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Update

Family Violence Coordinating Council Newsletter

September 2010

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Dear Michelle,

Welcome to the Multnomah County Family Violence Coordinating Council Newsletter published monthly. If you are having formatting difficulties allow photos to be displayed or add us to your safe senders list.

REMINDER - NEXT MONTH

Judge Herrell Awards and Multnomah County Family Violence Coordinating Council Celebration on **October 8, 2010** from 12:00 to 1:30 pm. Judge Herrell Awards and Multnomah County Family Violence Coordinating Council Celebration on October 8, 2010 from 12:00 to 1:30 pm.

Meeting Agenda

September 10, 2010
Portland Building,
1120 SW 5th Ave,
Room 2B

12:15-12:35 Vote on New
Member Application
(Gateway Center for DV
Services)

12:35-1:10 Report
on Oregon Batterer
Intervention Programs

1:10-1:30 Harassment to
Homicide, 1991 to Present,
Accomplishments

Domestic Violence: How Money Matters

by Kerry Naughton

Oregon, like many other states in the nation, has recently been stunned by a significant increase in domestic violence-related murder suicides. On average in Oregon each year, 18 people are killed as a result of domestic violence. But in just the past 14 months, 31 adult victims of domestic violence and children have been murdered-and many more children have lost a parent or have become orphaned by the violence. In 15 cases, the abusive partner also killed himself; meaning that in the last 14 months, almost 50 Oregonians have died as a result of domestic violence. This represents a 40% increase over recent years.

Some people are quick to point to the bad economy. Others may say the victim should have just moved out or stayed away from the abuser. While it is natural to want to find a singular cause of the recent violence so elected officials can implement a "quick fix" to prevent future fatalities, truly addressing the issue will take a much more coordinated and

money

Announcements

Domestic Violence Coordinator's Office DV Awareness Month Events:

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM), and the Domestic Violence Coordinator's Office is compiling a county-wide DVAM events list. If your agency is hosting an event this October let us know by September 24th, so we can include it in our October UPDATE. Send the following information to [Vanessa Timmons](#):

Name of the Event
Sponsoring Agency
Date and Time
Location
Contact person
Brief description (25 words or less)

Gateway Center for Domestic Violence Services Grand

Opening: Wednesday, September 8th at 1:00 pm. 10305 East Burnside Street, Portland Oregon 97216. This event is hosted by Multnomah County Chair Jeff Cogen and Portland Commissioner Dan Saltzman. For more information please contact Diana Lee at 503-988-6464.

Crisis Response Team Portland Police Bureau and Partners:

One Voice Healing Hearts, featuring Linda Hornbuckle, S.E.I Youth Choir and more. Saturday, September 11th, 2010 12-4pm. Holladay Park-Lloyd Center, NE 11th AVE & Holladay Street, Portland Oregon 97201. If you offer services that support victims please call and lend a hand. If you want to decry senseless violence-come lend your voice. For more information contact Officer Marci Jackson 503-823-2095

Call for Conference Proposals for Batterer Intervention Services:

The Batterer Intervention Services Coalition - Michigan ((BISC-MI) a national provider of high quality conferences, is accepting proposals for presentation for its April 13-15, 2011 conference. They are looking for providers of batterer intervention services to present specific curriculum and strategies at this national conference. To submit your proposal click the [link](#).

Multnomah County Sheriff's

Office: Domestic violence victims can now request DV victim

comprehensive response. The recent murders are horrifying and they underscore a much larger crisis of violence against women in Oregon:

- Approximately 30,000 Oregon women experience intimate partner violence a year.
- More than one-third of domestic violence assaults are witnessed by children.
- One in six Oregon women has survived forcible rape.
- When last counted, domestic and sexual violence crimes made up one-third of all violent crime statewide.

It is within this context that Oregonians must address the larger issues of violence and determine how to enhance and expand existing resources.

The Economy and Domestic Violence

"The economy does not cause domestic violence but can make it worse."

- Sue Else, President of the National Network to End Domestic Violence[1]

An extensive report sponsored by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) found that the incidence and severity of violence against women increases as the rate of male unemployment increases. Research also found a strong relationship between subjective feelings of financial strain and the likelihood of violence against a woman in an intimate relationship. The rate of violence among couples with high levels of subjective financial strain is roughly three and a half times as high as it is among couples with low subjective strain (9.5% compared to 2.7%).

