



NJCBW UPDATE

March 2009

NJCBW Annual Dinner and Fundraiser

Thursday, March 26, 2009 6:00pm

Holiday Inn Somerset, NJ

Honoring Barbara Price

Our Annual Celebration and Great Basket Auction

Special prices for member programs and staff

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTERS ARE MEETING NEEDS OF MOST VICTIMS, STUDY FINDS

Becoming homeless. Losing everything, including their children. Doing something desperate. Facing continued, life-threatening abuse. That is what victims of domestic violence who received help from shelters say their fate would have been if those shelters did not exist, according to *Meeting Survivors' Needs: A Multi-State Study of Domestic Violence Shelter Experiences*. The groundbreaking study is based on a survey of 3,410 people served by domestic violence shelters in eight states during a six-month period in 2007 and 2008. It finds that three-quarters of domestic violence victims (74 %) rate the assistance they received at a shelter as "very helpful" and another 18 % say it was "helpful." "This study shows conclusively that the nation's domestic violence shelters are meeting both the urgent and longer-term needs of victims of violence, and helping them protect themselves and their children," said Dr. Eleanor Lyon of the University of Connecticut, Institute for Violence Prevention and Reduction at the School of Social Work, who was the primary researcher for the study. "Victims attribute meaningful change to the help they received at the shelter – but they also see areas where there is room for improvement." One-quarter of shelter residents (24 %) faced transportation challenges, and 54% of those challenges were resolved. One-third (32 %) say they had conflicts

with other residents, and 73 % of those conflicts were resolved, *Meeting Survivors' Needs* finds. Some victims say that the shelter was unable to fully meet their needs related to housing, education and finance, as well as their emotional, mental health and physical health needs. For a full copy of the press statement announcing the study's release, Research in Brief, the Executive Summary, and the full report, please go to www.vanet.org (posted in Featured Information.)

STIMULUS BILL INCLUDES FUNDING FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 includes an appropriation of \$225,000,000 in violence against women funding to be administered by the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW). This includes \$175,000,000 for the STOP program which funds state domestic and sexual violence coalitions and formula grants to states. In NJ, the Office of Victim Witness Advocacy administers the STOP funding. Another \$50,000,000 is appropriated for OVW's Transitional Housing program. There is an additional \$100,000,000 in funding for victims of crime (VOCA). This funding is in addition to appropriations in the FY2009 budget. While the final FY2009 budget has yet to be approved, increases for VAWA, FVPSA and VOCA will likely pass when the House of Representatives Omnibus bill is voted on Feb.25.

Highlights

- \$15 million in increases in Commerce, Justice, Science VAWA programs (administered by OVW), bringing the OVW VAWA total to \$415 million which includes \$169.7 million in STOP funding.
- \$635 million for the VOCA cap, a \$45 million increase from last year's devastating cut. Additionally, language in the House bill indicates that the Office of Justice Programs will not be able to use any of the VOCA funds for their administration! This is a huge victory since their management and administrative fees took an additional \$30 million from VOCA last year.
- \$127.7 million for FVPSA, a \$5.1 million increase!

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH (DVAM) MOVING TO MAY

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) is planning to "move" DVAM from October to May. This transition will rollout this year in a handful of cities: New York, Chicago, Denver, Philadelphia, Washington DC, Los Angeles, and a few others yet to be named. Once NCADV has the opportunity to see how these events go, it will make a decision about a national transition in 2010.

DVAM has its roots in a national Day of Unity, first observed in 1981 by NCADV. In 1989, Congress passed Public Law 101-112 designating October as national DVAM, and that has continued into the present. Many programs and communities around the country observe DVAM with events, public awareness activities, and media campaigns. This change comes out of concerns about sharing October with Breast Cancer Awareness, as well as United Way fundraising rules that can impede October events.

NCADV has indicated that it will be communicating with its national membership about the transition, focusing immediately on the cities and states that will host events this May.

For the past several weeks, NNEDV and state coalition directors have been discussing this change. There is no consensus about which month might be best for DVAM. Some of the concerns that have been raised are

- The short timeline and messaging for the change of month
- April being Sexual Assault Awareness Month and the burden on dual programs nationwide for events in consecutive months
- lack of coordination at the national level -- there have not been conversations among the national organizations
- the overall credibility and effectiveness of a national DVAM when it is observed in different months in different communities

Since no NJ cities will be targeted, but media in both Philadelphia and New York cover NJ, programs should be aware of this change. Continue planning for DVAM activities in October 2009. Contact NCADV with any concerns. (with appreciation to Nan Stoops, ED, Washington Coalition Against DV for this analysis)

SEARCH AND SHOP THE INTERNET AND RAISE FUNDS FOR NJCBW

What if NJCBW earned a penny every time you searched the Internet? Or how about if a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support our cause? Well, now it can!

