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FVCC Update | The Current Status of VAWA | January 2013

1 message

Multnomah County <webmaster@co.multnomah.or.us>

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January 2013



UPDATE

Dear Suzanne Guy,

In this January 2013 edition of *Update*, guest writer Sybil Hebb shares clarification and updates on the current status of the federal Violence Against Women Act.



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Upcoming FVCC Meeting

Next FVCC Meeting:

Friday, February 8th, 2013
1120 SW 5th Avenue
Room 2C
12:15-1:30

Agenda

Presentations by CARES
Northwest and Central City
Concern

Budget Committee Update

Review of Prioritization from
December Meeting

Proposed Focus Areas for 2013

VAWA 2012 Update and Clarification by Sybil Hebb

Hello all,

There have been many questions recently about the current status of the federal Violence Against Women Act. Here is my attempt to clarify the current situation, based on information I have gathered from our national allies:

- VAWA is a federal law that was first passed in 1994. It has been amended and re-authorized several times since then. VAWA accomplished many things:
 - Substantive law protections: Among other things, VAWA created the federal crime of interstate domestic violence, established federal housing protections for survivors, and prohibited gun possession by perpetrators who have been convicted of misdemeanor crimes of dv or who have qualifying restraining orders against them. These provisions are permanent protections - they stay in existence until modified or repealed.
 - Funding and grant programs: VAWA authorized several federal grant programs, for which federal dollars have been appropriated to award to eligible grantees. These grant programs generally need to be re-authorized periodically, so that they can continue to receive dollars appropriated by Congress for award to grantees. If these grant programs are not re-authorized periodically, it is harder to get money appropriated.
- Attempts to Re-Authorize and Amend VAWA in 2012 Failed:
 - Substantive law protections: There was an effort to amend VAWA's substantive law provisions to (among other things) expand housing protections for sexual assault survivors, expand protections for native American survivors and provide better coverage for LGBTQ survivors. We are grateful for the work done by our allies on this effort, but unfortunately, these improvements did not pass. However, **none** of the pre-existing VAWA protections (housing protections, gun dispossession laws, etc.) were rolled back or repealed.
 - Funding and grant programs: The recent efforts also focused on "re-authorization" of the grant programs. These efforts also failed, despite incredibly hard work by our allies. The failure to re-authorize VAWA in 2012 does not have any impact on current grant programs, but does have a somewhat negative impact on future efforts to get more funds appropriated for future grants.

Sybil Hebb
Director of Legislative Advocacy
Oregon Law Center

Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Reintroduced in 113th Congress

On January 23, 2013, Senators Leahy (D-Vt) and Crapo (R-Id) reintroduced the Violence Against Women Act of 2013 in the US Senate, and US Rep. Moore (D-Wi.) and Conyers (D-Mi) reintroduced a companion bill in the House of Representatives.

The Senate version proposes expanding protections to LGBTQ, immigrant, and tribal victims of domestic violence. The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 will also provide a five year authorization for VAWA programs, and reduce authorized funding levels by more than \$135 million, or 17 percent, from the law's 2005 authorization. Senate bill S.47 is co-sponsored by Oregon Senators Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden.

For more information about this bill, click [here](#). For information about how you can take action to support this legislation, click [here](#).

On The Net...



[The 5 Best Ways to Build Resiliency](#) - Why do some people bounce back from adversity and misfortune? Why do others fall apart? Find out which character strengths make all the difference, and how you can develop them yourself. Read more on [The Road to Resilience](#).

The Safe Start Center has a great [collection of resources addressing children and youth exposed to violence](#). The latest toolkit includes resources for court-related professionals including a checklist to screen for poly-victimization exposure and symptoms.

Announcing...



Congratulations to Amy Holmes-Hehn, newly appointed judge for the Multnomah County Circuit Court. "Ms. Holmes Hehn received a Bachelor of Science from Willamette University and a Doctor of Jurisprudence from Suffolk University College of Law. Ms. Holmes Hehn has served as a prosecutor in the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office for 25 years, most recently as the head of the Domestic Violence Unit. She previously served as the head of the Juvenile Unit and has served on the Office's Multidisciplinary Child Abuse Team. Ms. Holmes Hehn has dedicated her personal and professional life to the service of children and families. She has extensive community service working with various task forces and organizations including the Multnomah County Family Violence Coordinating Council and the Oregon Law Commission Juvenile Code Revision Work Group." ([source](#))

On December 12, 2012, Attorney General Eric Holder's [Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence](#) presented its [final report and recommendations](#) for launching a coordinated national response to address children's exposure to violence. The task force offered its recommendations at the winter meeting of the [Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention](#), which is chaired by the Attorney General and administered by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). Acting OJJDP Administrator Melodee Hanes is vice-chair of the council.

