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

Second Quarter

April 1 - June 30, 2003

Community Education and Training

- Commission members and Staff presented information on domestic violence to MPD recruit class.
- Co-sponsored Sexual Assault Awareness Month Luncheon "Honoring Male Survivors of Sexual Abuse". One national speaker presented and one victim presented his story. There were 100 participants.
- 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 on the future of the annual event "Take Back The Night". (An annual grassroots rally to educate and gather support for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault).
- Presentation made at Commission meeting by Commissioner Kathy Herbst from the LGBT Community Center on their programs and services.
- Presentation made at Commission meeting by Commissioner Priyanka Chadha, an immigrant and survivor of domestic violence. By telling her story, she allowed those present to identify areas in which the systems worked well and where gaps existed specifically in the areas of cultural sensitivity and immigration issues.
- Completion 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.
- Commission staff collaborated with the Judicial Oversight Initiative to create bi-lingual batterer's treatment groups.

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.
- Staff facilitated meetings with MPS, The Healing Center, SATC, The District Attorneys

Office, IMPACT, and The LGBT Community Center to discuss funding for sexual assault prevention, specifically date rape drugs used by perpetrators to facilitate sexual assault.

- 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.
- Staff worked on Mayor's Public Safety Report, to include domestic violence and sexual assault statistics as well as the city's response to these crimes for 2002-2003.
- 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.
- Worked on planning committee for Take Back the Night.
- 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 continue to provide training to MPD Sensitive Crimes Unit for the Family Violence Unit addressing emerging issues now that the unit has become operational.
- Staff is working with MPD to sponsor a press conference in September to highlight the work of the Family Violence Unit.
- Staff worked with domestic violence and sexual assault agencies to apply for funding to hold Community Dialogues for survivors, which will focus on peer to peer support. Commission staff is coordinating this effort.
- Commission staff facilitated 4 meetings to discuss funding available for domestic violence prevention education. Staff collaborated on grant with HAFA to apply for this funding with a focus on prevention in the hmong community.
- 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.
- Began planning the fall annual retreat for Commission and CCR, to discuss future goals and objectives as well as sustainability of programs.

Coordinated Community Response Sub-committee Projects

Civil and Criminal Justice- Staff facilitated 1 case review by the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare. Worked on judicial training to be conducted in the fall. Monitored supervised visitation services in Milwaukee.

Education and Training- Finished work on the development of a resource guide of trainers in the Milwaukee area who can provide on information on sexual assault and available services. This was distributed to agencies and systems for use. Currently developing a best practice model for safety planning for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

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 held a Safe-Night for students at Walker Middle School that focused 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.

Victim Advisory Committee- The Victim Advocate Seat had its first appointment of Priyanka Chadha. This seat is for a survivor of domestic violence and or sexual assault. Priyanka is working with staff to establish a collaborative effort between DIDI, and the Commission as well as establish a focus for survivors.

Sexual Assault Provider Committee- The committee held 2 case reviews presented by The District Attorney's Office, and by Corrections (probation and parole). Both case reviews highlighted where victims were served well, where systems collaborated to a good end, and where gaps might be and how to close those gaps. Committee members also assisted with the Sexual Assault Awareness Luncheon, and hosted a conference for forensic nurses.

Asian American Task Force- Members worked with Commission/CCR staff to apply for funding for domestic violence prevention as well as funding for holding community dialogues. This work involved partnering with HAFA as a fiscal agent.

LGBT Committee –Members developed materials for sexual assault education and prevention in the LGBT Community. The LGBT Community Center received a grant from WCASA to create materials specific for that community. The materials were developed and distributed for Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April. This is the first campaign of it's kind in the United States.

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