smokey, Ron Titus, Elynne Wernikove-Greene

**Public Present**

Chaletta Speights, Legal Advocate, Mineral County Advocates to End Domestic Violence

Clydell Wert, Mineral County Advocates to End Domestic Violence

Mark W. Fox, Nevada Highway Patrol

Sergeant Brian Dillard, Mineral County Sheriff's Office

Brooke Meyer, Walker River Paiute Tribe Victims of Crime Program

Ruby Hamrey, Mineral County District Court

(INV) Randy Adams, Mineral County Sheriff's Office

Lieutenant David D. Cornell, Mineral County Sheriff's Office

Wanda Nixon, R.N., Mineral County Public Health Nurse

Craig Nixon, Mineral County Fire Department

JoAnn Jackson, Consolidated Agency of Human Services (CAHS)

Loreley Epperson

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

Dolores Gallegos  
Edward Jackson

### **Attorney General's Office Staff Present**

Henna Rasul, Deputy Attorney General, Legal Counsel to NCPDV  
Kareen Prentice, Domestic Violence Ombudsman  
Dorene Whitworth, Grants/Projects Analyst Supervisor  
Liz Greb, Grants/Projects Analyst

#### **6. \*Call to order, roll call of members, and introduction.**

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Mike Sprinkle at 10:39 a.m. A roll call was performed and quorum was established.

Mr. Sprinkle thanked everyone for coming to this meeting. Mr. Sprinkle stated that about three to four years ago, the Nevada Legislature mandated that the Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence ("Council") have one of its three annual meetings in a rural community of Nevada. What this stems from was that most of the Council members come from Reno or Las Vegas, and so a lot of the issues that were being presented to the Council were related more to the urban areas, and they weren't really getting a good feel for what was going on in the rural parts of Nevada. Today's meeting fulfills the mandate by Nevada statute but, far more than that, rural meetings give the Council a chance to hear from people in the rural areas. This is very important to the Council. When the Council is deciding on policies and legislative action, education, health reform and things of that nature, they can do this with the assurance that they have had a chance to listen to concerns of people in the rural areas, and the Council is that much more informed about what is going on in Nevada. Mr. Sprinkle told the audience that the Council is chaired by the Attorney General, Catherine Cortez Masto, and up until just a few weeks ago, she had every intention of attending this meeting. Unfortunately, General Masto was called to Washington, DC. The AG instructed Mr. Sprinkle as the Vice-Chair to confer to attendees that she very much appreciates their presence and input at today's meeting, and she is very sorry that she could not be here.

Mr. Sprinkle asked representatives of agencies in Hawthorne and the surrounding area to introduce themselves and tell the audience who they are representing. Private citizens were also invited to introduce themselves. Mr. Sprinkle informed the audience that even though the time for public comment is reserved towards the end of the meeting, persons who must leave early can take their opportunity to speak at the time they introduce themselves. The audience members introduced themselves and the agencies they represent (please see "Public Present" list).

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

Mr. Sprinkle also mentioned that the Council's application period is open and that the Council is particularly interested in receiving applications from persons who live in the rural areas. He informed the attendees that there were applications available to anyone at the meeting who was interested in Council membership.

The Council members then introduced themselves to attendees:

Mr. Sprinkle invited the attendees to have lunch with the Council after the first part of the meeting.

**7. \*Review, amend, and approve minutes from the January 29, 2009 Council meeting.**

Andrea Sundberg submitted these corrections:

Page 17, the name "Glenn Puliz" should be replaced with Ben Felix (Treasurer for the Nevada Coalition Against Domestic Violence). Page 18 first paragraph, and page 19 "Keri" Ramos, should be changed to Kari Ramos.

Traci Dory submitted a correction for page 14, fourth paragraph: "It is a collaboration between the Attorney General's Office and the Department of Corrections regarding a statewide ~~fine~~- VINE system."

Suzanne Ramos moved to accept the minutes as amended; Traci Dory seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion carried, and the minutes from the January 29, 2009 meeting were accepted as amended.

Mr. Sprinkle reported that he wished to take a couple of items from the agenda out of order and that the Council would address agenda item #14 first.

**14. \*Report, discussion and action on reports/updates from the following Council officers:**

a. Vice Chair – Mike Sprinkle

Mr. Sprinkle remarked that he had spoken sufficiently at this point, and that he would report on the Legislative Committee later in this meeting.

b. Treasurer – Suzanne Ramos

Suzanne Ramos reported: Print-outs with a breakdown of expenditures for the fiscal year 2009 (for the months of February, March, April, May and June) were available for review. Out of the original budget of \$3564,

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

\$1677.26 had been spent. Even though the typed report states that \$1,886.24 is left, there was no carryover of these funds into this year's budget. For the fiscal year 2009-2010, this year, the Council has a budget of \$3,015.00. For fiscal year 2010-2011, the Council has a budget of \$3,015.00. State travel is \$2,793.00 which includes air fare, per diem, hotel, parking and incidentals, operating expenses are \$200, postage is \$22 (all adding up to \$3,015.00). Even with the reduction in funding for the next two years, the Council will still plan rural meetings. The Council and committees will need to schedule meetings in a more efficient and cost-saving manner during the next couple of years.

Dollars not spent from the 2008-2009 NCPDV budget will not roll over into the 2009-2010 NCPDV budget; this money goes back into the Court Assessments account. The money is still with the state, but is probably being used for other programs. Last year's rural meeting in June was paid for out of the 2007-2008 budget, but this rural meeting and next year's rural meeting both may need to come out of this year's (2009-2010) budget. Ms. Prentice has requested additional funds to be shifted to the NCPDV budget to cover this year's meetings.

Ms. Ramos reminded Council members who have traveled to Hawthorne to complete their travel reimbursement forms and to return them to Ms. Prentice. Also Ms. Ramos reminded Council members to pay Kareen Prentice \$11.00 for lunch since lunch could not be paid for out of Council funds (Ms. Prentice paid for the lunch out-of-pocket). Council members will be reimbursed by the state for lunch as part of their per diem. Council members with questions about their particular reimbursements were directed to talk to Kareen Prentice during the break.

c. Secretary – Brett Kandt

Mr. Kandt could not be present at this meeting. No report was submitted.

### **15. \*Election of new officers.**

Mr. Sprinkle stated that he would be happy to continue as Vice-Chairman of the Council for another year and invited other members of the Council to speak if they were interested in that position. Judge Lynch made a motion for Mike Sprinkle to be elected Vice-Chair of the Council. Valerie Cooney seconded the motion. Mr. Sprinkle was elected as Vice-Chairman for the 2009-2010 year; no council members were opposed, Mr. Sprinkle abstained from voting.

Judge Lynch moved to nominate Suzanne Ramos to serve as Treasurer for another year. Traci Dory seconded the motion. Ms. Ramos was

elected as Treasurer to the Council for the 2009-2010 year; no Council members opposed, Ms. Ramos abstaining.

Traci Dory moved that Brett Kandt be nominated to serve as Secretary to the Council for another year. Judge Lynch seconded them motion. Brett Kandt was elected Secretary to the Council for the 2009-2010 year. Mr. Kandt was not present at the meeting.

Mr. Sprinkle released Ms. Sternlicht from the meeting at 11:05. Mr. Sprinkle continued the meeting without quorum since the action items had been addressed.

**3. Presentation by Clydell Wert, Director, Advocates to End Domestic Violence, Hawthorne, Nevada.**

Clydell Wert stated that Advocates to End Domestic Violence has been in the Hawthorne area for a number of years, with Ms. Wert starting as a victim advocate in 1986. The DV program in Hawthorne is here due to cooperation and collaboration with CAHS, Consolidated Agencies of Human Services. For such a small community, Advocates to End Domestic Violence (AEDV) and CAHS are doing most of the things for victims that the larger cities are doing, because AEDV and CAHS do it all.

Ms. Wert continued: "We have counseling services. Chaletta [Speights] is a legal advocate. Victims are assisted with obtaining restraining orders. We have support groups and an anger management group. We have a shelter here." Ms. Wert introduced the shelter manager, Lorie. "We have funding through Emergency Services grants, shelter grants, VAWA, STOP Grant, and other grants. We work very well with the Sheriff's department and the Courts. We are very well-known here and we get along very well with everyone. We're in a *very remote* area, and we are doing our part."

Ms. Ramos asked how large the shelter in Hawthorne is. Ms. Wert replied that the shelter has three beds in a two-bedroom shelter. Although the beds are not full at all times, the shelter does serve its purpose to get victims in and then set them up with assistance to get them out. Ms. Wert added that although victims do get out of their situations, it is not easy since there is no public transportation out of the community. Ms. Wert said that she wanted to Council to understand that lack of transportation is the reason that sometimes the shelter has to turn people away because they get here and then are "stuck". When there is no car, no bus services, and no train services or plane services, the police have to take the person to the edge of town. Ms. Wert stressed that the shelter is in desperate need for a working transportation plan and the equipment to implement that plan.

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

Mr. Sprinkle asked Ms. Wert what sort of cooperation her agency has with the outlying communities (Yerington being the closest). Mr. Sprinkle commented that one of the things they heard at the rural Council meeting in Lovelock last year was a very similar concern (lack of transportation); especially when it was a violent situation, the DV shelter had to hide victims until it was safe for them to leave the community. The Lovelock representatives said that a lot of the times, it was law enforcement who supplied the transportation for victims. Mr. Sprinkle rephrased the question: "Do you have a lot of cooperation from other entities?" Ms. Wert stated that her shelter does have excellent cooperation with law enforcement agencies: "They're who we can count on." She said Senior Services comes out twice a month, and has assisted in transporting victims out of the community. If a person needs to be transported right away, law enforcement is called. There are only two persons working in the Hawthorne DV shelter, and there is no vehicle available to transport victims.

Valerie Cooney stated that over the last one-and-a-half years, she has gotten to know Clydell Wert and Chaletta Speights and their operation very well. Ms. Cooney, Ms. Wert, and Ms. Speights worked on the Statewide Legal Advocacy Program Grant with Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence (NNADV). Ms. Cooney said that she wanted to tell everyone that this is one of the programs that has some of the very best relationships with the other stakeholders in their community--relationships with the clerks' offices, with the judges, and law enforcement. Ms. Cooney congratulated Law Enforcement for their participation and involvement and their willingness to assist this program by offering the necessary protection that the DV victims need. Ms. Cooney stated that Chaletta Speights can regularly pick up the phone and get what she needs from the clerk's office in an efficient manner, and she can get anyone in the Sheriff's Office to assist. Whatever information that Chaletta needs and is legally permitted for her to have is forwarded to her without fail and without hassle. The Advocates to End Domestic Violence organization is the first responder for persons who need to get a restraining order. Both Clydell Wert and Chaletta Speights are highly respected when it comes to attending court proceedings. The judges rely upon them and listen to them in order to get accurate information. Ms. Cooney made this statement regarding the cooperation of courts and law enforcement agencies with the DV/Legal Advocate program in Hawthorne: "Ladies and gentlemen, that [sort of cooperation] is very unusual." Ms. Cooney congratulated and commended Advocates to End Domestic Violence and the community members who assist them.

Ms. Cooney commented on the issue of transportation and the relationship with outlying communities: The only transportation that the shelter in Yerington (Lyon County) has is use of a shelter worker's



## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

personal car. This worker literally drives everyone to and from court, to and from the store, to and from everywhere the victim needs to go. The Council may want to look at researching means of prospective funding for some of these outlying areas to cover some of the costs of transportation.

Mr. Sprinkle asked Ms. Wert "What do you think is working for your organization?" Ms. Wert replied "You know, we were raised here. We all went to school together. Somewhere or another, we all know each other. We communicate." There was a question as to what the population is in Hawthorne. Ms. Wert estimated the population to be around 3,000 people. Ms. Wert stated that the working relationship with the military base is very good and there are no jurisdictional problems: "They know we are here, and they cooperate with Hawthorne very well."

Valerie Cooney made a point concerning jurisdiction in Mineral County that one must understand the lay of the land: 50 miles "down the road" is Nye County. Individuals in Gabbs, who are only 50 miles from Hawthorne, are required by judges to go 100 miles to Tonopah to obtain a restraining order. So what is being worked on in Hawthorne is to try and forge a relationship between the two counties' Justices of the Peace so that an individual in Gabbs can come to Hawthorne to get a restraining order, saving this person time, mileage, money and hassle. Surely, a person would not want their car to break down from Gabbs to Tonopah.

Ms. Prentice stated that she and Traci Dory were at a meeting with Frank Adams from the Sheriffs and Chiefs Association, and they spoke about combining two counties into one jail.

It was asked if the military base has any advocacy services. Ms. Ramos stated that it does not. The military base does not prosecute within its own system. The whole military base in Hawthorne is run by a civilian contractor. There is a small contingency of military personnel under the authority of a commander. There is only one active-duty military person there. Large contingencies are brought to Hawthorne for training. They're here for two to three weeks, and then they leave.

Ms. Wert commented that for a long time, no one knew where Hawthorne was because the base was kept secret, and the secrecy surrounding the base is a reason that Hawthorne is so remote.

Judge Lynch asked if the Anger Management training offered by Advocates to End Domestic Violence was part of a batterers' treatment Program. Ms. Wert stated that it is not a batterers' treatment program, as she and Chaletta are not certified. Persons entering batterers' treatment must go to Fallon.

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

Ms. Cooney stated that Mineral County is similar to other isolated areas within the state in that there are no certified programs that are accessible. The person entering the treatment has to travel, pay the fine, remain gainfully employed, make and keep appointments.... Mr. Sprinkle stated that the courts had studied the effectiveness of videoconferencing. Ms. Cooney countered that providing a funding program for videoconferencing ability so batterers in rural jurisdictions can access treatment may be an issue for the next legislative session.

Ms. Hutchings said that in Elko, there are web cams (cameras on computers that can record your voice and image and transmit them to another computer in real time) for their perpetrator group. Every month, the web cams are set up: Ms. Hutchings has a web cam on her computer, the perpetrators have a web cam on their computers, and they will enter into a "room" and say that this is their group. Ms. Hutchings said that one of the problems she has had doing rural groups is, as a perpetrator group, they don't have enough people consistently attending because there is not enough supervision behind it. There are not enough personnel to travel the distance, rent a place, and hold group. Ms. Hutchings stated that she has spoken to the judge in Wells, and the judge wanted to know if Ms. Hutchings and her staff could do a group in Wells, which is halfway between Elko and Wendover. Ms. Hutchings said to the judge in Wells that if the judge could find them a place in which they don't have to pay rent until they get their attendance up, then Ms. Hutchings would look into it. Sometimes the casinos will donate rooms for the purpose of holding group. The Wells Judge said Ms. Hutchings would have to call the County Commissioner, because group could not be held at the court house.

Ms. Hutchings' organization is trying to provide services to Wells, Wendover and Ely because these communities don't have certified personnel to run perpetrator group programs.

Ms. Wert stressed the importance of treating the perpetrators in order to understand the cycle of domestic violence and thus help the victim and the perpetrator to end the cycle. Ms. Hutchings agreed.

