

**STATE OF NEVADA
RIGHTS OF VICTIMS AND SOURCES OF FUNDING
FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME SUB-COMMITTEE**

MINUTES OF MEETING

Wednesday, February 10, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.

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

Present in Carson City

Christina Conti, Lori Fralick, Chris Lovass-Nagy, Ben Felix, Sharnel Silvey,
Traci Dory, Gayle Farley

Present in Las Vegas – Video Conferenced

Catherine Cortez Masto, Chair, Andrea Sundberg, Barbara Aupperle,
Maria Outcalt, Elynne Greene, Victor Schulze

Present by Phone

Maxine Lantz and Sue Meuschke

Public Present

Paula Berkley
Melissa Holland

Attorney General's Office staff present

Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto, Chair
Kareen Prentice, Domestic Violence Ombudsman
Dionna B. Negrete, Legal Secretary II
Liz Greb, Grant and Project Analyst

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

Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and roll call performed.

2. Review and approve minutes from March 24, 2009.

Elynn Greene indicated she was present in Las Vegas and not by phone. Not listed as absent were Traci Dory and Kareen Prentice. Andrea Sundberg made a motion to approve the March 24, 2009, minutes with the corrections. Chris Lovass-Nagy seconds the motion. Catherine Cortez Masto approved the minutes with the changes.

3. Presentation by Sharnel A. Silvey, Founder and CEO, A Scarlet Covering.

General Masto introduced Sharnel A. Silvey from A Scarlet Covering. Sharnel expanded on her background in legalized prostitution, the legalized system of prostitution and its negative effects on women, children and the community as a whole. Melissa Holland was present with Sharnel Silvey to present a PowerPoint presentation on *Fighting Sex Trafficking*. Sex trafficking is a problem in the United States and world wide. Las Vegas was named one of the 17 most likely destinations for sex trafficking victims. The research presented today is a collaboration of the past 15 – 20 years, showing the correlations of legalized vs. non-legalized prostitution.

The research shows what factors come into play to promote sex trafficking. Sex trafficking is the third largest criminal enterprise, behind only drugs and arms dealing. Decriminalization and legalization has led to a dramatic increase of child prostitution. In January of 2007 Las Vegas was named one of the 17 most likely destinations for sex trafficking victims. A group in Las Vegas called Stop Turning Out Child Prostitutes, found in Las Vegas that in 1994, 1,496 minors faced prostitution related charges. In 2007 outreach workers identified over 400 prostituted children in one month in the Las Vegas area.

Question posed as to what is considered 'children'? Children are considered under the age of 18 years of age. A question was asked regarding the two year survey of Nevada legal prostitution statistics of 24% being assaulted in prostitution as a low statistic. It was clarified that the statistics are based only on 45 women in legalized prostitution and most of the time what happens in real life goes unreported.

Re-conditioning of the public and laws need to change to decrease the supply and demand for prostitution and sex trafficking. Criminalization of the buying of sex has made a fundamental difference in Sweden's strategy to combat prostitution and trafficking of human beings. A question was asked if any studies or research has been done as to what is the sentencing difference between johns and prostitutes that are working

where it is not legal and where it is. No formal studies have been done. Post studies have shown a decrease in sex trafficking in Sweden with the changes that have been made. Sharnel elaborates on A Scarlet Covering, (non-profit organization) as an organization in Nevada hoping to develop partnerships in the community to help break domestic violence and prostitution cycles.

The organization is currently working with Reno Police Department and Reno Municipal Court, where a specialty court has been developed. The organization hopes to provide education and funding for women and children involved in prostitution with support to rehabilitate and provide counseling. A long term goal for the organization is to build a 'safe haven' for these women. Statistics show that 87% of women who come out of prostitution are homeless and many other issues that go along with it. Discussion held regarding a study of what the women need to go back into the community. 48% of women asked said they would need drug and alcohol counseling in order to be successful.