While these statistics show a link between the economy and domestic violence, it is important to understand that the economy does not cause domestic violence. It does, however, mean that an abusive partner who becomes unemployed may have greater access to his victim, which can lead to the increase in incidence and severity of abuse.

Researchers from Oregon Health & Sciences University and Johns Hopkins found that 69% of women in Oregon who report abuse are employed at the time of the abuse. But survivors of domestic violence may also face unemployment, in some cases because of the violence itself. NIJ-sponsored research has found that women who were recently abused (but not women who were abused only in the past) experienced unstable employment for up to two years. Domestic violence can lead to mental and physical health problems, which may make it more difficult for the survivor to fulfill her job duties and retain employment.

The recession did not cause domestic violence. The recession does, however, make the need for domestic and sexual violence programs-which provide shelter, individualized safety planning and advocacy, hotlines, counseling, court

notification online. Forms are available on the Multnomah County Sheriff Office [website](#). Actual notifications will still be made by phone to ensure victim contact.

Multnomah County Family Court: [Multnomah County Family Court](#) now has web pages with Frequently Asked Questions, forms, referrals for finding legal help, resources and materials about family law matters and links to rules, procedures, and committees that deal with court practices.

Note: We would like to hear about innovative domestic violence resources, new projects within your programs, and updates on your existing services. Please let us know by sending your information to Update editor [Vanessa Timmons](#) or by fax 503-988-3710.

Quick Links

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Coordinator's Office](#)

accompaniment, and assistance with public benefits-even more important.

Two of the recent domestic violence-related murder suicides happened in the workplace. For some survivors, the workplace is the only safe place they have, and it is important that survivors are able to receive appropriate assistance and referrals when they disclose the abuse to their employer. In 2007, Governor Kulongoski signed an Executive Order requiring all state managers, supervisors, and HR employees to have mandatory training on domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. To date, almost 5,000 managers and state employees have been trained.

In 2007, the Oregon legislature passed legislation requiring employers to provide unpaid leave for legal, medical or mental health assistance resulting from domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking. In 2009, the Oregon legislature increased workplace protections by prohibiting employment discrimination against survivors and requiring employers to make reasonable safety accommodations for employees in need of protection, unless that would cause an undue hardship for the business.

Housing Needs and Homelessness

Leaving an abusive partner is a process, not a singular event. Often, abusers will isolate survivors from family and friends, giving the survivor few resources for support, or can easily find out where the survivor's loved ones live, making that an unsafe place to stay. If survivors are unable to access shelter through a domestic violence program, they are often forced to return to-or remain in-dangerous situations. A startling number of domestic violence survivors become homeless:

- 50% of people who are homeless say domestic violence is the cause of their homelessness.
- 46% of people who are homeless previously stayed in a domestic violence situation because they had nowhere else to go.

In 2008, there were almost 20,000 requests for emergency shelter in Oregon that went unmet because there wasn't enough funding to meet the need. When shelter beds and motel vouchers are unavailable in Multnomah County, some domestic and sexual violence advocates have been forced to recommend that survivors and their children ride the Max light rail all night or sleep at the airport because these are the safest options available. Programs in rural communities also struggle-not only to provide enough safe emergency shelter, but to also find resources to transport the survivor away from her abuser and out of danger.

"A caller asked me today if I knew of a safe bridge she could sleep under."

- Oregon advocate, Domestic Violence Counts 2009, National Network to End Domestic Violence

Funding for Domestic & Sexual Violence Programs

Money matters. In either a good or bad economy, until domestic and sexual violence programs are fully funded to provide emergency assistance, long-term advocacy, specialized outreach, and prevention programming, Oregon will continue to struggle to address violence against women.

The 2006 equity study helped pave the way to increased ODSVS funding in the 2007 legislative session. A broad coalition of organizations-including Partnership for Safety and Justice-and staunch support from key legislators-including then-Representative Chip Shields-were able to successfully increase ODSVS to \$4.5 million/biennium. In the 2009 legislative session, despite dire economic conditions, the same coalition of organizations and staunch legislative support was able to protect ODSVS from funding cuts. Unfortunately, the total funding available statewide is still only a little more than half what's needed to provide the minimal emergency services.

