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Update

Family Violence Coordinating Council Newsletter

December 2009

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Greetings!

Welcome to the Multnomah County Family Violence Coordinating Council Newsletter published monthly. If you are having formatting difficulties allow photos to be displayed or add us to your safe senders list.

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Thirty days and Seventeen Deaths by Chiquita Rollins

Thirty days, seventeen deaths related to domestic violence in Oregon. Seven incidents involved the suicide of the perpetrator and resulted in the deaths of five Oregon women and three of their children. In all of these incidents, the perpetrators of domestic violence were male and a firearm was used.

chiquita

Meeting Agenda

December 11, 2009

Portland Building, 1120 SW
5th Ave, Rm 2b

12:15-12:30

Introductions
and Announcements

12:30-12:35

Elections for FVCC
Executive Committee
Membership

12:35 - 12:55 County
Budget Process and Outlook

12:55 - 1:30 Legislative
Alliance Activities
and Update

In Multnomah County on November 4, 2009, 28-year-old Tameka Medina and her four-year-old son Ashawn Medina-Barr were shot to death by 29-year-old Ceantwaun Barr, who then killed himself. Tameka had left the shooter just days before, but he lured her back to the house by claiming to be sick. Their 11 year old daughter was not present when her mother and brother were killed.

Most of these tragedies, however, have occurred across the state, in both urban and rural communities. Our hearts go out to the victims, and their children, families, friends and co-workers.

I have been asked "why?" Is it due to the economy, to stress of the holidays? I have been asked "what can we do?"

We know that when women are leaving a relationship, they are more likely to be assaulted, injured or killed. Homicide is the ultimate act of power and control of the victim by the

Announcements

FVCC Training Committee:

The FVCC training committee is seeking new members. The committee meets monthly to plan ongoing beginning, intermediate, and advanced domestic violence trainings. Current projects include monthly domestic violence trainings held the third tuesday of each month and the quarterly Advocate Institute. If you are interested in attending a meeting or need information about the committee contact Vanessa Timmons at 503-988-3691 x 26266 or email vanessa.timmons@o.multnomah.orl.us.

Bradley Angle Dedicates Emergency Shelter in

Memory of Bonnie Tinker:

Saturday, December 5th, 3pm-6pm, Bradley Angle invites you to attend their shelter dedication to Bonnie Tinker and Virtual Ribbon Cutting (aka celebration). The ceremony will take place at the Multnomah Friends Meeting House at 4312 SE Stark St., Portland, OR 97215. It's time to celebrate the amazing changes that have happened at the shelter over the last few months, and officially recognize and name the shelter "The Bonnie Tinker House" in honor of one of Bradley Angle's founders.

Legal Aid Services of

Oregon: Legal Aid Services of Oregon, Multnomah County Office encourages partner organizations to refer survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse and elder/ disabled person abuse to its Domestic Violence Project. The Domestic Violence Project provides trained volunteer attorneys for representation in contested Family Abuse Prevention Act (FAPA) restraining order hearings, Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities Abuse Prevention Act hearings and stalking order hearings. Potential clients can call 503-224-4086 on week days from 9am-12pm and 1-5pm for Legal Aid eligibility screening. Domestic Violence

perpetrator of domestic violence. Unemployment, poverty, stress may add to the perpetrator's sense of loss, but does not explain why some men kill their partners and/or their children.

The solution to ending domestic violence is a community solution. Only if everyone who cares about the lives of women and children steps up and takes action can we hope to stop these tragedies from occurring.

The following list of ideas for action was adapted from suggestions of the Oregon Legislative Alliance to End Violence against Women.

Take Action Now. Make a Difference for the Future.
Together, we can help keep Oregonians safe.

1. **Victim Support:** If you talk with someone who discloses abuse, there are three simple and easy things to say that can help: "You deserve to be safe. This is not your fault. There is help available." Refer victims to the local domestic violence advocacy programs - listed below - or to the national 24-hour confidential domestic violence hotline at **1-800-799-SAFE**. Remind them 911 should be called immediately in an emergency.

2. **Community Action:** Speak out in your community about the effects of domestic violence and stalking. Send a clear message that by joining together, our communities can make a difference for victims and their children. Contact a local domestic violence advocacy agency if you would like help in speaking out.

3. **Program Support:** Visit your local domestic violence victim advocacy program and learn what they are doing right now to end violence in your community. Offer your help.

4. **Training:** Get training on domestic violence and stalking, and encourage others to be trained as well. This training is most important for anyone working with or providing services to people who may be victims. Your local victim advocacy program can provide this training, often free of charge.

5. **Legislation:** Support legislation, policies or funding at the State and local level that provides core safety and prevention services to victims.

Examples include:

- Advocate for adequate state and local funding for a range of services to victims, to ensure that help is available to all victims who seek assistance;
- Invite victim advocacy programs to come to your workplace to train employees and supervisors/manager on domestic violence in the workplace and to help to develop workplace violence policies that assure appropriate response.

