



STATE OF HAWAII

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE

S.T.O.P. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

FORMULA GRANT

FY 2001

Department of the Attorney General
Crime Prevention and Justice Assistance Division

December 2001

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The FY 2001 Strategic Plan for the STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant offers a more redefined approach to the current efforts undertaken over the past five years. Initiated by a formal strategic planning session begun in May 2001, the VAWA State Planning Committee sought a long-range plan that would provide increased accountability and offer a “road map” for statewide action over the next three to five years for VAWA and other funding needs. This effort brought about the identification of issues and concerns across the different systems addressing domestic violence and sexual assault, as well as funding resources available to victims. The final result is the adoption of three specific priorities in areas that have been generally addressed in previous state strategies: (1) improve data system infrastructure, especially for access, safety and dissemination, especially in the Victim Information Management System (VIMS) project; (2) increase outreach and services to underserved populations that are isolated by culture and language, disability and sexual orientation; and (3) support and promote multi-disciplinary training, encourage coordination of multi-disciplinary efforts, and provide incentives for valuing and retaining staff. With the FY 2001 funding, these three priorities will be targeted, in addition to maintaining the current priorities that address the State’s efforts to reduce violence against women.

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Introduction

The VAWA State Planning Committee agreed on the need to establish a strategic plan for the STOP Formula Grant, particularly in light of its reauthorization by Congress in the Fall of 2000. The development of a statewide strategic plan would provide the opportunity to:

- L review the direction that the first five years has taken in addressing the reduction/elimination of violence against women
- L develop better information to enhance the coordination and continuity of efforts
- L improve the allocation of resources by providing a framework for budgeting and operations
- L increase accountability
- L provide a “road map” for statewide action for the next three to five years

Process for Strategic Plan

A request was submitted to the *STOP Technical Assistance Project*, and Robin Hassler-Thompson was contracted to provide facilitation services for the strategic planning process. The *Center for Alternative Dispute Resolution* was approached to provide local facilitation assistance, and Clyde Namuo was selected to co-facilitate the two-day session held on May 17-18, 2001. Representatives from the State Departments of Health and Human Services, the Judiciary’s First Circuit Court, the Victim-Witness Coordinators from the four county prosecutors’ offices, and the Hawaii Sex Assault Coalition chair were invited to participate in the first of the two day process, to share the roles their agencies played in supporting programs that addressed violence against women on a local and/or state level. Prior to meeting, participants were forwarded the current VAWA State Implementation Plan, material on planning and evaluation, the 2000 VAWA Reauthorization changes and new provisions, and a personal worksheet to provide an assessment of the SWOT(Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) for the various community sectors with roles in reducing violence against women (see Appendix A). Nine of twelve Planning Committee members (or their representatives) attended, and all invited sectors sent a representative to the first day of the session. (See Appendix B for participant listing.)

1. INTRODUCTORY SESSION:

At the onset of the session, participants were requested to respond to the following: “*Name the one thing you would like to see happen in Hawaii to end violence against women.*” The responses can be grouped under four general categories:

' ***Family/Client:***

Strengthening families
Respect/care for each other
Adequate support for male
Parenting classes
Boys: educating about healthy sex, fatherhood
changing status quo
Participation/support by and for victims

' ***Community:***

Build a peaceful community
Awareness/understanding -- taking Violence Against Women (VAW) seriously
(systems & community)
Prevention education
Buy-in of agency/community to end apathy that VAW exists
Where to get help -- educate community

' ***Providers (Government and Non-Profit):***

Understand better how other systems in the community cooperate
Collaboration among federal/state sources
Respect among group and each other
Warm justice system welcome for advocates: understand their role/elevate status

' ***Criminal Justice System:***

More firearm prosecution in DV cases
Civilian advocate in police departments for follow up
Arrest warrants for misdemeanor abuse cases issued
Holding batterers/perpetrators accountable

II. RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

The following agencies submitted information on available funds addressing Victims of Domestic/Family Violence and Sexual Assault:

State Department of the Attorney General

VAWA STOP Formula Grant:

The STOP Formula Grant has provided a total of \$4,028,048 in grant allocations for the past five years (FY 1995-1999). The mandated VAWA allocations were 25% each to law enforcement, prosecution, and non-governmental victim service providers, with the remaining 25% for discretionary allocations. Distributions of the funds by sectors were: \$1,658,956 (41.2%) to non-governmental victim service providers; \$1,083,337 (26.9%) to law enforcement; \$1,005,735 (25%) to prosecution; and \$191,505 (4.8%) to the Judiciary. The law enforcement amount also included grant funding subcontracted to non-governmental victim service providers for crisis response and SANE projects. The City and County of Honolulu has 74% of the State's adult female population and received 25% of the funds. Hawaii County has 11% of the adult female population, and received 11% of the funds; Maui County has 10% of the adult female population and received 12% of funds; and Kauai County has 5% of the adult female population and received 11% of funding. The balance of funding (41%) went to statewide programs. In the area of services, 14% of the funds (\$567,777) were devoted strictly to sexual assault projects, and 9% (\$374,286) to joint or multi-disciplinary projects that included sexual assault components. The remaining 77% balance (\$3,085,985) were domestic violence projects or general projects assisting adult female victims of violence (e.g., the Economic Abuse Recovery Curriculum). There was one project on stalking training for \$13,930, although the subject was included in several law enforcement and prosecution training projects. (Refer to Appendix C)

VAWA Discretionary Grants:

Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies:

The Department of the Attorney General received \$64,000 from the FY 98 Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies (GEAP), with a funding period from September 1998 and extended to December 2001. The Temporary Restraining Order/Protection Order (TRO/PO) component of this project has focused on the implementation of the Full Faith and Credit (FCC) statute under VAWA, under which out-of-state protection orders that are facially valid are enforceable as if they were issued by the jurisdiction where the violation has occurred. As a result of this project, several multi-disciplinary training workshops have been held statewide, a training video has been developed with an accompanying resource handbook, and an on-going committee in Honolulu has continued the discussion on evolving issues related to this topic. The new focus of the project is stalking investigation. The GEAP training committee is working with the Honolulu Police Department, which just completed a local training video on the issue. The video will be used to develop a uniform training curriculum for criminal justice and advocacy agencies. The committee has also been in contact with the National Center for Victims of Crime - Stalking Resource Center

for assistance in material and technical assistance.

Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization Enforcement Grant:

1. The State of Hawaii was awarded Rural Domestic Violence funding in FY 1998 and FY 2000 for the establishment of Family Visitation Centers on the islands of Hawaii and Kauai. The project establishes three sites that provide children a safe, neutral environment to visit with the non-custodial parent, while affording protection for the custodial parent and children from reabuse. Total funding for the two projects amounted to \$668,243, for a period from October 1997 to June 2002. The Island of Hawaii YMCA has set up two Centers, one each in Hilo and Kona. The YWCA of Kauai has set up a similar Center in Lihue.

2. A FY 1999 award for \$472,160 was received by the State for the Coordinated Rural Community Response Project. The Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence has been contracted to administer the project, from January 2000 to August 2001. The goal is to promote long term safety by improving the quality and accessibility of services to abused women with children in rural areas, by designing and implementing protocols and establishing interdisciplinary case management systems reflecting the unique needs and resources of the community. A local coordinator works with an interdisciplinary team with domestic violence service providers, civil/legal service provider, CPS agency, county prosecutor victim witness assistance, and local law enforcement in each of the seven project sites statewide to promote public awareness of services and to develop a strong coordinated response to domestic violence and child victimization. A second year continuation award of \$494,649 in September 2001 will continue this effort.