GoodSearch.com is a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just

as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up! GoodShop.com is a new online shopping mall which donates up to 37 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause! Hundreds of great stores including Amazon, Target, Gap, Best Buy, ebay, Macy's and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order, you'll be supporting NJCBW. Just go to www.goodsearch.com and be sure to enter NJ Coalition for Battered as the charity you want to support. And, be sure to spread the word!

CENSUS REVEALS A SNAPSHOT OF VIOLENCE IN AMERICA: Hard economic times mean greater danger

On one day in America over 20,000 victims of domestic violence and their children fled their homes because they feared for their lives. These victims were met by domestic violence advocates who all too often struggle to meet their most basic needs.

Every year NNEDV conducts a 24-hour survey of domestic violence programs across the country to capture a snapshot of domestic violence and service providers in the United States. Despite the many victims that received services, an additional 8,927 requests for assistance were unmet because of limited funding.

"During a time of economic uncertainty, when there are not enough jobs and even less resources, domestic violence victims are directly affected," said Sue Else, president of NNEDV. "Right now, victims are unable to meet even their most basic needs. As employment opportunities and safe housing becomes increasingly scarce women and children are left more vulnerable to violence."

The National Census of Domestic Violence Services reported that on September 17, 2008, despite difficulty in raising funds for core services, domestic violence programs nation-wide provided services to 60,799 adults and children in just one day. Additionally—

- Over 20,300 adults and children sought refuge in emergency shelter.
- More than 10,000 adults and children were living in transitional housing.
- Over 30,300 adults and children received non-residential services, such as counseling, legal advocacy, and children support groups.
- Over 21,500 domestic violence hotline calls were answered.

This year's census paints an appalling picture of the problem. But even more disturbing is another picture: the frightening reality of a bad economy that hits victims of domestic violence especially hard. The National Census of Domestic Violence Services and state specific reports are available online at www.nnedv.org/census.

NATIONAL NETWORK TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PRAISES LANDMARK SUPREME COURT DECISION

Advocates against domestic violence applauded the U.S. Supreme Court's 7-2 decision on February 25 to uphold the federal Lautenberg Amendment that bans convicted domestic violence abusers from possessing firearms. The *United States v. Hayes* ruling reversed a decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit that would have posed a serious danger to victims of domestic violence by allowing convicted abusers to maintain firearms.

Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ), a leader in the fight to reduce gun violence and the author of the domestic violence gun ban, said, "Since it was enacted, my domestic violence gun ban has kept more than 150,000 guns out of the hands of domestic abusers. We know a gun in the home makes it much more likely that domestic abuse results in death and today's decision means we can continue keeping guns out of dangerous hands and saving innocent lives."

NNEDV, joined by the Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals Project (DV LEAP) at George Washington University Law School, filed a brief supporting the sensible ban on gun possession by all offenders convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence. The Court cited the brief in its decision.

UPCOMING TRAINING

March 4, 2009 **10:00 AM – 3:00 PM**
History of Violence Against Women

Lisa Smith, MS, DVS

While presenting a lecture on domestic violence to a community group, I was asked 'when did violence against women begin?' The person asking the question thought it probably started about the time women left home to work, meaning during the late 1930's and early 1940's, and meaning in the United States. Violence against women has been occurring for centuries. There are specific references to violence against women as early as 2500 B.C. Quite often, the government and/or religious institutions sanctioned this type of behavior. As domestic violence advocates it is essential for us to learn about and understand this long history of violence against women since it has direct implications on the treatment of women today.

4 DVS Credits Basic Domestic Violence Knowledge
\$15 Program Staff & \$50 Non-Program Staff

March 5, 2009 **10:00 AM – 4:00 PM**
Healing the Wounds of Domestic Violence with Art Therapy
Robbin Loonan, MA, DVS, LPC

This interactive, experiential workshop is designed for professionals in the field of domestic violence who are

interested in creative and innovative ways to empower and heal survivors. Tapping into our own creativity as helpers helps to prevent burn-out, and can help our clients (as well as ourselves) process trauma, feel empowered, increase self-esteem, and enhance self-expression. Examples of art done by survivors and case presentations will be utilized throughout the workshop. Helpers will have an opportunity to try a number of simple art techniques they can utilize with their clients. Seating is limited for this workshop.