Project advocates then contact eligible clients within 24 hours to conduct a phone intake on all potential clients, and they attempt to place meritorious cases with set contested hearing dates with volunteer attorneys, barring time constraints. If you have questions or need additional information you can contact Leslie Kay, Regional Director, Legal Aid Services of Oregon Multnomah County Office, 921 SW Washington St., Ste 500, Portland, OR 97205.

Combat Veteran's Domestic Violence Program (CVDVP):

The Men's Resource Center offers a domestic violence program designed specifically for combat veterans. The program combines a veterans administration treatment protocol for combat stress related disorders with a state approved domestic violence protocol. For information call 503-235-3433 or email info@portlandmrc.com

The National Domestic Violence Pro Bono Directory:

The American Bar Association Commission on Domestic Violence has launched an online National Pro Bono Directory. The directory is a comprehensive national database of programs providing pro bono legal services to victims of domestic violence. The directory allows volunteers looking to provide pro bono legal services to do tailored searches by state. You can access the directory at <http://www.probono.net/dv/oppguide/>

The American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) free manual for probation and parole officers working with domestic violence cases. APPA is an international association composed of members from the United States, Canada and other countries actively involved with probation, parole, and community-based corrections, in both adult and juvenile sectors. You can download the manual at <http://www.appa-net.org/eweb/docs/APPA/pubs/CDV.pdf>

- Establish, maintain or fully fund a coordinated response to domestic violence; and
- Provide prevention education and safety response training in our schools.

Excerpt from article titled "Making Misdemeanor Matter" by Casey Gwinn

To view full article visit Casey Gwinn [website](#)

Making Misdemeanors Matter
Casey Gwinn heads the National Family Justice Center Alliance providing technical assistance, training, and support to Family Justice Centers and domestic violence service provider agencies across the United States and around the world.



It is funny how life goes. Some call it serendipity, some call it fate. I consider it divine intervention. And on the way down my path to "being somebody" I experienced a large dose of divine intervention. As I began as a misdemeanor prosecutor in 1985, I volunteered to handle a few domestic violence cases. No one else wanted to do them and I was junior anyway so I did not have a lot of choices. Mind you, I was completely incompetent in a courtroom. I was not sure where the prosecutor sat. I knew nothing about building a case, putting on evidence, or convincing a jury. But there I was prosecuting misdemeanor family violence cases, the most difficult cases to deal with in the criminal justice system. I mucked up a few cases early on, lost a high profile case against a judge for beating his pregnant girlfriend, and realized I was just plain bad at the paperwork that goes along with being a prosecutor in a high volume domestic violence caseload.

But the victims I dealt with motivated me. A powerful woman named Ashley Walker showed up in my office in 1986, called me an idiot, and then invested her life in me. Ashley was a survivor and the founder of Battered Women's Services at the YWCA of San Diego County. She founded the first emergency shelter at the YWCA. And her relationship with me drove me to figure out how to handle domestic violence cases aggressively and effectively. It was Ashley who challenged us to start evidence-based prosecution by asking "Why does the victim of the crime have to be responsible for the prosecution of the criminal who abused her? Isn't that the job of the criminal justice system to hold criminals accountable for criminal conduct?"

Quick Links

[Domestic Violence
Coordinator's Office](#)

Coming Soon

[DV Video Resources](#)

[FVCC](#)

Candlelight Vigil Tonight

In remembrance of the lives lost
due to domestic violence

Friday, December 4, 2009
4:00 pm Tery Schrunk Plaza
(across from the Multnomah
County courthouse) SW 3rd Ave
and SW Madison

There have been 7 incidents of
domestic violence murders in the
past 5 weeks in the Portland/
Vancouver Metro area. Join
together as a community to show
your support to these victims and
their families while reaching out to
others experiencing domestic
violence. All are welcome.
Together we can end domestic
violence.

Almost a quarter of a century after handling that first misdemeanor domestic violence case, I'm still here in the movement. I am now retired as a prosecutor and focusing more attention on creating civil legal services through our FJC Legal Network, challenging systems, debating philosophies, promoting values, and trying to change priorities in our culture. Now, my calling, along with Gael Strack and our Family Justice Center Alliance Team, is to challenge people to work together, come together, and serve victims and their children together.

But my view of misdemeanors has not changed. If you want to change the world for victims of domestic violence and their children, more cases need to be prosecuted as felonies and you need to make misdemeanors matter in your community. 85-90% of all domestic violence cases in America are prosecuted as misdemeanors. I salute San Diego County District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis for increasing the filing of felony domestic violence cases since she took office and call on others to follow her lead. But misdemeanors are still the largest percentage of cases and need to be treated as a serious crime. So let me say it again: The criminal justice system has to prioritize misdemeanor domestic violence cases. Most domestic violence killers in America don't have prior felony convictions. They have prior misdemeanor cases where the system minimized their crime, where accountability was weak, where jail time and other serious consequences were almost non-existent, and where most people treated it as "just a misdemeanor." And then the violence escalated until someone was seriously injured or killed.

