



NJCBW UPDATE

April 2009

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET CUTS FUNDS FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The Governor's proposed FY10 Budget has eliminated or cut funding in several areas affecting victims of domestic or sexual violence. In the Department of Children and Families, funding for the new Domestic Violence Liaison project which began last year and is operating in seven counties has been eliminated. The program provides \$420,000 in funding to support staff of domestic violence programs who work at DYFS offices in Bergen, Morris, Mercer, Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Atlantic counties. These dedicated individuals have quickly had a tremendous impact on the staff at DYFS offices. A majority of their time is spent talking to clients, but they also assist with case conferencing and family team meetings. They often offer insights and information which change how DYFS responds to families where there is a co-occurrence of domestic violence and child abuse. Barbara Price, testified before the Assembly Budget Committee on March 24 to ask that the funding be restored and the programs in the seven counties are also contacting their legislators on the senate and assembly budget committees to advocate for the funding. Please contact Barbara for a copy of her testimony if you or your board is willing to advocate for the DV Liaison project.

The Governor's budget also eliminated \$1.5 million of funding for violence against women in the Office of Victim Witness Advocacy, Department of Law and Public Safety. This funding was added to the state budget by Governor Corzine for the last three years in response to cuts in federal VAWA and VOCA funding and because domestic violence and sexual assault core service programs were increasingly not being funded through these grant programs. The first year the funding was only \$1 million, but it was increased to \$1.5 million for the second year and this year. We have been pleased that the funding has been kept in

the budget this long. It is no surprise that in these tight budget times that it has been cut.

There have been cuts in the Division on Women budget to sexual assault programs (\$100,000), Hispanic Women's Resource Centers (\$50,000), and Displaced Homemaker Centers (\$120,000). While these numbers may seem small, they represent about 10% of the funding for each program. The Governor talked about hard choices in his budget address and maintaining funding for vulnerable people. We are grateful that there were not further cuts to violence against women programs, but a total loss of \$2,020,000 for domestic violence and sexual assault services when the demand for services is increasing will make maintaining services to vulnerable people extremely difficult. Contact your legislators about the need for this funding.

TACKLING WOMEN'S ISSUES

President Obama established the White House Council on Women and Girls with a ceremony at the White House on March 11. The new Council will focus on a coordinated federal response to issues that affect the lives of women and girls, and seek to ensure that federal programs and policies take into account their concerns, with an emphasis on women of color and women with disabilities.

The Council will focus on four main priorities during its first year: improving women's economic security; ensuring that the administration evaluates and develops policies that establish a balance between work and family; finding new ways to prevent violence against women at home and abroad; and building healthy families and improving women's health care.

"I sign this order not just as a President, but as a son, a grandson, a husband, and a father, because growing up, I saw my mother put herself through school and follow her passion for helping others," President Obama said at the ceremony.

“These issues are not just women’s issues. When women make less than men for the same work, it hurts families who find themselves with less income, and have to work harder just to get by. When a job doesn’t offer family leave, that also hurts men who want to help care for a new baby or an ailing parent.”

White House Senior Advisor Valerie Jarrett will head the Council. It includes Cabinet Secretaries and high-level administration officials. The Council will be responsible for providing recommendations on the effects of pending legislation and executive branch policy proposals; suggesting changes to federal programs or policies to address issues of importance to women and girls; reviewing and recommending changes to policies that have a distinct impact on women in the federal workforce; and assisting in the development of legislative and policy proposals of special importance to women and girls. It acts only in an advisory capacity.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

NJADVP 7th Annual Conference

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Rutgers University

Busch Campus, Piscataway

Look for conference brochure at

www.njcbw.org

week of April 13.

August 3-4, 2009, Long Beach, CA

A Journey to Healing: Finding the Path

Organized by the Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community, this conference will offer informative and engaging presentations, practical information, interactive sessions and artistic expressions focused on learning how to help battered women and those who witnessed domestic violence as children. Featured speakers will include: Brenda L. Thomas, author of *Laying Down My Burdens*; Carolyn West, Ph.D., a scholar specializing in violence in the lives of black women; and Mildred Muhammad, former wife of the ‘DC Sniper’ John Allen Muhammad. *For more information, visit www.idvaac.org/healing/.*

September 3-4, 2009, San Diego, CA

A New Direction for a Safer Tomorrow: A National Conference on Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange

The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and the Office on Violence Against Women will host a conference to inform professionals about how to provide safe, supervised visitation and exchange services that take domestic violence into account at the Omni San Diego Hotel. National experts will discuss safety for adult victims and children; services for diverse populations; community collaboration; and advocacy. *For more information, contact Michele Robinson at 775/784-6427 or mrobinson@ncjfcj.org.*

UPCOMING TRAINING

April 22, 2009

10:00 AM – 1:00 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

May 1, 2009

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Hip Hop: Beyond Beats & Rhymes

CLASS FULL

May 6, 2009

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

The Impact of the Gang Culture on Domestic Violence Victims

CLASS FULL

May 13, 2009

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Domestic Violence and the College Student

Lisa Smith, MS, DVS

A report from the Federal Bureau of Justice states that “the highest rate of intimate partner violence is among women ages 16-24” (Intimate Partner Violence and Age of Victim 1993-1999 Bureau of

Justice Statistics Special Report US DOJ, OJP, October 2001). The Family Law Quarterly reported that “an average of 28% of high school and college students experience dating violence” (Brustin, S., 1995, Legal Response to Teen Dating Violence, Family Law Quarterly, 29, 2, 331.) Given these numbers, there is no question that college students are being affected by domestic violence. Come and learn about the similarities and differences experienced by victims of domestic violence who are attending college. We will discuss Arthur Chickering’s developmental theory regarding the college population and how it affects the dynamics of abuse. We will outline the various resources available and discuss the potential obstacles they face. We will also cover the mixture of groups within the college community (i.e. GLBT and others) and the similarities and differences they represent.

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

May 20, 2009 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Substance Abuse and Violence Against Women

May 27, 2009 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Train the Trainer: Using Exercises in Community Training

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).

Train-the-Trainer:

**NJCBW Diversity Training Curriculum
for Domestic Violence Advocates:
Using a Social Justice Model to Understand
Difference**

PART ONE - May 5, 2009

PART TWO - May 12, 2009

**Pamela Smith Chambers, Beyond Diversity
Resource Center**

**Rose A. Williams, New Jersey Coalition for
Battered Women**

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: *Project Freedom (Hamilton, NJ)* [Click here for directions](#)

\$20 fee for materials (one time)

April 2009 Meeting Schedule

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

May 2009 Meeting Schedule

Women of Diversity Task Force Meeting

Friday, May 1, 2009 10:00am-1:00pm

NJ Child Advocate Network (CAN)

Friday, May 8, 2009 10:30am-3:30pm

Coalition Membership Meeting

Thursday, May 14, 2009 10:00am-1:00pm

Coalition Board of Trustees Meeting

Thursday, May 14, 2009 1:00pm-3:00pm

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