

Strategic Planning Meeting Minutes
Idaho Council on Domestic Violence and Victim Assistance
304 N 8th St, Ste 140, Boise, ID 83702
DFM Conference Room, third floor
February 17, 2023
9:00 a.m. MST

Members present: Jodi Nafzger, Rachel Kaschmitter, Wes Somerton, Jessica Uhrig, Alan Boehme

Members Excused: Laura Diaz, Clint Lemieux

ICDVVA Employees: Heather Cunningham, Dana Wiemiller, Kristina Larkin, Jessica Marshall

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

1. Action Item: Approval of Amended Meeting Agenda

Councilmember Somerton moved to accept the amended meeting agenda; Councilmember Boehme seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Action Item: Minutes from December 2, 2022, Q4 Meeting

Councilmember Boehme moved to accept the December minutes. Councilmember Uhrig seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Action Item: Minutes from January 20, 2023, Special Meeting

Chair Nafzger moved to accept the minutes from the January meeting. Councilmember Uhrig seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Councilmember Somerton abstained.

4. Discussion & Presentation: Serving Disabled Victims

Christine Pisani, Director of the Council on Developmental Disabilities provided an overview of the agency's mission and current efforts coordinate information, data, and outreach on challenges in reporting abuse and neglect of persons with developmental disabilities. Director Cunningham discussed the efforts of ICDVVA to collaborate with the Disabilities Council in outreach and education at regional roundtables, and participation in ICDVVA program monitoring and/or sharing information on accessibility from monitoring to ensure accessible services statewide.

Director Pisani and Director Cunningham discussed efforts to collaborate with state Child Advocacy Centers to provide education on the most appropriate and effective ways to serve adults with developmental disabilities. Director Pisani also discussed the challenges in reporting abuse and neglect to Adult Protective Services and collecting data on victims with disabilities, expressing a need to develop a caregiver misconduct registry in Idaho.

Director Cunningham recommended that collaboration with the Council on Developmental Disabilities be included as a priority in the 2023 Strategic Plan.

5. Discussion: Definition of Underserved

Thomas Strauss, Director of the Idaho Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) provided an overview of SAC and the progress on developing a data dashboard to compile crime, census and victimization data in one place and keep it current. Director Cunningham summarized the history of collaboration between ICDVVA, SAC, and Idaho State Police to improve coordination of victim services data and funding. Director Strauss provided background on how the dashboard project

was launched and the fact that this is using available data and information in a new way, moving it from databases into a format where it is accessible. Director Strauss provided a demonstration of dashboard features that will aid in identifying gaps in services and funding needs, and also improve the identification of underserved populations and where they are located. ICDVVA Senior Research Analyst Marshall added that the dashboard will assist in grant application development, and review and scoring so that funding decisions are based on the best available data and less on subjective information or grant writing skill.

Ms. Marshall shared the draft definition of Underserved for the FY24 grant application, noting that the revised definition incorporates feedback from the FVPSA compliance consultant and is focused on the victim rather than including the type of crime experienced by the victim.

6. Discussion & Presentation: Serving Deaf & Hard of Hearing Victims

Steven Snow, Director of the Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CDHH) shared brief overview of the agency's mission, programs, and services. He discussed various barriers for deaf and hard of hearing survivors, including lack of accessible and culturally competent victim services and distrust of deaf and hard of hearing survivors toward law enforcement and assistance programs. Director Snow also shared opportunities to minimize gaps in services such as funding for centralized access to interpreting services, funding and training for deaf advocates, comprehensive training for providers; and partnership with ICDVVA on training for sign language interpreters on domestic violence and sexual assault.

Director Cunningham recommended that significant collaboration with CDHH be included as a priority in the 2023 Strategic Plan, including an ICDVVA funded training opportunity for deaf and hard of hearing advocates who could provide outreach and services on a regional basis throughout the state. Deaf advocates could also serve non-deaf clients, but to date, ICDVVA is not aware of any Idaho victim service program who has pursued funding to train or employ deaf advocates.

