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Update

Family Violence Coordinating Council Newsletter

June 2011

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Meeting Agenda

June 10, 2011
Portland Building,
1120 SW 5th Ave,
Room 2b

12:15-12:25
Introductions and
Announcements

Defending
Childhood Initiative

FVCC Committee
UPdates

Quick Links

Dear Multnomah,

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.

Domestic violence, housing instability, and homelessness: A review of housing policies and program practices for meeting the needs of survivors"

Full article published in the journal of Aggression and Violent Behavior 15 (2010) 430-439; Authors: Charlene K. Baker, Kris A. Billhardt, Joseph Warren, Chiquita Rollins, Nancy E. Glass.

This journal article addresses the questions: *"Why does domestic violence, combined with current housing policies and programs result in women's continued housing and instability and homelessness? What recommendations can be made for change?"*

There are consequences to women's and children's housing stability with research showing a relationship between domestic violence and female homelessness (Baker, Cook, & Norris, 2003; Browne & Bassuk, 1997; Bufkin & Bray, 1998; Metraux & Culhane, 1999; Shinn et al., 1998; Toro et al., 1995; U.S. Conference of Mayors-Sodexho, 2005). Evidence suggests that domestic violence is among the leading causes of homelessness nationally for women (Institute for Children & Poverty, 2002; Jasinski, Wesley, Mustaine, & Wright, 2002; Levin, McKean, & Raphael, 2004; Wilder Research Center, 2007; U.S. Conference of Mayors-Sodexho).

Although previous research suggests a link, the relationship between domestic violence and housing instability is not necessarily a direct one. There is a complex interplay of issues that affect women's risk of housing instability or homelessness after separating from their partners. As women attempt to secure housing away from their abusers they face economic barriers that may be related to difficulties in finding living wage jobs or that

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result from limited job experience.

Research shows that abusers frequently stalk or harass women in their workplace, and sabotage women's ability to keep their jobs. In a sample of women with abusive partners, approximately 50% of those who worked reported losing a job because of the actions of the abuser (Riger, Ahrens, & Blickenstaff, 2000).

Promising policy and practice

To address HUD's definition of chronic homelessness, and how it limits women's ability to access housing services, some communities did not wait for the U.S. Congress to approve legislation expanding the definition of homelessness that is more inclusive of domestic violence survivors.

Portland, Oregon developed and implemented a working definition for chronic homeless families which included the language, "doubled up or in shelters for six months or more." The term "doubling up" (staying with friends/relatives) was previously excluded from this definition.

Policy Recommendations

Housing policies that specifically address the needs of survivors of domestic violence need to be fully implemented and enforced. This must include efforts to boost awareness of existing policies as well as consistent enforcement of and penalties for noncompliance. Additionally, similar protections for private market housing should be argued for and implemented.

Practice recommendations

- Develop more housing options that respond to the reality that domestic violence survivors are a broad and diverse group of women with varying family compositions and cultural considerations
- Analyze program eligibility criteria for language which excludes some populations of women and children from accessing shelter or victim services
- Obtain program models that minimize mandatory services and are driven by individual survivors' goals and circumstances while focusing on self-determination and choice
- For DV providers to become knowledgeable about the housing options in their community, including local, state, and federal housing policies so that they can inform women more effectively as they transition from emergency shelter to long-term housing

It is important to examine the complex interplay of issues when it comes to domestic violence, housing instability, and homelessness. Not only can the interpersonal barriers be higher for survivors but the policies and practices in obtaining fair housing can be difficult to navigate and afford. Unintended consequences of policy and practice may disadvantage or endanger victims of domestic violence.

To view the abstract or purchase the article follow this link:

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1359178910000480>

White Paper: Intersection of HIV/AIDS Domestic Violence and Culture.

A few years ago, staff of the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum's HIV/AIDS and Domestic Violence programs worked together on the intersection of domestic violence and HIV/AIDS. Their "White Paper" titled, *the Intersection Between HIV/AIDS and Domestic Violence in Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Women* presents data, analyses and recommendations relevant to Asian, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander women.

HIV/AIDS and domestic violence are significant concerns for the Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AA and NHPI) community. AAs and NHPIs face a number of societal, structural and cultural barriers affecting their risk of HIV infection, ability to get tested and be linked to care. Survivors that are Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander face particular challenges not captured by traditional interventions.

For example, AA and NHPI women's risk for HIV can be influenced by a number of factors, including their immigration experience, economic status, past or current exposure to violence or trauma, and relationship status.

The full report is available on line [Download the White Paper.](#)

Legislative Update:

HB 2925 was signed by the Governor on June 2, 2011 and, because of its emergency clause, is now in effect.

The main provisions are:

- Directs release assistance officers, release assistance deputies, and courts to issue no-contact orders against defendants charged with a sex crime or a crime constituting domestic violence to be in effect while the *defendant is in custody* awaiting arraignment or trial.
- Order prohibits defendant from contacting the victim while defendant is in custody.
- Upon petition of the victim, the court may terminate the order if the court finds, after hearing, that terminating the order is in the best interest of the parties and the community.
- Violation of the Order is basis for a Contempt Charge.

ALSO:

HB 2940, proposing to make Strangulation a felony under certain circumstances, was PASSED out of the Ways and Means Public Safety Sub-Committee yesterday with a "recommendation for approval".