Andrea Sundberg commented that she believes there is a huge hole regarding certified programs in the State of Nevada. Mr. Sprinkle stated that this could be something that the Legislative Committee could look at. Ms. Sundberg stated that she thought the web cam method of being a part of the meeting sounds like it has the potential to be effective. Ms. Hutchings said that she likes the web cam because she can actually see the perpetrator on the web cam, ask him/her questions, and get one-on-one interaction. Furthermore, web cams are inexpensive. Ms. Cooney stated that this sort of technology is already in court offices and there are options that can be explored.

**4. \*Report, discussion and possible action on reports/updates from the following committees of the Council:**

a. Bylaws and Structure Committee

Russell Smith was unable to attend today's meeting. He did not submit a report. Mr. Sprinkle asked the Council if any of them had some information to report. Mr. Zentz stated that the changes made to the bylaws during the January 29, 2009 meeting still stand, and the Bylaws and Structure Committee will schedule their next meeting for early 2010.

b. Criminal Justice Committee

Mr. Kandt provided this report to the Council. Mr. Sprinkle read the report to the council and to the audience:

"To the Domestic Violence Council from Brett Kandt, Executive Director, State of Nevada Advisory Council for Prosecuting Attorneys:

The Committee last met on June 4, and considered the following matters on the agenda:

- Discussion, recommendations and possible action regarding statewide notice and training on any changes to Nevada statutes as a result of legislative action. The Committee discussed AB 164 (felony battery by strangulation) and the seminar on Documenting, Investigating and Prosecuting Domestic Violence Strangulation scheduled for June 9<sup>th</sup>. The committee discussed AB 309 (stalking) and training on cyberstalking for prosecutors at the Nevada Prosecutors conference scheduled for September 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>.
- Discussion, recommendations and possible action regarding uniform crime reporting and data collection under NRS 171. 1227. The committee reviewed the UCR Quarterly Domestic Violence Report for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2008.
- Discussion, recommendations and possible action regarding multidisciplinary training opportunities. The Prosecution Advisory Council will sponsor a Criminal Justice track at the Statewide Sexual Violence Prevention/Intervention Conference, scheduled for November 12-13 at Boomtown in Reno. The committee chairman requested that the committee identify topics and presenters for the Criminal Justice track.
- Discussion, recommendations and possible action regarding new or existing best practices or protocols. The Committee discussed the current development of protocols for victim advocates to complement the *Nevada Domestic Violence Prosecution Best Practice Guidelines*, the *Nevada Model Policy and Standard Operating Procedure for the Enforcement of Protection*

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

### *Orders against Domestic Violence and the Nevada Model Domestic Violence Protocol for Law Enforcement.*

- Report and possible action regarding Committee goals for the upcoming year.
  1. Documenting, Investigating and Prosecution Domestic Violence Strangulation Training – scheduled for June 9 at Henderson Convention Center, 90 registered.
  2. Statewide Sexual Violence Prevention/Intervention Conference Criminal Justice Track – scheduled for November 9-10, location to be determined and topics and presenters for the Criminal Justice track to be identified.
  3. Review most recent posted items deposited in Central Repository – Statistics for 2008 reviewed; quarterly statistics to be regularly reviewed by committee.
  4. Batterer/Victim Perspectives Training Video - The committee intends to produce a video on the Cycle of Abuse using key insights from those most affected by domestic violence: a domestic violence victim and a domestic violence perpetrator. Using interviews from victim and perpetrator, the video will address two key questions:
    1. “How did this happen to you?” to show the dynamics that trap someone into the cycle of domestic violence and what it takes to break the cycle.
    2. “How could you do this?” would provide a personal account of the road to domestic violence from the perspective of someone who has allowed himself to commit this crime.

This video will be created for stand-alone use or in conjunction with other training presentations to law enforcement, prosecution and victim/witness advocates to better understand the cycle of abuse from both the victims' and the perpetrators' viewpoints.

The committee has developed a script with interview questions, identified a victim and perpetrator willing to interview, and received a preliminary cost estimate of \$10,650 for video production.

The Prosecution Advisory Council applied for \$10,650 in Recovery Act STOP grant funding on behalf of the committee for video production; however, this application was denied on June 26<sup>th</sup>. The committee had also discussed seeking funding through the Southern Nevada Domestic Violence Task Force.

Bob Zentz added that Council members, law enforcement and city attorneys attended the June 9<sup>th</sup> Strangulation Training.

#### c. Education Committee

##### i. 2009 Goals Update

Valerie Cooney reported that the Education Committee met last on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Prior to that meeting they met on March 10<sup>th</sup>. The committee continues to look at a variety of topics. One of the topics the committee is working on is to make a recommendation to the Council that the State regarding a Fatality Review, what the Fatality Review should look like, and how it should be approached. A motion was made and passed on March 10 regarding the status of the Fatality Review as to whether we should follow the Montana Model. At this point, the Education Committee has put the decisions regarding a Fatality Review into the hands of the AG and the Domestic Violence Ombudsman.

Ms. Cooney reported that the Education Committee is planning outreach efforts to a number of groups to inquire about the nature and extent of training that these groups engage in or offer. The committee looked at all of the boards and associations that were created by State law, then focused on a couple of associations (one of those organizations has to do with health care) and looking at the health care field and examining what type of training is offered to individuals that work in the hospital setting.

During that process the committee has revised and approved a RADAR card which is a pocket-sized card that is given to health care providers in order to interview victims of domestic violence. The committee has also looked at a document called the "Delphi Instrument for Hospital-based Domestic Violence programs" which is basically a multipage questionnaire that could be sent to various hospitals and health care providers to determine what kind of training and background they have and what services they offer. The committee is working on making modifications to the Delphi Instrument before sending it out to health care providers for the purpose of finding out health care providers' awareness of the DV issue, their training on DV issues, and how they are handling the issue in their line of work.

One of the other areas that the Education Committee has been working on is the "Cut It Out" program. They are working with the Cosmetology Board since cosmetologists could assist in identifying victims of DV, giving the victims information, and assisting victims in getting services. Kareen Prentice will report on the "Cut It Out" training seminars that have been conducted this year. Ms. Prentice stated that "Cut It Out" trainings have already been held in Hawthorne and Yerington.

The Education Committee has also been working on outreach efforts to children and teens. They have been trying to identify what is offered statewide regarding DV training for young people.

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

The Education Committee and Kareen Prentice designed a Girl Scout patch that would be awarded to the scout who became involved in activities that inform them and others about DV, victim assistance, how to respond. There is a curriculum connected to the Girl Scout patch that has been adopted in Northern and Southern Nevada. The committee is now making plans to approach the Boy Scout organization.

Ms. Cooney told the audience that they will hear more details about some of these projects in Kareen Prentice's Ombudsman's Report.

Toni Downen commented that since she attended the Documenting, Investigating and Prosecuting Domestic Violence Strangulation Training held in Henderson on June 9, she was unhappy about the way some things were taught at the University. She said "We went from CCI (Crisis Prevention Intervention) to actually teaching a new way to get out of a strangulation hold. This sort of training can save lives."

An audience member commented that in his line of work, he deals with DV situations and also oftentimes with EMT's, nurses and law enforcement who are not adequately trained in DV issues. He wanted to know if the Education Committee is addressing this "flaw" in the system; i.e. the lack of proper training emergency health care providers in how to deal with DV issues.

Mr. Sprinkle stated that this has been addressed several times, and added that, on a personal level, this is the main reason he serves on the Council. Mr. Sprinkle states that he and his co-workers, in their line of work, frequently have contact with victims of domestic violence.

The audience member suggested that the Education Committee contact the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council.

Mr. Sprinkle stated that he sits on the Education Committee also, and the list of organizations that they plan to reach out to is immense. In the last year, the committee has focused more on individual groups and was able to make immediate inroads with the Cosmetology Board. Health care providers, as Toni Downen can attest to, is definitely the first step—victims are either in the emergency room or in the back of an ambulance. Mr. Sprinkle continued the Council has been desperately trying to recruit a physician (especially an emergency room physician) as a member, but has not had success. Mr. Sprinkle stressed that the need for DV training among emergency medical personnel is revisited frequently by the Education Committee.

### d. Legislative Committee

The 75<sup>th</sup> regular session of the Nevada Legislature opened February 9, 2009 and adjourned on June 2, 2009. Mike Sprinkle reported that since January of 2009, the Legislative Committee had been meeting every three

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

weeks to update each other on the progress of bills, to go over bills pending review, and to discuss legislative issues. Only one bill out of at least 10 that the Legislative Committee supported was not signed by the Governor.

Mr. Sprinkle added that although the Legislative Committee had success in that most of the bills they were interested in getting passed were indeed passed, it was an arduous task. There were many amendments, changes in wording, and contentious issues. Letters were written by the Legislative Committee in support or opposition of certain bills. Mr. Sprinkle and Kareen Prentice were in Carson City on a daily basis for many weeks meeting with legislators. Mr. Sprinkle thanked members of the Legislative Committee who were involved directly or indirectly, stating that their work was very effective.

The committee worked directly with Keith Munro, Assistant AG and Brett Kandt.

Once the committee voted to support these bills, they then decided how much they were going to fight for these bills. There were about three or four bills that the Legislative Committee really had to fight for—provide testimony at the legislature and meeting with legislators to discuss.

The bills the Legislative Committee took action on are:

- SB 14
- SB 113
- AB 33
- AB 47
- AB 114
- AB 116
- AB 120
- AB 161
- AB 164

The full text of these bills can be viewed on the Nevada Legislature website ([www.leg.state.nv.us](http://www.leg.state.nv.us)).

Mr. Sprinkle stated that the future goals of the Legislative Committee are:

- 1) To take a break.
- 2) Reconvene in October to put together the Biannual Report.

Mr. Sprinkle extended an invitation to Council members to join the Legislative Committee.

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

There was a question from the audience regarding AB 33 ("once a felon, always a felon") and why it didn't pass. Mr. Sprinkle said he thought the bill was discussed right up until the end of the legislative session, but no action was taken on the bill because of the legislatures' preoccupation with bills pertaining to budget issues. Ms. Prentice stated that the main reason this bill did not pass was because it had a "Fiscal Note" from the Department of Corrections and that there was contention about the language pertaining to the categories of felonies.

Mr. Sprinkle commented that almost any bill that affected the budget did not pass; although SB 14 did pass and allowed for more money to go to victims of domestic violence programs.

### e. Nominating Committee

#### i. 2009 Goals Update

Suzanne Ramos reported that the Nominating Committee worked on recruiting new members to the Council. During the last meeting on June 30, the committee discussed the need for new Council members from the rural areas, from the South; and from the fields of law enforcement, courts, physicians, and the clergy.

Ms. Ramos stated that the Council has 3-4 meetings per year. Two to three meetings are held in Carson City and teleconferenced with Las Vegas, and one meeting is held in a rural area ("the rural tour"). A new member of the Council must commit to attending all of these meetings and to participate in at least one of the Council's subcommittees. Presently, there are 8 vacant positions on the Council.

The last day to submit applications to serve on the Council will be on July 30. Application packets which include the application, a resume, letter of interest and a reference letter should be mailed to the Office of the Attorney General in Reno, attention Kareen Prentice, Domestic Violence Ombudsman.

The next meeting of the Nominating Committee will be held on August 12. At that meeting, the committee will review all of the applications. The rating of applications will be done at the meeting of August 24. On September 3, the highest-rating applicants will be selected for telephone interviews. On September 17, recommendations for new members will be discussed and a presentation of those recommendations generated for the next Council meeting which will be in October.

The current conformation of the Council is: five people from the South, seven people from the North, four from the rural communities and six



## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

statewide representatives. Ms. Ramos stressed that the Council needs more representation from the rural communities.

Kareen Prentice stated that a press release from the AG Office went out on July 1, and she has received many phone calls and e-mails from people interested in applying for membership in the NCPDV. As of July 16, four complete applications have been submitted. Ms. Prentice encouraged members of the audience to submit an application and offered personal assistance to anyone interested in applying.

Mr. Sprinkle said that one of the concerns that he has heard is it is difficult to find persons from the rural areas who will apply for NCPDV membership. Mr. Sprinkle stressed that there is a time commitment with NCPDV membership; however, it doesn't mean that the member from the rural community has to travel to Reno or to Las Vegas. Mr. Sprinkle continued that most of the work that gets done on the Council is through the committees, and with the committees a member can always call in to the committee meetings. Ms. Prentice added that if a member does come physically to the meetings, the member is reimbursed for mileage and meals.

### f. Public Information Committee

Traci Dory reported that the Public Information Committee has met several times in 2009. The committee's goals for 2009 were to get the Council brochures printed. This has been done, and brochures were available at this Council meeting. Another goal of the committee was to re-work the AG website: the website needed to be updated concerning Council membership, duplication of information needed to be pruned, misspellings needed to be corrected, ease of access needed to be improved. The committee surveyed other states' websites and found out that the Nevada AG website was one of the better websites and decided to make it even better. The AG's Public Information Office, Edie Cartwright and the webmaster have implemented the needed changes and are eager to help with future additions and improvements to the website. There is a "Domestic Violence" button on the home page of the website, and soon a "Victims of Crime" button will be added. The application for the NCPDV is on the website. The committee agendas and minutes are on the website also, so any member of the public who would like to attend a committee meeting would know the locations, dates and time of those meetings.

### g. Underserved Populations Committee

Suzanne Ramos reported that the Underserved Populations Committee has been addressing transportation issues in the rural areas. The committee began looking at the I-80 corridor, then realized that the whole

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

state needed to be surveyed. How persons come into and leave the communities was researched. In the majority of cases, there was no reliable public transportation for victims of domestic violence to leave their communities.

The committee was looking at putting together and sending out a survey for the DV programs regarding how TPO's are administered. Some questions on the survey would be asking DV programs how law enforcement dealt with DV victims, if there was bilingual staff for the DV programs, how DV victims were transported out of their communities.

### h. Judicial Training Committee

Standing in for committee chairman Dr. Michael Freda, Valerie Cooney reported that the Judicial Training Committee is probably the newest committee that the Council has developed. There have been five meetings of this committee this year.

Ms. Cooney expressed her concern that a couple of committees may be overlapping in their work since the chair of the Underserved Population mentioned that they were looking at the TPO process in the limited jurisdiction courts. She said that it might be important that the two committees make sure they are not producing duplicate effort. Ms. Cooney observed that both committees, the Underserved Populations and the Judicial Training, plan on sending out questionnaires to judges. Ms. Cooney pointed out that judges receive more questionnaires from groups and organizations trying to find out what their education level is, if they're doing what they're supposed to be doing, what their problems/needs are.

The restraining order process has also been discussed in the Judicial Training Committee. Ms. Cooney stated that Susan Filon, a member from Las Vegas, shared a number of observations about problems in Clark County with pro-tem judges and hearing masters appearing that they are not adequately trained in the law. Ms. Cooney stated that she does most of her work in the rural communities; and the judges in the lower courts are, for the most part, non-lawyers who have different backgrounds but come into the legal profession not sufficiently trained in the law.

