



COMMISSION

ON SEXUAL & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

improving systems so they work better for survivors and the community



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- ❖ The SA/DV Commission was formed in 1998 by a joint resolution between the City of Bellingham and Whatcom County.
- ❖ **Mission:** To inspire and coordinate our community's efforts to address sexual and domestic violence.
- ❖ **Purpose:** We improve systems so they work better for survivors and the community. We are made up of government and community leaders to fulfill our collective responsibility to effectively prevent and respond to sexual and domestic violence. We do not provide direct services; we lead projects for systems change.

SA/DV Commission membership

Government representatives:

Sheriff Donnell Tanksley

Starck Follis

Erika Lautenbach

Stephanie Kraft

Eric Richey

Bruce Van Glubt



Community appointments:

Dr. Katie Olvera, KPO Counseling LLC

Jessyca Murphy, Make.Shift Art Space

Krista Touros, PeaceHealth

Garret Shelsta, Stuff You Can Use

Moonwater, Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center

Raquel Vernola, Whatcom Community College

SA/DV Commission Funding



Whatcom County

City of Bellingham

City of Ferndale

2023-2024 DV Commission Work Plan:

Continue to stabilize funding and administrative structures for DV Commission operations.

In our community in 2022:



1 in 4 homeless households were fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence or other dangerous conditions.



Reports of sexual assault to law enforcement continued to fall. There is no evidence that incidents of sexual assault have decreased.



Fewer than 1/3 of SA & DV protection order requests were granted a final order. Very few people petition for a sexual assault protection order.



Nurses at PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center spent **660 hours conducting forensic sexual assault and domestic violence exams.**



Survivors shared what healing and justice mean to them. Read more at dvcommission.org under reports.

Read the full report: dvcommission.org/data-reports

Why does this matter?



Summit on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People (MMIWP)

A cross-disciplinary summit in Whatcom County to learn and take action to prevent and intervene in violence, and to support survivors and families.



Wed, November 20, 2024

Time and location: TBD

Save the dates: To be sent in May

Registration: To open in September

Co-sponsored by:

Community Consortium for Cultural Recognition in Education; Bellingham Whatcom County Commission on Sexual & Domestic Violence; Lummi Victims of Crime; PeaceHealth Tribal Affinity Group

Case reviews of intimate partner violence fatalities



- ❖ Dive deeply into individual cases to learn what victims are experiencing and need
- ❖ Multi-disciplinary team approach
- ❖ Extensive review of public records
- ❖ Grounded in self-care, collaboration, learning, looking forward, and making change
- ❖ Identify and implement strengths, gaps, and recommendations
- ❖ Next: Reviews of Sexual Assault Protection Orders (SAPOs)



Restorative Justice Pilot: reimagining justice for survivors

- ❖ Learning series
- ❖ Planning work group
- ❖ Survivor feedback on justice and healing
- ❖ Road map to developing pilot program
- ❖ Study of Creative Interventions Toolkit
- ❖ Gatherings for practitioners and interested stakeholders
- ❖ To be determined....



Subject matter expertise



- ❖ Workplaces
- ❖ Faith communities
- ❖ Schools
- ❖ Courts
- ❖ Housing providers
- ❖ Media
- ❖ Healthcare providers

Annual meeting

Using a public health lens to address sexual and domestic violence

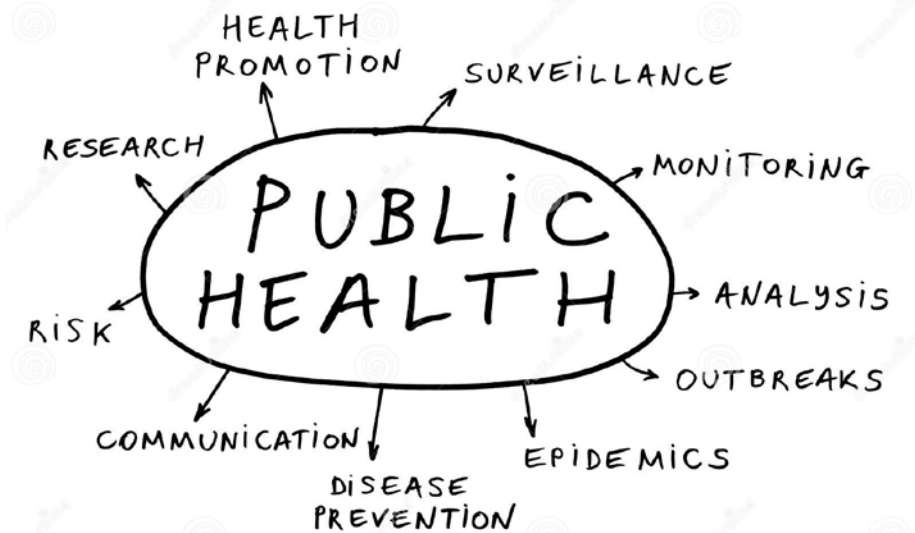
Thurs, May 23, 2024

8:30 – 10:30am

Whatcom Community College, Learning Commons
(LRN 160)

For more information or to register:

dvcommission.org/events





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Questions or comments?

Susan Marks

360.312.5700 x 1223

smarks@dvcommission.org

www.dvcommission.org