



**City  
of  
Milwaukee**

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Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault



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## **Quarterly Report to Public Safety Committee**

### **Fourth Quarter**

**October 1 - December 31, 2002**

#### **Community Education and Training**

- Co-sponsored conference on connection between abuse against animals and domestic violence/child abuse; three national speakers presented. One local channel aired information on nightly news.
- In-services held for new public health nurses on identifying and assisting clients with domestic violence issues and on identifying and addressing child abuse.
- Ongoing high school class at MPS School for Community Service on healthy relationships.
- Commission members and Staff presented information on domestic violence to MPD recruit class
- Staff attended three day workshop on perspectives on women in the criminal justice system in Wisconsin.
- Staff attended Milwaukee County Child Abuse Review Team in-service.
- Cultural Competency and Underserved Populations Committee began making bi-monthly educational presentations at Commission meetings. These educational sessions further the goal of the Coordinated Community Response (CCR) to ensure culturally sensitive services are made available to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse.
- Presentation made at Commission meeting on changes to legislation around restraining orders, stalking laws and advocate privilege.
- Presentation made at Commission meeting on services to adult and child victims of sexual assault, child abuse and domestic violence by The Counseling Center of Milwaukee.
- Began the creation of new brochure in collaboration with Judicial Oversight Initiative and Department of Corrections. This brochure will be geared toward alleged offenders of crimes of domestic violence and will be used predominantly by members of the criminal justice system to provide offenders, pre-trial, with information on available treatment and services. Brochure will be available in English and Spanish.

#### **Special Projects and Programs**

- Staff worked with the Humane Society of Milwaukee to establish connection in order to keep service providers and law enforcement informed on research and connections between abuse against animals and that against humans.
- Completed collaborative work with Judicial Oversight Initiative on developing advocate/liaison position for MPD Family Violence Unit.

- Staff began working on fund development plan that will encompass financial needs of CCR, Commission and MHD Injury and Violence Prevention Program.
- Several members of the Commission provided daily training to MPD Sensitive Crimes Unit in preparation for the Family Violence Unit becoming operational.
- Remained in contact with various levels of county in attempt to lessen impact of budget cuts on programs working on domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse issues. Initially proposed cuts to domestic violence programs were restored by County Supervisor Walker.
- Remained in contact with Sheriff Clarke regarding potential elimination of Witness Protection Program, testified before County Board regarding this issue. Sheriff Clarke has agreed to maintain program.
- Staff attended meetings with IMPACT and various domestic violence service providers to problem-solve client referral issues.
- Continued work with victims/systems on complex sexual assault, child abuse and domestic violence cases.
- Staff and Executive Committee continued monitoring and reporting on legislative proposals and changes impacting the issues on which we work.
- Continued answering of crisis calls.
- Continued technical assistance.

#### **Executive Committee Projects/Changes**

- Elections held for 2003 Commission Officers. Chairperson will be Maryann Clesceri, Counseling center of Milwaukee. Vice Chairs will be Liz Marquardt of Task Force on Family Violence and Susette Gordon of the Bureau of Child Welfare.
- Continued meetings with chairs of CCR subcommittees to enhance communication among members.

#### **Coordinated Community Response Sub-committee Projects**

**Civil and Criminal Justice-** Continued work on strategic plan and expansion of membership. Connection has been made with police departments around the county to enhance potential to connect and collaborate on issues.

**Education and Training-** Continued work on the development of resource guide of trainers in the Milwaukee area who can provide on information on sexual assault and available services. The group will turn its attention to best practices in spring.

**Cultural Competency and Underserved Populations-** Began making bi-monthly presentations at Commission meetings in an effort to educate providers and enable quality, culturally sensitive services to victims. Additionally, the two work groups continue to function with the goals of collection of demographic data from the area and development of an informational packet.

**American Indian Task Force-** The Committee held a Safe-Night for students at Walker Middle School that focused on healthy relationships.

**Victim Advisory Committee-** A member of the committee has agreed to be the survivor representative to the Commission. She will submit her resume to Alderman Pratt as soon as possible and begin helping staff to expand membership on this committee.

**Sexual Assault Provider Committee-** The committee completed a strategic plan for the year 2003. It will continue to hold case-staffings regularly and will attempt to focus not only on how systems collaborate, but on where the gaps in systems lie for victims and perpetrators of sexual

assault crimes in Milwaukee.

- "Case staffings" continued to be held in order to draw information around interaction among systems, agenda through 2002 has been planned, meeting dates set.
- Group members planning events for April, Sexual Assault Awareness Month

**Asian American Task Force**-The committee focused on recruitment for several months, looking at strategies to involve members of various Asian populations that have not historically been involved in the CCR.

**LGBT Committee** – Members of similar work-groups from Chicago and Madison came in to give provide technical assistance and training on how to better reach and serve these communities. The committee also decided that it would focus on advising the Milwaukee LGBT Center on its focus and work on the issues of sexual assault and domestic violence.

**Other Affiliations:**

Judicial Oversight Initiative  
Wisconsin Coalition on Domestic Violence  
Wisconsin Coalition on Sexual Assault  
Latina Resource Center  
Wisconsin Humane Society  
Milwaukee Police Department  
IMPACT