



Tom Barrett
Mayor

Bevan K. Baker, CHE
Commissioner of Health

Health Department Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Frank P. Zeidler Municipal Building, 841 North Broadway, 3rd Floor, Milwaukee, WI 53202-3653 phone (414) 286-2997 fax (414) 286-8174
web site: www.milwaukee.gov/health

**QUARTERLY REPORTS TO PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
FIRST AND SECOND QUARTERLY REPORT OF 2008
JANUARY – JUNE 2008**

In January of 2008 the Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault became a part of the City's newly formed Office on Violence Prevention (OVP). Coming under the auspice of the OVP will enhance the Commission's ability to outreach to other city departments in a cohesive manner.

From January through June 2008 the Commission responded to over 80 calls from community members and community based agencies seeking resources on matters of domestic violence and sexual assault. Several calls were received from area College instructors seeking instructional/educational support for students on topics such as sexual assault and healing from sexual abuse. The Commission continues to be seen as a resource for High School students looking for statistic on domestic violence and sexual assault and a referral source for community members seeking assistance on maneuvering the criminal justice arena in matters of domestic violence and sexual assault.

The Commission continues to meet in variety of community facilities as a means to welcome and engage the community at large. The Commission has met at Children's Protection Center, LGBT Community Center and Jewish Family Services.

The Commission remains an important community partner and resources often working with local agencies to promote outreach events and educational opportunities such as the Sexual Assault Awareness Month event at the Italian Community Center The April 25, 2008 event was titled, " Safety and the Internet Crimes relating to Sexual Violence of Children and Adults." Commission staff has been active in working with newly hired Public Health Nurses (PHN) on identifying potential red flags relating to domestic violence, and childhood sexual abuse at home visits being conducted by nurses.

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 women will be screened for domestic violence concerns at area hospitals.

Commission staff is also part of a 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.

In March of 2008 the Commission hosted its annual retreat; utilizing a facilitator Commission members went through the process of identifying gaps in services for individuals and families, looked at the composition of the Commission, identified public policy as an area needing attention and identified the Commission's profile as needing attention. The Commission's Executive Committee is in the process of considering goals for 2008-2010 based on these findings.

The Commission also remains determined and dedicated to being a voice on legislative issues. The Commission continues to support a proposed strangulation and suffocation legislation along with legislation relating to safe housing, human trafficking and the funding of District Attorney's throughout the state.

The Commission continues to be seen as a resource for those in the community seeking to address domestic violence and sexual assault service providers as a group. In early 2008, members of the Family Justice Center's Planning Committee came to the Commission to update Commission members on the status of a Family Justice Center in the Milwaukee area and to seek input from Commission members.

