

NETWORK NEWS



The comprehensive resource on domestic violence

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Domestic Violence and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community

*By Cheryl Prusinski, Deaf Women Against Violence Everywhere (DWAVE)
and Member of ODVN Board of Directors*

To understand the perceptions the Deaf community has regarding domestic violence, think back to over 20 years ago and the perceptions that the mainstream Hearing culture had toward domestic violence: it was a taboo topic, rarely talked about and believed to be a private family matter that people, especially the legal system, ought not to interfere with. Since then, the Hearing culture has rapidly progressed, both legally and in public education and awareness.

Unfortunately, this progress has not been made accessible to the Deaf community—all the campaigns for legislation, laws, education and prevention have been directed toward a hearing, English speaking culture. The Deaf community has been isolated from this movement and thus are still caught in a cultural understanding where talk of, and interventions for, domestic violence are taboo.

Additionally, the Deaf community is an extraordinarily strong and close community, not just within Central Ohio, but across the nation. But when it comes to domestic violence, this strength can become a community weakness because a survivor cannot leave and hide—her abuser will be able to track her through the Deaf community all over the United States. Consequently, the decision to leave an abuser poses challenges that a Hearing survivor may not face as she likely considers not only leaving him but leaving behind a community and culture. Many Deaf women may stay with an abuser simply because she will at least be able to communicate with someone.

Barriers Experienced by Members of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community

Deaf persons experience a broad range of barriers when seeking help. Mainstream or traditional service providers often struggle to meet even the most basic needs of a Deaf survivor. Survivors may experience some of the following disincentives when reaching out:

- Shelters failing to provide accessibility measures such as TTY, Video Phone, and flashing lights for notification of environmental noises;
- Non-signing staff using family members or friends of the survivor as an interpreter for interventions rather than using a certified interpreter;
- Intervention provided via an interpreter, creating concerns from the survivors' perspective about confidentiality and reducing opportunities to directly connect with the provider;
- English-based literature is often inaccessible due to limited English proficiency. Deaf adults average a 3rd to 5th grade English reading level; and,
- Lack of understanding about the Deaf-World in which the survivor lives, projecting hearing cultural norms and expectations, and a lack of comprehension of the close ties within the Deaf community which can result in repeated exposure to perpetrators.

The unique language and communication characteristics create obstacles for Deaf people trying to access traditional domestic violence and sexual assault

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services as they are typically unprepared to meet the communication needs presented. Since most Deaf individuals communicate in ASL, they prefer face-to-face interactions. Using hot lines, for example, is typically prone to problems. Presently, there are no fully accessible services in Ohio for Deaf women and youth who experience domestic violence and sexual assault.

How to Work Effectively with Deaf People:

An ideal way to reach out to the Deaf Community is to have trained Deaf advocates offer services and supports. Presenting educational information on violence while integrating Deaf Culture and using visual examples that include Deaf people is very effective.

- If you encounter a Deaf survivor, it is important to be patient and keep an open mind. Find creative ways to interact and support the person.
- For temporary communication: It is okay to ask if a Deaf person wants an interpreter, wants to read lips, or prefers to write back and forth until you secure a qualified interpreter.
- Lip reading is not 100% effective. Only 30% of what is said on the lips is discernible. The rest is skillful guesswork. Examples: mat, pat, sat; go to Texas, no new taxes.
- Writing using simple words and short sentences can be helpful. Many legal and government documents are very complicated and unintelligible to many of us native English users. Reviewing these complex forms can be intimidating and anxiety provoking for a Deaf survivor.

- The Deaf person may be skilled at appearing to understand after years of having to fake it with their families or others.
- Don't be afraid to use gestures.
- Often, family members are asked to interpret which is just plain wrong for many, many reasons. As examples:
 1. Police asking the hearing children to interpret for them when intervening in a domestic violence dispute between THEIR PARENTS.
 2. A hearing child being asked to interpret a medical exam of her mother.

ADA requires that hospitals, law enforcement, and public accommodations provide qualified, professional interpreters. As an advocate, we can always demand that this law be followed.

Interpreters are rarely "on-staff" at non-Deaf organizations. Often a call to an interpreting agency is needed. The 'host' organization is responsible for the call, coordination, and costs.

For phone communications, the TTY and/or video phone are used. TTY machines are older technology that is still useful in providing confidential communications. With the video phones, Deaf people see each other on television and are able to communicate directly. Video Relay Interpreting service is available 24/7. Deaf callers are able to see interpreters on the television screen when communicating with hearing callers.

For more information on how to work effectively with Deaf people, visit www.accessingsafety.org.

Sorenson Video Relay Service

The Sorenson Video Relay Service (SVRS) is a free, 24-hour relay service that allows deaf or hard of hearing callers who use American Sign Language (ASL) to place calls to any hearing person. The deaf caller sees an ASL interpreter on their screen and signs to the interpreter who then contacts the hearing user through a standard phone line and relays the conversation between the two parties. The calls are placed over a high speed internet connection via video phone which is connected to a TV or personal computer equipped with a Web Camera and Sorenson software. For more information about the Sorenson Video Relay Service and how to obtain a free Sorenson videophone, go to www.sorensonvrs.com.

Domestic Violence and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community

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Scope of the problem

The US Census Bureau has not counted the number of people who are deaf or hard of hearing since 1930. Galludet University conducted a study in 1972.

The results of this study are as follows:

- 2 to 4 out of every 1,000 people in the United States are “functionally deaf;”
- 9 to 22 out of every 1,000 people in the United States have severe hearing loss or are deaf;
- 37 to 140 out of every 1,000 people in the United States have some kind of hearing loss.

