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FVCC Newsletter | DV and Economic Justice | June 2012

1 message

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June 2012



UPDATE

Dear Suzanne,

This month's edition of the Multnomah County Family Violence Coordinating Council's *Update* newsletter focuses on domestic violence and economic justice.

Domestic violence is affected by many factors, but one of the most significant influences on victim safety is economic security. Lack of resources, fear of homelessness, and lack of access to affordable housing and living wage jobs can all work against a survivor's ability to establish safety. This month's newsletter features a look at how the economic downturn affects domestic violence; how the gender wage gap affects domestic violence; and the costs of domestic violence.

In This Issue[The Real Costs of Domestic Violence](#)[On the 'Net...](#)[Announcing...](#)[Save the Date...](#)[Join Our Mailing List!](#)**Upcoming FVCC Meeting**

12:15-1:30, Friday, June 8, 2012
1120 SW 5th Avenue Room 2B

The Real Costs of Domestic Violence**What Is Economic Justice?**

In 2009, Lee Alcott, Executive Director of the Barren River Area Safe Space, Inc., defined **economic justice** as a set of principles and practices used to promote safe access to that which is due someone.

For many domestic violence victims, financial control and economic abuse are often a part of their experiences in an abusive relationship.

Examples of economic abuse include controlling finances or withholding access to money, making the

victim financially dependent, and disrupting or not allowing the victim to go to work or school.

Economic justice programming in domestic violence agencies work to overcome these barriers include [asset building](#), facilitating access to services at financial institutions, removing barriers to earning a living wage, and increasing survivors' opportunities for self sufficiency.

Domestic Violence and the Economic Downturn

In the fall of 2011, the [Center for Domestic Peace](#) reported that nationally 80% of domestic violence shelters report an increase in women seeking assistance from abuse, and 75% attribute this rise in abuse to financial issues. Domestic violence can be magnified - not caused - by economic downturn and leave survivors with few options for escaping domestic violence due to lack of resources. The Center reports, "Low-income women in particular often face multiple levels of bias and discrimination that reduce their options for safety and financial security, e.g. landlords may not want to lease to a single mother whose rent is subsidized by the government." The [National Network to End Domestic Violence](#) states, "The economic climate may give batterers additional leverage when using emotional and financial abuse to control their partners."

The Gender Wage Gap and Domestic Violence

The [Institute for Women's Policy Research](#) recently reported that women still earn only 82 cents for every dollar that men earn. Researchers have identified that decreases in women's wage gap helps to reduce violence against women, and that the downward trend in domestic violence victimization may have. Researcher [Anna Aizer](#) found that women's earning potential influences their level of "bargaining" power in a relationship, and that women with higher earning potential tend to experience less violence. Her research also suggests that improving pay parity between men and women will not only address equity, but also will also contribute reduce individual and social costs by reducing violence against women and improving women's health overall.



Economic Cost of Domestic Violence in the U.S.

The [Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence](#) reports, "The cost of domestic violence to the US economy is more than \$8.3 billion. This cost includes medical care, mental health services, and lost productivity (e.g., time away from work). (Max W, Rice DP, Finkelstein E, Bardwell RA, Leadbetter S. [The economic toll of intimate partner violence against women in the United States](#). *Violence and Victims* 2004;19(3):259-72.)"

Community Costs of Domestic Violence

The Advocates for Human Rights acknowledge numerous studies regarding the direct costs of domestic violence. In their article, "[Community Costs of Domestic Violence](#)," they also describe indirect costs like negative health consequences for victims and society as a whole, reproductive health problems, negative health effects on children of abused (lower immunization rates, disruptions in home life, interrupted education and higher drop-out rate), enormous pain and suffering of victims of domestic violence reducing their quality of life. They further state that "...the economic impact of domestic violence is felt far beyond the financial well-being of its victims, affecting businesses, governments, and entire national economies. Given its far-reaching economic repercussions, developing and developed nations alike simply cannot afford to ignore domestic violence."

Further substantiation is provided in "[Family Business or Social Problem? The Cost of Unreported Domestic Violence](#)," where researchers state, "Social interest in problems such as domestic violence is typically motivated by concerns regarding equity, rather than efficiency. However, we document that taking steps to reduce domestic violence by reporting it yields substantial benefits to external parties. Specifically, we find that while children exposed to as-yet-unreported domestic violence reduce the achievement of their classroom peers, these costs disappear completely once the parent reports the violence to the court. This suggests the public has an interest in helping families overcome their problems in general, and to report domestic violence in particular. It also suggests that social and

judicial interventions may help combat negative peer effects in schools."

On The Net...