General Masto inquires as to whom the Judge is that handles the docket for the specialized court. The Honorable Jim Van Winkle handles the specialized court in Reno addressing this issue. Outreach is done in brothels and strip clubs. Question from Christina Conti inquiring as to how they are received in the brothels and strip clubs when they go to outreach? They have been quiet until recently with the media, Sharnel knows that they have to gain trust with the women in a non-trusting environment. In November food and gifts were provided and delivered to the women in the strip clubs and brothels.

Partners with the organization already are Hosana Home, Reno Municipal Court, Step 2, Accept, and Accu Medical. There are many ministries out there, but they don't operate the same as A Scarlet Covering does by involving partnerships with other community programs. A Scarlet Covering started as a ministry, but didn't want to be limited, and wanted to reach a broader scope of people in the community with partnerships. Sharnel would like to see a state agency developed to provide these services and outreach.

General Masto has a lot of questions and will be contacting Sharnel. General Masto asked Sharnel about 2 young women at the fundraiser she had, when they were working in the sex industry were they working in the South, the North, both? They were a part of the South and working in other states when involved.

4. Presentation by Kareen Prentice, Domestic Violence Ombudsman, Office of the Attorney General, and Tracy Dory, Victim's Services Officer, NDOC, regarding update on the Attorney General's statewide VINE Grant.

Last December the Nevada Department of Corrections and the Attorney General's Office collaborated and wrote a grant to the Bureau of Justice Administration for a state wide VINE Grant (Victim Information Notification Everyday). Washoe County, Clark County, and the City of Las Vegas have the VINE information system, but the rest of the state does not. Funds were received in July for the grant in the amount of approximately \$820,000. A work program was developed and approved by the Interim Finance Committee, which allowed for the Requests for Proposals to be released. Three needed to be completed; one was for the vendor, APPRISS. APPRISS is the vendor in 38 other states. They applied, and their RFP application was accepted, they signed the contract, and it is on the Board of Examiners agenda in March for approval.

One RFP had to be pulled back due to some difficulties, but should be released next Monday, and an informal solicitation for an accountant type position was completed. The VINE system should be in all jails in the state, plus the City of Henderson and Boulder City. This is a two year project.

5. Presentation by Christina Conti, regarding update on the Alliance for Victim's Rights.

(Tape recorder not working)

A Powerpoint presentation was done by Christina Conti regarding the broad history of NCVRW (National Crime Victims Right Week), and the Alliance for Victim's Rights Committee. Washoe County held under the citizen committee VICTORY, its first candlelight vigil was held in 1992, agency partners included WCSO, WCDA, RPD and the Department of Parole & Probation. The NCVRW has had many different activities in Washoe County beginning in 1991.

In 1994 there were continued ways to celebrate survivors and honor victims with the Victims of Crime Memorial Quilt. It included pictures, memories of loved ones and struggles endured by being a victim or a survivor of a victim. At the last legislative session the quilt was displayed for two days in the foyer of the legislative building. The thought is to maybe have the quilt travel to different agencies to make the public aware of victims, their families and the struggles they endure. In September, 2001, Rancho San Rafael Labyrinth Garden had its grand opening and in

2009 Sparks Marina Memorial Garden was dedicated in memory of Holly Quick in May, 2009.

The Alliance for Victim's Rights (AVR) was formed in 2006, to collaborate between agencies for NCVRW events and to have resources available to families and other agencies/groups to use as educational tools. The vision of AVR is to encourage and support ongoing development and coordination of victim services throughout Northern Nevada. AVR goals are to form membership, to emphasize public awareness, expand to incorporate all of Northern Nevada, and open communication with the Southern Nevada CVVR for statewide initiatives.

Thus far AVR has developed a website, Facebook page, a quarterly newsletter and participation in the Nevada State Legislative session in 2007 and 2009. Membership is free. It is asked that each agency sign a participation agreement to ensure continuity of representation and that each agency is in agreement with the goals and priorities of AVR. AVR would like to have a community event on awareness months and trainings on non-awareness months. 2010 NCVRW information to date; the annual Washoe County Candlelight Vigil is scheduled for April 21, 2010, at 5:30 pm, several speakers, musical talent by Lisa McCuiston and Bringing Honor & Respect to Victims' awards presented. Criteria for nomination and nomination forms were made available.