Civil Legal Assistance Grant:

The Domestic Violence Clearinghouse and Legal Hotline (DVCLH) was initially awarded a Civil Legal Assistance Grant in FY 1998 for \$243,374 to lead a coordinated effort to establish and expand civil legal assistance services for battered women in Maui County. A supplemental award in FY 2000 for \$400,000 has been used to continue and expand personnel positions to provide legal services to DV victims in Maui County, and to enhance Oahu's advocacy office capacity by hiring two advocates.

Edward Byrne Memorial Formula Grant:

Law enforcement and judicial agencies have received project funding in the area of family violence under the Bryne Memorial Formula Grant Program, administered by the Department of the Attorney General/CPJA Division. The total funding for this area in FY 1997 to 2000 was \$489,403. Police departments in three counties and two probation units in First Circuit Court on Oahu have used grant funds for the creation of specialized domestic and family violence units with trained personnel. Kauai Police Department established a Domestic Violence Intervention Counselor (DVIC) position to pursue follow-up reporting with patrol officers and victims, to ensure completion of investigation, and to ensure that victim service information and referral are made available to victims. Maui Police Department initiated a project partnership with a private service provider to create a domestic abuse follow-up response team that addressed the needs of

the victims as well as investigation and arrest procedures. As part of its investigation of domestic violence cases, Maui police augmented the scope of services in its current follow-up project to include children who are victims of family abuse, and hired a DV Juvenile Counselor to assist these families. Honolulu Police Department set up a response team within the Specialized Services Division (SSD) to provide TRO services and firearms recovery to those cases identified as being potentially higher lethality situations, and where expedited service is warranted to ensure victim and community safety.

Family Court of the First Circuit, Adult Services Branch, established an intensive supervision unit for domestic violence probationers to increase offender accountability through additional monitoring, drug testing and mandatory educational sessions. Clientele are offenders convicted of misdemeanor DV offenses and who have problems with substance abuse. First Circuit Court Adult Probation Unit designed a correctional supervision model for felony-level repeat domestic violence offenders. Emphasis is placed on increasing accountability and educational competency level of the offender, while maintaining the safety of the victim and community.

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)

The State of Hawaii receives the VOCA grant to support services to victims of crime, with a minimum 10% allocation each specifically to the areas of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse and underserved populations. The Department of the Attorney General subgrants the majority of the funds to the four County Prosecutor's offices, with each receiving a base amount plus an adjusted amount based on defacto population. The Prosecutors use the VOCA money to support their Victim Witness assistance units; a portion of the allocation is subgranted to non-profit agencies to serve victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse and survivors of homicide victims. Services have included crisis intervention, counseling, emergency transportation to court, temporary housing and criminal justice support and advocacy. In FY 1996, \$215,424 went to domestic violence services and \$130,815 to sex assault; in FY 1997, \$672,195 to domestic violence and \$309,257 to sex assault; and in FY 1998, \$459,641 to domestic violence and \$221,963 to sex assault.

Victim Witness Assistance Program

The Victim Witness (VW) Program provides information, assistance and support services to victims of and witness to crimes committed in the State. The State-funded program is administered by the Department of the Attorney General and implemented by county prosecutors VW assistance units, and requires a 25% county match. Services are intended to assist victims through the criminal justice system process and ensure victims' rights are received; specific services have included outreach, referrals, counseling, court accompaniment, transportation, case preparation and assistance in applying for compensation. In the City and County of Honolulu, the Prosecutor's VW unit also administers county contracts with the Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) for forensic examinations and with the Bilingual Access Line for interpreter services for victims. For FY 2000, State support was \$806,761, and for FY 2001 \$726,085.

State Department of Health (DOH)

The DOH has awarded a master contract for State General Funds Purchase of Services (POS) to SATC for sex assault treatment services and community-based prevention activities for adults, children and adolescents, and professionals. Services include crisis counseling and intervention, clinical/legal advocacy, prevention/education services, community activities and training for professionals. Agencies subcontracted for these services are YWCA (Kauai), Child and Family Services (Maui), SATC/SARAS (Hawaii) and SATC (Oahu). State funds for FY 1998 amounted to \$900,000, and for FY 1999 to 2001 the amount will remain at \$923,783 per year.

The federal Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant administered by DOH provides a restrictive POS contract for statewide services to SATC for sex assault prevention education and training for students and professionals. The formula-based Federal amounts for FY 1999 to 2001 are \$95,443, \$106,443, and \$90,000 respectively. In addition the Department of Education was funded \$60,000 for one teacher position in July 2000 under the Peer Education Program.

The Domestic Violence Special Fund from revenue fees for copies of vital statistics documents is administered by DOH for staff programs and grants or POS to support/provide domestic and sexual violence intervention or prevention programs. These have included data collection and surveillance activities, public awareness and media activities, population and community-base violence prevention efforts, training for professionals and support for the Coalition for the Prevention of Sexual Assault. In FY 1998, the funds totaled \$15,230; in FY 1999, \$164,732; and in FY 2000, \$162,842.

State Department of Human Services (DHS)

The State DHS provides funding for eight domestic violence shelters and related victim services (hot line calls, information and referral, group and individual counseling) statewide, supplemented by annual grants from the federal Family Violence Prevention and Services (FVPS) Grant. For the FY 1998 to FY 2000, State funds provided \$1,362,461 per year toward shelter and related services, and the FVPS Grant \$400,000 annually. No sex assault services are funded by DHS.

Judiciary

The Judiciary utilized State funds (\$3,611,121 in FY 2001) for POS contracts with the Family Court Circuits in all circuits to obtain services for domestic violence victims that included parenting programs and civil legal assistance. The Spouse and Child Abuse Special Account funds from fees for marriage license and copies of vital statistics documents provided POS funds for DV legal advocacy and civil legal assistance services in the Second Circuit, and for matching

funds on federal DV grants to Judiciary. The Judiciary does not fund any services to victims of sexual assault; state funds are used to provide treatment services to adjudicated juvenile and adult sex offenders. The First and Second Judicial Circuits (Honolulu and Maui) received \$210,000 in State POS funds for sex offender treatment in FY 2001; First, Third and Fifth Circuits (Honolulu, Hawaii and Kauai respectively) received \$104,536 from the Spouse and Child Abuse Account in the same period.

Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC)

The total budget for statewide sexual assault services (both adults and children) is \$2.1 million to cover crisis intervention, medical/legal services, clinical/legal advocacy and community health promotion services. Sources of funding include County, State, and Federal (VAWA/VOCA) funds, although most counties receive only some combination of these resources. SATC also receives fee for services income, foundation grants, and Federal Tobacco Settlement funding. The agency is also active in pursuing locally-based private/fundraising donations.

Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (HSCADV)

The HSCADV receives the Family Violence Prevention and Services Grants to State Domestic Violence Coalitions directly from the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services. This grant, \$220,600 for FY 2000, provides funding to support statewide non-profit DV coalitions in a range of activities that further the purposes of DV intervention and prevention. Starting this current FY 2001, HSCADV will also be eligible for VAWA Grants to Sex Assault and DV Coalitions funds in the amount of \$96,296, to be used for coordination of state victim services activities, and collaboration with federal, state and local entities engaged in violence against women activities.

III. SWOT (Strengths/Weaknesses/Opportunities/Threats)

Participants with the Strategic Planning process were ask to discuss the **Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT)** that are present in the organizations’ work to end violence against women in Hawai i. Generally, Strengths and Weaknesses are looked at in terms of an internal analysis: “What are this sector/agency’s Strengths and Weaknesses?” These can be things like funding, organizational leadership or staff experience. Opportunities and Threats are viewed as external or environmental factors: “What is outside of this organization that affects how well we will be able to do our jobs?” These can be economic conditions, laws or public attitudes.

Agency: <i>Law Enforcement</i>	
Strengths	Weaknesses
Support at top administrative level Open to new ideas Supportive DV agency policies, e.g., mandatory arrest, bail protocol Training opportunities, HPD Training Academy resource De-gunning statutes (federal/state) Sex Assault service providers have good relationship with police SA unit Development of Special DV/SA units, programs in police departments (e.g., SANCE program)	Staffing rotation, personnel shortage Lack of in-service DV training, cross-training with other disciplines SA detail not experienced/trained officers; lack of trained leadership Lack of language services/translation bias/cultural bias Need measurable benchmarks, assessment/evaluation
Opportunities	Threats
Working with other agencies, particularly as multi-disciplinary team Memorandum of Agreements (MOA) Training partnerships Joint evaluation and funding to team efforts Evaluation of each other s services	Drugs all over Economy of state/county: prompts cuts in resources, reallocations; lack of consistent DV & SA funding Media promotion of violence Difficult for advocates and police to communicate Victims do not feel empowered to speak DV & SA not “elevated” throughout system Lack of statewide TRO registry

Agency: <i>Prosecution</i>	
Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>Vertical prosecution Good relation with police; interagency cooperation Small office/willingness and open to change Expert staff, passionate about work Sensitive to victim needs Leadership in addressing DV/SA</p>	<p>Turnover in staff in DV prosecution; lack of expertise No comprehensive victim advocacy assistance High acquittal rate/trials; too many plea agreement concessions Lack of funding No leadership at top Language/translation bias against victim Need measurable benchmarks, assessment/evaluation Victim/witness training</p>
Opportunities	Threats
<p>Interagency training/education Media awareness/coverage Interagency councils Reward prosecution in DV courts: incentive program, value their work Support victims throughout CJ process Develop DV courts -- work to do, e.g. drug courts</p>	<p>Low number of male rape victims; victims under-reported Limited county data on SA victims High rate of child rape victims Single male immigrant not heard /served; males with children helped more Devaluation of DV as misdemeanor; change law to allow higher charging? Low conviction rate (10%) sends message that isn't valid/safe path Over-reliance on CJ system by community Recantation/ambivalence of victims</p>

Agency: <i>Courts</i>	
Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>Speedy trials for DV cases Independence as separate branch of government Sentencing alternatives: Restorative justice approach (includes victim impact) Family courts are separate/dedicated; increased staff, court facilities Strong administration</p>	<p>Lack of integrated data systems /victim information Need more SA judicial training & on victim sensitization in DV & SA cases Language and translation bias; court interpreter use limited to defendant Inconsistent, "weak" sentencing Too many cases; increased probation caseloads Overcrowding of cases, forcing settlements; more interested in calendar management than justice Need measurable benchmarks, assessment/evaluation</p>
Opportunities	Threats
<p>Effectiveness of offender intervention programs in DV/SA DV court/specialized courts Community Input on judges selection</p>	<p>Legislation: conflicting/limiting, micromanagement in statutes</p>

Agency: <i>State Departments of Health, Human Services</i>	
Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>DOH: Only place with funding for SA DHS: Director S. Chandler, accessible partner w/DOH</p>	<p>DOH: SA may become lost because agency is too big High staff turnover Lack of commitment DHS: Too big Mission is unclear/murky DV not agency priority</p>
Opportunities	Threats
<p>DOH: Formation of SA coalition with 501(c)(3) status Prevention Education, K-12 DHS: Change in administration</p>	<p>Change in plans that are not shared</p>

Agency: <i>Domestic Violence/Sex Assault Service Agencies</i>	
Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>DV & SA are natural partners They get violence like no one else Strong advocacy skills even w/fund cuts; resourceful Consistency Bilingual access/resources</p>	<p>Staff burnout; staffing (recruitment) Perception that advocates have tunnel vision Lack of resources to establish/sustain projects Difficulty in obtaining 501(c)(3)status Services run by young, white female; perception of insensitivity to females of color Need measurable benchmarks, assessment/evaluation</p>
Opportunities	Threats
	<p>Lack of public understanding on DV/SA issues Demand for services exceeds supply Limited funding; competition for limited funding Lack of feedback from prosecution, police on quality of services by SA/DV providers Perception that DV services are for white, young female</p>

Strategic Priorities for Addressing Violence Against Women

In order of priority by committee vote:

1. **MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TRAINING AND STAFF SUPPORT EFFORTS:**
Support and promote multi-disciplinary training, encourage coordination of multi-disciplinary efforts, and provide incentives for valuing and retaining staff.

There is clear agreement that training is a primary and ongoing requirement within all organizations providing services in domestic violence and sexual assault. Given the cross-over service needs and required continuum of services of many victims, it is essential that training be provided in a fashion that recognizes and educates staff of the different disciplines and collaborative approaches that best suit the needs of the clients they share. The philosophy of multi-disciplinary training promotes team building and appropriate referrals, bringing the concept of seamless services closer to reality. Joint training also works toward diminishing the stereotyping perceptions that often result from unfamiliarity of roles.

Training opportunities need to be provided to all levels to afford: (1) a standard level of knowledge and procedures for service delivery, and (2) a trained leadership for policy and operational decisions. In developing and implementing a training program, it is also essential to bring together all components within the victim services system. This should include domestic violence and sexual assault service agency personnel, who often bring a wealth of experience and sense of advocacy that enhance such training. All training efforts should first explore the availability of local expertise and resources, as a number of agencies have taken the opportunity to send staff for specialized training that can readily be shared. Structuring more “train-the-trainer” instructional formats allow development of a local resource training pool and provide for a sustaining capability to train new employees or refresh current staff, especially in the “basics.”

The value and support given to agency personnel by their organization is recognized as critical in staff performance and retention. Training is a key element in demonstrating such value and support, and one that most administrations could realistically promote and implement. Incentives could also be considered within the resources of each agency to underscore the exceptional performance and/or achievement of an individual or team, to sustain or encourage such efforts and to send a message that the agency recognizes and values its staff and services.

- II. **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS:**
Elevate awareness of domestic violence and sexual assault issues to policy makers in order to promote support and commitment of resources, especially for core services to victims.

Recognizing the seriousness and extent of domestic violence and sexual assault are the first steps in elevating awareness to upper level management and policy makers who are in a position to direct support and resources to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This awareness must be an educational endeavor that will: (1) provide legislators and agency executives with statistical and impact data as it relates to their specific operations, (2) engage them in a dialogue that promotes communication and understanding, and (3) assist them in identifying those needed services and resources that will benefit both the victims and the agency strategy.