[1] <http://nnedv.org/news/national/386-nnedv-responds-to-reids-comments-economy-can-exacerbate-violence.html>

A full version of the article first appeared in the spring edition of Justice Matters, 2010. It is reprinted with permission of Partnership for Safety and Justice. Article written by Kerry Naughton.

National DV Services Census: Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Be part of the 2010 Domestic Violence Counts Census:

The National Census of Domestic Violence Services is designed to collect an unduplicated, non-invasive count of adults and children who receive services during one 24-hour survey period. View data from last years count: <http://www.nnedv.org/resources/census/2009-census-report.html>

Informational Calls for Local Programs:

NNEDV is offering 3 free conference calls this month to offer additional information and support for programs that are interested in participating in the count. Each call will cover the same information, last 30 minutes, and each be held at 12 PM Pacific Time/3pm Eastern Time on:

Wednesday September 1
Monday, September 13
Tuesday September 14

To join any of these calls, please register at <http://www.nnedv.org/CensusCalls>. If you have any questions, email census@nnedv.org or contact the Oregon Coalition against Domestic and Sexual Violence at 503-230-1951.

State Funding Cuts Impact Victim Services

This summer, due to [projected reduction](#) in Oregon State revenues, the Governor ordered an across-the-board 9% cut to state-funded programs.

The impact of the cuts proposed by each State Division was most significant for the domestic violence shelters in Multnomah County, which received a 27% cut in State funding through the State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP). Oregon Housing and Community Services Division (OHCSO), which administers SHAP funds, chose to take almost the entire 9% cut out of SHAP. The \$60,000 reduction in SHAP funds was divided equally among the four domestic violence shelters funded by Multnomah County (Bradley Angle, YWCA Yolanda House, Raphael House of Portland and Salvation Army West Women's and Children's Shelter).

In the last year, all of the domestic violence programs in the county cut staff or required staff to take furlough days because of loss of funding from private donations, foundations or government funding combined with increasing costs of health care, utilities and personnel. This additional SHAP cut to shelters has put more stress onto the shelters and shelter staff. Although no shelters will close because of this cut, shelters do expect to reduce staffing, which may at times limit their ability to bring in more survivors even if they have an empty bed.

Future cuts also appear to be on the horizon. The most recent state economic forecast has indicated that another 8% cut may be required this fiscal year, with additional cuts for the 2011-13 biennium.

What's at risk in the future? If OHCSO continues to target SHAP funding for cuts, there could be another \$50,000-\$60,000 cut to local shelters. In the next legislative session, funding for the Criminal Fine and Assessment Account (CFAA) is already at risk, and the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Program (ODSVS) may also be at risk. There is discussion at the Legislature already to end the earmarks for victim services and criminal justice interventions funded through CFAA and rolling all CFAA funds into the State General Fund. This would place the entire \$2 million of CFAA per biennium that currently goes to domestic violence and sexual assault victim services across the state in competition with much larger agencies, such as the State Police.

The Oregon Legislative Alliance to End Violence against Women suggests meeting with [your State Legislator](#) this Fall before the next session starts if you wish to talk with them about the need for State funding for domestic violence victim services.

President Barak Obama Signs New Tribal Law and Order Act

According to a Department of Justice report, Native American women suffer from violent crime at a rate three and a half times greater than the national average. Astoundingly, one in three Native American women will be raped in their lifetimes.

Recently, Congress took an important step to improve the lives of Native American women by passing the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010. The Act includes a strong emphasis on decreasing violence against women in Native communities.

The Act will strengthen tribal law enforcement and the ability to prosecute and fight crime more effectively. The Indian Health Care Improvement Act will require that a standardized set of practices be put in place for victims of sexual assault in health facilities.

The Act expands training of tribal law enforcement officers on the best ways to

interview victims of domestic and sexual violence and the importance of collecting evidence to improve rates of conviction.

The Director of Indian Health Services will coordinate with the Department of Justice, Tribes, Tribal organizations and urban Indian organizations to develop standardized sexual assault policies and protocols. Special Assistant US Attorneys will be deputized under the Act to prosecute reservation crimes in Federal courts, and tribes will be given greater authority to hold perpetrators accountable.

These provisions will increase communication between tribal law enforcement, Federal authorities and the court system. The Act will not focus only on prosecution but also on prevention. It reauthorizes and improves programs to prevent and treat alcohol and substance abuse, as well as programs that improve opportunities for at-risk Indian youth.

