



Update

Family Violence Coordinating Council Newsletter

November 2011

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Dear Suzanne,

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.

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**No Meeting
Due to
Veteran's
Day Holiday**

**2011 Meeting
Schedule**

Multnomah
County Family
Violence
Coordinating
Council meets on
the
2nd Friday of
every
month. Upcoming
meeting dates
are:

**Nov 11,
2011 - No
meeting due to
Veteran's Day
Holiday**

Study Links Health Equity and Violence

Violence is a vital determinant of equity and health, and the [new fact sheet](#) released by Prevention Institute's UNITY initiative demonstrates how preventing violence is an important component of any effort to achieve health equity.

Violence affects young people of color and those living in low-income areas more than other groups, and ["Links Between Violence and Health Equity"](#) makes the case that violence is a key health equity issue. In addition to serious injury and premature death, a major determinant of trauma and other health issues, violence affects not just where people shop and go to school but also whether they walk in their neighborhood or are able to learn. Children who are afraid at school prioritize safety over learning, for example, and people are less likely to be active if the local park isn't safe. We know how to prevent violence. Young people need connection, identity, opportunity and hope, and addressing violence and lack of safety is essential for creating healthy, thriving communities.

Follow this link to find [other UNITY Fact Sheets](#) to learn how violence is closely connected to other priority community issues, such as learning, mental health and chronic illness. Visit Prevention Institute's [health equity web page](#) for additional resources.

Voices Set Free: summit sheds light on working with women who use force

Voices Set Free is non-profit domestic violence program based in Washington County, which serves women survivors of domestic and sexual violence, with a unique focus on survivors who have used violence and/or have been incarcerated. They offer support, community, and resources to help overcome the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder and disempowerment along with similar barriers in employment, long-term housing, family stabilization and personal health.

Dec 9, 2011**Jan 13, 2012**

On October 21, 2011, Voices Set Free held its first "Defining Moment" Summit at the Hillsboro Presbyterian Church. The summit, led by Outreach Coordinator Martha Duncan-Perez, offered a program which included local survivor stories captured on film, and a speaker panel featuring the only Oregon woman to have her post conviction sentence overturned after being incarcerated for ending the life of her abuser.

Quick Links

[FVCC](#)

[Domestic
Violence
Coordinator's
Office](#)

This year VSF is developing a family stabilization program to help women who have been separated from their children due to incarceration or other barriers reunite with their children and families. Strategies include education on the issues, safety for families, advocacy for women in the courts, and free counseling services.

This project will assist families by stabilizing their circumstances, thus reducing recidivism, homelessness and disconnection of children. These services are creating strong families who can participate successfully in their communities. VSF, through an Integrative Care Initiative, closes a gap in the identified needs by providing services both to a homeless and non-homeless population of whom a large portion are suffering addictions and PTSD.

VSF uses the collective wisdom of those who have experienced first hand interpersonal violence in crafting a model of healthy families. Their advocates are available to offer support and provide a presence in court rooms, parole offices, jails, prisons, homes, and agencies working with survivors reentering their community. together. VSF continually touches lives throughout multi-levels of justice work.

Currently they are in the process of video taping survivors stories for showing before Reentry Councils, and others seeking information about domestic violence survivors involved in the criminal justice system. Follow this link to view their photo exhibit "Protective Custody", by artist Cheryl Hanna-Truscott, (<http://protectivecustody.org/>.) For additional information about Voices Set Free or to make a referral to their program, contact Louise Bauschard at 503 977-8041.

VSF is a non-profit organization, founded in 1997 by Louise Bauschard, a 35 year career champion for battered women.

Violence During Pregnancy Linked To Reduced Birth Weight

NIH-supported population analysis examined records of 5 million California women.

Pregnant women who are assaulted by an intimate partner are at increased risk for giving birth to infants of reduced weight, according to a population-level analysis of domestic violence supported by the National Institutes of Health.

The study analyzed medical records of more than 5 million pregnant women in California over a 10-year period. Although the results showed a pattern of low-weight births among women who experienced an assault, the study was not

designed to establish cause and effect, and so could not prove that violence caused the reduced birth weights. Similarly, the study was not designed to provide a biological explanation for how violence against an expectant mother might cause her child to be of lower birth weight.

Findings:

Infants born to women who were hospitalized for injuries received from an assault during their pregnancies weighed, on average, one-third pound, less than did infants born to women who were not hospitalized.

Assaults in the first trimester were associated with the largest decrease in birth weight.

Although women's education level, rates of smoking, and nutritional habits are known to affect birth weight, the study concluded that the lower birth weights seen in the study could not be accounted for by these factors and were most strongly linked to the violence itself.

The overall rate of assaults was 31 per 100,000 women. The study documented higher rates of assault among the poor (49.5 per 100,000), black women (157 per 100,000), and those without a high school education (39 per 100,000) among women who were not hospitalized while pregnant (6 percent).

For every 100,000 women who gave birth in that period (1991-2002), 31 had been hospitalized for an injury from an assault while they were pregnant. Although these data did not distinguish between domestic violence and violence from other types of assault, previous research has shown that 87 percent of pregnant women with injuries were injured by an intimate partner.

The study found that among infants born to mothers who had experienced an assault, about 15 percent weighed less than 2,500 grams at birth. This rate was higher than the rate of low birth weight infants among pregnant women who were hospitalized after a car crash or for other injuries (8 to 10 percent) and more than double the rate among women who were not hospitalized while pregnant (6 percent).