Concurrent with the effort to increase awareness is the need to find agreement within the service community of those essential services that define “core services” for victims to ensure their safety and well-being. These may be different for domestic violence and sexual assault victims. Even within the same domestic violence or sexual assault groups, underserved victims may have special needs or access these core services differently. All providers of victim services must participate in this discussion to develop the parameters that will define core services. This is important, as agencies need to know the extent of support and resources that must be committed to reach this achieve this “core services” objective.

III. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CHILDREN:

Examine how to offer and provide services to children who witness domestic violence, and increase both general and targeted prevention and education efforts

Children in households where domestic abuse occurs are a vulnerable population that are often not recognized and nor provided appropriate victim services. Coordination of the adult domestic violence victim services with traditional childrens’ services (such as provided by the Departments of Education, Health and Human Services) will provide a more complete strategy of services that address the whole family. Increased interagency communication and multi-disciplinary training will promote a comprehensive family service plan. Broad based community education and targeted presentations need to be increased to assist in raising the awareness of the need and services for children in this abusive situation, while encouraging steps toward the prevention of such abuse.

IV. OUTREACH TO UNDERSERVED:

Increase and fund outreach services to underserved communities that are culturally and linguistically appropriate and competent

The ethnic and racial spectrum of domestic violence and sexual abuse victims in our State requires a redefinition of our victim service delivery that is more culturally and linguistically appropriate (i.e., non-Western). This is a critical piece in achieving effective outreach to the many underserved victim populations, and to educate non-English speaking communities of the issues and services available. For those non-English speaking victims who are brought into the justice system, efforts should be made to afford them

with competent translation/interpreter services and staff of various racial and ethnic backgrounds. Current agency practices only emphasize the right of the defendant to receive such service. Non-traditional clientele with physical, cognitive and/or emotional differences also require efforts to eliminate barriers to more traditional victim services. In all cases, input from these victim populations must be considered in the planning and implementation of services to their respective groups.

V. **DATA SYSTEM:**

Improve data system infrastructure, especially for access, safety and dissemination

The client information (either offender or victim, depending on the service focus) that is available both within and among agencies should be made readily available in a manner that will promote the safety of the victim and allow organizations to share the information to coordinate and facilitate their services. The matter of client confidentiality and authorized access remains paramount; information is collected and disseminated for the primary purpose of collaborating efforts that will reduce/prevent the violence from recurring. The improved collection of both offender and victim data will enable providers to establish benchmarks and obtain measurement for program effectiveness, in addition to the developing the capability for agency strategic planning and resource allocation.

Action on Strategic Priorities

Adopting Three New Priorities:

On August 29, 2001 the VAWA State Planning Committee reviewed the five new priorities set forth under the Strategic Planning Process described above. It was agreed to consider three of the priorities as appropriate for VAWA funding. These priorities were:

MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TRAINING AND STAFF SUPPORT EFFORTS:

Support and promote multi-disciplinary training, encourage coordination of multi-disciplinary efforts, and provide incentives for valuing and retaining staff.

OUTREACH TO UNDERSERVED:

Increase and fund outreach services to underserved communities that are culturally and linguistically appropriate and competent

DATA SYSTEM:

Improve data system infrastructure, especially for access, safety and dissemination

As to the remaining two priorities, the first, “Elevating Awareness of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Issues to Policy Makers”, is more of an educational focus that cannot be funded under VAWA programs. This effort could and should be undertaken by a multidisciplinary group approaching legislators and executive administrators to share information and issues relating to needed services and resources in a manner that would be beneficial to both victims and the agency strategy. The second priority, “Domestic Violence and Children”, falls outside the scope of the Violence Against Women Act program area, although children’s services can be considered in the context of planning for other service agencies or under other funding sources.

Three subcommittees, comprised of criminal justice and victim service provider agency staff, met in September and October 2001 to develop the framework for implementation of the three priorities selected by the VAWA State Planning Committee on August 29, 2001. Committee reports and membership are on found in Appendix D.

In its December 17, 2001 meeting, the VAWA State Planning Committee agreed on the adoption of three priorities, based on recommendations coming out of the subcommittee reports and the Committee discussion of the impact that the VAWA STOP grant can make on identified concerns and issues. These priorities represent a more specific, refined approach that build upon the previous efforts over the past five years. Listed by order of priority for VAWA STOP funds, the FY 2001 Strategic Plan will address:

1. DATA SYSTEM:

Improve data system infrastructure, especially for access, safety and dissemination

The VAWA State Planning Committee agreed to add an additional section to this priority, separating it out of the rest of the subcommittee's recommendation, and focusing specific funding efforts toward this effort.

Objective/Benchmarks

1. To support the continuation of the Victim Information Management System (VIMS) as a victim-based information system that will assist non-governmental victim service providers in case management and development of client demographics for planning, resource allocation and reporting purposes.

Specific Activities related to this Objective will include:

- a. VIMS user agencies will respond to an RFP for the selection of a "lead agency" that will assist in the administrative oversight necessary to maintain the functioning and updating of the program (within first six months).
- b. The Department of the Attorney General will continue to serve as the data repository and provide periodic topical reports based on the data submitted by the victim service agencies (Years One to Three).
- c. Lead agency will conduct periodic user meetings and contract with data system provider to service maintenance needs and to implement any software modifications deemed necessary for system operations (Years One to Three).

2. OUTREACH TO UNDERSERVED:

Increase outreach and services to underserved populations that are isolated by (1) culture and language, (2) disability, and (3) sexual orientation (listed by priority)

Objectives/Benchmarks:

1. Increase outreach to victims isolated by culture/language, disability and sexual orientation, in an effective and appropriate manner.

Specific Activities related to this Objective will include:

- a. Meet with knowledgeable people in that underserved group. Determine the most effective outreach activities that will reach the targeted underserved victims. (Year One)
- b. Develop an outreach campaign targeted to the underserved populations. (Year One)

- c. Develop a training component (dv/sa) for community leaders. (Year One)
 - d. Develop training for justice system, support agencies to address cultural sensitivity. (Year One)
 - e. Define minimum level of services to ensure continuity of services for victims. (Years One and Two)
 - f. Include victims in the planning process (Years One to Three)
 - g. Implement outreach campaign targeted to underserved population (Year Two)
 - h. Develop/implement “buy-in” and collaboration with criminal justice system partners (police, prosecutors, courts, etc.) (Years Two and Three)
 - i. Develop/implement infrastructure/collaboration to sustain adequate level of services (include police, prosecutors, etc.) (Years Two and Three)
 - j. Develop/implement strategy to ensure perpetuation of victim services. Provide a balanced system and level of services to extend beyond the current services. As a contingency plan, train volunteers (pro bono) to maintain services in the event funding is decreased. (Year Three)
2. Increase accessibility to law enforcement, courts and service providers by victims who are isolated by culture/language, disability and sexual orientation.

