



Tom Barrett  
Mayor

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Commissioner of Health

**Health Department** Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

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## QUARTERLY REPORTS TO PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

### FIRST AND SECOND QUARTERS 2007

JANUARY 1, 2007 - JUNE 30, 2007

From January through June 2007 the Commission received and responded to over 70 calls for resources and referrals from community members. Commission staff sits as an active member of the Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission and the Domestic Violence Homicide Review Commission which reviewed 17 cases from Jan- Sept 11 of 2007.

The Commission continues to serve as a clearinghouse of information on proposed legislative trends, public awareness campaigns and overall community endeavors as they relate to domestic violence and sexual assault.

The Commission has been a great source of support (financially and by providing outreach) for numerous community educational activities including; co-sponsoring the Sexual Assault Awareness Month event that took place on April 27th at the Italian Community Center. The Commission recognized April as Sexual Assault Awareness month with a ad in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, listing community resources. An Elder Abuse resource fair was held in April 2007 at Serb Hall with over 20 vendors present.

The Commission continues to be involved with community partners in planning and hosting events that educate and raise awareness of domestic violence and sexual assault in all communities with a renewed emphasis in minority communities. Commission staff has become involved in the planning process of several events that focus on a targeted populations including the Latina Resource Center's Brides Walk, Jewish Family Service's Walk a Mile in Her

Shoes event and working with staff from Hmong American Friendship Association to develop a primary prevention plan for the Hmong community.

The Commission continues to support legislation that empowers victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and holds perpetrators accountable including supporting (in theory) SB129-E.R. Contraception and a bill that recognizes strangulation as a crime within it's self. The Commission also supports the legislative agendas of the Wisconsin Coalition against Sexual Assault and the Wisconsin Coalition against Domestic Violence.

Members of the Commission representing several domestic violence and sexual assault agencies attended the annual Lobby Day event in Madison to voice their support of legislative that empowers survivors and holds perpetrators accountable for their actions.

As a means to increase public awareness of the Commission, Commission meetings and locations are now available on the Heath Department's website.

In 2008 the Commission will continue education and outreach activities including an increased media outreach efforts.

The Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault remains a strong advocate of increased awareness, education and resources in the community on matters of domestic violence and sexual assault. The Commission has been instrumental in developing opportunities to engage non-traditional community members (men and the by-stander) in a dialogue about their role in ending violence against women and in turn community violence. The Commission's Violence Prevention Committee has taken the lead in developing community dialogues geared toward men and facilitated by male leaders in the community (Judge Carl Ashley and Ben Ortega). A community dialogue facilitated by Judge Carl Ashley was held at the Martin Luther King Community Center in December of 2006. Attendees were lead in a discussion on the role men can play in ending violence against women such as respecting women, treating women as equals and resisting comments that belittle women such as sexism

jokes, remarks and innuendoes. Ben Ortega facilitated a dialogue in May 2007 at UMOS.

A key member of the Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault is the Sexual Assault Treatment Center which reports seeing 599 clients coming in for medical forensic services in 2006, responded to 4177 crisis calls and provided 555 counseling visits.

The Task Force on Family Violence also a key member of the Commission usually sees between 4,800 and 5,300 clients each year in the restraining order clinic. The numbers vary from year to year. The number of orders can be and often are higher than the number of individuals as some people apply for more than one order when they visit the clinic.

Commission staff has become involved in community efforts to reduce violence by engaging in planning community events and activities that have been developed (revamped) as a result of the Mayor's Common Ground initiative. Commission staff continues to be a key member of the Wisconsin Community Services planning of a gang reduction event. Commission staff is involved in assessing men's violence prevention programs within Milwaukee County.

#### **Outside Community Affiliations**

- ◇ **Jewish Family Services**
- ◇ **Latina Resource Center/UMOS**
- ◇ **Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault**
- ◇ **Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence**
- ◇ **LGBT Community Center**
- ◇ **Sexual Assault Treatment Center**
- ◇ **UWM's Women's Resource Center**
- ◇ **Task Force on Family Violence**
- ◇ **Sojourner Truth House**
- ◇ **The Counseling Center of Milwaukee**
- ◇ **The Healing Center**
- ◇ **Asha Family Services**
- ◇ **Hmong American Friendship Association**

- ◇ **The Parenting Network**
- ◇ **The Milwaukee Women's Center**
- ◇ **Bureau of Child Welfare**
- ◇ **Legal Action on Wisconsin**
- ◇ **Independence First**
- ◇ **The Alma Center**
- ◇ **Daystar, Inc**
- ◇ **Children's Hospital- Child Protection Center**
- ◇ **Medical College of Wisconsin/Project Ujima/ Family Strengthening Project**
- ◇ **Various law enforcement and judiciary- Milwaukee Police Department, Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office, District Attorney's Office, Circuit Court judges, Department of Corrections- Probation and Parole – Sexual Offenders Registry**
- ◇ **10:34 Wisconsin, Inc**
- ◇ **Milwaukee Children Abuse Program – MCAP**
- ◇ **Department on Aging**
- ◇ **Alzheimer's Association**