Here's a link to the final

bill: <http://www.leg.state.or.us/11reg/measpdf/hb2900.dir/hb2925.en.pdf>

New Housing Opportunity: Multnomah County Enters Collaboration with RAP.

In collaboration with Recovery Association Project (RAP) Multnomah County is now offering short-term rent assistance for shared housing based on the Oxford model for 20 smaller sized homeless families. The Oxford-type model may be a good fit for some domestic violence survivors. Families must be homeless, which can include coming out of a domestic violence shelter or transitional housing program.

The houses are democratically run and each resident has a role in the governance of the house, which offers valuable opportunities for empowerment and skills building. While there is not domestic violence specific advocacy on site, RAP staff offer assistance with organizing the house system, developing conflict resolution mechanisms, household budgeting and services information and referral.

Houses include common kitchens, living room, family rooms, yards and bathrooms. Rent varies by house and is in the \$350 range. While the rent assistance is short-term families can live in the housing for as long as they choose.

The model allows residents to rebuild credit, fix or create their rental history and join in a community. Pregnant women and women who are in the process of transitioning their children back into their home from the foster care system are also eligible.

If you would like to refer a family or have questions regarding the program, contact RAP representatives Julie 503-313-4805 or Monica 503-989-5706.

Trainings

June 9th, 2011 (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 an ongoing monthly meeting that focuses on community networking and resource sharing. If you have questions contact Susan Montgomery at (505)988-3064 ext. 24304.

June 21st 2011 (10:00am-12:00pm): Multnomah County Family Violence Coordinating Council Monthly Training, Multnomah County Southeast Health Clinic, 3653 SE 34th Ave, Portland OR 97202. This month's training will cover the intersections between Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Domestic Violence.' This training will explore what it means for DV survivors to experience Mental Health and/or Substance Abuse issues as well as ways in which DV Advocates can best provide support and assistance. The training will also provide an overview of the roles of A & D and Mental Health Professionals and ways for DV Advocates to coordinate a survivor's treatment. Training is Free and registration is not required. For more information please contact Vanessa Timmons at 503-988-9166 ext. 26266 or vanessa.timmons@multco.us

June 21st, 2011, (9:30am-11:30am) U.S. Citizenship and Immigration

Services (USCIS). 911 N.E. Holladay St., between N.E. 9th and N.E.

11th (adjacent to the Bonneville Power Administration). These two workshops will focus on the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), U visas (visas for victims of certain crimes), and T visas (visas for victims of human trafficking). The workshops will be conducted by staff from Washington, D.C. knowledgeable about these visas. The focus of the free workshops will be slightly different - one focused on issues unique to law enforcement and the other for service providers who assist such victims. The workshops are **NOT** for people wishing to apply for these visas. Both workshops will be held on Tuesday, June 21, 2011, in the auditorium of the federal building at The entrance to the building is on N.E. 11th. Photo ID will be required to enter. There are no limitations on the number of people who can attend.

- The first workshop will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This is for **service providers** and includes attorneys, community-based/social service organizations, congressional staffers, and other interested stakeholders.
- 2. The second workshop, for **law enforcement agencies only**, will be held from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

To RSVP, or for questions, send an email to portland.communityrelations@dhs.gov. Do not RSVP to this email.

June 29th-July 1st: 2011 Annual Conference for the Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Building Power, Promoting Safety. Seeking Possibilities. Mobilizing to Prevent Violence within all Communities. Sunriver Resort, Sunriver Oregon. This annual conference offers a wide range of information and resources focused on ending domestic and sexual violence in Oregon's communities. For registration and fee information visit the OCADSV website <http://www.ocadsv.com> or contact coalition staff at 503-230-1951.

Registration is now open for the 2nd World Conference of Women's Shelters to be held on February 27 - March 1, 2012! You can [Register now](#) for the 2nd World Conference of Women's Shelters (WCWS), which will bring together shelter advocates and grassroots activists working to end violence against women across the world. The registration cost is determined by your profession (student, NGO delegate, standard) and the country from which you are travelling. [Click here for the cost breakdown](#). The conference will have a limited number of scholarships available.

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 via email: vanessa.timmon@co.multnomah.or.us or fax: 503-988-3710. Be sure to include registration deadline and name of person to contact for additional information.

Announcements:

Family Violence Prevention Fund's (FVPF) Children and Families program :
Offers new resources focused on fathering after violence. The resource

package *Breaking the Cycle, Fathering After Violence: Curriculum Guidelines and Tools for Batterer Intervention Programs (Updated and Reprinted)* offers information, exercises and more to help batterer intervention programs begin essential conversations around helping fathers relate to their children in positive ways. The *Guidelines and Tools* package (print materials plus a CD) can be ordered [here](#).

Disability Assault/Abuse Response Team (DART): Offers Safe & Strong a domestic violence support empowerment group for women with developmental/cognitive disabilities. Each session will teach about healthy relationships. Groups are scheduled every second and third Tuesday 1:30-3:30pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for June 7th 2011. To make referrals contact Jill Tucker at jillrtucker@gmail.com or 503-725-4160.

Portland Women's Crisis Line (PWCL): The Portland Women's Crisis Line has added shelter bed availability information to its website at <http://pwcl.org/services/shelter-space/>. After checking local bed space at 8a, 12p, and 4p the webpage will be updated to reflect any available space. Contact the crisis line 503-235-5333 if you need to speak directly with an advocate.

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 via email: vanessa.timmon@multco.us or fax: 503-988-3710.

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