During the month of April, for National Sexual Victims month, the Governor's office will display lights and the hope is that there will be a banner displayed. AVR website and contact information is www.allianceforvictimsrights.com, allianceforvictimsrights@gmail.com.

6. Presentation by Elyne Greene, Victim's Services, LVMPD, regarding update on the Community Coalition for Victims Rights.

***(Tape recorder working)**

The Community Coalition for Victims Rights dates back to the 1980's. The focus is on supporting legislation and community education and awareness. Victim Rights Week and support of statewide and regional trainings are another focus. In September a vigil was held for National Night of Remembrance directed at Homicide Survivors. The expected turnout was 10 or 11 and ended up with an attendance of over 100 people. This event will continue on an annual event.

The organization is trying to bring training and awareness to the community at no cost. On March 11, 2010, in Las Vegas a one day workshop will be held on 'Working with the Media'. A national speaker will be presenting. A survivor of homicide victims will be speaking in the

afternoon on how to work with the media. Media representatives will also be present working with advocates to learn how to adequately get your messages to the media. A panel will also be present instituting how and when to use file footage and when not to. Television stations have changed some policies due to these trainings. It is offered free of charge. All are welcome.

Another thing being done is the collection of cell phones that are re-distributed back to victims for 911 services for emergency situations. Some of the cell phones are also donated to a foundation who gives money back for the donation which is used for trainings and community awareness. Some activities this year will be scaled back due to the budget cuts. On March 22, 2010, a reception will be held and the Gary Cauley award will be presented to professional/group of professionals, and the Florence McClure award will be presented to a deserving volunteer/group of volunteers. Various other awards will be presented by various organizations. Additional ideas were discussed regarding obtaining cell phones for collection.

7. Determine future meeting agenda items.

General Masto - with this committee being the sub-committee of the Advisory Commission on the Administration of Justice, it gives us great opportunity to highlight issues for legislative funding through the Advisory Commission on the Administration of Justice, creating a blueprint for victims of crime. We need to identify where we are going this year and use the Advisory Commission to help this committee pass legislative issues and address funding. General Masto would like to hear regarding what funding we were able to achieve and highlight to the Advisory Commission. General Masto wants the committee to strategize and develop a business plan with the help of Mr. Klinefelter.

Gayle Farley just received information from the Advisory Commission on the Administration of Justice regarding the re-classification of all Felonies. Gayle requested attendance at the sub-committee meeting to be held March 1, 2010 at 1:00 pm in Las Vegas in room 3138 and video conferenced to the Grant Sawyer Building in Carson City. Christina Conti requested that the presentation from the Advisory Commission on the Administration of Justice meeting be put on the agenda and presented at to the sub-committee meeting, so the members can see how the felonies are defined now, and what changes are being proposed.

General Masto indicated she would get the minutes from the Advisory Commission on the Administration of Justice meeting, and distribute to everyone with the specific topic for review. Kareen Prentice indicated that

Brett Kandt is on that committee and General Masto will ask him to come to the next meeting and give an update on that sub-committee. General Masto asked Gayle to get the information to Kareen so she can get it to Linda Fitzgerald to be emailed out to everyone.

Gayle Farley – Agenda item – Update on the re-classification of Felonies.

Christina Conti – Agenda item – AVR seeking support regarding the 'search by name' function on the assessor's website and the issues that it presents for victims.

Lori Fralick – Agenda item – SART/SANE exams statewide and an update on certified nurses and status of improvements. What is needed from this committee's perspective?

Lori Fralick – Agenda item – Regarding the Crimes Analyst position funded through STOP Recovery funds at RPD. Brett Kandt may be able to elaborate as to Bruce Hahn's perspective from the District Attorney's office and update regarding the strangulation statute passed. Lori indicated that the wording of the law was possibly changed at the last minute, and it didn't get passed the way Dave Clifton and others had expected it to. General Masto indicated that the language was not changed at the last minute; there was agreement by everyone of the language that was going into the strangulation bill. LVMPD has also been making arrests and getting convictions. General Masto will speak with Brett and have him come and present on the topic and give an update. There have been quite a few charges in the North, but not any convictions. Maxine Lantz by phone indicated that they have been getting convictions. There are concerns as to the victim's reactions.