5 DVS Credits: Intervention Skills

\$15 Program Staff · \$50 Non-Program Staff

March 11, 2009 **10:00 AM – 3:00 PM**
Train-the-Trainer: NJCBW Diversity Training Curriculum for Domestic Violence Advocates: Using a Social Justice Model to Understand Difference - PART ONE

Pamela Smith Chambers, Beyond Diversity Resource Center

Rose A. Williams, NJCBW

This two-day workshop introduces the newly developed NJCBW Diversity Curriculum for domestic violence staff and volunteers. The training will be offered in two five-hour training sessions. Those participants interested in using this material for future training either as DVRT Coordinators or as Trainers are strongly encouraged to attend both sessions. Non-trainers may find the sessions useful as a general diversity training experience.

Goals of the Training: To introduce the diversity training curriculum to trainers and advocates **and** to provide diversity related material to participants of the workshop and techniques on how to best deliver the material to a variety of audiences.

Curriculum Goal: To build the capacity of advocates and volunteers to provide services in a more sensitive manner which recognizes the needs of various marginalized groups.

DVS Credits Available

Location: NJCBW Conference Room

\$20 fee for materials (one time)

March 18, 2009 **10:00 AM – 3:00 PM**
Train-the-Trainer: NJCBW Diversity Training Curriculum for Domestic Violence Advocates: Using a Social Justice Model to Understand Difference - PART TWO

Pamela Smith Chambers and Rose A. Williams

Must attend March 11 to participate.

Location: PROJECT FREEDOM OF HAMILTON
(Please call the Coalition office for directions)

March 18, 2009 **10:00 AM – 4:00 PM**
Guided Imagery to Healing **Dr. J.C. Williams**

This workshop will aid the advocate in developing skill in using guided imagery for self care and with victims/survivors. Topics will include a definition of guided imagery, uses of guided imagery, developing affirmations, developing progressive relaxation scripts and practice using these new skills.

5 DVS Credits: Intervention Skills

\$15 Program Staff · \$50 Non-Program Staff

April 1, 2009 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
DVS 101 Sally Scheidmantel

This workshop is a hands-on tutorial to review your Domestic Violence Specialist Initial Application with the DVS Coordinator. A minimum of 90 of the required 180 education hours must be completed to participate in the workshop. Bring your application, certificates, verifications and questions. This workshop is limited to 15 participants.

2 DVS Credits: Community Resources & Networking
FREE

April 8, 2009 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Understanding Elder Abuse: What Domestic
Violence Professionals Need to Know **CLASS FULL**

April 22, 2009 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Family Dynamics in the Workplace **CLASS FULL**

April 29, 2009 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Battered Lesbians Lisa Smith, MS, DVS
Most estimates of the prevalence of domestic violence in the lesbian community seem to indicate that it is on par with the incident rate in the heterosexual community. Even so, the reporting rates for lesbian battering are quite low. What can you do as a practitioner to be more welcoming to a lesbian client? This didactic workshop will discuss how lesbian battering is similar to and different from domestic violence in heterosexual relationships; how homophobia impacts victims of domestic violence; and how to begin to create a culturally welcoming environment that will support battered Lesbians.

3 DVS Credits: Special Populations
\$10 Program Staff · \$35 Non-Program Staff

Please submit registration form by: Fax 609-584-9750, or Email info@njcbw.org with Registration in the subject line (registration form available at www.njcbw.org).

March 2009 Meeting Schedule

Women of Diversity Task Force Meeting
Friday, March 6, 2009 10:00am-1:00pm

Coalition Membership Meeting
Thursday, March 12, 2009. 10:30am-1:00pm

NJCBW Board of Trustees
Thursday, March 12, 2009.1:00pm-3pm

Legal Advocates Meeting
Friday, March 20, 2009 10:30am-3:00pm

April 2009 Meeting Schedule

Women of Diversity Task Force Meeting
Friday, April 3, 2009 10:00am-1:00pm

Legal Advocates Meeting
Friday, April 17, 2009 10:30am-3:00pm

Transitional Housing Forum
Tuesday, April 21, 2009 10:30am-2:30pm

Community/Professional Educator Network (CPEN)
Friday, April 24, 2009

Call the Meeting Cancellation Line to check for training and meeting cancellations 609-584-8107, ext. 23