



Department of Public Safety

COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE &
SEXUAL ASSAULT
Executive Director, Lauree Morton

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To: Karla Reinhardt, Board Chair
Beth Bogarde, Executive Director
From: Lauree Morton, Executive Director
Date: 9/915
Re: WISH Review and Remediation Plan

Ms. Reinhardt:

Please accept this letter as notice that the Council is placing Women In Safe Homes (WISH) on probation and that WISH will be moved to a reimbursement for services funding schedule. This action will take place starting October 1st through the remainder of the 2016 fiscal year.

The Council was first notified of community concerns with WISH in late July. Concerns were reported to the Council over the course of the next several days and into the following weeks. Council staff met with Ms. Bogarde telephonically to establish a dialogue about the concerns and seek resolution. As the concerns escalated, Council staff asked me to meet in conference with Ms. Bogarde to discuss complaints related to staff terminations. We met via teleconference with Marybeth Gagnon, the Council program coordinator for WISH.

Unfortunately, more complaints were brought to the Council's attention and I decided an on-site review was necessary to better understand the scope and veracity of the complaints. I am disheartened by the information Ms. Gagnon brought back from the review in general and specifically concerned with the lack of cooperation exhibited by staff not readily meeting with Ms. Gagnon nor readily making available documents and files she asked to review. This is particularly disturbing since I sent a memo to Ms. Bogarde before Ms. Gagnon's visit asking for cooperation in meetings and in making documents available. It seems as if the gravity of the situation was not given appropriate weight.

Attached to this letter are the on-site findings and the formal probation memo with corrective actions listed. I am willing to meet with the WISH Board of Directors and Ms. Bogarde to further discuss ways in which WISH might fulfill your obligation to come into

compliance with Council regulations, grant award conditions and how to ensure the assurances that you gave to the Council when you accepted the grant award are carried out. If you would like to meet with me, please make arrangements for the meeting to be held during the week of September 21st. I will travel to Ketchikan for the meeting.

Please know the Council's primary concern is for the safety of any and everyone who suffers domestic violence, sexual assault or another violent crime. We grant funds to WISH to provide safe and comprehensive services to anyone who suffers one of these crimes and comes to WISH for assistance. I believe this to also be your agency's goal and hope to find ways in which we can work cooperatively together to make sure that goal is realized.

Sincerely,

Lauree Morton

Lauree Morton
Executive Director

Cc: Pastor Richard Irwin, Council Chair
Rachel Gernat, Council Vice-Chair
WISH program file