For more detailed information visit the white house website and view a video at:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2010/07/29/tribal-law-and-order-act-2010-a-step->

Trainings

September 9th, 2010 (8:30-10:30am): Recovery Networking Breakfast For Women's Services, Multnomah County Southeast Health Clinic, 3653 SE 34th Ave., Portland OR 97202. This is a long standing opportunity for providers of and advocates for women's recovery services to partake of a hosted light breakfast, meet community partners, share information, and identify new resources. If you have questions contact Susan Montgomery at (505)988-3064 ext. 24304.

September 9th-10th, 2010: "Imagine No Violence" Summit, Tillamook County Women's Resource Center, Tillamook Bay Community College, 4301 3rd Street, Tillamook, OR 97141. Keynote Speakers, Lundy Bancroft and Rev. DR. Marie M. Fortune, also featuring presentations by local experts, Chiquita Rollins, Gabby Santos and others. This two day event will help you acquire new skills and contribute your vision for a violence-free community. For registration fees and additional information visit the website at <http://www.tcwrc.net>

September 21st, 2010 (10:00am-12:00pm): Human Trafficking: Working with survivors at the intersection of commercial exploitation and domestic violence. Multnomah County Family Violence Coordinating Council Monthly Training, Multnomah County Southeast Health Clinic, 3653 SE 34th Ave, Portland OR 97202. Multnomah County Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children-Collaboration Specialist, Joslyn Baker and Monique Monroe, victim advocate with PPB sex crimes will provide this training. This is a free workshop and registration is not required. For more information please contact Vanessa Timmons at 503-988-9166 ext. 26266 or vanessa.timmons@co.multnomah.or.us

September 30th, 2010: Safety & Sobriety: Co-occurring Domestic Violence & Substance Abuse Issues. Nationally-recognized trainer Patricia J. Bland will provide training to help child welfare workers, addiction professionals, advocates and allied community partners address the needs of women clients and program participants who are impacted by co-occurring domestic violence and substance abuse issues. Contact annie.neal@multco.us for more information.

September 30th, 2010 (1pm-2:30pm): Webinar, Am I sleeping with the Enemy? Redefining Masculinity in the Evangelical Faith Community. Join author, minister, sexual and domestic prevention advocate, and community leader Ron Clark as he draws from his new book to address masculinity in the evangelical faith community. To register contact Ron Clark at agapecoc@comcast.net

October 9th, 2010 (9am-1:00pm): Treating Military Sexual Trauma by Elizabeth Stinson, LMFT. Location: Portland State University, 4CEUs available for LMFT, LCSW, LPC, Chiropractors and LMTs. Cost: \$60 (\$70 after October

1). Free for Returning Veterans Project providers and Vet Center and VA clinicians. Registration begins August 26, 2010. For more information and to register visit <http://www.returningveterans.org> or call 503-93-4996.

October 14-16, 2010, Tacoma WA: Paving a Rocky Road: Removing Barriers to Men's Engagement Pacific Lutheran University Men Against Violence will host a national conference to engage professionals, religious communities and student activists in the process of identifying and strategizing how to remove the barriers that have traditionally kept large numbers of men from joining violence prevention efforts. Experts will discuss innovative approaches to anti-violence work and how to empower men to explore masculinities which support a just and equitable society. For more information or to submit a workshop proposal, contact Jonathan Grove at grovejk@plu.edu.

November 1-3, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: The Global Domestic Violence Conference 2010 in Kuala Lumpur. This conference is set to be the largest gathering of community groups, government and non-government agencies (NGO's) all devoted to highlighting and showcasing successful programs with the aim of empowering people and workers in the field of domestic violence. This event will bring together people from all walks of life from all corners of the world. For information visit their website <http://www.domesticviolenceconference.net/>

Note: Does your organization sponsor a conference or training that you would like to have listed in the Update? If so please let us know about it. Send conference/training information to Update editor [Vanessa Timmons](#) or via fax: 503-988-3710. Be sure to include registration deadline and name of person to contact for additional information.

The FVCC seeks to develop a coordinated community response that includes the domestic violence response system and community and social systems.

Newsletter feedback and article ideas are always welcome. Send comments to [Vanessa Timmons](#)

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