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Update

Family Violence Coordinating Council Newsletter

May 2011

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Meeting Agenda

May 13, 2011
Portland Building,
1120 SW 5th Ave,
Room 2b

12:15-12:25
Introductions and
Announcements

12:25-12:35
New Member Application

12:35-1:15
Criminal Justice System
Updates

1:15-1:30
Legislative & Budget
Update

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.

IRIS Project: Safety Planning Research Project Opens Recruitment

Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing and Oregon Health & Science University has begun a multi-site 5-year study to test the usefulness of the first interactive internet-based safety decision aid for abused women. The purpose of the study is to learn even more about how to support women in unsafe relationships with their safety decisions and to develop a safety planning resource for survivors. This tool may be particularly useful for survivors who may not have access to formal services.

Findings from a pilot study of the safety decision aid with both advocates and survivors suggests that it offered women privacy to consider personalized safety options, informed them about danger in their relationship, provided useful safety planning and resource information, and would be used again if they had access to it through a safe internet site.

Here is what the study team heard in the pilot of the safety decision aid:

"wished I had this kind of info when I was in an abusive relationship. Would have changed the way I dealt with things and made me more decisive about the direction I wanted to take.

"I liked that it was easy to use. I could go as

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quickly or slowly as I wanted, could go through it at my own pace, and didn't feel judged"

"It is great to be able to go back to the website and see your safety plan, not have to have a print out lying around your house. "

"really liked the visuals at the end of the tool such as the graph of the danger assessment, it spoke volumes to me"

"It is educational, informative, supportive and could create an avenue to empower someone to take control of their next move into a safe environment."

The study will include 180 women, 18 years and older, from anywhere in Oregon who, Speak English or Spanish, are currently in an abusive relationship, and feel comfortable using a computer and have access to a safe computer with internet.

Women will be asked to complete a confidential computerized survey at four time points (baseline, 3, 6 and 12 months post baseline). All women in the study will receive a safety plan with resources for themselves and their children. The control group will receive a standard safety plan while the intervention group receives a personalized safety plan based on participant's priorities and unique situation. **Women will be compensated for their time and expertise.**

If would like to refer clients, or if your agency would be willing to post flyers to help find eligible women, please contact: **Jamie Barnes**, OHSU Research Associate @ 503-312-3587 or email her at barnejam@ohsu.edu. Or for more information about the study contact:

Dr. Nancy Glass, Principal Investigator 410-614-2849
nglass1@son.jhmi.edu

Amber Clough, Research Program Coordinator
503-267-9971 aclough2@son.jhmi.edu

Portland State criminology professor uses databases to inform police response in domestic violence cases

Of the 5,000 reports of domestic violence that Portland police receive each year, the domestic violence unit is only able to investigate about 500. So how do they choose which cases to take on?

Work by Criminology and Criminal Justice Professor Kris Henning is helping inform those difficult decisions.

Without additional information, police often pursue suspects who are the easiest to find, rather than the most dangerous or those most likely to revictimize their intimate partner.

By contrast, decisions made later in the criminal justice system rely on proven research that assesses a criminal's likelihood of recidivism. Offenders with personality dysfunctions, those with an extensive criminal history outside the home, and those who are abusing alcohol or drugs are at significantly higher risk to commit more crimes. Studies have proven that focusing our limited correctional supervision and treatment resources on offenders at highest risk results in better outcomes as a system.

"We need to incorporate this same objective decision-making earlier in the criminal justice process," Henning says.

To address this, in 2007 he redesigned the incident reporting form used by Portland police, adding new questions and including a special interview section to allow for victim input. Henning also built a database that assembles information from the previous day's domestic violence reports, and ranks suspects according to the likelihood of future violence. That enables shift sergeants to better and more quickly respond to the highest risk situations.

In the three years that the Portland Police domestic violence unit has used the system, case clearance rates have risen slightly. High-risk offenders are often responsible for several open cases. A single arrest may lead to solving many crimes. Henning and Sgt. Greg Stewart from the Portland Police Bureau have had inquiries from other law enforcement agencies looking to improve their procedures.

Now, Henning is taking a similar approach to addressing burglaries, only 15 percent of which are ever solved nationwide. "The low clearance rate for burglaries results from having too many cases, limited evidence at most crime scenes, and insufficient resources for follow-up investigation," says Henning.

Studies show that burglars tend to work close to home and will commit several break-ins in a short period of time. So, Henning developed a database that allows investigators to quickly identify burglaries with similar characteristics, including location and timeframe. Now Portland officers can more easily connect related incidents, pool the evidence, and then collar the criminals.

This article was first published on the PSU website at <http://www.pdx.edu/profile/tactical-response>

New report on Women in America highlights

statistical trends in domestic and sexual violence.

The Council on Women and Girls, the Office of management and Budget and the Economics and Statistics Administration within the Department of Commerce has recently released their report *Women in America: Indicators of Social and Economic Well Being* which, for the first time in recent history, pulls together information from across the Federal statistical agencies to compile baseline information on how women are faring in the United States today and how these trends have changed over time. The report provides a statistical portrait showing how women's lives are changing in five critical areas People, families and income, education, employment, health and crime and violence. The report includes important domestic and sexual violence statistical trends.

Trends include:

Sexual victimization and intimate partner violence disproportionately affects women.