In 1991, the National Center for Health Statistics (a division of the US Department of Health and Human Services) estimated that there were 20.2 million people who were deaf or hard of hearing; which is 8.6% of the total population in the United States.

According to the 2008 US Census data, there are 1.9 million people in Ohio who are living with a disability. This figure does not separate people who are deaf or hard of hearing from people living with disabilities related to vision, mental, motor or self-care.

One in four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime. Women living with disabilities have a 40% greater risk of violence than women not living with disabilities (National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, www.ncadv.org).

ODVN Expands Access to Deaf and Hard of Hearing Survivors, Survivors with Disabilities, and Spanish-Speaking Survivors

ODVN received a VOCA grant from the Attorney General to expand access to information and support for deaf and hard of hearing survivors, survivors with disabilities, Spanish-speaking survivors.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Survivors - The VOCA grant also will allow ODNV to increase access to information, support, shelter and other services for survivors who are deaf or hard of hearing (deaf/hoh). First, VOCA funds were used to purchase 45 TTY machines for domestic violence programs that do not have them. (ODVN conducted a survey and found that 45 domestic violence programs did not have TTY machines.) There are other options, for example, programs can require deaf/hoh survivors to call them through Ohio Relay Service, although feedback from deaf survivors indicates that for some, having to discuss personal details about domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking through a third party is uncomfortable for them. Another newer technological option is the Sorenson machine, which allows deaf callers – via web-cam technology – to directly use sign language. For these and other reasons, ODNV determined – after consulting with a number of deaf individuals and other hotlines – that TTYs were the

most universal and accessible tool for programs largely staffed by hearing individuals to use to reach the deaf community.

VOCA funds also are being used to provide training to programs on Deaf culture, legal accommodations required under the Americans with Disabilities Act, and deaf communication technology, with a focus on how to operate and converse on a TTY. Stephanie Bowman Smith, Disability Services Trainer/Outreach Coordinator with the Sexual Assault Response Network of Central Ohio, with her colleague Gretchen Waech, founding Executive Director of Deaf Women of Iowa Against Abuse, designed a comprehensive training for Ohio advocates wanting to better assist survivors who are deaf or hard of hearing. Four trainings were scheduled for Columbus, Cincinnati, and Kent and have been incredibly well-received.

In addition to TTYs and training, ODNV will develop a safety planning brochure for deaf and hard of hearing survivors in American Sign Language. Once completed, these will be disseminated to programs throughout Ohio.

ODVN Expands Access to Survivors

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Survivors with Disabilities - ODVN is in the process of revamping its website (www.odvn.org). The VOCA grant will allow more visitors with disabilities to access our web page as a result of the site being reconfigured in ADA-compliant format. So, for example, website visitors who use electronic readers to access text will have access to more information and in a format that is easier to understand. This effort will expand access to safety planning and other information for survivors with disabilities, as well as for advocates who need these accommodations to get information from the website.

Spanish-Speaking Survivors – VOCA funds will be used to translate information on ODVN’s website for survivors into Spanish. Eventually, this translated material may also be converted into print form.

ODVN is grateful to the Attorney General’s office for this support to expand access to information, support and services for survivors from these three communities. ODVN also deeply appreciates in-kind support on this effort from F & S International (Spanish language translation services), United TTY (TTY and other assistive technology) and BMG (website services).

Deaf vs. deaf

Some deaf or hard of hearing people do not identify themselves as having a disability. Instead they choose to define themselves as part of a cultural group. Deaf culture has its own values, norms, community institutions, language and history. Some individuals who identify with and participate in this culture will identify themselves as Deaf with a capital “D” to reflect their culture identification. Some individuals may not choose to identify with the Deaf culture. They will refer to themselves as deaf with a small “d” to reflect the physical condition of hearing loss. It is important to follow the individual’s lead in how she chooses to identify herself.

(Accessing Safety Initiative, www.accessingsafety.org)



The comprehensive resource on domestic violence

Mission Statement:

The Ohio Domestic Violence Network advances the principle that all people have the right to an oppression and violence free life; fosters changes in our economic, social and political systems and brings leadership, expertise and best practices to community programs.

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Sally Zimmerman, Every Woman’s House



Spotlight on Local Programs

Deaf Women Against Violence Everywhere (DWAVE) Project CARE (Community, Accessibility, Response, and Education) Sexual Assault Response Network of Central Ohio (SARNCO)

Deaf Women Against Violence Everywhere (DWAVE) was founded in 2002 out of concern that there were no appropriate services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. The DWAVE Board of Directors consists of a majority of Deaf and Hard of Hearing women with training and degrees in the fields of social work, counseling, domestic violence/sexual assault advocacy, and nursing.

The exact number of Deaf or Hard of Hearing persons who are survivors of domestic violence is not directly available from crime reports, but estimates for Central Ohio can be made. It is likely that about 300 Deaf women experience domestic violence each year in Central Ohio.

In 2000, the founders of DWAVE completed intensive training at Abused Deaf Women Advocacy Services (ADWAS) in Seattle, Washington through a grant from the Office of Victims of Crime/US Department of Justice. ADWAS began in 1986 and is the first organization of its kind in the United States. It is the only agency in the state of Washington that provides fully accessible services to Deaf survivors. DWAVE wants to mirror the work of ADWAS for Ohio.