Specific Activities related to this Objective will include:

- a. Develop *competent* interpreters. “Competent” in language, domestic violence and/or sexual assault issues, policy and procedures of the court system, personal bias etc. (Year One)
- b. Develop sensitivity training curriculum for law enforcement, courts, service providers. (Year One)
- c. Include victims in the planning process. (Years One to Three)
- d. Provide *competent* interpreters (as defined above) for all victims. (Year Two)
- e. Provide sensitivity training to law enforcement, courts and service providers. (Year Two)
- f. Provide reasonable accommodations to make services accessible to victims in need. (Years Two and Three)

3. *MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TRAINING AND STAFF SUPPORT EFFORTS:*
Support and promote multi-disciplinary training, encourage coordination of multidisciplinary efforts, and provide incentives for valuing and retaining staff

Objectives/Benchmarks:

- 1. To produce a multi-disciplinary training curriculum that corresponds to current needs based on results of data and “best practices”

Specific activities related to this Objective will include:

- a. Collect and compile multi-disciplinary research and practices on victim safety and offender accountability (within the first three months)
 - b. Identify responsible party for collection and analysis of data (“who is audience”, “what is purpose”) (within the first three months)
 - c. Issue preliminary recommendation report on standards within first six months
 - d. Develop agreement among agencies on training activities to be scheduled, upon completion of selected curriculum material (Year One)
 - e. Maintain and update information process (Years Two and Three)
2. To conduct a domestic violence/sexual assault multidisciplinary community audit that will result in a “Preparedness Plan” guideline to respond to and coordinate the efforts to address the impact of critical incidents on domestic violence and sexual assault services in communities

Specific activities related to this Objective will include:

- a. Define/identify “critical incidents” (“acts of nature, national/international security, major shifts in political ideology) (within first three months)
- b. Identify the data elements for collection and analysis (within first three months)
- c. Identify the timeframe of data to be collected and establishing a comparable baseline
- d. Identify who will conduct audit (within first three months)
- e. Develop “Preparedness Plan” within each agency (within first nine months)
- f. Disseminate finding/recommendations/guidelines to other agencies and develop a “master plan” for the community, to be shared in various media forms (e.g., internet, CD) (Year one)

Allocation of the FY 2001 Funding Priorities

Effective FY 2001, the required allocations for the STOP Grant were revised to 25% each for law enforcement and prosecution, 30% to non-profit, non-governmental victim service providers, 5% to the State Judiciary, and 15% discretionary. The VAWA State Planning Committee has adopted three new priority areas outlined above, and will use all of the funding under the ***15% discretionary allocation for implementation of one or more of the FY 2001 Priorities*** based on an RFP or competitive concept paper process.

The ***required allocations for each sector (law enforcement, prosecution, non-governmental victim service providers, and judiciary) will continue the efforts of previous years and fund programs and projects identified as priorities in the FY 2000 VAWA Strategic Plan***. These priorities were:

Victim Services:

- Core Services for Adult Female Victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, which include but not limited to:
 - ' Advocacy
 - ' Case Management
 - ' Counseling
 - ' Crisis Response
 - ' Increased accessibility by special populations including disabled, immigrant, and victims with substance abuse or mental health issues
 - ' Legal Assistance
 - ' Shelter
 - ' Transitional services

Law Enforcement:

- Training
- Specialized Equipment to Assist in Investigations

Prosecutor:

- Vertical Prosecution
- Training

The VAWA State Planning Committee will review the efforts undertaken in this FY 2001 Strategic Plan at the end of the first year of this Three Year Plan to determine any modification in the State's priorities and funding allocation of the STOP grant funds.

Evaluation

The DAG Crime Prevention and Justice Assistance Division (CPJAD) will utilize its current procedures to monitor and assess federally funded projects.

A. Project Goals and Objectives

When an application is submitted to the CPJAD, the staff works with the agency in developing acceptable (meaningful and measurable) goals and objectives for the project, prior to project implementation. Performance indicators are defined in the application. In some cases, the agency and the staff will develop or review the goals and objectives prior to the formal submission of a project application. An application will not be processed unless staff is satisfied that the goals, objectives, performance indicators, and evaluation plan are adequate. Methods for the data collection and a description of the information collection of target populations are also to be included as part of the evaluation plan.

B. Project Monitoring

The monitoring activities are part of the ongoing process evaluation of projects. During the life of the project several products are produced to assess the implementation of the project (process evaluation).

1. Each project has a file assigned with an individual project number and sectioned off for programmatic and fiscal information documentation.
2. Site visit monitoring is done at least twice a year for each project. The first is done within a month after execution of the project contract, and the second after the first six months of project implementation. The goal is to have quarterly site visits.
3. Non-site monitoring reports are completed. Non-site monitoring includes meetings with project staff, telephone contacts, and review of written, required project reports submitted by agencies.
4. Agencies are required to submit to the CPJAD a progress report every six months.
5. Technical assistance to project personnel is done as requested, or as deemed necessary by staff's monitoring.

C. Evaluation at the end of the project

At the termination of the project, an evaluation (self-evaluation if they do not have a separate evaluator) is submitted to CPJAD within 90 days. The CPJAD will also consider contracting with a consultant to evaluate selected projects for impact evaluation.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A:
SWOT Worksheets

SWOT Worksheet

Part of the strategic planning process will be for you to discuss the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) that are present as you and your organization work to end violence against women in Hawai'i.

Prior to the meeting, we are asking you to take a moment and jot down your thoughts about the SWOTs that you and others face. Generally, Strengths and Weaknesses are looked at in terms of an internal analysis: "What are this sector/agency's Strengths and Weaknesses?". These can be things like funding, organizational leadership or staff experience. Opportunities and Threats are viewed as external or environmental factors: "What is outside of this organization that affects how well we will be able to do our jobs?". These can be economic conditions, laws or public attitudes.

Please consider SWOTs for your own sector as well as for other sectors. This process requires a good deal of time and thought and will continue during our meeting. Please use both sides of this worksheet to reflect on the SWOTs for yours and other sectors. This worksheet is for your personal use and reflection --but please refer to it during the meeting on May 17.

The other sectors to be addressed should include:

- L law enforcement
- L prosecution
- L non-governmental victim services (domestic violence, sexual assault)
- L courts, state agency
- L State Department of Health
- L State Department of Human Services

SWOT WORKSHEET

Your agency/sector _____

Strengths:

Weaknesses:

Opportunities:

Threats:

APPENDIX B:
Strategic Planning Participants
May 17-18, 2001 Meeting

FY 2001 VAWA Strategic Planning Meeting: May 17-18, 2001

Participant List

VAWA State Planning Committee:

Richard Bissen	Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui
Sister Earnest Chung	Social Policy Director, Catholic Charities
Elliot Enoki	Interim U.S. Attorney (ex-officio member)
Nanci Kriedman	Executive Director, Domestic Violence Clearinghouse and Legal Hotline
Phoebe Lambeth	Big Island Coalition Against Physical and Sexual Abuse
Lt. John Matassa and Det. Bert Dement	Chief of Police, City and County of Honolulu (Representatives for)
Adriana Ramelli	Executive Director, Sex Abuse Treatment Center
Michael Soong	Prosecuting Attorney, County of Kauai
Michael Wilson	Judge, Family Court of the First Circuit
Larry Weber	Police Chief, County of Hawaii (Representative for)

Agency Guests:

Maureen Kiehm	Family Court of the First Judicial Circuit
Jeanne Reinhart	Department of Human Services - Child Welfare Services
Marlene Lee	Department of Health - Child Health Services Section
Annelle Amaral	Coalition for the Prevention of Sex Assault
Phyllis Shinno	Victim-Witness Coordinator, Hawaii County Prosecutor s Office