Intimate partners were responsible for 5 percent of all violence against males and 26 percent of all violence against females in 2008.

The rate of nonfatal intimate partner violence against women declined by more than 50 percent between 1994 and 2008.

Since the violence Against Women Act in 1994 and other legislation, changes in law and practice have promoted, and in some cases mandated law enforcement involvement in domestic violence. While crimes against both women and men have declined nationally, it is important to bear in mind that crime rates vary by regional and local conditions and by type of crime. There are many possible explanations as to why crime rates have dropped in the past two decades but little agreement as to the principle causes. Click here [Women in America \(pdf\)](#) to view or download a free copy of the report.

Trainings

May 12th, 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 month there will be a panel of expert's discussing the topic of domestic violence. 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.

May 14th, 2011 (9:00am-4:00pm): Women, Love and Self Care, it's your time! Portland State University, Shattuck Hall, Room 212. This is a free workshop for women exploring issues of love, self esteem, and self care. Registration is required www.pdx.edu/ws email itsyourtime@pdx.edu or call 503-725-9624.

May 17th 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 months training will cover how domestic violence cases are handled by the Domestic Violence Reduction Unit (DVRU) of the Portland Police Bureau, as well as the advocacy services provided by DVRU Response Advocates. Training provided by Sara-Daisy Dygert, a Home Free Bilingual Response Advocate Out-Stationed at DVRU and DVRU Officers Nate Tobey and Jim Ferner. For more information please contact Vanessa Timmons at 503-988-9166 ext. 84114 or vanessa.timmons@multco.us

May 20th 2011 (8:30-5:00): Social Security Disability Benefits Advocate Training. Molly's Fund is sponsoring this event. Kaiser Permanente Town Hall, 3074 N Interstate Ave, Portland OR, 97227. Participants will learn to advocate for disabled and chronically ill as they apply for Social Security Disability Benefits. Certificates of participation will be offered at the end of the training. To register fax email or mail completed registration form available at <http://mollysfund.org/>. In order to attend payment of 35.00 is required by May 11th, 2011. If you have questions email info@mollysfund.org

May 21st 2011: International domestic violence advocates training series.

The Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center is holding an International Domestic Violence Volunteer Advocate Training series in Portland, Oregon. For more information on the series contact Samaneh Ardestani, samaneha@866uswomen.org or call 503-203-1444

Saturday, May 21st, 9:30am - 4pm

Monday, May 23rd, 6pm - 9pm

Wednesday, May 25th, 6pm -9pm

May 27, 2011 (2:00 - 3:30 pm): Gang-Related Violence against Women.

This webinar will examine gang-related violence among teens and young adults, gang culture, and the gang member as an abuser. The session will also review abduction, recruitment, and the violence involved in the sexual exploitation of young women. Learn about the violence, tactics, and recruitment methods utilized by gangs and receive recommendations of victim-centered

criminal justice responses to address gang-related violence against women and girls. For additional information or to register please visit:

<http://www.aequitasresource.org/trainingDetail.cfm?id=67>

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

Announcements:

Disability Assault/Abuse Response Team (DART):

Offers Safe & Strong a domestic violence support empowerment group for women with developmental and/or 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.

Access to Recovery: Drug and alcohol services are often difficult to access and A&D systems can often be confusing and overwhelming to navigate. To help meet the tremendous need for services The Oregon Health Authority has launched the Access to Recovery program. Impact Northwest was chosen to be an agency that screens and assesses participants for the program. They will be operating the program out of the Dancing Tree Family Center at 10055 E. Burnside St. Portland, OR 97216. All ATR services are completely FREE to the participant-

Including the treatment to which participants are referred. If you have questions you can contact Jana Hakova (503)988-6000x254.

Free flights: Angel Flight, AFW is a 501(c) 3 non-profit - volunteer pilots providing free flights in small aircraft. Their network of volunteer pilots provides free flights for medical appointments. At times, they are also able to transport victims of domestic violence. Contact person, Raoul Van Landuyt, would like to speak with program representatives in order to give them more information regarding the services available through Angel Flight. Individuals and programs can contact Raoul at coastflyer@msn.com for more information contact AFW at (888) 426-2643 visit their website at

Free On-Line Violence Prevention Course!

Each year, more than 53,000 people lose their lives to violence. In addition to the tremendous physical and emotional toll, violence has substantial medical and lost productivity costs. In 2000, these totaled more than \$70 billion in the United States. The figure grows when we add criminal justice system costs, social services, and other expenses.

As Dr. Rodney Hammond, Director of CDC's Division of Violence Prevention, says, "Violence isn't something that just happens that you can't do anything about. It can be prevented."

One way CDC is helping the nation prevent violence is a free on-line course that's available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It's called Principles of Prevention. The course-which offers continuing education credits-teaches key concepts of primary prevention, the public health approach, and the social-ecological model.

Participants complete interactive exercises to learn to help prevent five types of violence:

- Child abuse and neglect
- Intimate partner violence
- Sexual violence
- Suicide
- Youth violence

The course is designed for those working to stop violence from ever happening. It helps professionals move from the problem to the solution. The course is available at www.vetoviolence.org/pop. For additional information on Principles of Prevention, contact Jennifer Middlebrooks jod5@cdc.gov

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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