Although the Columbus area offers a continuum of services for hearing victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, DWAVE is the only agency designed specifically to address the needs of Deaf survivors. DWAVE offers staff who: (a) are fluent in American Sign Language; (b) fully embrace the culture of Deaf people; (c) understand the unique issues facing Deaf survivors; and, (d) have the knowledge to work with Deaf survivors effectively. While DWAVE has been recently funded by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) to provide sexual violence prevention and education services, its survivor services are limited because they are offered solely by volunteer advocates. Its current services are:

- 24-hour advocacy for survivors of sexual assault at local hospital emergency rooms in partnership with

the Sexual Assault Response Network of Central Ohio (SARNCO);

- Deaf and hearing community outreach and prevention education;
- Volunteer advocate training for DWAVE and other organizations;
- Referral and collaboration with other agencies; and,
- Consultation and participation in Coordinated Community Response teams, coalitions, and task forces.

Although DWAVE's volunteers are dedicated, the lack of paid staff greatly limits DWAVE's ability to provide more responsive and comprehensive services for survivors and the Deaf community as a whole. Gaps in services DWAVE wishes to fill are:

- A 24-hour crisis service for Deaf survivors through text message/on-call system;
- Support groups for Deaf survivors;
- Consistent advocacy services for Deaf survivors in the courts, hospital, and other service organizations;
- Assisting survivors with basic safety, such as safety planning and safe accessible housing;
- Increase the larger community's awareness about domestic violence and sexual assault in the Deaf community;
- Change the Deaf community's perceptions about domestic violence and sexual assault; and,
- System advocacy to increase the ability of legal, criminal justice, and medical professionals to better serve Deaf survivors.

DWAVE believes that Deaf persons are more likely to access and obtain better services from an agency run for and by Deaf people. DWAVE wants Deaf survivors to experience supportive and affirmative services from non-Deaf entities by providing education to those providers to decrease re-traumatizing Deaf people who walk through their doors.

For more information about DWAVE, contact Cheryl Prusinski at dwaveofcentraloh@aol.com.

Spotlight on Local Programs

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Project CARE (Community, Accessibility, Response, and Education), a project of the Family Violence Prevention Project of Hamilton County, Ohio, is a coordinated community response that addresses violence against women with disabilities in Hamilton County, Ohio. It is funded by a three year grant from the Office on Violence Against Women/ U.S. Department of Justice. Project CARE consists of the following diverse partners from disability and victim service provider fields: the Center for Independent Living Options; Family Violence Prevention Project; Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services; United Way of Greater Cincinnati 211; University of Cincinnati, Division of Criminal Justice; University Hospitals Health Alliance Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner Unit; Women Helping Women; and the YWCA of Greater Cincinnati Battered Women's Shelter. Project CARE's objective is to remove barriers to services experienced by women with disabilities and deaf women that have experienced violence.

The Project will accomplish this objective by working within the partner organizations listed above to change their formal policies and procedures, conduct agency reviews for accessibility and "trauma-informedness," and conduct cross-trainings to build skills for serving women at the intersection of violence and disability. The goal is to make all agencies more welcoming, accessible and responsive to women with disabilities who are victims/survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence/intimate partner violence, or stalking. Working collaboratively, each partner agency will implement policies and procedures for mandatory cross-training, and will adopt policies on screening for violence against women or policies on providing accommodations, depending on the agency. Through adoption of these formal policies and procedures, Project CARE will create systems change that will ensure women with disabilities who are victims/survivors receive the services they need indefinitely, and beyond the life of the grant.

Project CARE has thus far developed a collaborative charter, conducted a needs assessment of women served and the agencies involved, and developed a strategic plan. The Project is currently in its

implementation phase, where policies, training modules and agency review procedures are being developed. Policies and training modules will be developed and approved and all agencies will have been reviewed for accessibility and trauma-informedness by September 31, 2010. The Project is currently seeking funding to conduct and expand the trainings developed and to implement agency improvements through web site modifications and purchase of adaptive equipment.

For more information on Project CARE, contact Rob Bonney, Project Manager at YWCA of Greater Cincinnati, at RBonney@YWCACIN.org or at (513) 361-2117.

Examples of Abuse of Hearing Privilege

- Does not inform you when people try to get your attention or call on the phone for you;
- Excludes you from important conversations;
- Leaves you out in social situations with hearing people;
- Talks negatively about the Deaf community;
- If you call the police, the hearing partner interprets to manipulate the situation;
- The hearing partner does not allow your children to use ASL to communicate with you;
- Criticizes your speech and English skills.

(*National Association of the Deaf, www.nad.org*)

The Sexual Assault Response Network of Central Ohio (SARNCO) of OhioHealth is the comprehensive sexual violence intervention and prevention program serving survivors and co-survivors in Columbus, Ohio and Franklin County. Our programming consists of hospital advocacy in nine local emergency departments, confidential 24-Rape Helpline services, prevention education and outreach to raise awareness of sexual violence and prevention strategies, and long term advocacy services. Our mission is to empower survivors of sexual and intimate partner violence and in time, to eliminate these forms of violence through culturally appropriate prevention programming.