The Judicial Training Committee tasked itself first with identifying specific areas of training that the committee members (in their role as attorneys, advocates and service providers) perceive to be problematic. Areas included application of the law as it applies to domestic violence, and the level of judges' understanding of the law and what their obligation under the law is. Ms. Cooney stated that she was not out to disparage any judge at any particular court level. Ms. Cooney said that she thought that were probably many people present at the meeting that have seen a number of

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

judges in different areas, but in the same legal situation, apply law and procedure in inconsistent ways. Some of those things are what the JT committee is trying to address. Perhaps there needs to be some sort of standard by which laws are applied. The committee has put together an extensive list of issues that have been identified which includes the understanding of mutual protection orders and whether they are authorized under the law, and under what circumstances are they authorized under the law. Ms. Cooney said, in her experience, it is a very popular thing for rural judges to issue mutual restraining orders. Ms. Cooney contended that state and federal law states that this should be done *only in certain specific circumstances*. Ms. Cooney said that this is an enormous problem that she encounters frequently.

Ms. Cooney added that there is another area of training that judges need help with: understanding the impact of domestic violence on children and the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child neglect. How do we protect children and not re-victimize victims?

Ms. Cooney said that these are not small problems, nor are they isolated problems—these are pervasive, significant, statewide problems. In the South, Clark County, the largest populated area of Nevada, has enormous problems with the family court system with individuals who are trained in the law, who apply the law, and specialize in family law matters—and even they are confused. So, when you're dealing with a whole different type of judge, you can imagine how difficult the problem is there. If you're working in those situations, if you're a law enforcement officer, it's hard to figure out whether you have an enforceable protection order.

Ms. Cooney talked about the greater problem of having a dialogue with some judges and encouraging judges to take training. It would be good to know what training is already out there and how to incorporate additional training into a judge's training schedule. Judges do not have a lot of time and cannot travel far. How can training be offered which fits into a judge's busy schedule? Judges meet quarterly each year.

Ms. Cooney stated that the Judicial Training committee discussed the question of what an attorney should do to convey to the judge, to prove to the judge, that DV has taken place and that continued physical custody of the child is not in the child's best interest. Ms. Cooney said that it has been mentioned that some local judges ignore procedure and still grant joint custody between the victim and the perpetrator. The lawyers of the Judicial Training Committee are trying to figure out how can we better educate judges on those issues and how can we standardize procedures so if you meet this certain standard of proof, then the law can be applied consistently.

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

The committee has made contact with current chairs of the District Judges Association and one of the General Jurisdiction Judges' associations in the hope of being put on the agenda of one of these meetings. The committee plans to contact someone in the Supreme Court and the Administrative Office of the Courts in order to discuss how to incorporate DV training in the courses already offered to judges. The committee hopes to develop a curriculum and get an agreement by all of the judges in the state to participate in training or an order from the Supreme Court directing judges to attend regular training to review current law and procedures and to update training on changes in law and procedure.

There was a question from the audience as to whether bailiffs and other court personnel could or should receive training on how to deal with DV victims. Ms. Cooney answered that the Judicial Training committee has not discussed training for court personnel other than judges, court masters and pro-tems; but that Ms. Cooney's organization, Volunteer Attorneys for Rural Nevada, has grant funding earmarked to target training for court personnel and advocates. Ms. Cooney stated that some courthouses have people in-house who are specifically trained to help DV victims.

Mr. Sprinkle stated that he is wondering, thinking back when the Judicial Training Committee was established, if the topic of training court personnel and advocates in how to aid DV victims in the restraining order/protection order process would be in Education Committee's domain. Mr. Sprinkle said that perhaps court clerks and bailiffs would be a group that the Education Committee could look at.

Mr. Sprinkle said that the Judicial Training Committee is specifically for judges. Ms. Cooney added that it is not expected that anyone in the Judicial Training Committee would actually train the judges, but only identify the areas of training that need to be updated and/or added to the training judges already have had and seek assistance in getting that training to the judges.

There was a comment from the audience regarding Ms. Cooney's statement that judges receive too many surveys (agreeing that rural judges are being "surveyed to death"), although the audience member heard that the Underserved Populations Committee, the Education Committee and the Judicial Training Committee were each going to send out surveys!

Ms. Ramos stated that the Underserved Populations and Education committees did not plan to send out surveys until the Council as a whole reviewed those surveys.

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

Another audience member commented that she hasn't received any information regarding mutual restraining orders, other than the person coming down and saying "this is a restraining order" and that it is going one way. Law Enforcement gets the impression that it is a one-way restraining order against this person who is making calls and antagonizing the situations. A lot of times, it is a race to the courthouse to see who can file a restraining order first. It is frustrating for court personnel on the ground floor since they really cannot determine who is antagonizing who. The regular restraining orders don't always work, and mutual restraining orders could fix the problem.

Ms. Cooney replied that this sort of situation is a training issue. It is very important that law enforcement officers, legal advocates and court personnel understand the dynamics and that they can differentiate between a true DV case and a discontinued relationship. Ms. Cooney stated that in her opinion, more scrutiny by those who work in that field...

An audience member interrupted, saying "It's the prosecutors....they know the issues and the statutes and if it is a DV case. But in a case, there is always a conflict as to who the primary aggressor is." Ms. Cooney replied that there is a long legislative history with the problem with the statutory definition of primary aggressor. She gave an example: "If I were to force you by touch in any way, it could be domestic violence...." Primary aggressor analysis, in the form of time and training, could make it a little easier for law enforcement, prosecutors and court personnel to handle DV cases.

An audience member who stated that she is a prosecutor (working in Fallon and Hawthorne, and in private practice) stated that she has been working with DV cases since 1990, and she has not been aware of a training concerning mutual restraining orders versus the non-mutual restraining orders. Ms. Cooney stated that she has a "ton of information" on what the law is, why the law says what it does, the circumstances under which there are issues; and she stated that she would be happy to send this information to the prosecutor. The prosecutor replied that she would like to see training on this topic offered in the rural areas.

### **5. \*Report from the Domestic Violence Ombudsman**

Kareen Prentice reported that she has been very active with the "Cut It Out" Program in partnership with the Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence (NNADV) and the State Board of Cosmetology. There will be a press event in Las Vegas on July 21.

A "Cut It Out" information bag was passed around the audience while Kareen spoke.

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

After the press event in July, 2000 information bags will be handed out to salons across Nevada. Inside the bag are informational items and a brochure outlining where to get the “Cut It Out” DV training. Also targeted for this training are the 19 cosmetology schools in Nevada. A train-the-trainers seminar was performed in Las Vegas, and training of hair design professionals has been done in Hawthorne and Yerington. The course teaches salon professionals to recognize DV, respond to DV and to refer persons to DV resources. So far, the “Cut it Out” program has trained 170 students. The course looks at the relationship of the salon professional and his/her client(s). The salon professional is not put into a counselor’s role; but rather, the salon professional is a point person for conversation and information.

Ms. Prentice spoke of many salon professionals talking to her about “spongy scalp” in clients (which law enforcement officers also have talked about seeing in DV victims) and the inability for the clients to tolerate a shampoo since their scalps are bruised, clients speaking to the stylist about financial difficulties put upon them by a perpetrator of DV, and how the stylist-client relationship is one of closeness—which gives the salon professional and opportunity to get to know the client (and his/her family situation) and to observe physical/mental signs of DV in the client.

The State Board of Cosmetology has embraced the “Cut It Out” Program and has been phenomenal to work with.

Ms. Prentice invited members of the audience to attend the press event in Las Vegas on July 21, and stated that she will give the time and address to those interested in attending. On August 13 in Reno, another “Cut It Out” press event will occur, and in October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, another event will happen in Carson City.

Ms. Prentice offered the hour-long “Cut it Out” train-the-trainers training to the Council at the next Council meeting. The Council agreed that they would like to participate in this, and Ms. Prentice will put this on the agenda.

Ms. Prentice announced that she had received an e-mail from the Supreme Court stating that they are having a Standardized Protection Order Committee this Fall. This committee will address new legislation, one item being the new Sexual Assault Protection Order which passed in the 2009 Legislature.

The Nevada Sexual Violence Work Group has been meeting monthly. At the end of October 2009, the Nevada Statewide Sexual Violence Plan will

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

be completed. Andrea Sundberg will report on the Plan at the next Council meeting.

Traci Dory and Kareen Prentice are continuing to teach the Victims' Rights class at P.O.S.T. (Peace Officer Standards Training) Academy, with another class scheduled for September.

The legislative BDR and bill tracking and testifying by the Legislative Committee has been completed—Kareen and the committee were very busy at this time. The AG asked Ms. Prentice to speak about the following key legislation that has been passed:

-AB 116: Victims of Crime Compensation Policies. It has been repealed that certain victims of crime would not be compensated due to contributory conduct. No longer can the Victims of Crime compensation unit deny victims of DV or victims of sexual violence compensation due to contributory conduct. Ms. Prentice shared a story of particularly compelling testimony from a person who stated a 13-year-old girl left school during school hours, went to a boy's house where she was drugged and sexually assaulted, and then denied compensation for counseling and medical care because she "contributed to the crime" by leaving school grounds. Furthermore, the AB 116 provided a time requirement for law enforcement officers to provide requested police reports to Victims of Crime Compensation offices—Ms. Prentice stated the time requirement is within 10 days of the request.

-AB 114: This was also a Victims of Crime Compensation policy change. The deadline of 15 days to appeal a denial for VOC compensation was extended to 60 days. Ms. Prentice stated that in 15 days, most victims are still being treated medically, going through a lot of trauma and crisis, and many times are unable to meet such a short deadline. With Saturdays, Sundays and holidays figured in to the 15 days, this is indeed a short time period in which to file an appeal.

-AB 120: Makes changes concerning orders for protection of victims of sexual assault. Ms. Prentice stated that this bill passed very quickly and easily.

Ms. Prentice, Mr. Sprinkle, and other members of the Legislative committee testified on bills, and Mr. Sprinkle and Ms. Prentice met with legislators in the Senate and Assembly judiciaries to discuss bills before they were to be passed, and they had less questions about AB 120 than AB 116. AB 116 was a whole different story!

-SB 113 made changes relating to the Advisory Commission on the Administration of Justice. The Victims of Crime subcommittee was signed

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

on as a permanent committee of the Advisory Commission on the Administration of Justice.

Report on the Girl Scout DV patch: On April 25, the Frontier Girl Scout DV Patch kick-off was held in Las Vegas with the Southern Nevada DV Task Force. Fifty to sixty parents, scouts and leaders attended the event. Fox News covered the event, the AG attended, as well as Judge Frank Sullivan who was quite a hit—he let everyone try on his robe. The DV patch is a statewide Girl Scout patch, and Ms. Prentice advised the audience that if there were those involved in Girl Scouts present, they could contact Kareen for information on the curriculum to earn the Girl Scout DV patch. Another patch kick-off is planned for October.

The AG office and the Nevada Department of Corrections' grant application for a statewide VINE project was funded.

On April 29, the AG and Ms. Prentice attended the Alliance for Victims Rights' Candlelight Vigil in Carson City. This event was well-attended—200 people attended.

On May 19, the AG led a Cyber Safety Town Hall meeting in Reno. The Washoe County Sheriff's Department, Reno Police Department and My Space were represented. The meeting was funded by the Reno Rodeo Foundation and the Girl Scouts. Ms. Prentice spoke about teen dating violence, cyberbullying and "sexting". One hundred people attended the town hall meeting, and the AG plans on having Cyber Safety Town Hall meetings in Las Vegas and the rural areas.

Ms. Prentice taught a Teen Violence, Cyberbullying and "Sexting" seminar at Girls' State in Lake Tahoe. The presentation was to last only one hour, but the attendees had so many questions and comments that the training went for 2.5 hours!

Ms. Prentice has completed the NNADV Leadership Training and recommends this training for all who deal with DV victims in their lines of work.

The Family Support Council and the Washoe Tribes have approached Ms. Prentice to conduct a training seminar on Secondary Trauma and Self-Care for their S.A.F.E. programs. For those unfamiliar with S.A.F.E. programs, this is a program that connects older or elderly persons with resources.

The AG and Ms. Prentice have recently toured the Carson City DV shelter. The AG plans to tour every DV shelter in Nevada.



An audience member commented that another area that Ms. Prentice and the Council could approach to educate would be WIC workers since not only does the child need good nutrition, but the parents AND children may need to be referred to DV victim resources.

Ms. Prentice replied that this was an excellent idea and would be discussed at the next Education Committee meeting.

**7. \*Report from the Southern Nevada Domestic Violence Task Force**

Barbara Aupperle commented that the Girl Scout DV Patch kick-off was very successful, and the future kick-off looks like it will be an even larger event.

Ms. Aupperle stated that the Southern Nevada Domestic Violence Task Force is working on some by-laws revisions. Membership in the task force has dwindled, similar to many organizations, as the economy has worsened, and it has become difficult for members to break free to attend meetings. The DV Task Force has changed their meeting schedule to four times a year, and the meetings will be longer. The Executive Committee will still meet once a month. Ms. Aupperle stated that she is the new secretary and that she plans to send out a calendar ahead of each monthly Executive Committee meeting to the entire membership.

The Southern Nevada DV Task Force has its annual action coming up on October 3. This year, the task force is partnering with Shade Tree Shelters' Animal House, who provides shelter for pets that families cannot care for. Many great items will be up for auction—this is the Task Force's biggest fund-raising event of the year.

The DV Task Force has been working to get their website up again. They have researched website companies and are choosing which would be the best to design the website. The calendar will be included on the website, along with upcoming DV events. Perhaps this will increase attendance and participation.

**9. \*Report from the Washoe County Domestic Violence Task Force**

Suzanne Ramos, Treasurer for the Washoe County DV Task Force, reported on behalf of Dr. Michael Freda. The Washoe County DV Task Force is also working on establishing a website with the cooperation and aid of student volunteers. Their membership and attendance has also dwindled, so the Task Force is looking at ways to motivate members to attend meetings.

The Task Force's Survivors Network subcommittee continues to do the DV visitation programs at the county library for applicants who have TPOs—one program in English in the morning and the evening program in

Spanish (which Ms. Ramos does). The Education Committee of the Task Force is still working on their Safe & Healthy Homes and have distributed flyers for this. This event will take place on September 27 at the California Building of Idlewild Park in Reno, kicking off with a 5K run and an informational fair on DV. It will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual run and the 8<sup>th</sup> annual fair. The fair will feature free food and, for the children free games, face-painting, law enforcement and fire department participation.

Prosecution and Advisory Legal Committee meetings have been ongoing.

**9. \*Report from the Nevada Network Against Sexual Violence**

Ms. Meuschke was unable to attend the meeting, and a report was not submitted.

**10. \*Report from the Nevada Coalition Against Sexual Violence**

Andrea Sundberg stated that she understands the DV Task Forces' pain, since NCASV only has two people on staff, one person in Las Vegas and one in Reno.

The NCASV has been very active in outreach efforts not just to the local communities, but to the rural communities also. Last week, Ms. Sundberg stated that she was on the Utah side of Wendover conducting a sexual violence training seminar for persons who were opening a DV program in the area. Twenty people attended the training.

Ms. Sundberg also traveled to Ely to conduct a forensic compliance training class. This training went well.