To read the full summary, visit the website at [Violence During Pregnancy Linked to Reduced Birth Weight](#).

Office of Science and Technology Announces Winners of the "Apps Against Abuse" Technology Challenge

Last July, the Office of the Vice President and the White House Office of Science and Technology launched the "[Apps Against Abuse](#)" technology

challenge. The challenge called on software innovators to harness the power of mobile technology to help prevent dating violence and abuse by keeping young adults connected to trusted friends and providing easy access to important resources for help, including local police and abuse hotlines.

While women of any age can be targets of this kind of abuse, young women aged 16-24, experience the highest rates of rape and sexual assault, and 1 in 5 will be a victim of sexual assault during college. Many of these assaults occur when the offender, often an acquaintance, has targeted and isolated a young woman in vulnerable circumstances. Moreover, sixty percent of college students who have been in an abusive relationship say no one helped them.

The winning applications described below will be available for free public download beginning in early 2012 on www.hhs.gov/open.

Circle of 6: This iPhone app makes it quick and easy to reach your circle of supporters and let them know where you are and what you need. It takes two touches to get help. The app uses text messaging to contact your circle, uses GPS to locate you when needed, connects to reputable domestic violence organizations, and asks contacts to take a pledge on Facebook to stop violence before it happens.

On Watch: On Watch is an iPhone app that lets you transmit critical information by phone, email, text, and social media to your support network. You can check in with friends, call 911 or campus police with two touches of a button, set countdown timers that send messages and GPS information automatically if events or activities don't go according to plan, and connect to sexual assault, dating violence and domestic abuse hotlines.

Trainings

November 10th, 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.

November 15th, 2011 (10:00am-12:00pm): "DV Prosecution 101" training for Advocates. Multnomah County Family Violence Coordinating Council Monthly Training, Multnomah County Southeast Health Clinic, 3653 SE 34th Ave, Portland OR 97202.

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.

SAVE THE DATE: June 4-8, 2012: State Victims Assistance

Academy, Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST). Please direct all questions regarding this training to Mary Sasaki, SVAA Coordinator csasakior@comcast.net

Note: We would love to include your next training in our training list. If your organization sponsors a conference or training and you would like to have it listed in the Update send conference/training information to Update editor Vanessa Timmons via email:

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

Announcements:

NEW RESOURCE: Moving Upstream 7-2 is the second of a two-part series designed to help primary prevention practitioners think critically about how people experience prevention theory, and strategically build program components to make prevention initiatives effective. You can download a free copy at:

<http://www.vsdvalliance.org/secPublications/Moving%20Upstream%207-2.pdf>.

To view the previous issue (Part 1 of this series), go to:

[http://www.vsdvalliance.org/secPublications/Moving Upstream 7-1.pdf](http://www.vsdvalliance.org/secPublications/Moving%20Upstream%207-1.pdf)

NEW RESOURCE: *Information for Domestic Violence Shelters about Federal Anti-Discrimination Laws.* The National Center now has two tip sheets available that provide information about shelter compliance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, the Fair Housing Act, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act laws that apply to domestic violence shelters. The first tip sheet contains recommended practices for shelter qualification and intake processes. The second contains recommended practices during the provision of services to survivors of domestic violence residing at a shelter. Click to download: [Tip Sheet #1: Shelter Qualification and Intake](#) and [Tip Sheet #2: Provision of Services](#).

NEW RESOURCE: The F.C.C. has [a guide to using 911 services on a wireless phone](#) online, with a PDF version designed for printing available for download. The agency is also working on modernizing the 911 system to include texting, video and other types of information that can be used to request help. Julius Genachowski, the chairman of the F.C.C., [outlined the future plans for 911](#) late last year. Because of the 911 service requirement, many organizations collect used cell phones to distribute to individuals who may need emergency services, like senior citizens living alone or victims of domestic violence. Sites like the [Volunteer Guide](#) and the [911 Cell Phone Bank](#) have more information.

California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA): CALCASA is looking for consultants to work on assessments of capacity to conduct primary prevention activities. They have two opportunities - one for the California RPE program and one for the national PreventConnect project. For more information go to <http://calcasa.org/calcasa/calcasa-is-looking-for-assessment-consultants/> for the request for proposals, or contact David S. Lee 916-446-2520 x 309 david@calcasa.org

Safe Havens for Pets Mapping Project: The Animal Welfare Institute announces its latest resource, Safe Haven for Pets mapping project.

The following link

<http://www.awionline.org/ht/display/ReleaseDetails/i/49119/pid/200>

takes you to their recent press release. If you have additional questions contact Nancy Blaney, Senior Policy Advisor 202-446-2141

www.awionline.org/safehavens

Gateway Center for Domestic Violence Services Holiday

Schedule:The Gateway Center is planning to be closed for the following holidays:

- November 11, Friday, Veterans Day.
- November 24, 25, Thursday and Friday, Thanksgiving.
- December 26, Monday, Day after Christmas.
- January 2, Monday, Day After News Year.

Please make a note of these dates when you refer clients for drop in services. If you have any questions, contact Diana Lee, 503-988-6400

Abuse Recovery Ministries (ARMS): ARMS is looking for facilitators who would be interested in leading domestic violence intervention groups from a Christian perspective in the Gresham area. Please call Stacey Womack, Executive Director, for more information at 503-846-9284. www.armsonline.org

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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