Maxine indicated that there are issues with misdemeanor convictions of domestic violence and the removal of guns. The removal of the guns is a federal issue and the sheriff's office is not a federal designee. What right do they have to remove the guns on a misdemeanor level? Kareen spoke with Brett and asked him about this issue and speak with some District Attorneys to see how this issue should be dealt with. General Masto indicated she would have her office look at the law for clarification and put this matter back on the agenda for more discussion.

General Masto will put together an email with the time frame for ideas for legislation. General Masto explained the procedure and process for legislation for Sharnel Silvey, a new member to the committee.

General Masto – Agenda item – Funding. Sue Meuschke was able to get additional funding from Marriage Licensing and reported that the monies are being received. She is working diligently with the division to be sure

the money goes back out. The committee should report to the Advisory Commission on the bills that were passed that have to do with funding; the impact and what is still needed in particular areas statewide.

Andrea – Agenda item – She would like to see an overview of gaps that each agency has in victim services to have a cohesive front for victims services. Chris Lovass-Nagy brought up that she did not recall the committee going back and reviewing the laws after session, to see where we are at before doing new BDR's, and then look at the impact.

Lori Fralick indicated the need to pose a survey or questionnaire around the state to determine where the gaps, barriers, or challenges are in each community. This may help to drive the business plan for the committee. Andrea asked for volunteers to help her put together a survey; Lori Fralick, Chris Lovass-Nagy, and Kareen Prentice volunteered to put together.

Kareen updated the sub-committee on the Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence Education Committee, which the AG also chairs, and the Education Committee sent a survey out to all the hospitals regarding their domestic violence policies and if they have a sexual assault response policy. Kareen will provide an update from this survey also.

General Masto addressed the topic of the Victims Compensation Program. Christina Conti said she would like to see how the new laws affected the program. What amounts have been compensated? Elynne indicated there are 3 cases that fell under the catastrophic, and have been approved for the \$150,000. Christina - Were they retroactive? They were already on the books. It was extended to them in the South.

Liz Greb was on a site visit at the Domestic Violence Intervention in Fallon and she asked if they were providing assistance in applying for victim compensation. They said they haven't been doing it very long. They indicated that if they were the agency helping them they thought they should be receiving some sort of notification. Fallon indicated they had a victim that had a police report, a medical report, and was denied for not being abused enough. Elynne indicated that things are still different in the North and South. Lori expressed her concern to look at some of the challenges that are still being experienced and issues that can be future items that this committee can look at. General Masto said Justice Hardesty will want to look at funding for victims of crime and would want to put more money into that program and it will be a topic of our legislation.

Lori Fralick – Future agenda item – she would like a representative from the AOC to come and speak about inconsistencies in Reno or statewide with victims of intimate partner violence not being able to apply for a

stalking/harassment order even though it's not in the law. They are sent to the TPO office in family court. It is her opinion that it is discrimination and they should seek whatever protection they would like. Elynne indicated this may need to be on the agenda sooner rather than later because it may be addressed through training and education. General Masto agreed it should be looked at and determine how it can be determined if it is a training or policy issue. AOC doesn't dictate all training for the Judges, but may be able to incorporate this into how the training can be administered. There have been instances in the South when the Judge has asked the courtroom to be cleared except for the victim. Federal and state laws preclude the Judge from forcing the advocate to leave if the victim wants them to stay. In the North they have been asked to leave if they were disruptive. This may be a training issue and needs to be highlighted to the Commission.

8. Determination of next meeting and how often meetings should be scheduled.

It is agreed that meetings will be held every other month. The next meeting will be scheduled in the first or second week of April. General Masto will get together with Linda Fitzgerald to pick a few dates and email to everyone to determine a definite date. In the meantime we will look at the topics and determine who we can get to speak for our next meeting and determine what will turn into legislative issues and need to be given to the Advisory.

9. Comments from the public.

There was no public comment.

10. Adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.