Spotlight on Local Programs

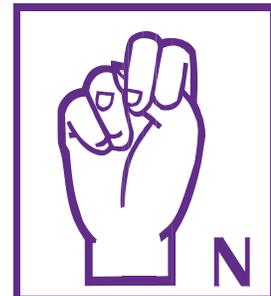
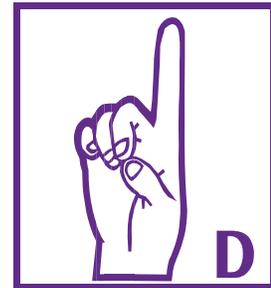
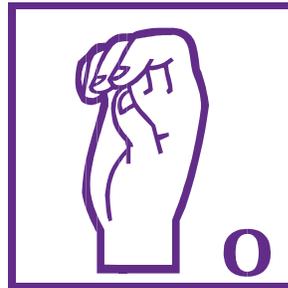
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The 2000 Census shows that Franklin County has a population of 1,068,978 people including 166,861 people with disabilities (www.quickfacts.census.gov, U.S. Census Bureau State & County Quick Facts). This means that approximately 1 out of 6 every people in Franklin County currently has a disability. In 2006, the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services indicates that there were 676 forcible rapes reported in Franklin County with 589 of those being reported in Columbus alone (Crime by County Statistics, www.crimestats.ohio.gov). In our work with survivors, we know that 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime. In spite of these overwhelming statistics, we firmly believe that many more criminal incidents go unreported especially by abuse survivors with disabilities. Perpetrators of sexual and intimate partner violence actively seek out victims they perceive to be vulnerable or isolated by gaining access through avenues of employment at group homes and other means. In our long-standing collaboration with allies in the disability service and advocacy fields, we learned that local, state and national data do not illustrate the true magnitude of crimes against people with disabilities due to barriers in access to services, lack of education on sexual violence and safety awareness.

In our commitment to serving survivors with disabilities, SARNCO applied for the Multi-Disciplinary Response to Crime Victims with Disabilities grant funded by the Office for Victims of Crime. SARNCO is one of three agencies in the nation awarded this grant by SafePlace in Austin, Texas to replicate their Disability Services programming. As part of our grant project, SARNCO formed a Community Partners Group to assist us in identifying gaps and barriers to services, creating data gathering processes for tracking number of self-identified survivors with disabilities in central Ohio, and conducting a needs assessment to identify the needs of the disability community, Deaf community, and first responder agencies. Our Community Partners Group is comprised of the Governor's Council on People with Disabilities, Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, CHOICES, Columbus City Attorney's Office on Domestic Violence and Stalking, The Justice League of Ohio, Ohio Domestic Violence Network, IMPACT Safety,

OhioHealth Psychiatric and Emergency Services, and Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities. With the guidance of SafePlace's Disability Services Program, SARNCO will develop outreach and training programs for crime victims with disabilities, Deaf/Hard of Hearing crime victims, and professionals who serve this population from needs assessment results; create practical strategies to track crimes committed against individuals with disabilities and Deaf/Hard of Hearing individuals in their communities; and design and implement achievable approaches to increasing the accessibility of victim services to people with disabilities and Deaf/Hard of Hearing individuals.

SARNCO is in the second year of this 3-year project and we are grateful for this tremendous opportunity to make a difference in the lives of survivors who have disabilities. For more information about SafePlace, visit their website at www.SafePlace.org. For more information on this project please feel free to contact the Project Coordinators, Stephanie Smith-Bowman at sbowman@ohiohealth.com or Maytal Russ at mruss@ohiohealth.com.



PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

By Nancy Neylon, Executive Director

Am. Sub. HB 10 - Juvenile Protection Orders in Dating Relationships

Introduced on February 17, 2009 by Rep. Edna Brown (D-Toledo) and signed by Governor Strickland on March 17, 2010 (effective in 90 days). The legislation expands the jurisdiction of the juvenile court to issue civil protection orders to juveniles. The amended bill includes an amendment to the expungement provision. The bill now allows protection orders to stay in effect until the Respondent reaches the age of 19 at which time they are sealed, not expunged. This allows law enforcement and prosecutors access to the records. The records are then expunged at age 23, as are all juvenile records. The substitute bill also addresses the cost of electronic monitoring and caps the cost that counties can spend on indigent juvenile offenders.

HB 19- Dating Violence Prevention in Schools

Introduced on February 18, 2009 by Rep. Sandra Harwood (D-Niles), effective March 29, 2010. ODVN is part of a Task Force initiated by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) to implement the bill. Also working on the Task Force are the Office of Criminal Justice Services, the Attorney General of Ohio and the Ohio Department of Health. The Task Force is gathering evidence-based practices (preferred by ODE) and other resources to put on the ODE web site for schools and will meet again in March to discuss training for school personnel.

HB 55 - Animal Cruelty

The bill was reintroduced on March 3, 2009 by Rep. Brian Williams (D-Akron) and Rep. Courtney Combs (R-Hamilton). The bill would include the protection of companion animals in civil and criminal domestic violence and stalking orders, mandate psychological assessment and counseling for juveniles that committed animal cruelty and revise the penalties and sentencing provision for cruelty to animals. The bill has had three hearings and no further movement. The Statute and Rules Committee of the Family Violence Prevention Center; Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) has some concerns about the ambiguity of the bill as regards whether or not the legislation intends to make a companion animal a “protected party.” If so, what is the standard of proof and does the animal need to be independently abused? If the intent is just to

ensure protection then that must be clarified.

Additional language would also be helpful including removing the companion animal from the abuser, permitting a victim to return to a residence to remove a companion animal, and enjoining the defendant/respondent from interfering with the care, custody, and control of a companion animal. We have based these ideas on best practice from other states. The Statutes and Rules Committee have sent our ideas up the ladder at OCJS/Department of Public Safety and have met with the legislation’s sponsor to introduce the possible amendments.

HB 70 -Companion Animals

Introduced by Rep. Robert Hagan (D-Austintown) and Rep. Ronald Gerberry (D-Youngstown), and passed by the House February 24, 2010, the bill would enhance the penalty for violation of the prohibition against cruel treatment of a companion animal to a fifth degree felony.