AG/CPJA Staff:

Lari Koga	Administrator, CPJA Division
Debbie Kato	
Adrian Kwock	
Nancy Ralston	
Tony Wong	

Meeting Facilitators:

Robin Hassler-Thompson	VAWA STOP TA Project
Clyde Namuo	Judiciary Center for Alternative Dispute

APPENDIX B

APPENDIX C:

Excerpted Narrative from the
FY 2000 State of Hawaii Implementation Plan for
S.T.O.P. VAWA Formula Grant

APPENDIX D:

VAWA Subcommittee Reports on Priorities

Priority: *Support and promote multi-disciplinary training, encourage coordination of multi-disciplinary efforts, and provide incentives for valuing and retaining staff*

Members: Major Karen Kaniho Honolulu Police Department
Maureen Kiehm Judiciary – First Judicial Circuit
Nanci Kreidman Domestic Violence Clearinghouse and Legal Hotline
Phoebe Lambeth Big Island Coalition Against Physical and Sexual Abuse
Carol Lee Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Joan Luzney YWCA of Kauai
Claire Merry Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, City and County of Honolulu

Review of Issues/Concerns:

The delivery of training in multi-disciplinary arena requires the understanding and commitment of administrators who have the ability to direct policies for their respective organizations. This will ensure that agencies interacting in a mixed disciplinary setting are “speaking the same language”. The type of training would be dependant on the level it is being directed toward: executives would receive training on the policy implications of domestic violence/sexual assault issues, while line level personnel would be provided procedural training directed at implementing the organization’s services in these issues. Nevertheless, there is an agreement that a minimum standard of knowledge should be provided to all involved in addressing violence against women.

This standard of knowledge is not static and requires continuous review and oversight to ensure that it reflects the most current research and findings on domestic violence and sexual assault. The shifting of the “best thinking” on these subjects also could also have a bearing on policy implications, and such policies may need to be reconsidered in such a way as to support the change in the knowledge. For this reason, primary efforts should be given to search out the “best practices” for all of the involved disciplines and to share these practices, possibly improving upon them. Examples cited about shifts in thinking include mandatory arrest and the no-drop prosecution policies.

Concurrent with this training effort is the need to elevate organizational awareness of the issues of domestic violence and sexual assault, particularly at the policy level. This is critical to the success of this Priority: “no buy-in, no bodies”. Without acknowledging the need for such training as a requirement for the agency, staff participation is not a sanctioned or encouraged activity, nor are expenses related to attendance at training seen as a necessary budget item. For a large number of agencies, personnel are able to attend training only if paid by outside funding; in-house training is limited and selective. This reinforces a negative message to staff that discourages initiative and improvement.

The impact of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack creates a new situation which will impact the manner in which resources for services need to be allocated. Initial indicators such as increases in calls to police and domestic violence crisis hotlines point to a potential rise in family abuse related to stress from the traumatic events and subsequent economic and family (e.g., military) disruptions. Outpouring of donations to specific charities related to the tragic events threatens to erode the donor base for local non-profits, at the same time that government shifts its funding priority from social services to home security and economic recovery concerns. Organizations providing these social services must be prepared to respond proactively. They must be able to provide a forecast of both immediate and long-term needs and other relevant information upon which to make informed decisions and advise policy makers in this area. This would require the collection and analysis of appropriate raw data from a number of sources, such as the number of reported incidents and arrests from law enforcement, disposition of family violence cases from prosecution, number of TRO’s filed by the judiciary, child protective services (CPS) reports from social services, and numbers and anecdotal information on victims from non-profit service providers. Such an effort could result in the development of a “preparedness plan” for domestic violence/sexual assault that addresses the community’s readiness in these

situations. This plan could be shared with both local and national congressional leaders, offering an organized response for consideration and adoption.

Objectives/Benchmarks:

1. To produce a multi-disciplinary training standard that correspond to current needs based on results of data and “best practices”

Specific activities related to this Objective will include:

- a. Collect and compile multi-disciplinary research and practices on victim safety and offender accountability (within first three months)
 - b. Identify responsible party for collection and analysis of data (“who is audience”, “what is purpose”) (within first three months)
 - c. Issue preliminary recommendation report on standards (within first six months)
 - d. Develop agreement among agencies on training activities to be scheduled, upon completion of selected curriculum material (Year One)
 - e. Maintain and update information process (Years Two and Three)
2. To conduct a domestic violence/sexual assault multidisciplinary community audit that will result in an “Preparedness Plan” guideline that is able to respond to and coordinate the efforts to address the impact of critical incidents on domestic violence and sexual assault services in communities

Specific activities related to this Objective will include:

- a. Define/identify “critical incidents” (“acts of nature, national/international security, major shifts in political ideology) (within first three months)
- b. Identify the data elements for collection and analysis (within first three months)
- c. Identify the timeframe of data to be collected and establishing a comparable baseline
- d. Identify who will conduct audit (within first three months)
- e. Develop “Preparedness Plan” within each agency (within first nine months)
- f. Disseminate finding/recommendations/guidelines to other agencies and develop a “master plan” for the community, to be shared in various media forms (e.g., internet, CD) (Year One)

Comments:

There were some concerns about the ability of some agencies to carry out some of the efforts to collect and analysis, or to be able to implement findings and recommendations, in light of limited resources and personnel available. There was also the issue of being able to implement any of these activities and at what level if there was not administrative level support for these efforts. The uncertainty of events resulting from the September 11, 2001 attacks have left many questions that cannot be readily addressed during this period that the VAWA planning is occurring.

- There is a need to fight “ignorance” by sharing information about services and resources. (In this example, ignorance is defined as “lack of awareness” of services and resources).
- The system MUST incorporate input from victims and abusers when developing services. We often “guess” at what *we* think victims need. Why not survey victims and ask them what they need? “What stopped (you) from accessing services in the past? If you did not approach the system for services, who did you seek help from? A friend, clergy, community leader, school?” Ask “why” victims came in to receive services. (What are we doing right?) System planners should include victims in decision-making processes and incorporate victim feedback when developing and marketing strategies and services.
- There is a need to increase marketing of outreach services to reach underserved victims and encourage them to access existing services.
- Outreach efforts should utilize community contacts and include participation in community meetings and events. We should assume that everyone we reach out to belong to a “community.” Effective outreach should include: meet with community leaders, educate them, and ask them to take information back to their community.
- As long as the system is unpredictable and inconsistent, victims may hesitate to access the system. The system does not always respond the same. Need to establish a minimum “template of expectations” for the system response so, at minimum, victims will know what to expect. Ex: What will happen if I call the police?
- Other underserved populations include: victims over 50, women abused in prostitution, women who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered (LGBT)

After discussion and exploration of underserved populations, and careful consideration of available resources, and the constraints of the VAWA grant, the committee agreed (by consensus) on the following priority for “outreach to underserved” under the S.T.O.P. VAWA Formula Grant, FY 2001-2003:

Outreach to Underserved: Increase outreach and services to underserved populations that are isolated by:

1. ***Culture and language****
2. ***Disability***
3. ***Sexual orientation***

*Note: The three underserved populations are listed in order of priority; number one indicates the committee’s highest priority.