1. [Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence](#): This includes a plethora of scientific studies, facts and stats and best practices.
2. [Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States](#): This 2003 report is by National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services.
3. [Domestic Violence Facts](#): This factsheet - which includes a section on the economic impact of domestic violence - is by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence.
4. [Economic Abuse](#): This website of Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW) includes a description of this abuse as well as links to additional resources.
5. [The Health Care Costs of Domestic and Sexual Violence](#): This three-page document describes the substantial burden of DV/SV on the health care system, includes section on price paid by children and 17 references.
6. [The Hidden Costs in Health Care: The Economic Impact of Violence and Abuse](#): This 12-page report of 2009 is published by the Academy on Violence and Abuse.
7. [Measuring the Effects of Domestic Violence on Women's Financial Well-Being](#): This document was prepared for the "Exploring the Intersection Between Financial Capacity and Domestic Violence" workshop, which took place in 2011 at the U. S. Department of the Treasury.

Announcing...



El Programa Hispano - [Project UNICA](#) announces a 40-hour domestic violence/sexual assault training to be offered in Spanish - tentatively set for August 21 - September 11. Staff and volunteers from other agencies and outside professionals are all invited to attend. Contact Kara Romero, Volunteer Coordinator, at [503-688-2503](tel:503-688-2503) or KRomero@catholiccharitiesoregon.org.

Calling all LGBTQ Portlanders in metro area! Bradley Angle's LGBTQ Program is surveying the LGBTQ community. Please help us out by taking our 5-10 minutes [survey](#) or forward it to your LGBTQ participants, clients, friends and family. Survey results will be used to help implement new and more relevant programming for LGBTQ survivors! Questions? Contact Lupita Mendez at lupitam@bradleyangle.org or 503-595-9591 x305.

Stand for Children's [Beat the Odds](#) scholarship is a \$2,500 college scholarship, renewable for four years (up to \$10,000) for students who have overcome personal hardships to succeed in school. The scholarship is for students who will graduate in 2013. Deadline is September 17, 2012.

[The Asian and Pacific Islander Community in Multnomah County: An Unsettling Profile](#), Portland, OR: Portland State University, Curry-Stevens, A. & Coalition of Communities of Color (2012): authors state, "This report is the most comprehensive undertaking to detail the experiences of those in the Asian and Pacific Islander (API) community in Multnomah county to date."

The Office of Justice Programs is pleased to announce that the June 2011 launch of the [CrimeSolutions.gov](#), recognized by The Crime Report as one of the "Ten Most Significant Criminal Justice Stories of 2011." This site provides ratings of evidence-based programs. Based on the Study Reviewers' assessment of the evidence, programs included on CrimeSolutions.gov are rated as either

Effective, Promising, or No Effects.

Save the Date...



June 13 & 14 | Webinar | "Don't Let Prevention Stand Alone: Integrating Prevention Efforts in Your Agency and Community," by [PreventConnect](#) with presenters Annie Lyles & Menaka Mohan

June 17 (starting at 11:30 a.m.) | Parade | Bradley Angle invites all domestic violence service providers to march with us in this year's LGBTQ Pride Parade. Contact Lupita Mendez at lupitam@bradleyangle.org for

where to meet up.

June 19 | FVCC Training | "Intimate Partner Sexual Violence" presented by Ally King and Monica Weitzel of Portland Women's Crisis Line. This training will discuss the nature and prevalence of sexual violence within abusive relationships. We will identify dynamics that make survivors' experiences of IPSV unique to the DV/SA field. Additionally we will choose and explore strategies for supporting survivors. *Monthly training is sponsored by the Family Violence Coordinating Council: 3rd Tuesday of each month, 10 a.m. to 12 noon, location: Southeast Health Center, basement conference room, 3653 SE 34th Ave, just south of Powell Blvd., Portland, OR 97202.*

June 18-July 18 (6-9 p.m., Mon/Tue/Wed - not July 4) | Training | "Domestic Violence Advocacy" sponsored by YWCA, Portland, OR; contact Choya Adkison-Stevens, Social Change Facilitator, at [503-294-7480](tel:503-294-7480) or choyaa@ywcapdx.org.

June 26-28 | Conference | "Building Your Toolbox, Tools for the Future," by Oregon Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence at Sunriver Resort, Sunriver, OR. Online conference [registration](#).

July 21-25 | Conference | "Preserving Our Roots While Looking to the Future," 15th National Conference Domestic Violence of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence and 37th conference of the National Organization for Men Against Sexism (NOMAS) on Men and Masculinity. [Prices go up on July 1st.](#)

August 13-14 | Conference | "Domestic Violence and African Americans: Unpacking the Significance of Our Diversity," sponsored by Institute on Domestic Violence in African American Community, University of Minnesota: Sheraton Norfolk Waterside, Norfolk, VA, [612-624-5357](tel:612-624-5357) or 1-877-NIDVAAC or info@idvaac.org.

Source of graphic illustrations: google.images

Please forward this to colleagues, friends and family who might be interested in this newsletter. If you have a story you would like to share about your organization, send it to Ruth Jensen, Editor, at ruth.jensen@multco.us or fax to 503-988-3710. Thank you!

The FVCC Update is published monthly.

Ruth Jensen, Editor

Suzanne Guy, Layout

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