On August 26 and 27, NCASV is taking a rural road trip to Elko, Ely and Battle Mountain to conduct a training seminar on investigating sexual assault cases for Law Enforcement. Council members were encouraged to attend.

Ms. Sundberg stated that her organization realizes that sexual assault programs may not be sustainable in all communities, and so they have reached out to DV programs and asking these programs to become more of a "full-service" resource for victims of DV and sexual violence. NCASV has performed trainings at three DV programs, focusing on recognizing the co-occurrence, screening for sexual assault, offering services, and getting them to prevention and treatment programs.

NCASV has also performed a training of 10 peer advocates in Storey County. These are high-school students who are now educating their peers on how to prevent sexual violence and report sexual violence. Since the training, many of their peers have come forward to report sexual violence, and they are referred to an agency who can work through the

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

legality issues, etc. The student peer advocates are now eager to be involved as volunteers and would also like to be involved in the legislative process.

Sexual Violence Awareness month was in April, and Ms. Sundberg reported that during April, her organization conducted outreach to libraries statewide. Information was posted at these libraries and hotline cards were available. At three libraries in Las Vegas, Ms. Sundberg put out 1000 hotline cards; within a week, all of these cards had been taken! Ms. Sundberg stated that she hopes the cards were used by people who needed assistance and also that persons wrote down resource numbers from the other information posted at the libraries.

The Statewide Sexual Violence Prevention/Intervention Conference, sponsored by NCASV in conjunction with the Nevada Advisory Council for Prosecuting Attorneys, will be held on November 9 and 10 in Las Vegas, NV, at Alexis Park. Mark Klaas is scheduled to speak at the conference. NCASV is offering scholarships to cover air fare and hotel to those interested in attending the conference. Registration costs will be covered by a grant, so registration will be free to attendees.

There was a question from the Judge Lynch as to whether a bill passed in the legislature regarding sex trafficking and whether it would be decriminalized for the victim; i.e. the victim of sex trafficking would not be charged with prostitution, etc. Ms. Sundberg said she would follow up on it and let the audience member know what she found out and bring the update to the next NCPDV meeting.

Ms. Sundberg touched on AB 120, the bill for protection orders for victims of sexual assault. She stated that she wanted people to be aware that the victim does not/did not have to be in a relationship with the perpetrator at the time of the assault. The perp does not have to be a dating partner, or a roommate; any victim of sexual assault will qualify for a protection order, similar to the protection orders issued for victims of stalking and harassment.

### **19. \*Report from the Attorney General Office on Violence Against Women STOP Grant Recovery Act Funds**

Dorene Whitworth reported that for those not familiar with the STOP Grant Program, Nevada receives approximately \$1.2 million per year. The STOP Grant encourages the development of implementation of more effective law enforcement, court and prosecution strategies to combat violent crimes against women such as sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking. The funds also support the development and enhancement of victim services for these crimes against women.

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

In addition to the STOP annual allocation, there is \$2.5 million in a discretionary pot which came from Federal stimulus grant funding. Due to the state of the economy, advocacy programs statewide were quickly losing funding; and this money was allocated to keep these agencies operating. Before the funds were disbursed, the Recovery Act Review team discussed and generated a list of statewide priorities. The identified priorities for this funding were:

- 1) Advocacy services, community-based and professional (law enforcement, legal, courts)-based programs.
- 2) Grant administration, and seeking future funding.
- 3) DV Coordinator (DV Ombudsman Kareen Prentice).
- 4) Court compliance law training.
- 5) Advocate training.

Ms. Whitworth distributed the Recovery Act Violence Against Women Grant Awards, a list of programs that received grant award dollars as of July 1, 2009. This money will fund those programs for 18 months, or until December 2010. Ms. Whitworth's office will be reporting to a Federal website what these programs are doing in Nevada. People in our state who are interested in the STOP Grant Recovery Act, what it is doing, and for updated information, can access this information on the Nevada AG website. It is anticipated that by December 2010, the economy will improve such that these agencies will be able to receive more funding from private sources.

Ms. Whitworth called attention to the line at the bottom of the Grant Awards sheet: "Currently Unallocated Funds". Ms. Whitworth stated that the Recovery Act mandated that these funds will be awarded on a competitive basis. The Grant Administrator's office did not receive enough applications from law enforcement and prosecution categories, so her office is actively doing outreach to these organizations in order to determine if their programs, especially in the rurals, are eligible to use funding from this source.

There was a question from the audience: When it comes to distribution of funds, how is it ensured that funds are distributed to a variety of programs? Ms. Whitworth stated that it depends on how many applications come in for what sort of programs.

Ms. Whitworth replied that a new program called Sexual Assault Services Program, specific for sexual assault services, is being instituted. Funding for the Sexual Assault Services Program does not go to Law Enforcement programs, but to programs that assist victims. What they're hopeful of is, because of the presence of DV agencies in the rurals, and law

enforcement's and communities' involvement with the DV agencies, this can encourage the DV agencies to become full-service provider and give them funding for additional advocates...and that could potentially enhance the number of applications we get for the STOP program down the road. The STOP program focuses on adult victims, but it will not fund programs for child victims. The staff money will allow advocates to work with children.

Other grant programs are available, and not all of them require matching funds.

**20. \*Report from the Committee on Domestic Violence**

Mike Sprinkle read the report from Jennifer Kandt, the Administrative Coordinator for the Committee:

At the May 2009 meeting of the Committee on Domestic Violence, Henderson City Attorney, Shauna Hughes announced her resignation from the Committee due to her retirement. Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto recently appointed Mesquite City Attorney, Cheryl Hunt to fill the position vacated by Ms. Hughes. There is currently a search to fill the vacant victim or "survivor" slot on the Committee.

Also at the May 2009 meeting, the Committee created a subcommittee to specifically address batterers' treatment issues in rural areas. The subcommittee has not yet scheduled a meeting, but plans to meet before the end of August.

The Distance Learning Subcommittee is still working to develop guidelines and recommendations for use of distance media to complete continuing education and formal training for batterers' treatment providers.

The Committee spent significant time trying to figure out a cost effective way to conduct site reviews within a limited budget. Ultimately, the Committee hired Dr. Alfred Hughes to conduct site reviews for a random sampling of agencies as opposed to every agency.

The next full Committee meeting is scheduled to be video-conferenced between Carson and Las Vegas on August 20th at 10:00 a.m.

**21. Comments from the Chair**

There were no comments from the Chair.

**22. \*Discussion and scheduling of future meetings and agenda items**

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

Mike Sprinkle stated the Council needed to schedule their next meeting sometime in late October or early November. The agenda items will be finalized at a date closer to the meeting date.

### **23. \*Public Comment.**

Clydell Wert asked if there was an effort to recruit persons from the clergy to the Council, and that the pastors of Hawthorne are active in helping to counsel DV victims.

Mr. Sprinkle answered that the Council has actively been trying to recruit persons from the clergy, but with no success as yet.

Liz Greb instructed audience members from the fields of prosecution attorney, law enforcement, DV programs, sexual violence victims programs, etc. to speak to Kareen Prentice regarding STOP Grant fund applications. It was stressed that there is a limited time availability of this money, and audience members who know of an agency/organization that could use this money should tell the organization to contact the Domestic Violence Ombudsman concerning an application.

### **24. Discussion**

Mr. Sprinkle thanked the attendees for coming.

### **25. \*Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Sprinkle at 1:45 p.m.

**STATE OF NEVADA**  
**NEVADA COUNCIL FOR THE**  
**PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

**Minutes of Meeting**

---

***10/28/09 at 9:00 a.m.***

---

Office of the Attorney General  
100 North Carson Street  
Mock Court Room  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

With  
Public Access Via Videoconference Located At:

Grant Sawyer Building  
555 East Washington Street, Suite 3900  
Room #3315  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89701

**Committee Members Present**

Catherine Cortez Masto, Barbara Aupperle, Valerie Cooney, Traci Dory, Toni Downen, Dr. Michael Freda, Brett Kandt, Vic Hutchings, Patricia Lynch, Sue Meuschke, Suzanne Ramos, Mike Sprinkle, Caryn Sternlicht, Andrea Sundberg, Ron Titus, Elynne Wernikove-Greene, Robert (Bob) Zentz

**Committee Members Absent**

Adriana Botello, Ellen Ewing, Susan Filon, Russell Smith

**Public Present**

Walt Dimitroff  
Cornelius Sheehan, Jr.  
Pam Russell  
Christina Hernandez

**Attorney General's Office Staff Present**

Henna Rasul, Deputy Attorney General, Legal Counsel to NCPDV

Kareen Prentice, Domestic Violence Ombudsman

Lorraine Webber, Assistant to the NCPDV

Jennifer Kandt, Administrative Coordinator to the Committee on Domestic Violence

Dorene Whitworth, Grants/Projects Analyst Supervisor

Liz Greb, Grants/Projects Analyst

**8. \*Call to order, roll call of members, and introduction.**

The meeting was called to order by Council Chair, Catherine Cortez Masto, at approximately 9:00 a.m. A roll call was performed and quorum was established.

**9. \*Review, amend, and approve minutes from the July 16, 2009 Council meeting.**

After several corrections, Andrea Sundberg made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Judge Lynch seconded the motion. The minutes of the July 16, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved.

**3. \*Discussion, review and possible action on media guide prepared by Honorable Chuck Weller.**

Judge Lynch stated she had spoken to Judge Weller and had brought a packet with the media guide and a thesis for General Masto. The media guide has been posted on the Nevada Broadcasters Association website and the NNADV website to help promote better coverage of domestic violence. It was suggested that, with the approval of the Council, it could be posted on the Attorney General's website as well. Judge Lynch also conveyed Judge Weller's apologies for not attending the Council meeting. He had hoped to attend the meeting, but his calendar would not allow it.

Judge Lynch made a motion to approve the Council's endorsement of the media guide and to post it on the Attorney General's website. Dr. Freda seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Kandt expressed concern about keeping the guide updated. General Masto agreed that someone would need to contact Judge Weller should the guide need to be updated.

**4. \*Presentation by Walt Dimitroff and Con Sheenan, Jr.**



## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

Walt Dimitroff and Con Sheenan Jr. gave a presentation on the Peaceful Family Parenting Program offered at American Comprehensive Counseling Services.

### **5. \*Update from Elynne Wernikove-Greene on the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Lethality Assessment.**

Elynne Wernikove-Greene summarized the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) and emphasized the importance of maintaining an open dialogue and collaboration between agencies and disciplines in resolving issues surrounding domestic violence calls. She provided handouts with a summary and statistics which present a snapshot of how the program is designed and why it is needed.

### **6. \*Review and Discussion of potential new members selected by the Nominating Committee (Suzanne Ramos).**

Suzanne Ramos stated that there were 19 applicants for nine vacancies this year. The Nominating Committee evaluated the applications, ranked them, and then interviewed the top ten candidates by phone. Of those, the Committee chose 6 candidates, leaving 3 openings for appointees of the Attorney General. The six applicants the Committee recommended for appointment to the Council were:

- Anya Arechiga
- Amy Crowe
- Christina Hernandez
- Christine Jones Brady
- Wendy Sue Ronovech
- Pam Russell

Sue Meuschke made a motion to approve the appointment of these members to the Council. Valerie Cooney seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Kareen Prentice stated that she is planning a teleconference with the new members. At that meeting, Ms. Meuschke will talk about the history of the Council, Ms. Ramos will talk about the different committees, and Ms. Prentice will talk about the budget and funding. Ms. Prentice invited any interested Council members to participate.

### **7. \*Review and Discussion of potential new members selected by the General Masto (Suzanne Ramos).**

The two members General Masto selected were Eileen Herrington, a victim advocate at the Storey County D.A.s office, and Mary White Stewart, a Ph.D. in Women's Studies at UNR. General Masto explained that the Council should be

*Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence*

comprised of as diverse a group as possible and that she was also working on appointing a member of law enforcement.

Barbara Aupperlee made a motion to approve the appointments of Eileen Herrington and Mary White Stewart to the Council. Ms. Ramos seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried. Mike Sprinkle abstained due to personal issues with one of the candidates and Judge Lynch abstained from voting because she believed one of the candidates to have views contrary to those of the Council.

**8. \*Report, discussion and possible action on reports/updates from the following committees of the Council:**

c. Bylaws and Structure Committee (Russell Smith)

i. Goals Update.

Russell Smith was unable to attend the meeting. Judge Lynch, a member of the committee, reported that nothing is pending with the Bylaws and Structure Committee.

d. Criminal Justice Committee (Brett Kandt)

i. Update and Presentation on Prosecutor Best Practices.

Brett Kandt reported on the Nevada Domestic Violence Prosecution Best Practices Project. Mr. Kandt reviewed the history of the development of Best Practice Guidelines and gave an overview of the goals and strategies of the project.

Mr. Kandt stated that the whole project is going to be the topic of a monograph published by the Office on Violence Against Women. Liz Greb said that she will follow up on when that will be available.

Ms. Meuschke asked if there had been any evaluation data to indicate if the Best Practice Guidelines were helping in prosecutions. Ms. Greb stated that there was some data analysis being done. She stated that they were off to a shaky start but according to the feedback they had received so far, the guidelines have been valuable.

Bob Zentz discussed Henderson's efforts and the coordinated community response.

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

General Masto suggested the Council invite somebody from Humboldt or Churchill County, or the city of Henderson to get some feedback on how they had utilized the Best Practices Guidelines.

General Masto asked if all District Attorneys had received a copy of the Best Practices Guidelines. Mr. Kandt said they had. Ms. Meuschke was interested to know how many D.A.s adopted the guidelines and suggested that perhaps, as part of a future grant, they could do a follow-up project to determine what is and is not helpful about the guidelines. Ms. Greb said that one of the possible outcomes of this project is that the Clark County D.A.s office is allowing advocates to work with the District Attorney.

Ms. Sundberg asked if anything like the Best Practices Guidelines had been done with the tribal communities. Mr. Kandt said he thought that it was a great idea and one he had not considered before. Since the tribal communities are under federal jurisdiction, they would have to involve the U.S. Attorneys Office. He noted that he had worked with them before on some interjurisdictional issues and could work with them again.

### ii. 2009 Goals Update.

Mr. Kandt reported that the Statewide Sexual Violence Prevention Conference scheduled for November 9-10, 2009 in Las Vegas was looking good; registration was at capacity of 140 attendees. Because there was grant funding, they were able to offer the training at no charge.

The Committee's goal of consistently reviewing data at the Department of Public Safety central repository website has been delayed due to problems with Department's transition to the new Nevada Offense Codes. The DPS records department has not been able to post uniform crime reporting statistics or statistics specific to domestic violence and elderly abuse.

The Committee is also working on a training video that can be used in a variety of settings and a variety of disciplines on understanding the perspectives of both the batterer and the victim. The committee is still trying to obtain funding to produce the video. Mr. Kandt is requesting grant funds for the video through the recent STOP grant solicitation. In addition, the Southern Nevada Domestic Violence Task Force has offered supplemental funding and Mr. Kandt believes that a portion can also be paid out of the Prosecution Advisory Council's budget.