Objectives/Benchmarks

Objective #1: Increase outreach to victims isolated by culture/language, disability and sexual orientation, in an effective and appropriate manner.

Activities/Benchmarks(timeframe):

1. Meet with knowledgeable people in that underserved group. Determine the most effective outreach activities that will reach the targeted underserved victims. (Year One)
2. Develop an outreach campaign targeted to the underserved populations. (Year One)
3. Develop a training component (dv/sa) for community leaders. (Year One)
4. Develop training for justice system, support agencies to address cultural sensitivity. (Year One)
5. Define minimum level of services to ensure continuity of services for victims. (Year One, Two)
6. Include victims in the planning process (Year One, Two, Three)
7. Implement outreach campaign targeted to underserved population (Year Two)
8. Develop/implement “buy-in” and collaboration with criminal justice system partners (police, prosecutors, courts, etc.) (Year Two, Three)
9. Develop/implement infrastructure/collaboration to sustain adequate level of services (include police, prosecutors, etc.) (Year Two, Three)
10. Develop/implement strategy to ensure perpetuation of victim services. Provide a balanced system and level of

services to extend beyond the current services. As a contingency plan, train volunteers (pro bono) to maintain services in the event funding is decreased. (Year Three)

Objective #2: Increase accessibility to law enforcement, courts and service providers for victims who are isolated by culture/language, disability and sexual orientation.

Activities/Benchmarks (-):

1. Develop *competent* interpreters. “Competent” in language, domestic violence and/or sexual assault issues, policy and procedures of the court system, personal bias etc. (Year One)
2. Develop sensitivity training curriculum for law enforcement, courts, service providers. (Year One)
3. Include victims in the planning process. (Year One, Two, Three)
4. Provide *competent* interpreters (as defined above) for all victims. (Year Two)
5. Provide sensitivity training to law enforcement, courts and service providers. (Year Two)
6. Provide reasonable accommodations to make services accessible to victims in need. (Year Two, Three)

Comments:

The Subcommittee strongly recommend that victims be included in the planning and decision making process for all three VAWA Strategic Planning subgroups as well as system planning efforts in general. (“Why are we guessing what services victims need? We should ask victims what services work for them...”)

The Subcommittee members recommend the “Data Systems” and Multi-Disciplinary Training” subcommittees incorporate the goals and objectives of the “underserved populations” herein described in their project objectives. Underserved population issues should be addressed when developing “multidisciplinary training” and infrastructure for “data collection.” A holistic approach to the S.T.O.P. VAWA grant strategic plan would support the development of a coordinated, versus fragmented, system response to victim services.

Finally, the VAWA Planning Committee should be realistic about outreach to victims with respect to available resources and services. Administrators must plan for the impact of an outreach campaign. If we accomplish the goal of providing *competent and effective* outreach, we also need to enhance and increase services for victims. Given the recent terrorist events, future funding for social services is unpredictable. Increased services may be achieved by recruiting volunteers, or pro bono professionals, to augment shortfalls in funding.

Although the Subcommittee recommends a minimum level of services (template) for underserved populations, the members acknowledge there will be variance in the services provided due to human nature. The human variable will impact continuity of services and outcomes and is not entirely controllable by policy and procedures.

The subcommittee acknowledges the following underserved victim issues are very important however, these issues/services are either not allowable under the VAWA grant or there are other resources currently allocated to these issues:

- Females under the age of 18. (Not a target population for VAWA.)
- Victims who are isolated by transportation and geographic isolation. (May be covered by the FY 2001 VAWA Rural grant.)
- Victims isolated due to economic conditions. (More research needs to be done to further define the issues and needs of this underserved population before recommendations can be developed.)
- Victims isolated by age; including elder abuse. (Limited VOCA Assistance and Byrne Grant funds have been allocated to this issue.)

Priority: *Improve data system infrastructure, especially for access, safety and dissemination.*

Members:

Joene Graven	Domestic Violence Clearinghouse and Legal Hotline
Adrian Kwock	Dept. of the Attorney General, CPJAD
Lena Lorenzo	Maui Prosecutor's Office, VWAD
Sgt. Hilario Magaoay	Honolulu Police Department, Records
Sandra Pak	Dept. of Health, Family Health Services Division
Ted Teramoto	Judiciary, 1 st Circuit
Laureen Uwaine	Hawaii Criminal Justice Data Center

Review of Issues/Concerns:

It is important to note, at the onset, that the practices and communication between agencies (both criminal justice and non-profit service providers) that deal with violence against women may vary from county to county. Therefore, specific practices noted in the discussion may have variances in other counties. Likewise, in some instances it is possible that county level activities may be needed in order to accomplish objectives.

The members reviewed the Strategic Plan and noted the issue that "the client information (either offender or victim, depending on the service focus) that is available both within and among agencies should be made readily available in a manner that will promote the safety of the victim and allow organizations to share the information to coordinate and facilitate their services. The matter of client confidentiality and authorized access remains paramount; information is collected and disseminated for the primary purpose of collaborating efforts that will reduce/prevent the violence from recurring".

Discussion focused on what types of data each agency collected that related to victim safety, and how the data was or could be shared with other agencies to increase victim safety. This directly addressed "threats" listed in the SWOT that it is difficult for advocates and police to communicate, and that victims don't feel empowered to speak.

The HPD Incident Report has a domestic violence box (yes/no) to be checked. As the case proceeds through the criminal justice system, the Incident Report which clearly denotes that a case is domestic violence does not follow the offender's file. In order to distill that a case is domestic violence related one would need to read through the file. It can be difficult to determine whether a case is domestic violence related if the charge is not abuse of family and household member, but is reduced to harassment, or is listed as an assault. Thus, criminal justice personnel may not be aware that the offender poses a threat to spouse or needs batterers' programs.

It was noted that Rhode Island has a special report form that police complete for all domestic violence and sex assault cases, and that the information follows the offender's jacket.

HPD reports are given to the Judiciary and prosecutor's office. Reports are not given to non-profit service providers. However, HPD noted that there is a process that non-profit agencies can use to request information, such as verification that a report was made. The process includes a written request for the information, and an explanation of why that specific information is needed to help the victim. Obviously, there is information that HPD cannot release. HPD is willing to provide a list of what types of information can or cannot be released. It is not certain whether all non-profit agencies know that a process exists.

HPD notes that victims are surprised and upset when an offender, whom they thought was confined, appears at their residence, or otherwise makes contact with them. One perception is that victims are supposed to be notified when there is a change in the confinement status of the offender. However, it was noted that in many circumstances dealing with victim notification the HRS * says it is "upon written request" of the victim. Several points are uncertain: how consistently are victims being informed that they have to make a written request, how efficient is the criminal justice system in following up and implementing the request. Whether this information is clearly tagged in offenders' files and

whether it follows the offenders throughout the different facilities and correctional agencies that deal with them is not known. It is known that the timeliness and consistency of notifying victims of a change in status, often through the assistance of the Prosecutor's Victim-Witness Assistance units, can vary from county to county. Maui County has a form for victim notification. The form goes to the Maui Prosecutor's office, who forwards it to the Department of Public Safety (PSD) which administers correctional facilities.