[WomenStrength](#) and [GirlStrength](#) are looking for confident, caring and dedicated women to volunteer their time to teach self-defense classes. No prior experience is required - we train you to be the trainer. These free programs are operated through the Portland Police Bureau and are available to all woman and girls in the Portland area. Our self-defense instructors change and save lives, and the professional training they receive provides them with the skills to help women feel strong and empowered. *New Instructor Training Begins: February 23, 2013*. Applications can be found online or can be emailed or mailed out directly to interested applicants. Application Deadline: February 1, 2013.

VOA Home Free is offering classes for survivors of domestic violence. [Dollars and Sense](#) focuses on financial abuse, financial fundamentals, credit basics, and budgeting strategies. [Employment and Career Exploration](#) focuses on employment barriers, employment resources and job search tools, career exploration and planning, and workplace safety planning. Contact Stephanie at [503-853-2317](tel:503-853-2317) or sevjen@voaor.org.

Safety First Supervised Parenting Center is having an [open house](#) on Tuesday, March 5th, 2013 from 6 pm - 8 pm. Learn more about the program, meet the leaders and

community partners, tour the Gateway site, and hear comments from participants.

Proyecto UNICA is offering two upcoming housing classes for Latina survivors. The first is for an upcoming workshop on Wednesday January 30th about safety and shared housing, from 5 - 7 p.m. We will be talking about safety issues when renting a room to/from someone, tips for interviewing a potential housemate, making fliers, how to write up a contract that clarifies responsibilities and rules; we will also do some role plays around different housing scenarios, as well as share legal and community resources. The Rent Well classes in Spanish will begin the following Wednesday February 6th and will last for seven weeks, 5-7 p.m. Both classes will have childcare. Please contact Sarag Rarick at [503-688-2632](tel:503-688-2632) or SRarick@catholiccharitiesoregon.org for more information.

Bradley Angle Resource Center has developed a [new domestic violence support group for LGBTQ survivors](#). We have redesigned our longstanding support group and are currently doing outreach and enrollment in order to start the new group on February 13th.

Save the Date...



Next FVCC Training...

February 19, 2013, 10 am - noon | Legal Issue Spotting for DV Survivors: Family Law, Protection Orders, Employment and Housing | This training will focus primarily on various family law issues and legal options for survivors including restraining orders, child custody and dissolution. We will also provide an overview of other civil legal issues for survivors including: discrimination in housing and employment.

Trainers: Pam Haan and Julia Olsen, LASO

Monthly trainings sponsored by the Family Violence Coordinating Council: 3rd Tuesday of each month, 10 am to 12 noon Location: SE Health Center, basement conference room, 3653 SE 34th Ave (just south of Powell Blvd.), Portland, OR.

Other Trainings...

Ongoing | From Cell Phones to Facebook: Technology Safety in a Digital World, A Webinar Series for Victim Service Agencies | The Safety Net Project at the National Network to End Domestic Violence is presenting a [5-part series on technology safety](#) in a digital world. While each webinar will focus in-depth on a certain subset of technology and can stand alone, together, the series offer a comprehensive understanding of technology abuse as well as best practices for agencies in using technology to enhance their services for victims.

February 13, 2013 | Crime Victims' Compensation Program | This *free* training invites victims services professionals and medical providers to get more familiar with CVSD's Crime Victims' Compensation Program (CVCP), Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) and other topics. For more information please refer to the [training agenda](#). To register for a training contact Rozlyn Finrock at [503-378-5348](tel:503-378-5348) or Rozlyn.E.Finrock@doj.state.or.us

March 11-13, 2013 | [Where Technology Meets Confidentiality: Strengthening Agencies & Services](#) | This conference covers a range of topics that impact victim safety and confidentiality. We will provide tools and best practices to enhance victim services programs and innovative partnerships. Attendees will learn and review best practices to effectively address critical technology and confidentiality issues.

Other Events.....

February 14, 2013 | One Billion Rising | will host an event from 3:00 to 4:00 PM at Portland's Director Park to raise awareness about the prevalence of violence against women, including domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. Additional activities and workshops will follow from 4:00 - 7:00 PM at the NIA Center, 918 SW Yamhill. Additional information is available on [Facebook](#) and at www.onebillionrising.org.



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