### c. Education Committee (Valerie Cooney/Sue Meuschke)

#### i. 2009 Goals Update.

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

Ms. Meuschke reported that the Committee's 2009 goals included approaching boards and commissions that could work on the domestic violence issue. They began by focusing on cosmetologists and introduced the Cut It Out program. So far, 2000 kits have been distributed to salons around the state. Most of the training has been done in the schools. They are hoping to do training in the salons soon.

The Committee has also been working on approaching the EMS and Nursing boards to develop some kind of awareness training.

Another goal of the Committee's focus is on outreach to children. They developed a Girl Scout patch program which was launched in the North last year and has been launched twice in the South this year. The next project is to do similar outreach with the Boy Scouts. In the future, the Committee would like to do outreach with the Boys and Girls Club and other youth oriented groups.

Dr. Freda asked if the Committee had contacted the mental health boards as they are required to have a certain number of continuing education credits to renew their licenses. Ms. Meuschke said that they are looking at perhaps providing training to them in the future.

Mr. Kandt stated that the Area Health Education Center of Southern Nevada charges \$150.00 in order to apply for approval of training for CEUs for nurses. He suggested approaching licensing entities to see if they would consider waiving the fee for training related to domestic violence or sexual violence.

The Committee is also proposing to do a survey with the hospitals in the state to get some baseline information on what policies and procedures they have in place regarding domestic violence. Every hospital is required to have policies and procedures in place, and the Committee is attempting to find out if they are complying with that certification requirement. Mr. Kandt asked if there was a question about policies regarding exams for sexual assault victims. He asked if such a question could be included to determine if hospitals are complying with State law and, if not, some responses may help identify where there is a breakdown of communication. Mr. Sprinkle asked if the Committee would have to change the purpose of the survey if such a question was included. Ms. Meuschke stated that suggestions and the purpose of the survey would have to be reviewed by the committee. Mr. Kandt made a motion to have the Committee finalize the survey and send it out. Ms. Meuschke seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

### d. Legislative Committee (Mike Sprinkle)

#### i. Goals Update.

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

Mike Sprinkle reported that the Committee has not met since before the last Council meeting in July. He is anticipating having a meeting early next year to start working on the biennial legislative report. He would like to see the Committee be a little more proactive early on and, in addition to supporting BDRs submitted by others, would like to discuss the possibility of having at least one BDR generated from this Committee on behalf the Attorney General's Office. Mr. Sprinkle also noted that he is considering stepping down as Chair of the Committee.

### i. Nominating Committee (Suzanne Ramos)

#### i. 2009 Goals Update.

Suzanne Ramos stated that the Committee had been working on the nominating process and the Rural Tour for next year. General Masto suggested that an option for the rural road tour might be in the Wendover area. She recently met with the Chief of Police in Wendover and he would love to have any resources the Council can provide to help with domestic violence issues.

Ms. Ramos noted that the Committee was also monitoring the attendance of Council Members and would submit the names of those not attending at least 2/3 of the meetings to the Chair.

### f. Public Information Committee (Traci Dory)

#### i. 2009 Goals Update.

Traci Dory reported that the Public Information Committee had met several times since the July Council meeting and were working on the updating the website, including adding a tab for Victims of Crime so that any victim of crime can find resources through the Attorney General's website.

### g. Underserved Populations Committee (Suzanne Ramos)

#### i. 2009 Goals Update.

Ms. Ramos stated that one of the Committee's goals was working on the Hwy 80 travel issue in rural areas. This is an issue which has no easy answer. One possibility is working with the Sheriffs Departments, but it is a goal that is going to carry over into 2010. The Committee is also working on a survey and the training of judges on TPOs. Clark County is not complying with the NRS and it is a problem throughout the state. This is a problem that the Judicial Training Committee is also discussing, and Valerie Cooney suggested having a meeting of both Committees in a combined effort to resolve the problem.

h. Judicial Training Committee (Dr. Michael Freda)

i. 2009 Goals Update.

Dr. Freda reported that the Judicial Training Committee had met several times since the last Council meeting and has been working on establishing a working relationship with the general and limited jurisdiction judges in an effort to include some general domestic violence training into their conferences each year. He explained that what the domestic violence training judges have done for the last decade has been through a national program; they have not had training specific to Nevada. Dr. Freda presented a list of topics the Committee would like to use to create a survey. Topics included mutual protection orders, child visitation schedules, financial abuses, mediation and couples counseling, TPOs, primary aggressors, attendants in the courtroom, batterers' intervention intake, batterers changing programs, and successful completion of programs. Based on the survey responses, the Committee could then put together a workshop for judges training. Dr. Freda asked the Council for feedback and asked that suggestions for topics be sent to Lorraine Webber. Jennifer Kandt said that she had talked to a judge who expressed concern about inconsistency in the ways batterers treatment facilities handle defaults. The judge would like to see the batterers treatment groups and judges come together to develop policies so that defaults are dealt with in a consistent manner. Ms. Ramos stated that there is also some concern that some treatment programs are not waiving fees like they are supposed to. Another problem discussed by the Council is the difficulties surrounding the issuance and extension of TPOs, especially in Clark County and the rural jurisdictions. The delay in issuing TPOs, or the refusal of some judges to issue or extend them has created a lot of problems.

There was general discussion about the training of judges. General Masto suggested a strategy of asking for a regular time slot of an hour or two in the training schedule of the judges associations and asked the Council if we had enough people to provide the training. She then asked who the key contacts would be in the associations. Ron Titus stated that the education committees were the ones to contact, but noted that a regular slot on a permanent basis might not be feasible. Mr. Titus will check with the Chief to find out the best way to go about approaching the judges associations.

**9. \*Report from the Domestic Violence Ombudsman (Kareen Prentice)**

Ms. Prentice summarized a number of events she had recently been involved in, including a poster presentation with the Nevada Public Health Association on the Nevada Cut-It-Out program. She reported that the State Board of Cosmetology is now mandating 2 hours of CEUs for all instructors at the schools. There will be a DV 101 course and Cut-It-Out training. Other activities included speaking at the Winnemucca Candlelight Vigil and the Washoe Democratic Women's luncheon. Purple flags were placed in front of the Attorney General's Office, and 1500

purple ribbon pins were distributed for Domestic Violence Awareness month. She stated that the Violence Policy Center released a 2009 study that ranks Nevada as 5<sup>th</sup> (down from 1<sup>st</sup>) in the nation for deaths due to domestic violence. Ms. Prentice and General Masto have been in contact with a judge in Elko regarding potentially having a domestic violence court in Elko. Ms. Prentice updated the Council on the VINE grant. Ms. Prentice, General Masto and Ryan McDonald also did a presentation at Virginia City High School on teen dating violence, cyber bullying, sexting and cyber crime.

**10. \*Report from the Southern Nevada Domestic Violence Task Force (Elynne Wernikove-Greene)**

Ms. Wernikove-Greene reported that a homicide memorial plaque for the victims of domestic violence in Clark County had been unveiled and noted that the LAP program would hopefully decrease those numbers. Other activities included an annual fundraiser with Noah's Animal House to allow victims of domestic violence to keep their pets and co-sponsoring the Girl Scout patch launch. The Southern Nevada Domestic Violence Task Force has moved to quarterly meetings instead of monthly meetings and are inviting Sue Meuschke to Las Vegas to talk about activities in the North so that they have a better idea of what is going on in the domestic violence community statewide.

**11. \*Report from the Washoe County Domestic Violence Task Force (Dr. Michael Freda)**

Dr. Freda reported on the Safe and Healthy Homes event that took place in September. Other activities included a benefit night at the Texas Roadhouse where 10% of the bills of participating diners were donated to the Washoe County Domestic Violence Task Force. Dr. Freda stated that he has been invited by Reno Municipal court to talk to batterer treatment providers.

**12. \*Report from the Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence (Sue Meuschke)**

Ms. Meuschke reported the Network has secured a couple of Recovery Act grants including a STOP grant to continue the state legal advocacy project. Additional funding from the rural grant program allows them to extend their legal advocacy project to eleven communities. The rural transitional housing project has been supplemented by a Recovery Act grant. They are now working with six different rural programs to develop non-traditional transitional housing programs in their communities. She stated that there would be regional training in stalking in Reno in November. The Network has just finished putting together fiscal year statistics and that 37,495 individuals had contacted domestic violence programs around the state last year. Ms. Meuschke stated she would send the report to anyone interested. A report on outreach to the community was also completed and the Network distributed about 35,000 pieces of material throughout the state.

They are also participating with VARN to do a training on the Co-currents of Domestic Violence and Child Abuse. Ms. Prentice added that they had received a \$2500 grant from Verizon to translate the Cut-It-Out materials into Spanish.

**13. \*Report from the Nevada Coalition Against Sexual Violence (Andrea Sundberg)**

Ms. Sundberg reported that they currently had 130 people registered for the Statewide Sexual Violence Prevention Conference scheduled for November 9-10, 2009 in Las Vegas. The Coalition's annual meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2009 at Alexis Park and new Board Members will be elected at that time. Recent activities of the Coalition include sexual violence trainings in rural communities, a partnership with the Utah Coalition Against Sexual Assault for training in Wendover, and a rural road trip in Ely, Elko and Battle Mountain where they held successful trainings, primarily with law enforcement. They have partnered with Planned Parenthood to develop a program to address sex education and sexual assault prevention.

**14. \*Report from the Attorney General Office on Violence Against Women STOP Grant (Dorene Whitworth)**

Dorene Whitworth stated that they had gone through the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter reporting process for the Recovery Act. A solicitation for the 2009 STOP grant money has been issued and new programs are welcome to apply. The STOP program had applied for both the GEAP and the rural domestic violence grant programs and received both. This grant will be used to expand the Tricounty Prosecution and Advocacy program in Mineral, Nye, and Esmerelda Counties. Ms. Whitworth reported they had received a 2009 Sexual Assault Services Program grant which will be used to fund services for victims of sexual assault in the rural areas. In addition, they are working with the Coalition on forensic compliance on protocols that can be used as best practice recommendations for hospitals and advocates to ensure they are in compliance with the VAWA and state law.

**15. \*Report from the Committee on Domestic Violence (Jennifer Kandt)**

Jennifer Kandt reported that Tim Hamilton was re-elected as Chair to the Committee on Domestic Violence. The Committee still has an opening for the survivor/victim position. The Committee has recently created a sub-committee to address the lack of batterers treatment programs in the rural areas. The distance learning subcommittee has been working on possible changes to Committee's regulations allowing continuing education training online and by correspondence. A regulation workshop to do a 10-year review of the regulations will be held during the next meeting of the Committee on Domestic Violence in November.



**16. \*Report from the Victims of Crime Subcommittee (Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto)**

General Masto stated that the Committee had just been made official under the law as a result of recently passed legislation. At the next meeting of the Commission on November 12, 2009, the Chair of the Commission will be appointed. According to the statute, the Chair will then appoint individuals to the Subcommittee and the Chair of the Subcommittee. Anyone interested in serving on the Subcommittee should contact Kareen Prentice.

**17. Comments from the Chair**

General Masto stated that there had been discussion of changing Domestic Violence Awareness month and asked if anyone had information on who made those changes. Sue Meuschke said there was no formal body that made those decisions but there had recently been a movement, spearheaded by national domestic violence organizations, towards changing the month to May or September, but that it wasn't likely to happen soon.

**18. \*Report, discussion, and action on reports/updates from the following Council Officers:**

a. Vice Chair – Mike Sprinkle

Mike Sprinkle had no updates.

b. Treasurer – Suzanne Ramos

Ms. Ramos reported that the Council has a balance of 652.28. After expenses for the October meeting, the balance will be approximately \$250.00.

c. Secretary – Brett Kandt

Mr. Kandt welcomed Lorraine Webber as the new assistant to the Council.

**19. \*Discussion and scheduling of future meetings and agenda items.**

Approximate dates will be in February, July, and November.

Anyone who has future agenda items should send them to Kareen or Lorraine.

**20. \*Public Comment.**

There was no public comment.

**21. \*Adjournment**

General Masto adjourned the meeting at 12:37 p.m.

**STATE OF NEVADA  
NEVADA COUNCIL FOR THE  
PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

**Minutes of Meeting**

---

***March 25, 2010, at 10:00 a.m.***

---

Office of the Attorney General  
100 North Carson Street  
Mock Court Room  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

With  
Public Access Via Videoconference Located At:

Grant Sawyer Building  
555 East Washington Street, Suite 3900  
Room #4500  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89701

**Committee Members Present**

Catherine Cortez Masto, Barbara Aupperle, Christine Jones Brady,  
Vincent Cannito, Valerie Cooney, Traci Dory, Dr. Michael Freda,  
Christina Hernandez, Eileen Herrington, Vic Hutchings, Brett Kandt,  
Sue Meuschke, Suzanne Ramos, Wendy Ronovech, Pam Russell,  
Russell Smith, Mike Sprinkle, Caryn Sternlicht, Ron Titus, Robert (Bob) Zentz

**Committee Members Absent**

Adriana Botello, Amy Crowe, Toni Downen, Anya Arechiga Gonzalez,  
Patricia Lynch, Mary White Stewart, Andrea Sundberg,  
Elynne Wernikove-Greene

**Public Present**

Staci Alonso  
Sheila MacDonald

**Attorney General's Office Staff Present**

Henna Rasul, Deputy Attorney General, Legal Counsel to NCPDV  
Kareen Prentice, Domestic Violence Ombudsman  
Lorraine Webber, Assistant to the NCPDV

**10.\*Call to order, roll call of members, and establish quorum.**

The meeting was called to order by Council Vice-Chair, Mike Sprinkle, at 10:20 a.m. A roll call was performed and quorum was established.

**11.\*Review, amend, and approve minutes from the October 28, 2009 Council meeting.**

Brett Kandt made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Valerie Cooney seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed. Christine Brady and Pam Russell abstained from voting.

**12.\*Update from Staci Alonso on her efforts on behalf of Clark County to protect pets/animals in domestic violence situations.**

Ms. Alonso presented an overview of the history, development of, and services available at Noah's Animal House, an animal shelter on the grounds of The Shade Tree Shelter in Las Vegas, where roughly 40% of clients are victims of domestic violence. Ms. Alonso stated that she is interested in starting a similar program in Northern Nevada. The Council posed questions and discussed various ways to help her. Mike Sprinkle made a motion for the Council to formally support Ms. Alonso in her efforts to protect animals in domestic violence situations. Russell Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

**13.\*Discussion regarding Supreme Court Justice Hardesty's Hearing on Protection Orders (Administrative Office of the Courts presenter).**

Sheila MacDonald from the AOC, who also works on the Records Commission, stated that issues have come up regarding protection orders and access to the information contained in them. There are a lot of gaps in maintaining confidentiality. Justice Hardesty believes the issue is serious enough that he has scheduled a public hearing on Access to Court Records Regarding Domestic Violence and Temporary Protective Orders on June 3, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the Nevada Supreme Court with videoconference access in Las Vegas at the Regional Justice Center. This is the Nevada Supreme Court's Commission on Access, Preservation and Sealing of Court

Records, ADKT No. 410. Ms. MacDonald distributed a memo which highlighted some of the confidentiality issues that affect both the victims and the adverse parties. She stated that they would welcome comments on any issues regarding access to protection order files. She emphasized that the Records Commission is looking at access to records—who has access to them and when they have access to them. Ms. MacDonald invited anyone who has comments on the recently revised protection order forms or anyone who is interested in the protection order committee to contact her. She can be reached at (775) 687-9808 or [smacdonald@nvcourts.nv.gov](mailto:smacdonald@nvcourts.nv.gov). Ms. Prentice asked if the forms could be sent to her for distribution to the entire Council.