[* Some of the HRS sections dealing with written requests for victims to be notified of changes in custodial status are:

- 353-8, work furlough, conditional release
- 706-673, escape
- 706-624.5, suspension of sentence or probation instead of incarceration
- 801D-4, Basic Bill of Rights for Victims and Witnesses, which includes notification by PSD of planned changes in custodial status.

Other statutes impact safety, such as 706-669 regarding minimum term hearings being open to victims' comments.]

VW units do not work 24/7. Thus reliance on them for notification to victims for change of offender's status (for example, when there is an escape) may mean that notification will not be made during non-working hours. An automated victim notification system was discussed; however, even that system would depend on information being entered immediately by the correctional facility. [Note: A study by the Vera Institute of Justice in 1999 indicated there has been no victim centered evaluation of automated victim notification system, such as VINE. The automated systems have many of the same difficulties that manual systems do: only a small number of victims know about the system, using it is difficult, inconsistent updating of contact information.]

A major problem in notifying victims is the lack of a current contact number. Victims, who are fearful of an offender, may be likely to move. Correctional facilities, probation, and parole are not in a good position to have this information. Judiciary noted that the Probation office, when trying to contact victims, often cannot find addresses or other contact information. The Prosecutor's VW units often assist in this task, although, their information too may not be updated. If the victim was being helped by a non-profit victim service agency, such as the DVCLH, it may have more recent contact information. However, the information is confidential and will not be given to the criminal justice agency. On the other hand, the non-profit agency may be willing to inform that victim to contact the appropriate criminal justice agency. It is helpful if the non-profit agency already has a working relation with probation. A non-profit agency is only aware of its clients contact information and this may be just a small percentage of the overall victims. Criminal Justice agencies may not know which non-profit agency the victim has used.

No database exists that can measure the total incidences of domestic violence and children who witness it, and sex assault. Many domestic violence and sex assault victims are unknown.

It was noted that the DVCLH has a sophisticated data base and tracking system which is kept updated. It is not known how common this is in non-profit agencies.

Automating a centralized contact system, or having a clearinghouse would help; however, it poses confidentiality, security and safety issues. Even if victims updated their addresses regularly, caseloads, especially for misdemeanor units, hinders prompt entry of information.

One suggestion was to track the offender better, and using PIN numbers, make the information available to victims who call in. This would make the victim more proactive for her own safety, and help to empower her. The victim could call to get the offender's status.

It was suggested that one reason communication is difficult, is that victims who wish information do not know who to contact. For example, attempting to find out who is an offender's probation or parole officer, or which facility the offender is in can be a frustrating task. A contact phone number for correctional facilities, probation, and parole that is given to victims would be helpful. A parallel was made with contact information cards that EMS and other agencies provide to victims. Victims may have information (such as if the offender is using drugs or harassing the victim) that

could be useful for a probation officer.

It was noted that PSD had a victim services office for one year (it ended due to a lack of funds) which was helpful in providing information, at least to VW units. The 1st Circuit Adult Probation Division also started a victim services office. The victim services office provides information to victims, including who the offender's probation officer is and how to contact the officer. The victim services coordinator is available to answer questions and concerns that victims have about offenders who are pending sentence or sentenced to probation. The coordinator can assist victims in completing victim impact statements, and deal with issues regarding restitution payments. The Judiciary has added a victim services web page to its web site www.state.hi.us/jud.

In domestic violence cases it is important that victim know the bail status of offenders. Jail time, for arrests done on the weekend, could be limited to time served. Offenders who don't make bail are transferred to the main police station.

The Hawaii Criminal Justice Data Center (HCJDC) which is responsible for criminal history records has started collecting TRO information from the Neighbor Islands. The system has search capability. HCJDC is currently discussing with the Judiciary regarding what TRO information, except those flagged confidential, can be made available. Conviction information is available at public terminals, and sex offender information is available on-line. HRS 846 says that HCJDC can share only conviction information. However, it was noted that other information is able to be found in searching court records.

In stalking cases, police will explain to the victim the need for documentation, so that a pattern can be shown. The victim can also be referred to a non-profit agency for services and to develop a safety plan.

Finally, it was noted that even if processes and procedures are established between agencies to share information, personnel need to be reminded of this, and in the case of staff turnover, new personnel needs to be instructed.

Objectives/Benchmarks

1. To improve the process between police departments and domestic violence and sex assault agencies to obtain non-confidential victim safety information from each other, so that appropriate information can be obtained in 100% of requests.
 - Police and the domestic violence and sex assault coalitions will meet to determine what information can be shared and a process to share the information.
 - Police will provide a list of types of information which can be shared and disseminated to non-profit agencies.
 - Police will indicate what the format is for making an information request and disseminate it to non-profit agencies.
 - Applicable personnel will be trained regarding the types of available information and the process for sharing it.

Timeline:

By 6 months: meetings will commence.

By 12 months: types of information to be shared and the process for sharing will be agreed upon.

By 18 months: personnel will have been trained and the process implemented.

At 24 months: the process will be evaluated and refinements made as needed.

2. To improve the process for victims to be notified of the status of offenders so that 100% of domestic violence and sex assault victims who so desire will be able to obtain status information.
 - Criminal justice agencies and the coalitions will meet, as often as needed, to discuss the victim notification process and determine responsibilities of each agency. Tasks include reaffirming or implementing practices so that:
 - All domestic violence and sex assault victims are informed about victim rights pertaining to notification.
 - A standardized form for notification will be developed and used, so that it can be easily recognized in the offender's file.
 - Procedures with criminal justice agencies (police, prosecutors, correctional facilities, probation, parole) will be reviewed and refined to ensure that appropriate flagging (e.g., that it is a domestic violence related case) will be evident in the offender's file.
 - Contact phone numbers will be given to victims to make it easier to contact the appropriate correctional worker with oversight over the offender.
 - All domestic violence and sex assault victims will be counseled regarding keeping contact information current if they desire status information.
 - In each county the process to ensure timely notification will be reviewed to affirm responsibilities and time expectations, and changes in practices, if warranted, implemented.
 - The feasibility of using PIN numbers regarding limited access to offender databases for victims seeking safety related information about offender's status will be studied.
 - Agencies will enact protocols and/or memorandums of understandings as appropriate on the above listed points.
 - Personnel will be trained as needed and appropriate.

Timeline:

By 6 months: initial meeting held to discuss issue. Subsequent meetings are scheduled on particular issues. A determination is made as to which can be accomplished in the short term, and which are long term projects.

By 12 months: draft of "ideal" practices to improve notification is made for short term projects.

By 18 months: short term items are agreed upon.

By 24 months: training for short term items has occurred and practices are implemented;

draft of “ideal” practices to improve notification is made for long term projects.

At 30 months: the short term practices which were implemented will be evaluated and refinements made.

By 30 months: long term items are agreed upon

By 36 months: training for long term items has occurred and practices are implemented.

Comments:

The domestic violence and sex assault coalitions are listed as participating in some of the above tasks. This does not preclude separate service providers being invited to participate in the discussion. It is a means of more closely coordinating efforts of the coalitions with the VAWA Statewide Planning Committee.

It needs to be determined which tasks can be accomplished using statewide meetings, and which tasks should be reserved for county level efforts.

Some of the tasks might overlap with the multidisciplinary training priority. For example, understanding what other agencies do and can provide, might well be the topic for a multidisciplinary training workshop.