7. Discussion & Presentation: FVPSA Compliance

Nancy Robertson, FVPSA compliance consultant, was retained to review ICDVVA policies, procedures and materials for compliance with FVPSA priorities, rules, and regulations with the goal of ensuring that the agency is well-positioned for a FVPSA monitoring or audit. Ms. Robertson summarized the FVPSA requirements that the state administering agency (SAA) and the state domestic violence coalition work together and collaborate. The Coalition is responsible for conducting a needs assessment and the SAA is to adopt a state action plan based on that needs assessment. There are some challenges which need to be addressed, including providing for training needs for Idaho programs.

Director Cunningham highlighted that information about coordination efforts should be accurate and consistent in both the ICDVVA and Coalition FVPSA funding applications. However, Idaho seems to be experiencing the same issues many other states are, with the SAA and the Coalition having a strained relationship. In order to ensure FVPSA funding remains available and the SAA is complying with FVPSA requirements, better communication with the Coalition is necessary; Director Cunningham recommended that working with a third party might be helpful in finding a path forward and that it may be helpful if a Councilmember participated in that process.

8. Action Item: 2023 Safety & Resilience Conference

Director Cunningham shared the list of priority projects facing staff in 2023 related to agency operations, grant compliance and meeting statutory duties, particularly in the March – July timeframe. The conference is not a statutory or federally required duty of the Council but is well attended and valued by programs. Staff do not have the capacity to undertake the conference; hiring a consultant did not sufficiently reduce the burden on staff in 2022. Director Cunningham recommends cancellation of the 2023 Safety and Resilience Conference. Councilmembers discussed the capacity concerns and value of the conference and evaluated options. After discussion, Chair Nafzger moved to cancel the 2023 conference. Councilmember Uhrig seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Discussion Item: Revisions to Strategic Plan

Director Cunningham provided a brief overview of strategic planning process, the necessity to have a strategic plan for both VOCA and FVPSA compliance aside from state requirements, and briefly reviewed the goals and objectives from the prior strategic plan and progress made on last year’s objectives. She then shared the draft goals and objectives for the 2023 Strategic Plan, emphasizing that the agency can now meaningful focus on select initiatives since the agency has developed the administrative infrastructure, data, and tools included in prior goals and objectives. The presentations made earlier in the meeting were to provide information and context to the Council on specific collaborations and initiatives being recommended in the 2023 Strategic Plan. Council members agreed on the items outlined for the 2023 Strategic Plan as presented and staff will provide a draft strategic plan that incorporates today’s discussion items as soon as feasible given existing staff capacity constraints.

10. Action Item: Reschedule July 3Q Council Meeting

Due to scheduling conflicts, Council members agreed to reschedule the third quarter in-person meeting (which includes FY24 grant recommendations) to Friday, August 4th

11. Discussion Item: Service Issues Regarding Trafficking Victims

Director Cunningham advised the Council that numerous stakeholders have raised issues regarding with two anti-trafficking programs. One is currently funded by ICDVVA; the other recently met with ICDVVA and it is anticipated that both programs may apply for FY24 funding. It appears that the enmity between the two programs is having a negative impact on victim services, and it is likely prudent for the Council to call this to the attention of the programs so that they are on notice of, and have a chance to address, any issues prior to decision on FY24 grant applications as the administrative rules do have collaboration as an evaluation criteria.

12. Action Item: Executive Session pursuant to I.C. § 74-204(3) and § 74-206(1)(b) to discuss personnel matters

Alan Boehme moved to go into Executive Session per I.C. § 74-204(3) and § 74-206(1)(b). Seconded by Jessica Uhrig. Motion approved unanimously with a roll call vote. The Council went into Executive Session at 2:35pm. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to exit Executive Session at 4:30 p.m.

Councilmember Uhrig moved that the Council amend the proposed performance improvement plan for the Executive Director as a result of additional information, with the subcommittee to determine appropriate next steps. Councilmember Kaschmitter seconded. Motion was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:46pm