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# Update

## Family Violence Coordinating Council Newsletter

April 2011

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**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.

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### Meeting Agenda

March 11th 2011  
12:15-1:30 PM

Chiquita Rollins Retirement Celebration

**Multnomah County and the Family Violence Coordinating Council are delighted to welcome Annie Neal as the new Director of the Domestic Violence Coordination Office!**

Annie will assume the duties of the Director on April 1, 2011. She is well-known to the Council, and has worked on several important projects in her 13 years as a member of the Office. Most recently, she has been the lead staff on developing and implementing the Safe Start Project, the contested restraining order court watch, and the current Defending Childhood Initiative. She has developed a breadth and depth of knowledge about the resources available in Multnomah County and the region, and how to navigate the many complex institutions and agencies that survivors seek services from.

Annie has worked in the field for 21 years, and has been with Multnomah County since 1998. She holds a Masters in Public Administration from Portland State University, and is well known for her dedication to families seeking safety from domestic and sexual violence, her collaborative work with system partners, and her deep commitment to the rights of children. We are all excited to support her as she directs the work of this office.

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his month's Family Violence Coordinating Council (FVCC) meeting provides an opportunity for FVCC, Multnomah County and community partners to honor Chiquita Rollins for her 19 years of advocacy for victims of domestic violence in Oregon.

### Quick Links

[Domestic Violence Coordinator's Office](#)

### Coming Soon

[DV Video Resources](#)

[FVCC](#)

### Update Correction

The article titled "[National Survey on Children's Exposure to Violence: Witnessing Domestic Violence Is](#)"

**Domestic Violence in Native American Communities: Things to remember when working with Native American Survivors.**

(Excerpted from the handout "Things to remember" by Tawna Sanchez. Tawna)

Alaska Native (AN) and Native American (NA) women and men often report higher rates of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) than women and men of other minority backgrounds. According to the National Violence against Woman Survey over 37% of AN/NA woman and 12.4% of men are victims of IPV in their lifetime. These are the highest rates of any ethnic group. Working with survivors who are of AN/NA decent requires an understanding of native culture, as well as the historical roots and the current impacts of oppression and racism.

There are approximately 564 tribal bands and/or nations both recognized and not recognized, by the US

***Associated With  
Other Forms of  
Childhood***

***Victimization***" in our February newsletter contained an error regarding the strong association between domestic violence and custodial interference. About 1 in 5 children and youth who have a lifetime history of witnessing domestic violence also experience custodial interference, compared to only 1.5% of children who have never witnessed partner violence.

government. There is no one set of rules that can cover all of them. The information provided in this article is general information and designed to outline some but not all of the cultural differences.

1. Often people will try to relate to native survivors by telling them that their great-great grandmother was a Cherokee princess. While the survivor may be nice about it this is rarely helpful and does not help survivors to feel more connected. There are several problems with this, you are putting yourself above the survivor by stating that there is royalty in your family and not theirs and most native tribes don't have royalty in their tribal systems.
2. Physical contact with someone that is not a close relative is inappropriate. It may seem natural or even comforting to you to put your arm around or put your hand on a survivors shoulder, knee or hand; however in many native cultures such contact is too intimate for someone outside immediate family and close friends.
3. Touching a survivors or her children's hair is inappropriate; hair is very sacred and is considered by many native tribes to be as much a part of the body as the heart or lungs.
4. It is inappropriate to ask questions out of your own curiosity about survivors' traditions, religious practices or the various meanings and names of sacred objects. If you have a concern that relates to shelter security or safety concerns ask questions, but don't make native survivors your cultural teachers.
5. Assumptions are sometimes made that all native people receive money from the government or tribal casinos. This is not true. Most tribal peoples do not receive any money from the government and often live below the poverty line. Not all tribes have casinos, and those that do don't necessarily distribute funds directly to tribal members. Also, not all native people are registered tribal members, so many may not be able to access tribal services. Additionally, those who are enrolled in federally recognized tribes may not have access to services provided by their tribes because they have moved due to domestic violence.
6. The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) is a Federal law enacted to protect native children from being removed from native families and being placed in non-native homes. The Act requires that native children who are removed from their home for whatever reason are placed with relatives and/or in a native home first. They may be placed in non-native homes only as a last resort. It is important to know that if a survivor is a tribal member and her children are not s/he may or may not be able to access services through the ICWA in order to assist with custody issues regarding their children.
7. As with many minority cultures food is a concern when a native survivor is in a domestic violence or homeless shelter. Native people are sometimes lactose intolerant, which means s/he may not be able to digest dairy products. Also, the survivor and their children may be more accustomed to foods that are readily available on the reservation such as Salmon. Native Americans have for many years been subject to the USDA food commodities programs and may be cautious at first when trying new foods.
8. Family is very important in native communities. Establishing familial ties is the first priority when meeting new native people in a community. The impact of 1950's relocation has had far reaching effects. When native families relocated to cities not all of the family chose to go, leaving families to create close ties in the cities with other native people that they were not related to. These relationships are as equally important as biological relationships. Native people may also have a different way of expressing familial ties; e.g. a first cousin is considered a brother or sister. Native communities have found the need to maintain family ties a struggle when coming into domestic violence and homeless shelters. It is isolating for native survivors when s/he is unable to share the shelter location with safe family members or have safe contact.
9. It is often a concern for native survivors living in shelter to get time out of shelter for funerals, social

events and ceremonies. A native funeral can last between 2-7 days with the average being 4 days. This might also include extra time for travel to and from the funeral site. Summer ceremonies as well as Powwows can last for 3-7 days depending on the location. These ceremonies are very important to native families; they help to carry on sacred traditions. This is not to say shelters need to change their rules just for native survivors, however it is something to look at in terms of cultural awareness and understanding. It may seem odd to you that a survivor is willing to give up safe shelter for a ceremony, but to native survivors it may not be that simple.