**14.\*Update from Russell Smith on the effectiveness of the Domestic Violence Prosecution Best Practice Guidelines in Humboldt County.**

Mr. Smith reported on the effectiveness of the Humboldt County Witness Victim Advocate best practices. He stated that at the time they were developed, there was only one victim advocate. All the protocols are written for the rural counties where the District Attorneys office brings in an advocate who plays the role of all other advocates. As Humboldt County has developed and now has a domestic violence shelter, the witness victim advocate performs a more traditional role of preparing victims for court. He thinks of the protocol as a good jumping off point for any community. As a community grows, they can readdress the role of the witness victim advocate.

Brett Kandt stated that developing state-wide victim advocate protocols was one of the things that the Criminal Justice Committee has been working on.

**15.\*Update from Christina Hernandez on UNLV's ASERTAV program.**

Ms. Hernandez reported that the program is the result of a lot of hard work and gave an overview of the ASERTAV program which stands for Advocacy Support Education Response Team Against Violence. She stated they had representatives both on campus and off campus and are working on core components including establishing campus-wide protocols to standardize reporting procedures and coordinate services; implementing prevention programs; training and education for students, faculty, staff, of law enforcement. She stated that they are currently working on a men's initiative and are trying to increase awareness about services for victims of crime.

She stated that ASERTAV meets monthly. Some of the challenges they face are budget constraints, time constraints during student orientation and difficulties in reaching non-traditional students who are likely to attend

classes at night. They deal predominantly with domestic violence because sexual assault tends to be underreported.

General Masto offered the support of the Council in anything ASERTAV may need. Ms. Hernandez stated they are currently looking at what other campuses have done but that she would appreciate help with creating the policy aspect of the program.

**7. \*Update and presentation by Captain Vincent Cannito on LVMPD's efforts regarding domestic violence.**

Captain Cannito stated he had been working on developing a statewide consistent message about domestic violence. The Council watched a video produced by the LVMPD on the Janae Williams story. Ms. Williams was the victim of domestic violence and survived being stabbed 18 times by her boyfriend. Captain Cannito stated that they are taking an aggressive approach to the problem to let perpetrators know that Clark County and the Attorney General's office are taking the issue seriously. The focus has been on prevention and LVMPD has developed a number of programs and resources to help prevent these crimes. Captain Cannito said that since July of 2009, Metro has made almost 600 felony strangulation arrests. LVMPD has been working with the District Attorney's office to make those priority cases.

He then gave an overview of the findings highlighted by the Lethality Assessment Program which documented the number of women harmed by people they knew and/or lived with and who were victimized in their own homes. He discussed the questions by which victims are placed in high risk categories. LVMPD is doing everything possible to link victims with the services available. However, only a small percentage of victims accept the help. Encouraging victims to get help is a major issue.

Ms. Meuschke asked if the statistics he cited were available. Vincent Cannito said he could provide a handout. She asked how LVMPD determined which of the calls they do a lethality assessment on. Captain Cannito stated that the Lethality Assessment program gives the officers a tool to identify who is at high risk.

There was a question about follow-up programs. Mr. Cannito said that once a case is entered into the system, the victim advocates follow up with the victim to put them in touch with available resources.

Mike Sprinkle asked if there were plans to launch a similar program in Northern Nevada. Mr. Cannito stated that his Department encouraged every agency in the state to adopt the program. He noted that there are links to all of their programs on the LVMPD website ([www.lvmpd.com](http://www.lvmpd.com)).

Kareen Prentice stated that she had sent the Lethality Assessment Program information to the Reno Police Department and the Sparks Police Department. Sparks Police Department has developed their own lethality assessment is currently training their law enforcement officers. Reno Police Department is also considering developing their own lethality assessment program. Captain Cannito offered to help any program, at any time, in any way he could.

Christine Brady asked if there was any data about those who accepted help and were victimized again versus those who did not accept help and were victimized again. Captain Cannito stated that they did not track that information due to the magnitude of the numbers they were dealing with and the limited staff they have to work on the issue.

**8. \*Report, discussion and possible action on reports/updates from the following committees of the Council:**

**e. Bylaws and Structure Committee (Russell Smith)**

**ii. 2010 Goals Update.**

Mr. Smith stated that currently there are no recommendations or suggestions for changing the bylaws.

**f. Criminal Justice Committee (Brett Kandt)**

**ii. 2010 Goals Update**

Mr. Kandt stated that the goals for this year are:

- 1) To sponsor the criminal justice track at the Statewide Sexual Violence Prevention Intervention Conference in November.
- 2) Review the domestic violence statistics that are posted to the criminal justice repository to identify any trends or concerns that may arise. Unfortunately, no statistics have been posted for this calendar year.
- 3) Develop victim witness advocate best practice model protocols.
- 4) Create a multidisciplinary training video looking at both the victim and batterers perspectives in the cycle of violence. Mr. Kandt stated they had obtained STOP grant funding to film the video, a script, and have identified some victims and batterers who are willing to participate. The goal is to have the video completed in the next six months. Mr. Kandt stated that he would like to premiere it at the Statewide Sexual Violence Prevention Intervention Conference in November.

**c. Education Committee (Valerie Cooney/Sue Meuschke)**

**ii. 2009 Goals Update**

Ms. Meuschke stated that there had been some technical difficulties at the last meeting of the Education Committee and so they had not had an opportunity to talk about the 2010 goals. However, she stated that the Committee would continue to work with boards and commissions to identify training needs and how to facilitate those efforts. The Committee is continuing work with the Cosmetology Board on the Cut-It-Out program and is reaching out to the Nursing Board and Emergency Medical Services Committee to talk about education and training in those areas.

**iii. Hospital Survey**

The Committee sent a survey to all of the hospitals in the state regarding policies on domestic violence and sexual assault and hoped to have a report on the results soon. Ms. Prentice added that they are working with the Nevada Hospital Association on the hospital survey. She reported they had received five completed surveys and that the Nevada Hospital Association was resending the survey as a reminder.

**iii. Update on Boy Scouts Project.**

Ms. Meuschke said that the Committee had made contact with the Boy Scouts and are collaborating with them on the development of a patch program similar to the one done with the Girl Scouts.

**di. Legislative Committee (Mike Sprinkle)**

**ii. Goals Update.**

Mr. Sprinkle reported that the Committee had discussed ideas for possible legislation. He stated that an area of concern identified by Dr. Freda is domestic violence training for those completing custody evaluations. Some of the Committee members are researching the issue and they may bring the idea to the Council. General Masto suggested contacting Vic Shulze, the Attorney General's child advocate, who will be presenting on custody evaluations at a judges conference. Mr. Sprinkle stated that the Committee would contact him. After some discussion by the Council members, Mr. Sprinkle said that he would have something more formal to present at the next Council meeting.



## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

Completion of the biennial report and review of proposed bills regarding domestic violence are also 2010 goals of the Legislative Committee.

**j. Nominating Committee (Suzanne Ramos)**

- a. 2009 Goals Update.**
- b. Committee Membership and Attendance.**

Ms. Rasul verified that open meeting law waivers had been received by all except one member of the Council. The member who did not return a signed waiver would not be discussed.

Ms. Ramos stated that the Committee had met and established goals for 2010. They would like to seek members from the clergy, Native American, African American, and from Southern Nevada. Currently there are 28 members and Ms. Ramos expected the resignation of one member which would leave 3 vacancies. The application has been updated and needs to be posted to the Attorney General's website.

The Committee is planning the Rural Road trip for July 14-15, 2010. The Committee proposes that the Council travel to West Wendover on July 14<sup>th</sup> for a town hall meeting in the evening. They will stay the night in West Wendover and then travel to Elko the morning of July 15<sup>th</sup> for a lunch-time Council meeting.

**f. Public Information Committee (Traci Dory)**

**i. 2009 Goals Update.**

Ms. Dory reported that the Public Information Committee had met numerous times since the previous Council meeting. She stated that 2010 goals were to continue updating the website including adding a victims of crime tab; to promote the prevention aspect of domestic violence; and to increase media awareness of the issue.

**ii. NCVRW Press Release.**

Ms. Prentice stated that Captain Cannito had sent out an LVMPD press release that would be forwarded to the Council members. Once adapted to a specific agency, it can be sent out for National Crime Victims Rights Week in April.

**g. Underserved Populations Committee (Suzanne Ramos)**

**i. 2009 Goals Update.**

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

Ms. Ramos stated that the Committee is still working on the rural Nevada I-80 corridor transportation issue which is a very difficult matter but which the Committee intends to continue working on in 2010. She reported that the Committee was also considering a domestic violence survey regarding protection orders. Mr. Joe Tommasino, from the Clark County court system had done a survey on the TPO process and the Committee was waiting on the results from that survey before developing their own.

Other goals of the Committee are to continue to arrange for speakers to address underserved issues at the Council meetings and to do outreach to the gay and lesbian communities.

Regarding the protection orders, General Masto verified with Sheila MacDonald that Justice Hardesty's hearing on protection orders was only in regards to confidentiality issues. Mr. Kandt asked General Masto if the Council should make a written recommendation or report regarding ADKT 410 and file it with the Nevada Supreme Court for their consideration. General Masto stated she thought that was a good point and thought that Mr. Titus might know the best way to present that to the Court. She was also curious how the hearings regarding the confidentiality issues came about. Mr. Titus stated that there were some cases that brought the problem to the attention of Justice Hardesty and that one of his committees was working on access and retention issues.

### **h. Judicial Training Committee (Dr. Michael Freda)**

- i. 2009 Goals Update.**
- ii. Update on training topics.**

Dr. Freda provided the list of suggested topics for judges training that was to be presented to the education committees of the limited jurisdiction and the general jurisdiction judges associations. He stated that General Masto was working with the judges on those committees to see if they can get the topics on the agenda for training. Ms. Cooney suggested rewording the heading "Avoiding Revictimization by the Judicial System" to "Avoiding Revictimization by the Legal System."

General Masto noted that meetings with the judges associations have been set for April 23, and June 16, 2010.

### **a. \*Report from the Domestic Violence Ombudsman (Kareen Prentice)**

Ms. Prentice reported that she had been working on the VINE grant with Henna Rasul and Traci Dory. A contract with Apriss was approved and Ms. Prentice has made VINE presentations to the Sheriffs and Chiefs in September, 2009 and

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

March, 2010. The program officer interviews were completed and are in contract negotiations. The accountant position has been filled and that contract will be before the BOE in April. General Masto has selected a Governance Committee to oversee the project and handle any issues that may arise.

Ms. Prentice stated that the Attorney General's office has been awarded a STOP grant for fatality review training in September or October. Dr. Neil Websdale from the National Fatality Review will be speaking. She will have an update regarding this at the July Council meeting.

She has continued work with the Cut-It-Out program and has done another teen dating violence presentation at Virginia City High School.

She asked Russell Smith to speak about the Tri-County Sexting Task Force. Mr. Smith stated that the Task Force was planning to give a PowerPoint presentation to Tri-County students before the end of the school year and to give a PowerPoint presentation to the parents in a town hall meeting. He stated that they are in the process finalizing the presentations and are planning to meet with parents, the school board, and administrators in April to get approval on the curriculum. The goal is to make this an ongoing yearly presentation for high school and junior high school students. He stated that another goal was to continue to work with Attorney General and Tri-County on legislation to address the problem of electronic transfer of pornographic materials between juveniles and the penalties for that behavior.

General Masto stated that sexting was a problem that her office has been working on since the last legislative session. She stated that in Northern Nevada, they had partnered with the Girl Scouts for a town hall panel presentation with representatives from MySpace and local law enforcement. The presentation was for both the children and their parents. She stated that it is as important to educate parents, guardians and grandparents as the children.

Mr. Sprinkle asked where the sexting curriculum came from. Mr. Smith stated that it was built from scratch by collaboration of the Attorney General's Office, Tri-County law enforcement, school representatives, counselors, youth, community coalitions, and district attorneys. Mr. Sprinkle asked what was being done in Washoe and Clark counties. General Masto replied that she, along with Kareen Prentice and Ryan McDonald, had put together a presentation on sexting, cyber safety and teen dating violence that has been given in classrooms over the course of the past year. She stated that there has been a lot of feedback from teachers and counselors asking for more training. She encouraged interested members to get involved.

### **10. \*Report from the Southern Nevada Domestic Violence Task Force (Elynne Wernikove-Greene)**

Ms. Greene was unable to attend the meeting but provided a written report to the members.

**11. \*Report from the Washoe County Domestic Violence Task Force (Dr. Michael Freda)**

Dr. Freda stated that they had begun work on the Safe and Happy Home event. He reported that the fatality review committee has reviewed several murders and were processing the information gathered from those meetings in order to make recommendations to the Washoe County Commissioners and the Reno and Sparks mayors about how services can be improved. In addition, the WCDVTK has been working with Washoe County teachers involved in the SHARE program to incorporate domestic violence and teen dating violence information in presentations to students.

**12. \*Report from the Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence (Sue Meuschke)**

Ms. Meuschke reported that the NNADV was working on a number of projects, one of which is a state-wide legal advocacy project which uses money from the rural and STOP grants to fund legal advocates in nine programs throughout Nevada. Other projects include coordinating a transitional housing project in six rural communities, and providing ongoing training and technical assistance to all domestic violence programs in the state. The NNADV has recently received a small grant to supplement language line translation services. She stated that they will be holding a regional training in Las Vegas on March 29, 2010 on domestic violence and substance abuse. On May 27, 2010 there will be a training on domestic violence and immigration in Reno. They are rolling out a financial literacy training of trainers to teach programs to educate women at financial literacy skills workshops. This year marks the NNADV's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and so they are holding a series of birthday parties statewide to celebrate and to honor individuals and communities who have helped the movement.

**13. \*Report from the Nevada Coalition Against Sexual Violence (Andrea Sundberg)**

There was no report from the Nevada Coalition Against Sexual Violence as Ms. Sundberg was unable to attend the meeting.

**14. \*Report from the Attorney General Office on Violence Against Women STOP Grant (Liz Greb)**

There was no report from the Attorney General's Office on the Violence Against Women STOP Grant.

**15. \*Report from the Committee on Domestic Violence (Jennifer Kandt)**

Ms. Kandt was unable to attend the meeting but provided a written report.

**16. \*Report from the Victims of Crime Subcommittee (Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto)**

Ms. Prentice stated that the meeting date will be either April 12<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. She said that the Committee is looking at gaps in victims' services throughout the state and at legislative issues.

**17. Comments from the Chair**

General Masto was unavailable for comments.

**18. \*Report, discussion, and action on reports/updates from the following Council Officers:**

**d. Vice Chair – Mike Sprinkle**

Mr. Sprinkle reiterated the importance of the members' participation on committees and commended everyone for their increased involvement and efforts over the past year. He also emphasized the importance of attending the rural Council meeting in July.

