City of Milwaukee
Health Department

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Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

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Quarterly Report to Public Safety Committee

First Quarter

January 1 - March 31, 2003

Community Education and Training

- Commission members and Staff presented information on domestic violence to MPD recruit class.
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- Cultural Competency and Underserved Populations Committee continues 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.
- The first survivor has been appointed to the Commission filling the Victim Advocate Seat.
- Presentation made at Commission meeting by Jill De Grave of the Wisconsin Humane Society on the connections between animal violence and family violence, highlighting the research presented in the October, 2002 conference.
- Presentation made at Commission by Paul Dedinsky from the Domestic Violence Unit of the District Attorney's Office. He presented on evidenced based prosecution in domestic violence cases.
- Presentation made at Commission meeting by the CART(Child Abuse Review Team) explaining the collaborative effort to create seamless services for child victims of physical and sexual abuse.
- Continued development of new brochure in collaboration with Judicial Oversight Initiative and Department of Corrections. This brochure is geared toward alleged offenders of crimes of domestic violence and is being 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.
- Created a power point presentation on the Commission and CCR structure. Presented this to Division Managers and to the Office of Justice Assistance for a grant review.
- Collaborated with JOI on emerging issues regarding batterer's treatment, and pre-trial monitoring.

Special Projects and Programs

- Staff worked with the Sexual Assault Treatment Center, The Healing Center, and The Counseling Center of Milwaukee to highlight male survivors of sexual abuse, to create increased awareness of barriers for men to report and request services as well as to provide better services for male victims.

- Conducted presentations for high school students on healthy relationships.
- Commission Members worked with local agencies to respond to state budget cuts for domestic violence and sexual assault service providers. Keeping the members informed about changes and assisting with education and preparation to lobby state elected officials, which took place on April 2nd in Madison.
- Sponsored a forum for survivors and service providers.
- Conducted presentations on domestic violence and sexual assault for W2 clients.
- Continued work with Judicial Oversight Initiative to develop/problem solve sustainability of the program to include building sustainable collaborations for the future.
- Staff held meetings with members of the Latino Resource Coalition to re-establish the relationship with the Commission and the CCR.
- Worked on efforts to create public service announcements for the Latino Community.
- Assisted Commissioner of Health with presentation to family practitioners at the Medical College of Wisconsin on cultural issues and domestic violence.
- Collaborated on development of domestic violence brochures and resources for the Medical College of Wisconsin's Refugee Mental Health Domestic Violence Program.
- Sponsored a mini-retreat for Cultural Competency and Underserved Populations committee, the Asian American Task Force, The American Indian Task Force, the LGBT Task Force, and representatives from the Latino Resource Coalition to discuss progress towards increasing cultural sensitivity within the Commission and CCR structure. Developed strategies to keep voices of underserved populations highlighted.
- Several members of the Commission continue to provide training to MPD Sensitive Crimes Unit for the Family Violence Unit addressing emerging issues now that the unit has become operational.
- 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

- Continued meetings with chairs of CCR subcommittees to enhance communication among members.
- Continued Monitoring and responding to legislation regarding domestic violence, sexual assault and related issues.

Coordinated Community Response Sub-committee Projects

Civil and Criminal Justice- Staff facilitated 2 case and a presentation on the Family Violence Unit. Continues to monitor and investigate supervised visitation models.

Education and Training- Continued work on resource guide of trainers in the Milwaukee areas who can provide training on sexual assault and domestic violence. Hosted a luncheon to discuss best practices and it's application to Milwaukee's service providers.

Cultural Competency and Underserved Populations- Continuing to present 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 is planning a safe night event for middle school students on teen dating violence. This committee also continues to reach out to other American Indian organizations, churches etc., to expand their membership and collaborate on education in the Indian Community on the issues of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Sexual Assault Provider Committee- The committee held a presentation by the judiciary on the statue of limitation for both criminal and sexual assault cases. A presentation by WCASA highlighting the services and technical assistance their agency offers. Held discussions on legislation being drafted on clergy abuse. Members of the committee participated in the Catholic Churche's Listening Sessions.

Asian American Task Force- Continue to work on outreach in the Asian Community to recruit members, and developed a brochure on the Task Force to be used for such a purpose.

LGBT Committee –Members developed discussed applying for funds for sexual assault awareness project. Continued to develop goals and objectives for the coming year.

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
Milwaukee Public Schools
Medical College of Wisconsin
Maximus
Jewish Family Services