HB 112 - Protection Orders

Introduced by John Domenick (D-Smithfield) on March 31, 2009, the bill would authorize a court to monitor alleged offenders by a GPS system as a condition of pre-trial release in specified criminal cases. The cost is borne by the alleged offender.

HB 167- Domestic Violence Victim’s Employment and Housing Rights

Introduced on May 5, 2009 by Rep. Dennis Murray (D-Sandusky), the bill passed the House with an amendment supported by the Chamber of Commerce on December 8, 2009 and was assigned to the Senate Civil Judiciary Committee. The proposed legislation would prohibit employers with more than 25 employees to discriminate against a victim of domestic violence, allow a victim to take up to 10 days unpaid leave for court and other necessary proceedings, require victims to provide documentation for such leave and require employers to offer reasonable accommodation to employees who are victims of domestic violence unless doing so would create unreasonable hardship. These accommodations might include changing a parking space, phone extension, job location, etc. The housing provisions permit a victim of domestic violence to terminate a

Public Policy Update

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lease or remove their name from a lease and require landlords to change the locks in the victim's dwelling at the victim's expense. The bill also prohibits law enforcement from charging either the victim or the landlord with responding to domestic violence calls. The bill would also require public housing authorities to transfer a victim to another unit if one is available.

HB 371- Child in Need of Protective Services (CHIPS)

Introduced by Rep. Connie Pillich (D-Montgomery) and Rep. Robin Belcher (D-Cleveland) on November 17, 2009 with support from the Ohio Department of Human Services and the Supreme Court of Ohio, the legislation changes Ohio's child protection definitions in order to eliminate confusing and overly broad or vague definitions for child maltreatment. The goal is to establish a framework that focuses on the safety and well being of children while promoting parental rights, autonomy and family preservation, enhancing parental accountability and advancing consistency from county to county in case response and decision making. The bill has had sponsor testimony.

HB 391- Address Confidentiality

Introduced by Rep. Kathleen Chandler (D-Kent) with support from the Secretary of State's office, the bill was passed unanimously by the House Civil and Commercial Law Committee on March 9, 2010. The bill provides a confidential address through the Secretary of State's Office for victims for domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking and provides program enrollees with the opportunity to vote absentee.

HB 429- Domestic Violence

Introduced by Rep. Marian Harris (D-Columbus) and Rep. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) on January 28, 2010, the bill has yet to have sponsor testimony. The bill was assigned to the House Criminal Justice Committee. The legislation includes the following provisions: requires the Attorney General to collect data on the number of protection orders and violations; establishes criteria for fatality review teams; requires the court to require that a domestic violence offender participate in a domestic violence treatment program or other counseling program; requires one judicial review at 30 days and additional reviews at the court's discretion; extends criminal protection orders through the term of probation at the court's discretion; allows for jail time up to one year for a first degree misdemeanor at the court's discretion; and adds statement made by witnesses to the factors for law enforcement to determine primary aggressor.

SB 144 - Family Stability

Introduced by Sen. Ray Miller (D-Columbus) on June 16, 2009, the bill would create the Ohio Family Stability Commission. The intent of the Commission is to research and formulate recommendations regarding the reduction of the divorce rate, unmarried births, the rate of domestic violence and child abuse, and research and recommend strategies around issues concerning child custody and child support and to implement said recommendations.

For more information on public policy, please contact Nancy Neylon or Becky Mason at 614-781-9651.

If you would like to donate directly to Ohio Domestic Violence Network, you can make an online donation by going to our website, and click on the "Donate" button or mail us a check. We accept donations made through PayPal on our website. We also invite you to become a member of ODVN (see page 13 for Membership form).

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Economic Realities

By Nancy Grigsby, Economic Empowerment Director

Advocates Trained with Support from The Allstate Foundation

Ohio advocates are receiving training on economic justice and the Allstate Moving Ahead curriculum as a result of generous support from the Allstate Foundation. Already, 88 advocates and allied professionals from 34 programs have been trained. One more training is scheduled for April 28, 2010 in Columbus. These trainings include an opportunity to better understand class issues, batterer-generated and life-generated financial risks, legal advocacy issues and a wide range of financial topics laid out in the extensive Moving Ahead curricula. These include financial abuse, loans, credit repair, banking, budgeting, technology safety related to financial issues, and more. Each training participant receives the Allstate Moving Ahead curricula.

The Allstate Foundation's *Economics Against Abuse* program has provided more than \$12 million in funding to national and state domestic violence organizations since 2005. The National Network to End Domestic Violence is Allstate's major partner in its grant-making to address domestic violence. ODVN is thrilled to receive this support to provide free training opportunities for advocates in Ohio.

Shorter versions of the training will also be offered at the Attorney General's Two Days in May conference and in Cleveland.



Survey Responses from Ohio Domestic Violence Programs

ODVN surveyed domestic violence programs in September 2009 and again in February 2010 about the economic needs of domestic violence survivors. Even in the context of a bad economy, the data was distressing. Ohio's domestic violence survivors are experiencing widespread and significant economic barriers to escaping violent partners.

The following are some of the findings:

Child Support

- 40% of programs indicated survivors in their community experienced major problems getting and enforcing child support orders.

