



City
of

Milwaukee

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Health Department Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

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**MILWAUKEE COMMISSION ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT
REPORT TO PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
Third and Fourth Quarter 2008**

I. The Commission's Purpose, Responsibilities and Duties

City of Milwaukee Ordinance Number 320-22(2) defines the purpose of the Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (the Commission) as:

PURPOSE. The purpose of the Milwaukee commission on domestic violence and sexual assault is to increase the safety for victims of domestic violence and their children and for victims of sexual assault, and to hold abusers accountable for their violent behavior.

The responsibilities and duties of the Commission are set forth in City of Milwaukee Ordinance Number 320-22(5)(a) - Responsibilities and Duties :

The commission is charged with the responsibility of coordinating the community's response to domestic violence and sexual assault by promoting communication and collaboration among members of law enforcement, victim's advocates, court staff, school personnel, health care providers, abuser programs, corrections officials, policy makers, children's service providers and prosecutors.

II. Activities in Support of Responsibilities and Duties for Third/Fourth Quarter 2008

A. General Duties/Responsibilities –

1. **Regularly scheduled meetings** - The Commission meets both at City Hall and in a variety of community facilities in order to connect community

partners to the Commission members and to better acquaint the Commissioners with the community partners and resources. During this reporting period the Commission met at City Hall, the United Way and The Black Health Coalition.

2. **Strategic Plan Development/Implementation** – The Commission developed an overall strategic plan in March 2008. That strategic plan has been recorded, refined and is actively being implemented, with the Executive Committee working on the first of the major tenets identified.

B. 320-23(5) b-1 – Training for current officers/recruits of MPD - The Commission coordinator provided domestic violence training to the recruit class at the Milwaukee Police Department Safety Academy.

C. 320-23(5) b-2 – Policy review to improve response to victims – The Commission’s main effort in this area is our **MMDI** Grant which is dedicated to improving policies and procedures to ensure accessible services for victims with disabilities. Commission staff is part of the grant funded planning committee partnering with the Task Force on Family Violence, Independence First and Milwaukee County’s Disability Services to develop a needs assessment and eventually a strategic plan on how agencies can best serve disabled victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. Met regularly with planning committee, attended all listening sessions with various agencies and governmental entities.

D. 320-23(5) b-3 – Monitor and promote legislation - Commission provided training and presentation on lobbying and legislative process for Commission members and community partners during November Commission meeting held at Black Health Coalition of Wisconsin.

E. 320-23(5) b-4 – Community awareness aimed at intervention and prevention –

1. **Literature Distribution / Responding to Citizen and Community Calls**– The Commission distributed approximately one thousand pieces of literature to victim’s advocates, health care providers and non-profit organizations. The most popular publication is the “You Are Not Alone” brochure which features a comprehensive listing of resources (medical, legal, shelter, counseling etc.) for those affected by domestic violence and sexual assault. The Commission responded to numerous calls from community members and community-based agencies seeking resources on matters of domestic violence and sexual assault. Callers seeking support or resources included: private citizens seeking connection to resources; legal system partners at the Milwaukee County District Attorney’s office; Department of Corrections probation agents; at least seven non-profit providers; a large private health care clinic requesting training and literature; area high school instructors seeking instructional/educational support for students on topics such as dating violence.

2. **Resource Table at Wisconsin Department of Corrections/UMOS Open House**
In September, the Commission staffed a resource table/distributed literature at the

Wisconsin Department of Corrections/UMOS Open House for approximately 100 community participants

3. **Sexual Assault Clergy Training** – Commission staff is on planning committee for “Shining the Light of Faith on Sexual Violence” clergy outreach and training on sexual abuse issues. Partnership with Aurora, Sexual Assault Treatment Center, Healing Center, UCC and others. Commission staff will take part in training.
4. **DELTA Project** – The Domestic Violence Prevention Enhancement and Leadership Through Alliances (DELTA) program is a program of the Center for Disease Control which seeks to reduce the incidence (i.e., number of new cases) of IPV in funded communities. In Milwaukee, the program is focused on the Hmong community. The program addresses the entire continuum of IPV from episodic violence to battering through a variety of activities. The Commission is a formal partner in this program. In the last two quarters of 2008, Commission personnel met with Ka Lovang at Hmong American Women’s Association to plan next steps for DELTA project, and in anticipation of five year report due in April.
5. **IPV Consortium** - Commission staff has been involved in the development of a Healthcare Consortium that partners area hospitals with local domestic violence agencies to develop a comprehensive method by which patients will be screened for domestic violence concerns at area hospitals.
6. **Office of Justice Assistance Statewide VAWA Advisory Committee** – The Commission coordinator was contacted by Kittie Smith, Program & Planning Analyst with the State Office of Justice Assistance – Violence Against Women Program to request that the coordinator participate as a member of the Statewide Violence Against Women Act Advisory Board. This board helps in developing a statewide plan for use of the State STOP (Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors) formula grant and awarding state and local sub-grants.

IV. Additional Activities/Comments

In addition to the above-listed activities, the Commission held elections for Chair and Vice Chair positions in December, 2008. The newly elected Chair is Mark Lyday, from the Child Protection Center. The newly elected Vice Chairs are Mariana Rodriguez of the Latina Resource Center and Cathy Arney of Pathfinders.