**e. Treasurer – Suzanne Ramos**

Ms. Ramos stated that the Council's balance is \$21.65. She stated that they would be receiving additional funds to cover Council expenses through June 30, 2010.

**f. Secretary – Brett Kandt**

Mr. Kandt had nothing new to report.

**19. \*Discussion and scheduling of future meetings and agenda items.**

The next meeting will be July 14-15, 2010 in West Wendover and Elko, Nevada. Mr. Sprinkle asked that any suggestions for agenda items be sent to Lorraine Webber.

**20. \*Public Comment.**

There was no public comment.

**21. \*Adjournment**

Mr. Kandt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Suzanne Ramos seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

STATE OF NEVADA  
**NEVADA COUNCIL FOR THE  
PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

**Minutes of Meeting**

---

*July 15, 2010 at 10:30 a.m.*

---

Great Basin College  
High Tech Center, Room 120  
1290 Burns Road  
Elko, Nevada 89801

**Committee Members Present**

Catherine Cortez Masto, Barbara Aupperle, Christine Jones Brady,  
Vincent Cannito, Traci Dory, Toni Downen, Dr. Michael Freda,  
Christina Hernandez, Eileen Herrington, Brett Kandt, Patricia Lynch,  
Suzanne Ramos, Russell Smith, Mike Sprinkle,  
Andrea Sundberg, Robert (Bob) Zentz

**Committee Members Absent**

Valerie Cooney, Amy Crowe, Anya Arechiga Gonzalez, Sue Meuschke,  
Wendy Ronovech, Pam Russell, Caryn Sternlicht, Ron Titus,  
Elynne Wernikove-Greene

**Public Present**

Sue Branscomb, Elko County District Attorney's Office  
Pam Hansford, CADV  
Diane Hills, CADV  
Andrea Hollowell, CADV  
Sarah Hinton, LCCADV  
Juanita Joe, Elko Band D.V. Coordinator  
Tdyi Zarah Y. Magdamo, LCCADV  
John McCormick, AOC  
Monique-Cheri Pierre, United Methodist Church  
Dallas Smales, ITCN-DVPP  
Toby Templeton, CADV  
Jo Lynn Wallace, CADV

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

Pamela Webster, UCASA  
Don Zumwalt, Elko Police Department  
Holly Zumwalt

### **Attorney General's Office Staff Present**

Henna Rasul, Deputy Attorney General, Legal Counsel to NCPDV  
Kareen Prentice, Domestic Violence Ombudsman

#### **16.\*Call to order, roll call of members, and establish quorum.**

The meeting was called to order by Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto at 10:30 a.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

#### **17. Introduction of members of the public.**

General Masto stated that it was an honor for the Council to be in Elko and explained that the Council meets in rural communities every year to learn what is happening with domestic violence issues. She encouraged public comments and invited public attendees to state their names and what organizations they represent. (Please see Public Present list, above.)

#### **18.\*Review, amend, and approve minutes from the March 25, 2010 and May 28, 2010 Council meetings.**

Russell Smith made a motion to approve the March 25, 2010 minutes as submitted. Dr. Michael Freda seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Russell Smith made a motion to approve the May 28, 2010 minutes as submitted. Dr. Michael Freda seconded the motion. The motion passed with several abstentions. Patricia Lynch, Valerie Cooney, Toni Downen, Christine Jones Brady, Mike Sprinkle, Bob Zentz, Brett Kandt, and Andrea Sundberg all abstained from voting because they were not in attendance at the May 28, 2010 meeting.

#### **19.\*Update and discussion from Yvette Waters, Executive Director of the Committee Against Domestic Violence, Elko, Nevada.**

Ms. Waters was unable to attend the meeting but CADV staff members Toby Templeton, Jo Lynn Wallace, Diane Hills, and Pam Lansford introduced themselves and gave an overview of the work of the CADV, which covers an area of 34,000 square miles. Members of the Council asked the CADV staff questions regarding services for victims of sexual assault and about assisting law enforcement and victims in the West Wendover community.

General Masto asked the CADV to describe some of the challenges they faced aside from the lack of housing, which Ms. Hills mentioned during the CADV



## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

introductions. Ms. Lansford stated that they work a lot with VARN, which was a great resource; however there are not enough attorneys to go around. She stated that there is not one pro bono attorney in Elko or in Elko County. Legal fees can cost between \$3000 and \$10,000. One of the challenges many women face is that a lot of them are stay-at-home moms and don't have the resources that the abuser does. The abuser can afford an attorney, but the victim can not. If VARN is unable to help, then the woman is in dire straights. The last thing these women want to do is go to court without a lawyer to represent them. Ms. Lansford stated that the lack of pro bono attorneys is the biggest challenge they face. Nevada Legal Services in Elko will hand out divorce packets but only provides legal assistance with criminal cases, not with family law matters. She stated that if they could get a list of attorneys out of the Reno area who would accept payment on a sliding scale, it would possibly help those who had some kind of income.

General Masto asked if there were any other issues they would like to report. CADV members reported that funding is always a problem. Ms. Wallace stated that their website is kept updated with items that are needed such as diapers and personal hygiene products. CADV members reported that the Elko Community has been very generous.

Ms. Ramos asked what kind of issues they had surrounding transportation for victims of domestic violence. Ms. Lansford reported that, when needed, they will pick up victims and bring them to the shelter. Bus tickets have been purchased for victims who wish to leave the area. The CADV will provide transportation to doctor appointments but lack the staff and financial resources to assist with things like transportation for a job search.

In response to a question, Ms. Lansford reported that the local judges were very good about signing emergency protection orders. The CADV staff assist victims in applying for a 30-day order and are very rarely denied.

Ms. Brady asked that if Nevada Legal Services were only assisting in criminal cases, were they then acting as public defenders? Ms. Lansford stated that it was her understanding that Nevada Legal Services refers these cases to attorneys who will accept payment on a sliding scale. She stated that a couple of attorneys in town had a sliding scale, but not many. There is not a pro bono attorney in family law in Elko and so the only ones available are through VARN and VARN is covering such a large part of the state— all the rural counties— with a limited staff and so they can not take all cases. There was some discussion about VARN and the pro bono process. Pro bono attorneys can choose the area of law in which they offer pro bono services and there is a shortage of help in the area of family law. Some attorneys fulfill their pro bono obligation by sitting on a non-profit board or by educating on the law. Mr. Kandt stated that the Nevada Supreme Court has an Access to Justice Commission which he sits on as the Attorney General's representative. The Commission

has done a study to quantify the unmet civil legal needs throughout the state. Mr. Kandt stated that there was a tremendous need in the rural areas and that part of the Commission's mandate is to increase attorney participation in pro bono programs. Ms. Herrington stated that it is also a huge problem in Storey County. When victims contact the District Attorney's office, they are referred to VARN or another non-profit and sometimes it is two weeks or longer before the victim gets a call back. By that time, the batterer has had further opportunity for financial manipulation to the point where the victim has no choice but to return to the offender.

General Masto suggested that the annual family law conference in Ely might be an opportunity to address the issue and see if the attendees at the conference have some ideas on how to bring some more of the family law attorneys into rural communities.

Judge Lynch asked about how visitation exchanges are accomplished. Ms. Lansford stated that they are either done in the parking lot of the Sheriff's department, or through a third party.

Dr. Freda remarked that as a certified batterers intervention program, his program is required by statute to do 5% pro bono work and can be sanctioned if they do not meet that requirement. He suggested that maybe something similar could be done through the Nevada Bar Association. General Masto stated what they could do was reach out to family law attorneys in the state to see if they would be willing to do some pro bono work in the rural areas, the challenge being how the attorney would connect with the client in the rural communities when the attorney lives in the Reno or Las Vegas areas.

**20.\*Update and discussion from local law enforcement on domestic violence issues in Elko County.**

Elko Police Chief Don Zumwalt stated that his wife is a licensed social worker who works for the family resource center and so his home was blended between enforcement and services. It is important to both of them that the right help gets to the right people. After expressing his appreciation to the Council for traveling to Elko, Chief Zumwalt stated that domestic violence continues to be a big issue. A very high percentage of domestic violence cases stem from some sort of drug and alcohol abuse. The problem is not getting any easier but is getting worse. He stated his department works with CADV to blend enforcement and services. His goal is to make the community healthier and safer through enforcement, education, and social services.

Ms. Sundberg asked what counseling services or treatment programs are available since drug and alcohol seem to be such a problem. Chief Zumwalt replied that services are available but he wasn't sure that the court system mandated them. He stated that sometimes the court orders drug and alcohol

counseling and sometimes the court just orders family counseling even when drugs and alcohol may be a factor.

Dr. Freda stated that as a provider of batterers treatment services, he is required to do an addiction assessment and if the batterer does have a problem with addiction then it becomes part of their treatment plan.

Captain Cannito commented on the intervention aspect of law enforcement and stated that it was one of the most critical components. He briefly discussed the Lethality Assessment Program and the importance of reaching out to victims and focusing on suspects so that everyone is aware that law enforcement is not going away.

Chief Zumwalt remarked that if they were able to follow-up with victims and suspects it may be beneficial.

Jim Pitts from the Elko County Sheriff's department stated that alcohol abuse is a major issue for them, too, and commented on the relationship between substance abuse and domestic violence.

#### **21.Update regarding Supreme Court Justice Hardesty's Hearing on Protection Orders.**

General Masto stated that the Supreme Court was looking at the confidentiality of certain records, including TPOs. Several members of the Council testified at the hearing. General Masto reported that she spoke about the ramifications of certain information being published to the internet. Ms. Sundberg commented on the conflict between the right to access public records versus the need to protect the privacy of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Photographs, especially, should not be publishable to the internet. Other comments included the need for a statewide protocol. Forms marked "confidential" are sent numerous places and should perhaps be broken down into sections with statements as to where these forms may be sent. Certain information, including contact information, should be kept in a confidential file and the rest made available to the public for demographic information, etc. It was suggested that members of the Council be on Justice Hardesty's subcommittee to examine the issue. Mr. McCormick from the AOC, was unsure when Justice Hardesty would be making those appointments but said he would check on the timeline and the composition of that committee. General Masto asked Mr. McCormick to please let Justice Hardesty know that the Council would love to have some of their members involved.

Christine Jones Brady commented that one of the overriding themes of the hearing was to increase peoples' confidence in TPO's. Part of that is to make transparent what information the judges are relying upon to grant or extend TPO's.

Mr. McCormick stated that another commission had worked on standardizing the TPO forms and that information was currently available on the Supreme Courts website [www.nevadajudiciary.us](http://www.nevadajudiciary.us).

The Council briefly discussed the statutory conflict between the right to privacy and the right to access public records. Public records have sometimes been used against the victims in family court, for example.

**7. \*Report, discussion and possible action on reports/updates from the following committees of the Council:**

**g. Bylaws and Structure Committee (Russell Smith)**

**iii. 2010 Goals Update.**

Mr. Smith stated that currently there are no recommendations or suggestions for changing the bylaws. He added that if anyone comes across something that does need to be changed, to please let him know.

**h. Criminal Justice Committee (Brett Kandt)**

**iii. 2010 Goals Update**

Mr. Kandt reported that the Criminal Justice Committee last met on June 10, 2010. The Committee is working on several matters including sponsoring a criminal justice track at the Coalition's Statewide Sexual Violence Conference November 8-9, 2010, at the Nugget in Sparks. Several topics will be discussed including, for the first time at this conference, a forensic track. Ms. Sundberg added that a medical track will also be presented with the goal of helping train nurses and facility administrators.

Mr. Kandt stated that the Committee had put together a subcommittee to look at developing some statewide protocols on victim witness practices. The subcommittee struggled to find a one-size fits all protocol and so they may need to bring in some outside experts to assist. The national Victims of Crime office has developed some standards and provides technical assistance.

It was reported that some issues with the law enforcement protocols have come up in the rural areas and so those protocols may also need to be updated.

Mr. Kandt stated that the Committee reviews the statistics posted at the central repository at the Department of Public Safety. These statistics have not been updated in quite some time. He suggested that we invite someone from the Records Division at DPS to speak to the Council about the issues they have in compiling and publishing those statistics.

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

Another project the Committee is working on is making a training video profiling the stories of both batterers and victims. The video is still in production and is undergoing editing. Mr. Kandt hopes to have it available to show at the next meeting of the NCPDV and at the Fatality Review Conference scheduled for October 1, 2010.

### **c. Education Committee (Valerie Cooney/Sue Meuschke)**

#### **iv. 2010 Goals Update**

The Education Committee has carried over several goals from last year.

#### **v. Hospital Survey**

Ms. Sundberg reported that only five of the 50 hospitals the survey had been sent to have responded. Ms. Prentice reported that the Hospital Association had sent out three emails, put it on their website, and had an item in their awareness newsletter about the survey. Ms. Prentice is now working with the Health Division and their program to call 21 hospitals and walk them through the survey. Mr. Sprinkle added that the Education committee may contact the remaining hospitals to get the information.

#### **iii. Update on Boy Scouts Project.**

Christina Hernandez reported that she had been contacted by a Girl Scout Troup regarding the UNLV project where posters describing various services such as counseling, law enforcement, domestic violence shelters and rape crisis centers are posted in the restrooms. The Girl Scout troop would like to do a similar project in a high school.

Ms. Prentice stated that for the Boy Scout project, they are using the Girl Scout program as a model. Some of the activities have been reformatted and others have been added to fit the Boy Scout curriculum. The Committee is looking at launching the project during one of the Boy Scout events where the boys have the opportunity to work on several badges at the same time. The boys are given the activities, and will be able to complete some of them at the event. Then they return four weeks later to receive the badge and meet the Attorney General.

For the benefit of the public attending the meeting, General Masto gave a brief summary of the Council's work with the Girl Scouts and Boys Scouts, emphasizing the importance of educating our future leaders.

Ms. Prentice updated the Council on the Cut-It-Out program which provides ongoing training to salon professionals to recognize the signs of domestic violence and to respond appropriately. Salons throughout Nevada have received

## 2011 BIENNIAL REPORT

information and training. Currently 15 out of 19 schools in Nevada incorporate the Cut-It-Out program in their training. General Masto added that if there were any programs or associations in the Elko area that the Council could partner with, the Council would be happy to do some outreach.

Ms. Brady asked where a teenager who is not a Boy Scout or a Girl Scout might go to get involved in some kind of program for their school's campus. Ms. Sundberg suggested contacting the Coalition Against Sexual Violence and the Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence.

Mr. Sprinkle stated he would like to see the Education Committee readdress developing a curriculum for use in the schools, and work on breaking down the barriers in getting it implemented, especially in Washoe County and the rural areas. Ms. Sundberg stated that although there are a lot of challenges in getting information into the schools, there has been some success in that some topics are addressed in health class because they meet the standards set out by the Department of Education. She added that one thing that may want to be looked at legislatively is the requirement that nurses teach sexual assault, teen dating violence and domestic violence prevention. Currently, those topics fall under sex education which must be taught by nurses trained by the school districts. Ms. Sundberg suggested that the law should make exceptions for those who come into the schools to educate on sexual assault and domestic violence issues.