Housing

- 76% said survivors were being evicted due to the domestic violence (because the police were called to the home, property damage, etc.)
- 63% said landlords refused to change locks for safety reasons; ironically an identical number (63%) said survivors could not get out of leases when they felt they could no longer live in their homes safely.
- 61% of programs indicated major problems with accessing the Section 8 program.
- 46% indicated major problems accessing subsidized housing.
- 46% said that survivors in public housing could not get transferred to other units when they could no longer safely reside in their units.
- 40% of programs said that survivors in their area were being turned down for rentals if prospective landlords knew they had been battered.

TANF

- Almost one-third of programs indicated survivors were having difficulty accessing the Family Violence Option Waiver, which can create accommodations around work requirements, time limits and child support collection in domestic violence cases.
- 21% of programs indicated that if battered women ask for the waiver, they are often reported to children's services.

Economy Realities

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Employment

- 72% said that battered women in their area were being disciplined or fired for issues related to their battering, such as needing time off to attend court hearings.
- 56% said survivors had problems getting reasonable safety accommodations in the workplace.
- 23% of programs indicated they knew that survivors were having difficulty getting a job *because of their status as battered women*.

Legal Assistance

When asked about whether survivors had difficulty getting legal assistance for specific needs, the following percentages of programs responding affirmed barriers:

- 93 % - Divorce and Custody
- 91% - Post divorce issues related to child visitation
- 80% - Child Support Enforcement
- 61% - Civil Protection Order (petitioning for)
- 61% - Housing and Landlord issues
- 52% - Employment issues
- 47% - TANF problems
- 43% - Immigration-related relief (U Visas and VAWA self petitions)

While Legal Aid offices around Ohio work hard and do a great deal of good with few resources, clearly more resources are needed. Programs indicated that there were many reasons why survivors in their communities could not access legal assistance including (percentages are numbers of program affirming each barrier):

- 87% - Survivors make too much money but cannot afford legal counsel.
- 81% - Local private attorneys not available for pro bono cases.
- 76% - Survivors had legal needs that were not among the local Legal Aid priorities.
- 72% - Survivors don't meet other eligibility criteria (such as how recent the last assault was).
- 59% - Conflict of interest (the abuser was served by Legal Aid in the past).
- 51% - Local Legal Aid office has a waiting list.

The size of the unmet legal needs was substantial. When asked how many survivors they projected needed legal assistance but could not get it, programs estimated 632 survivors *each month* needed but could not afford an attorney. About two-thirds of Ohio's domestic violence programs responded, so the unmet need for legal assistance is surely larger.

The implications of these findings are many. First, if anyone is still asking "Why does she stay or go back?," this data should be helpful in getting a better understanding of how many barriers still exist for survivors of domestic violence in Ohio. Second, while we still must focus program resources on shelter and legal advocacy, there is a great need for us to focus advocacy on a broader range of issues that help secure the most basic resources for the families with which we work. Third, if we have not traditionally included landlords and employers as systems with which to partner and advocate, we should begin to do so. Housing and jobs are clearly hard to get and hard to keep if you are battered in Ohio. So, fourth, the need for passage of HB 167 is critical. HB 167 would create basic housing and employment protections for survivors of domestic violence and stalking. Ohio would join 26 other states with housing protections and 15 other states with employment protections for domestic violence survivors (with similar bills pending in still other states). While some in the Ohio legislature stated they did not believe the law is needed, this data strongly suggests otherwise. For more information on the current status of HB 167, please follow the bill's progress by visiting www.odvn.org, and click on ODVN Projects, then Public Policy.

For more information on domestic violence and economic issues please contact Nancy Grigsby at ODVN, 614-781-9651, ext. 233 or nancyg@odvn.org.

This newsletter is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

ODVN Training Institute

For more information or to register for a training, please visit our website at www.odvn.org. ODVN is an approved provider of CEUs for social workers and counselors and is a registered training program for the Ohio Advocate Network. If you have questions, call Rachel Ramirez, Training Coordinator at ODVN.

What: *Anti-Oppression Series: "What about Me?" Domestic Violence in LGBTQ Communities*

This one-day training is designed to build capacity around providing culturally competent services to LGBTQ survivors of domestic violence. In this training, participants will have the opportunity to learn about the myths and prevalence of violence towards LGBTQ individuals, which impact the decisions of survivors to seek services. Participants will also have the opportunity to learn about gender expression and gender identification. In addition, this training will explore available resources and effective outreach to the LGBTQ communities. Participants will have the opportunity to network and form collaborations to provide effective services to LGBTQ survivors in their communities.

When: May 7, 2010

Where: Perrysburg, Ohio (Bowling Green area)

Cost: \$60 (\$25 for ODVN members)

What: *Justice Systems Advocacy*

This two-day training focuses on working within the civil and criminal justice systems in partnership with survivors of domestic violence. Experts with extensive experience in the civil and criminal field will provide insider information about both the criminal and civil responses to domestic violence, and useful information on navigating the court system. This information will enable participants to advocate for domestic violence survivors on both the individual and systemic level. Training participants will also receive a copy of the Ohio Domestic Violence Benchbook: A Practical Guide to Competence for Justices and Magistrates, authored by Mike Brigner.

When: June 24-25, 2010

Where: Mansfield, Ohio

Cost: \$80 (\$45 for ODVN members)

What: *Statewide Legal Advocacy Caucus*

The Kentucky Civil Protective Order Study: Justice or Just a Piece of Paper?