10. Native people tend to have a long history of mistrust of the legal system due to a long history of treaties being broken over the years. Fear of the legal system prevents many native people from seeking help with legal issues and often leaves them in worse situations with the law. The legal and social service programs have been responsible for forced removal of native children from their homes and families under the guise of providing a "healthy home". The majority of Native American children are not removed due to abuse; they are removed for neglect that is more often than not the result of poverty.

### **Online Resources for Working with Native American and Alaskan Native Survivors of Domestic Abuse:**

American Indians and Crime: A BJS Statistical Profile, 1992-2002: <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/Publications.aspx?SortOrder=Title> this report updates a previous Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) report, The report describes victim-offender relationships, the race of those involved in violence against Indians, and the rate of reporting to police by victims.

#### [Raising Public Awareness on Domestic Violence in Indian Country](#)

This is a guide for promoting public education in rural and Native American communities. Authors: Karen Artichoker and Verlaine Gullickson

#### [Violence Against Women in American Indian/Native American & Alaska Native Communities](#)

The organizations listed on this resource page provide information, services, and advocacy-based materials for American Indian/Native American & Alaska Native communities and those who work on their behalf. Authors: National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRC DV)

Tawna Sanchez is the Director of Family Services, NAYA Family Center - Healing Circle. For more information about the handout contact Tawna at [tawnas@navapdx.org](mailto:tawnas@navapdx.org)

### **Domestic Violence Resources Online: current domestic violence research and best practices**

The Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse works to increase knowledge on violence against women and children through research, education and free access to high-quality information. Their website <http://www.mincava.umn.edu/newsletter/Spring2011.html> has current information on best practices, research and training focused on domestic violence. Resources include:

**Study of International Child Abduction and Domestic Violence Completed**  
**The Hague Domestic Violence Project, a collaboration between the Universities of Minnesota and Washington, recently completed a four year, National Institute of Justice funded study of battered mothers who had taken their children from other countries and then faced legal actions in US courts to return their child to their abusive husbands under the Hague Convention on international child abduction. Read the full report and Executive Summary online at <http://www.haguedv.org>**

## **Mobilizing Men in Violence Prevention**

The Global Research Program on Mobilizing Men for Violence Prevention (MMVP) is currently working on several different projects. Last Spring, they completed a global survey of individuals and programs that work to engage men in preventing violence against women. The data is currently being analyzed and a full report will soon be posted to the MMVP website, <<http://www.mincava.umn.edu/mmvp>>.

## **VAWnet - Domestic Violence Applied Research Project**

VAWnet <<http://vawnet.org/>> is an online resource for advocates working to end domestic violence, sexual assault, and other violence in the lives of women and their children. MINCAVA staff facilitate the VAWnet Domestic Violence Applied Research project. This research forum develops a series of concise documents on current research topics. The recently completed project, Economic Empowerment of Domestic Violence Survivors by Judy L. Postmus can be found online at <[http://new.vawnet.org/Assoc\\_Files\\_VAWnet/AR\\_EcoEmpowerment.pdf](http://new.vawnet.org/Assoc_Files_VAWnet/AR_EcoEmpowerment.pdf)>:

## **Violence Against Women Online Resources Project Updates**

The Violence Against Women Online Resources (VAWOR) is a collaborative project between MINCAVA and the Office on Violence Against Women at the

U.S. Department of Justice.

VAWOR is currently developing a series of very brief research, policy, or best practice documents on violence against women. They work with national research and practice experts to develop short documents that provide concise information on new research, best practices, emerging policies and other issues of interest to policymakers and practitioners nationwide.

Currently they are developing 18 different briefs regarding several aspects of violence against women. The topics range from sexual violence in later life to the use of technology in teen dating violence. They are interested and requesting ideas for new topics for the in-brief series, so please email <[vawor@umn.edu](mailto:vawor@umn.edu)> with any suggestions!

Also, check out the VAWOR Online Library <<http://vaw.umn.edu/>> which has a total of 226 resource documents such as training curricula, research articles, and best practices guidelines.

May 3 & 4 2011: **SAVE THE DATE, A Call to Men:**

Training Institute on Engaging Men and Boys to Prevent Domestic and Sexual Violence. The Institute is FREE. For more information visit: [www.ocadsv.org](http://www.ocadsv.org)

## **Trainings:**

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**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](mailto: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.

## **Resources and Announcements:**

**When She Hits Him: Why Gender & Context Matter:** Ellen Pence Open plenary speech. To access a video of Ellen Pence's plenary keynote session, given during the November 2010 BISC-MI Conference. In order to view the 1.5 hour plenary click on the link below: <http://www.biscmi.org/wshh/biscmiellenpence2010.html>

**Research Article available online** "Serving Women Who Use Force in Their Intimate Heterosexual Relationships"

...can be downloaded at [Larance2006ServingWomenWhoUseForce.pdf](#). This article explores the author's practice observations while working with women who use force (WWUF) in their intimate heterosexual relationships. The program's approach to assessment, education and support, and advocacy frames a description of the impact services have had on the lives of WWUF.

**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](mailto:vanessa.timmon@multco.us) or fax: 503-988-3710.

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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