Ms. Ramos stated that she and the NNADV have done some teen dating violence in about 5 of the Washoe County High Schools. The key to getting into those schools was by being invited by the health teachers. Mr. Sprinkle stated he would like to see programs district-wide. Dr. Freda said that the Washoe County Domestic Violence Task Force was working with the Washoe School District on sexual assault prevention training for all grade levels.

### **dii. Legislative Committee (Mike Sprinkle)**

#### **iii. 2010 Goals Update.**

Mr. Sprinkle reported that the Committee had had two meetings so far this year. He stated that information gathered during the rural road trip is beneficial in helping the Committee prepare the biennial legislative report. The Committee is also planning to solicit written comments from judges through a survey and Ms. Prentice is working with Sheila MacDonald from the AOC on distributing it. In addition, comments from meeting of the general jurisdiction judges, which was attended by General Masto, Brett Kandt and Kareen Prentice, will also be included.

Dr. Freda has suggested possible legislation requiring domestic violence training for those who complete custody evaluations. Mr. Sprinkle did not think that it was something that could be ready for the upcoming legislative session but it is an extremely important issue the Committee would continue working on. When

something more formal is ready, he will present it to the Council. Dr. Freda added that some preliminary language has been written up, but that the Committee was investigating the possible fiscal impact by contacting various licensing boards for input.

**k. Nominating Committee (Suzanne Ramos)**

- a. 2010 Goals Update.**
- b. Committee Membership and Attendance.**

Ms. Ramos stated that the Nominating Committee was gearing up to review the incoming applications for Council membership. The Committee is emphasizing recruitment from southern Nevada, rural areas, clergy, and Native American Communities. A meeting to review the applications is scheduled for August 20, 2010. Ms. Ramos briefly reviewed the application process and the obligations associated with membership in the NCPDV and encouraged those who were interested to apply.

**f. Public Information Committee (Traci Dory)**

- i. 2010 Goals Update.**

Ms. Dory reported that the Public Information Committee's goals for 2010 were to increase media and public awareness of the Council and the issue of domestic violence. By working with the Attorney General's Public Information Officer and IT department, the committee developed and posted on-line a list of all victim advocacy offices in the state. Resources can be accessed by visiting the Attorney General's website and clicking on the Victims of Crime tab. The Committee is currently working on developing ways to create media awareness.

**g. Underserved Populations Committee (Suzanne Ramos)**

- i. 2010 Goals Update.**

The Underserved Populations Committee has carried over some of their 2009 goals including the issue of I-80 corridor and rural transportation for victims. The Committee is working on a survey to address TPOs and the gaps in court services. Joe Tommasino from the Las Vegas Justice Court has been assisting the Committee with this project. Ms. Ramos stated that the Committee hoped to have a draft of the survey completed in time for the November meeting of the Council. The next meeting of the Underserved Committee is scheduled for October 4, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.

**h. Judicial Training Committee (Dr. Michael Freda)**

- i. 2010 Goals Update.**
- ii. Update on training topics.**

Dr. Freda reported that the Committee last met on May 6, 2010. The list of topics developed by the Committee has been given to the education committees of the limited and general jurisdiction judges' associations. General Masto added that she had met with the general jurisdiction judges and would be meeting with the limited jurisdiction judges at their next conference in January, 2011. The intent of these meetings is to talk a little bit about domestic violence and get input from the judges on how the Council can work with them. General Masto stated it was her hope that this could be a regular item on the agendas of the judges' associations.

**8. \*Report from the Domestic Violence Ombudsman (Kareen Prentice)**

Ms. Prentice reviewed the court assessments for fiscal year 2010 and noted that they were higher than 2009. Mr. McCormick from the AOC stated that this was impressive as the Supreme Court has projected that overall administrative assessments would be down.

Ms. Prentice stated that the Attorney General's Office has collaborated with the Department of Corrections to obtain a grant for the Nevada Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) program. Currently VINE is operating in Washoe County, Clark County, and North Las Vegas. In the last six months they have hired a vendor (Appriss), a financial contractor to track the grant activity, and a program officer. Dee Schafer, the program officer, is making a presentation to all sheriffs and chiefs in Nevada. A Nevada VINE governance board has been formed to oversee the entire process. The program should be operational statewide in the next 18 months. The phone number is 1-888-2NV-VINE and is for all types of crime, not just domestic violence. This is a useful tool not only for victims, but law enforcement, other agencies and individuals. The system alerts interested parties of any change in the status of an offender. Free materials about VINE will be provided to law enforcement.

Ms. Prentice handed out flyers and registration forms for the Attorney General's upcoming Domestic Violence Fatality Review Summit scheduled for October 1, 2010 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Las Vegas. The National Domestic Violence Fatality Review Initiative Director and Dr. Neil Websdale are coming. General Masto noted that the problem is statewide and this conference will address what's occurring, how the problem can be addressed, how we can learn from it and how it can be prevented in the future. Ms. Prentice stated that travel scholarships are available.



Ms. Prentice reported that she and Liz Greb had been approached by the Health Division to work with them on a grant to provide services to pregnant women who are the victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Ms. Prentice is also working on the budget for 2013-2014 and reports that there will be an increase in the budget.

**9. \*Report from the Southern Nevada Domestic Violence Task Force (Elynne Wernikove-Greene)**

Ms. Greene was unable to attend the meeting but Ms. Aupperle reported that the Southern Nevada Domestic Violence Task Force had cut back to quarterly meetings. On September 30, 2010, the Task Force and the police department will kick off Domestic Violence Awareness month with the unveiling of the past year's domestic violence memorial plaques. On October 2, 2010, the Task Force will sponsor the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Peace Begins at Home patch event for the Girl Scouts in Southern Nevada. On November 4<sup>th</sup>, the Task Force will host its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Training in Las Vegas. This will be a one-day workshop on the topic of stalking. The workshop is free of charge and lunch will be provided. The next meeting of the Task Force is scheduled for January 13, 2011. Ms. Aupperle reported that the Southern Nevada Human Trafficking Task Force will be hosting a free training on September 23, 2010 with tracks for advocates and law enforcement.

**10. \*Report from the Washoe County Domestic Violence Task Force (Dr. Michael Freda)**

Suzanne Ramos reported that the Washoe County Domestic Violence Task Force meets every other month. They are currently looking at legislative issues for this coming year. The Safe and Healthy Homes event, which in the past has been in October for Domestic Violence Awareness Month, had to be pushed to May or June of next year due to funding and staffing issues. As discussed earlier, the Task Force is working on a partnership with the Washoe County schools to get domestic violence and sexual assault prevention programs in place.

**11. \*Report from the Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence (Sue Meuschke)**

Ms. Meuschke was unable to attend but provided a written report. Ms. Prentice added that the Network has had all of the Cut-It-Out training materials translated into Spanish.

**12. \*Report from the Nevada Coalition Against Sexual Violence  
(Andrea Sundberg)**

Ms. Sundberg reported that their annual conference will be November 9-10 at the Sparks Nugget. Travel scholarships will be available for law enforcement, prosecutors, and advocates. The registration fee will be minimal. In addition to the topics covered by Brett Kandt during his update on the Criminal Justice Committee, the conference will also provide training on working with tribal communities, immigration, self-care for advocates, and working with teen victims.

Ms. Sundberg reported that the Coalition is also working with the Victims of Crime Subcommittee to develop a survey to identify gaps in victim services throughout the state.

The coalition has worked on a number of trainings on confidentiality, advocacy, and sexual assault 101. Ms. Sundberg stated that the Attorney General's Office has an annual sexual assault support program grant available through the office of Violence Against Women. This year it is for up to \$15,000.00 for non-governmental programs to do direct services to support the victims of sexual assault, as well as outreach and awareness. The application is available on-line and the deadline to apply is July 30, 2010.

Ms. Sundberg alerted the Council to a federal teen trafficking bill designed to address the issue of trafficking teens for the sex industry. Eight states will get 2.5 million dollars. The Coalition has been contacting legislators to educate and inform them on how the bill would benefit victims of sexual assault. General Masto stated that this is a big issue, especially in Southern Nevada. The Council briefly discussed the problem statewide.

Ms. Sundberg thanked those who have been so supportive of the issue of sexual assault and suggested that sexual violence be added to the NRS that covers the NCPDV. After discussion and review of the existing NRS, General Masto asked that anyone with concerns about making the change email her or Kareen Prentice. The Council discussed whether there should be a separate Council for the prevention of sexual assault, or if it should be combined with domestic violence. Ms. Sundberg stated she thought it would make more sense to combine it with the existing NCPDV. General Masto asked the Legislative Committee to look at making those changes to the NRS.

Mr. Sprinkle asked if the Coalition was looking at certifying nurses in every emergency room or just in specific facilities. Ms. Sundberg said she would like to see nurses certified in every emergency room. Sending victims to another hospital creates barriers and may prevent victims from participating in the process. The Council then discussed the difficulties of certifying nurses, especially in the rural areas, because the nurses must leave their families and

their regular jobs to travel to the Reno or Las Vegas areas to get certified. General Masto suggested that she and Russell Smith meet with the director of the Nursing Board and make her aware of the circumstances in the rural areas. If no solution can be found, then perhaps it is something that needs to be addressed legislatively.

**13. \*Report from the Attorney General Office on Violence Against Women STOP Grant (Liz Greb)**

Ms. Greb was unable to attend the meeting but provided a written report.

General Masto commented that one successful program has been the Tri-County project. A prosecutor for Lincoln, White Pine and Eureka counties has been hired to work with the district attorneys focusing on prosecution of domestic violence and sexual assault. From January to June of 2010, he has had a 90% success rate. General Masto stated that this has been a test on how to get additional resources into rural communities, particularly on the prosecution side. She was hopeful that funding could be found to develop similar projects in additional rural communities.

**14. \*Report from the Committee on Domestic Violence (Jennifer Kandt)**

Ms. Kandt was unable to attend the meeting.

Ms. Prentice reported that Lieutenant Rob Lundquist from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department is a new member of the CDV. Currently there is a vacancy for the victim representative and anyone interested is encouraged to apply. Walt Dimitroff from ACCS has resigned and so there is also an opening for a mental health representative. The certified batterers treatment program operating in Elko and Wendover has had to temporarily suspend their program because the facilitators who ran the program retired. The supervisor for that program is attempting to get new facilitators trained.

Ms. Prentice and Ms. Kandt visited Pahrump and met with various agencies and Judge Brisebill regarding available batterer treatment services.

**15. \*Report from the Victims of Crime Subcommittee (Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto).**

General Masto clarified that the Victims of Crime Subcommittee was created as part of the Advisory Commission on the Administration of Justice. She reported that the Subcommittee had been focusing on legislation that they wanted to get before the Advisory Commission for their work sessions. Mr. Kandt stated that one of the proposed laws would overturn the current law, established by the Supreme Court, which allows the defense to force the psychological examination of a sexual assault victim even when expert testimony regarding the

psychological state of the victim is not being introduced by the prosecution. The Subcommittee is working on two other pieces of legislation as well. After their work sessions, the Advisory Commission will make recommendations as to what legislation to propose.

**16. Comments from the Chair**

General Masto had no comments.

**17. \*Report, discussion, and action on reports/updates from the following Council Officers:**

**g. Vice Chair – Mike Sprinkle**

Mr. Sprinkle recognized and thanked members of the Council for their participation and work on the committees.

**h. Treasurer – Suzanne Ramos**

Ms. Ramos reviewed the Council's balance and stated that the budget for the new fiscal year is \$3000. Because expenses from the rural road trip will deplete most of that money, the Ombudsman will be requesting an additional \$1000.

**i. Secretary – Brett Kandt**

Mr. Kandt stated that as secretary, his only duty is to review the drafts of meeting minutes before they are sent to the Council. He wondered if the position was really necessary. Ms. Rasul stated that it is statutorily required that the Council has a secretary.

**18. \*Election of New Officers.**

Mike Sprinkle was nominated and elected as Vice Chair. Suzanne Ramos was nominated and elected as Treasurer. Brett Kandt was nominated and elected as Secretary.

**19. \*Discussion and scheduling of future meetings and agenda items.**

The next meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. Ms. Prentice stated that agenda items will include an update on DPS domestic violence statistics, a presentation from John McCormick from the AOC on domestic violence court statistics, and an update on SA-Sart.

**20. \*Public Comment.**

Ms. Prentice asked if the tribal representatives would mind speaking. Dallas Smales described her work as a domestic violence advocate for tribal members in Elko, Wells, South Fork and Battle Mountain. She commented on some of the challenges she faced including lack of funding, working within the tribal ordinances, the relationship of drug and alcohol abuse to domestic violence, and getting victims and offenders to accept her outreach efforts. General Masto offered any help or support that can be provided by the Council. Jaunita Joe, Domestic Violence Coordinator for the Elko Band Tribe and members of the Council discussed access to treatment programs and direct services, tribal jurisdiction and other domestic violence issues.

Christina Hernandez stated she had recently been at a conference and met a group from Boston who help put together policies within shelters to better serve the LGBT community. She will be working with individual shelters but noted that each shelter has different policies, and she believes that developing statewide guidelines will help ensure the safety of the victim and help protect the agencies from liability issues. Ms. Hernandez will be talking more about this in her Committee but wanted to make the Council aware of the issue.

General Masto thanked the Elko community and the Council members.

## **22. \*Adjournment**

General Masto adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:00 p.m.

## **APPENDIX E**

**FY 2012 Work Program – Category 1042-15**  
**Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence**

**In-state Travel ..... \$4,628**

There are approximately 26 members and estimated travel is based on 13 members from Northern Nevada, Southern Nevada, and rural Nevada – to attend one rural meeting.

Airfare = \$350  
Per diem = \$64  
Parking = \$24  
Hotel = \$110  
Incidental = \$6

1 - 1.5 day trip estimated cost = \$554 for 7 members = \$3878

Miscellaneous travel for mileage for members to attend the rural and video-conference meetings (1500 miles x .50) = \$750

**Operating ..... \$312**

Paper, pens, basic supplies, copier, DOIT, teleconferencing for meetings and members.  
Estimated at \$12 per member (x 26 estimated members).

**Postage Paid to State Mailroom ..... \$60**

Postage based on \$5 per month.

---

**Total estimated work program..... \$5,000**

**FY 2013 Work Program – Category 1042-15**  
**Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence**

**In-state Travel ..... \$4,628**

There are approximately 26 members and estimated travel is based on 13 members from Northern Nevada, Southern Nevada, and rural Nevada – to attend one rural meeting.

Airfare = \$350  
Per diem = \$64  
Parking = \$24  
Hotel = \$110  
Incidental = \$6

1 - 1.5 day trip estimated cost = \$554 for 7 members = \$3878

Miscellaneous travel for mileage for members to attend the rural and video-conference meetings (1500 miles x .50) = \$750

**Operating ..... \$312**

Paper, pens, basic supplies, copier, DOIT, teleconferencing for meetings and members.  
Estimated at \$12 per member (x 26 estimated members).

**Postage Paid to State Mailroom ..... \$60**

Postage based on \$5 per month.

---

**Total estimated work program..... \$5,000**