Partner Stalking: A Prison Without Bars

ODVN is proud to present TK Logan, Ph.D., a nationally known expert on violence against women, who has served as professor in the Department of Behavioral Science, College of Medicine, and the Center on Drug and Alcohol Research at the University of Kentucky for the past 15 years. Her research and writings most recently have focused on protective order



Save The Date!
2010 Sexual Violence Prevention Conference
June 15 & 16, 2010
Northeast Conference Center
Columbus, Ohio



The 2010 annual statewide sexual violence prevention conference will feature the **New Mexico Media Literacy Project** who will provide two full invigorating days of training along with a number of FREE electronic resources for prevention educators and advocates to use in the areas of media literacy and media advocacy. Conference trainers will demonstrate how to integrate media literacy concepts into local sexual violence prevention programming using multi-media resources. Participants will leave the conference with the ability to deconstruct media messages and images by identifying racism and sexism, and gain a better understanding of the links between individual, cultural, institutional, and structural power.

Who Should Attend? ODH funded prevention educators, domestic and sexual violence advocates and prevention educators, social workers, counselors, healthcare providers, community partners, and allied professionals will find this conference a valuable learning experience.

For more information, contact Jasmine Finnie at jasminef@odvn.org or 614.781.9651 ext. 229, or Kalitha Williams at kalithaw@odvn.org or 614.781.9651 ext. 234.

Sponsored by: Ohio Domestic Violence Network, New Directions Domestic Abuse Shelter of Knox County - DELTA Project, and ODVN DELTA Project with support from the Ohio Department of Health.

SAVE THE DATES

September 22, 23 and 24, 2010

ODVN presents:

Creating a Process of Change for Men Who Batter: The Duluth Model Men's Nonviolence Class Facilitator Training

in Grove City, Ohio (southwest of Columbus)

For more info, check www.odvn.org or contact Reiko at reikoo@odvn.org.

effectiveness, partner stalking, health disparities of rural women with partner violence experiences, sexual assault within the context of violent intimate relationships, and human trafficking. This presentation will provide an overview of her latest research on civil protective orders and stalking to advocates, justice system professionals, law enforcement professionals, and those interested in offender accountability.

When: July 2, 2010 from 10 am – 3 pm

Where: Mid Ohio Food Bank, Grove City, Ohio (southwest of Columbus)

Cost: Free

What: Technology Safety for Advocates

Join ODVN for a teleconference that discusses new issues relating to ways in which survivors can experience technology abuse, and how technology can be used to maintain control and track survivors. Special attention will be given to teens and technology and the ways in which technology abuse can be a key component of teen dating violence. Participants will be emailed a PowerPoint and send a phone number to call in, so no travel costs are associated with this teleconference!

When: July 21, 2010

Where: At your own computer

Cost: Free

What: When it Rains, It Pours: Crisis Intervention with Survivors of Domestic Violence

This new training will include information on providing support for survivors in crisis, how to assist survivors in developing personalized plans to effectively deal with feelings and thoughts associated with crisis, the role of supportive, empathetic advocacy, and information on working with suicidal individuals. Participants will also discuss how shelter protocols and policies can either be supportive of survivors in crisis or further exacerbate a delicate situation. Safety planning, one of the key crisis intervention strategies in the context of domestic violence, will also be explored in-depth.

When: August 13, 2010

Where: Washington Courthouse, Ohio

Cost: \$60 (\$25 for ODVN members)

Become a member of ODVN!

Yes, I want to join the collective voice to end domestic violence.

I am enclosing:

\$100.00 Organizational Member

\$150.00 Organizational Member

\$200.00 Organizational Member

\$35.00 Individual Member

\$50.00 Individual Member

\$100.00 Individual Member

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Day Phone: _____

Email: _____



Please mail membership form and check to: Ohio Domestic Violence Network, 4807 Evanswood Drive, Suite #201, Columbus, OH 43229
ODVN is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) agency. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

CHECK IT OUT!

From ODVN's Resource Center

Materials from ODVN's Resource Center may be borrowed for free by ODVN members and Ohio residents. For more information or to borrow resources from our clearinghouse, please contact Tana Carpenter, 1-800-934-9840, Ext. 224.

Addressing Fatherhood with Men Who Batter Curriculum & Tools for Dialogue

The curriculum and video have been developed for use in Batterer Intervention Programs. The curriculum examines the impact of battering by men on children, becoming a more nurturing, child-centered father, and more. The DVD- Domestic Violence: Tool for Dialogue has five sections. The video sections are: Woman Abuse is Child Abuse; The Story of Marcus, Impact on Children, Argument, and 911 Call. Please note there is profanity on the DVD.

Publisher: Advocates for Family peace
(www.stopdomesticabuse.org)

Format: DVD

Length: Unknown

Year Produced: 2009

Manual/Facilitators Guide/Study Guide: Yes

Dreamworlds 3: Desire, Sex & Power in Music Video (ODH Resource)

This video examines the stories contemporary music videos tell about girls and women, and encourages viewers to consider how these narratives shape individual and cultural attitudes about sexuality. Illustrated with hundreds of up-to-date images, Dreamworlds 3 offers a unique and powerful tool for understanding both the continuing influence of music videos and how pop culture more generally filters the identities of young men and women through a dangerously narrow set of myths about sexuality and gender. In doing so, it inspires viewers to reflect critically on images that they might otherwise take for granted.

Video sections include: Techniques of Storytelling, Constructing Femininity, The Pornographic Imagination, Ways of Looking, Female Artists: Trapped in the Pornographic Gaze, and Masculinity & Control.

