

BVLD Domestic Violence 'Court Option' Pilot Project

BUDGET SUMMARY

The BVLD DVCO Pilot Project is 18 months long. Refer to the document "BVLD Domestic Violence 'Court Option' Pilot Project" for project description and phases.

DVCO Coordinator: This position will be needed for the **entire length of the 18 month Pilot Project**, and potentially will be hired as an employee of the non-profit agency administering the Pilot Project budget. Funds for equipment, furniture and operating costs are added to this budget item. Operating costs include stationery and office supplies to cover intense photocopying for distribution of research and meeting materials to case management team and steering committee. See document titled "DVCO Coordinator" for detailed list of duties for this position. Estimated salary is \$30/hour plus benefits.

Counseling Program Facilitators: There will be 2 Facilitators/Counselors, one probably working more hours per week than the other, but it is estimated that a total of 20 hours per week will be required. These positions will be needed for the **entire length of the 18 month Pilot Project**, and will potentially be hired as employees of the non-profit agency administering the Pilot Project budget. Estimated salary is \$40/hour plus benefits.

Criminal Duty Counsel (enhanced role): It is anticipated that most of the individuals going into the DVCO will have used Criminal Duty Counsel rather than Legal Aid or a private Defence lawyer, because CDC is readily available. Case management (monthly meetings of all agency representatives involved with the file) will be approximately 1-2 hours for all DVCO files. CDC will also be required to be present for the Judge check-ins to occur the same day as the Case Management meetings, and this could take several hours of being present until all check-ins are completed. There may be time required of CDC around consultation with other members of the Case Management Team, or with the DVCO client. 1 hour per week (or 4 hours per month) is estimated to be needed for Enhanced CDC, on top of the usual time CDC requires. It is estimated that this resource will be needed for the **entire length of the 18 month Pilot Project**. Estimated cost is \$100/hour.

Community Corrections (enhanced role): Probation Officers will be required to do Risk Assessments on all individuals who are applying for entry to the DVCO. Currently, in the regular court system, they only do Risk Assessments on those individuals pleading Guilty or found Guilty of spousal assault, before entry to the Respectful Relationships program. Because of the fast-tracking of the DVCO there will be tight timelines around the early Risk Assessments, plus they must be done jointly with the Counseling Facilitators to arrive at a joint decision on entry to the program. There will be a maximum of 2 weeks to complete the Risk Assessment/Counseling Eligibility Assessment and arrive at a decision. This will be very time-consuming. A Probation Officer will be a member of the Case Management team, and will possibly consult regularly with the Counseling Facilitators as well. It is estimated that one full day per week (7.5 hrs) will be required for Enhanced Community Corrections, on top of the usual time Corrections requires. It is estimated that this will be needed for the **entire length of the 18 month Pilot Project**. Estimated cost is \$35/hour.

Specialized Victim Assistance (enhanced role): All victims of spousal assault will be contacted proactively, rather than by referral after giving consent to a police officer. While they may choose to refuse supportive services, proactive contact is likely to increase the client load of the program substantially. Victims on DVCO files will be invited and encouraged throughout the process to engage with Victim Assistance and have a voice in the process. For those who choose to be in the Victim Milestone Program, they will meet weekly with SVAP to keep pace with the information and education in the Men's Counseling Program. SVAP will participate in the Case Management meetings monthly, and may appear in court for the Judge Check-ins. At the Start-Up phase this position would consult with Jane Katz and the Counseling Facilitators to develop the Milestone Program markers. This is an existing position with Northern Society for Domestic Peace, currently 30 hours per week (4 days X 7.5 hours). It is estimated that the enhanced role would require an extra 7.5 hours per week. It is estimated this will be needed for the **entire length of the 18 month Pilot Project**. Estimated budget requirement is \$26/hour including benefits.

Court Services (enhanced role): It is anticipated that a special day will be set aside by the Judicial Case Manager each week for all Domestic Violence Court Option matters, and that this will not require more court time than is currently used (given that there will be fewer trials). However, administratively, more time will be required for Court Services to do various tasks. For example, all DVCO files will be cross-referenced to Family Court matters. This will involve searching data bases, and documenting on files. Court Services staff may need to consult with the DVCO Coordinator and others involved in the DVCO files, and assist with records management or communications. It is estimated that the enhanced role would require an extra 2 hours per week, and will be needed for the **entire length of the 18 month Pilot Project**. Estimated budget requirement is \$25/hour for existing staff.

Jane Katz, Clinical Consultant: Jane Katz, Clinical Consultant, was a developer of the currently used men's group counselling Respectful Relationships program and the Relationship Violence Program. She also has developed a combined model of these programs, and has already been consulted with by the Steering Committee around creating a flexible entry/exit combined program for our DVCO. This work needs to be finalized and these tasks have been identified:

- Intake interview forms
- Assessment instruments
- Orientation session to be written
- Session plans for flexible intake/exit
- Guidelines for integrating new participants
- Guidelines for group process
- Process for leaving the group and presenting a maintenance plan
- Protocol for monitoring participants
- Protocol for taking individuals back to court
- Protocol and criteria for final assessment
- Milestone material for Victim Services correlation with men's counselling

This work would be done through a \$5,000 contract with Jane, and she would work with appropriate people such as the counselling facilitators, Probation Officers, Specialized Victim Assistance, etc. This work would be completed during the Start Up phase of the project, within the first 2 months.

Website Development: Contracted project to develop a BVLVD Domestic Violence Justice Response website for the purposes of informing and educating the public around domestic violence and the BVLVD Domestic Violence 'Court Option'. It will also be a place for locating the other achievements of the DV Justice Response Steering Committee, such as protocols completed in the community, and the establishment of a Domestic Violence Court Watch based on information and education around the criminal justice system. The website will be constructed from materials and information given to the developer by the DVCO Coordinator, with consultation of the members of the Steering Committee and the Case Management Team. The website will have an email function that is monitored by the DVCO Coordinator. Once the website is built, the DVCO Coordinator will maintain the site and be able to add and delete information. Estimated cost of this project is \$5,000.

Public Info & Education: Printed materials for dissemination – DVCO brochures for the public, information packages for men who have been recommended to the option, etc. Estimated printing cost is \$5,000.

Final Project Evaluation & Report: Contract Final Evaluation & Report to outside party. See document titled 'BVLVD DVCO Pilot Project' for details of the Final Project Evaluation & Report. Estimated cost is \$5,000.

Administrative Costs: Standard fee for non-profit agency to administer budget is 10% of total budget per Northern Society for Domestic Peace, Smithers.