Publisher: Media Education Foundation
(www.mediaed.org)

Format: DVD

Length: 60:00 Minutes

Year Produced: 2007

Manual/Facilitators Guide/Study Guide: Yes

Life Skills for Teens: Healthy Relationships

This volume of the Life Skills for Teens series gives teens the tools they need to cultivate a relationship that supports their values and dreams, including what to look for in a partner, effective communication tips, and how to break up respectfully. Teens will learn how to: raise their level of self-awareness; develop healthy relationship skills; recognize a controlling or abusive relationship; use conflict resolution skills, and how to avoid pregnancy and STI's. This video is Closed Captioned, designed for use with ages 13-21, and has an accompanying facilitator's guide with handouts.

Publisher: Injoy Videos (800-326-2082)

Format: DVD

Length: 29:00 Minutes

Year Produced: 2007

Manual/Facilitators Guide/Study Guide: Yes



Our Families, Ourselves: Family Violence

The Our Families, Ourselves series offers a contemporary look at marriages and families and the choices, changes and issues that affect individuals, diverse family types, and personal relationships. This lesson examines violent behavior within a family context, and prevention and intervention programs that are making inroads in combating its toxic effects. This video is Closed Captioned.

Publisher: Intelcom Intelligent Telecommunications
(800-576-2988)

Format: DVD

Length: 26:40 Minutes

Year Produced: 2007

Manual/Facilitators Guide/Study Guide: No

Real Life Teens: Cyber Bullying

Cyber bullying is any form of harassment that occurs via the Internet. Vicious forum posts, name calling in chat rooms, posting fake profiles on web sites and

mean or cruel email messages are all examples of bullying. While Cyber Bullying mainly takes place on-line, other high tech methods like threatening text messages and taunting voicemail also fall under this category. Cyber bullying is a crime in some states and has even led to death. Hear from real teens as they discuss their views on Cyber Bullying. Subjects covered include: why do teens Cyber Bully; what can be done about Cyber Bullies; how can Cyber Bullies be stopped; dealing with forum and chat room bullying; where to turn to if you or a friend is being Cyber Bullied; the consequences of Cyber Bullying; dealing with website bullying, and do's and the don'ts of the Internet.

Publisher: TMW Media Group (310-577-8581)

Format: DVD

Length: 18:00 Minutes

Year Produced: 2008

Manual/Facilitators Guide/Study Guide: Yes

Real Talk: Engaging Young Men as Allies to End Violence Against Women

The Young Women's Action Team asks young and adult men what a male ally looks like, and how to build the movement to stop violence against women. Using poetry, dance and interviews, this video speaks to youth who want to confront violence in their communities.

Publisher: Beyond Media Education (773-857-7300)

Format: DVD

Length: 28:00 Minutes

Year Produced: 2008

Manual/Facilitators Guide/Study Guide: No

Relationships that Hurt: Dating Violence and Abuse

This documentary-style program explores how abusers engage in violence with the intent to exert power over their victims, isolating them from friends and family in order to gain complete control. Real teens talk about what they think constitutes abuse and why they may be vulnerable in romantic relationships. Experts explain how teens often don't tell anyone if they are victims of abuse because they are ashamed, or they don't want their parents stepping in to tell them what to do. Teens are advised how to get help for themselves, and how to help a friend who is being abused. While girls are by far the most frequent targets, the fact that boys also can be victims of dating abuse is discussed.

Publisher: Sunburst Visual Media (866-803-3908)

Format: DVD

Length: 20:00 Minutes

Year Produced: 2008

Manual/Facilitators Guide/Study Guide: Yes

Rihanna Speaks Out: ABC 20/20- 11/06/09

Pop sensation Rihanna speaks out about the night her then-boyfriend Chris Brown beat her, saying it was "humiliating" and "traumatizing" to admit the assault took place and her feelings and thoughts around her experience.

Publisher: World Trust Educational Services (www.world-trust.org)

Format: DVD

Length: Unknown

Year Produced: 2009

Manual/Facilitators Guide/Study Guide: No

In Memory of Rita Ciofani

ODVN and domestic violence advocates across the state mourn the loss of Rita Ciofani, former Executive Director of Forbes House in Painesville, Ohio. During her 17 year career, she had also served as director of Lake County Habitat for Humanity and most recently, the Veterans Resource Center in Cleveland where she was killed by a resident of the homeless shelter in February.

Ciofani was instrumental in setting up a 24-hour hotline and legal advocacy system in Lake County to accompany victims of domestic violence in court. She also initiated community support groups, education programs in schools, an aftercare coalition organizing services from different agencies for clients, a support group for inmates and a rental assistance program.

“She really built our programs up to what they are today,” said Mary Barnes, Forbes House executive director. “She was someone that really cared about other people...and she not only cared about our clients, she also cared about her staff.”

Some people come into our lives, leave footprints on our hearts, and we are never ever the same. - Eleanor Roosevelt

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Financial Tip from our Finance Director *Amy Smith*



Making Work Pay Credit

Don't forget to take this refundable credit on your 2009 taxes! This credit was established by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. If you file Form 1040 or Form 1040A, you will need to complete Schedule M and attach to your return; if you file Form 1040EZ, the credit worksheet is on page 2. The maximum amount of the credit is \$400 for single filers and \$800 for those who file jointly. Income limits may reduce the amount of your credit. "Income" (AGI below) refers to earned income.

Filing Status	AGI	Maximum Credit	Filing Status	AGI	Maximum Credit
Single	\$6,451 to \$75,000	\$400	Joint	\$12,903 to \$150,000	\$800
Single	\$80,000	300	Joint	\$160,000	600
Single	\$85,000	200	Joint	\$170,000	400
Single	\$90,000	100	Joint	\$180,000	200
Single	\$95,000	0	Joint	\$190,000	0

For more information, visit the IRS website at www.irs.gov.