It happened again last week in Naples, Florida. Guerline Damas, 32, was killed along with all five of her children. Their dad slit their throats one at a time. A long history of domestic violence without serious criminal consequences at either the misdemeanor or felony level led to the latest mass killing in America. The oldest child, Zach, was 9. The youngest, Megan, was 11 months old. Their father is now in custody and has confessed to the murders. The State of Florida will spend millions to prosecute him and then lock him up for the rest of his life. But it is too late. The misdemeanors should have mattered and when he strangled his wife in January 2009, he should have been prosecuted for a felony and put in prison. Maven, age 5, tried to ask for help. She told an investigator in January that "My daddy is hitting my Mommy." Maven too lost her life...another casualty in the war on women and children in America.

If you want to be somebody as an advocate, police officer, prosecutor, probation officer, or judge... invest your life in misdemeanors and ensure they matter in your community. If you are fortunate enough to become a policy maker, reward those who do misdemeanor domestic violence cases well. Give honor and recognition to those who save a life or prevent the more serious crime by dealing with the

misdemeanor batterer, instead of simply profiling and honoring the ones doing the big murder case or dealing with the high profile felon. Don't buy the lie that felonies are more important than misdemeanors. Don't let all the resources get poured into the prosecution of the felony domestic violence cases. Don't succumb to the ego needs that get met by working as an advocate, a police officer, a detective, a prosecutor, probation officer, or a judge on the "big cases." And even when you get to do those cases, please don't look down your nose at those doing misdemeanors. Misdemeanors give us the chance to change the world. It is where we save lives. Misdemeanors are where we can break the cycle of violence and help children before the damage is pervasive and the scars are permanent. Misdemeanors are where we truly make sure the law keeps its promise. Excellence in misdemeanor domestic violence intervention may well be a divine appointment for you that will pour hope into the hearts of the victims and their children that are depending on you to respect them, protect them, and stop the violence that is wounding them so deeply.

Domestic Violence in the News

Recently the media reached out to the DV community in an effort to understand the increase in DV killings that have impacted Oregon. On December 3rd, a press conference was held at the invitation of the Portland Police Bureau. The Domestic Violence Coordinators Office, Domestic Violence Enhanced Response Team (DVIRT) and community partners gathered to participate in a press conference.

Advocates, district attorneys, probation, and victim services providers, sent a strong and solid message, that we share a concern for victim safety and encourage friends/family/co workers of people impacted by DV to reach out and provide support. And that we have an expectation that offenders be held accountable for their actions, not only by the system, but by the community and people in their lives as well.

Here are some links to local news stories from this week.

[restraining orders](#)

[employers](#)

[breakups](#)

[murder-suicides](#)

This article was submitted by Joslyn Baker, DVERT Coordinator Multnomah County.

"To Live Free of Violence is a Revolutionary Idea" by Bonnie Tinker

Bonnie Tinker, local activist and one of the founders of Bradley-Angle House, died in a bicycle accident on July 2, 2009 while attending a peace making conference in Virginia. She was influential in the founding of the domestic violence movement in Oregon and nationally, serving as Bradley-Angle House' first Director, and was the Acting Chair of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence during its founding. She worked on peace and justice issues for more than 30 years locally. She was one of the founders and Executive Director of Love Makes a Family, a resource for LGBT families, serving the greater Portland area.

We are including this excerpt from her article titled BRADLEY-ANGLE HOUSE HISTORY: CREATING SHELTER FROM VIOLENCE as the first of a several articles on the history of domestic violence interventions and of the Coordinating Council. This article was first printed in The Alliance newspaper and reprinted in the Bradley-Angle House newsletter Fall 2005.

October was LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bi and Trans) History Month [as well as Domestic Violence Awareness Month]. A little known piece of history is the role that the LGBT community had in creating Portland's domestic violence movement. This community incubated the energy to open the first shelter, Prescott House, which was defined as a halfway house for women coming out of prison. Prescott House folded after a year or so, but the idea had been planted, and was revived in 1975.

Unfortunately, there was no longer a house and nobody would rent to a bunch of young women with little cash and no business connections. Help came from the community through the American Friends Service Committee, which provided tax-exempt sponsorship. One of their volunteers, Ocie Trotter, a counselor had started a NE community mental health center serving African Americans, found a landlord willing to take a risk and rent to the group. With this support, a big, aging house in a confidential neighborhood location was declared a shelter for women "escaping violent situations." The shelter was named Bradley-Angle House to remember two women who were friends of some of the founders and had died of drug overdoses. Drugs and "o.d.-ing" were recognized as one part of the violence we faced as outcasts.

Once the doors were opened, the women came, bringing with them horrible stories of battering, abuse, torture and near death. We soon discovered that violence was the tie that bound us together. Most of the women working at the

shelter or staying there had known abuse as a child or battering from an adult partner.

Violence against women and children flourished because community institutions wouldn't intervene...

LGBT people are not the only ones who have to come out. The Domestic Violence Movement took root because brave women "came out" and talked to the media about the violence inflicted upon them by husbands and boyfriends. The press carried the story and courageous women testified to police committees and legislatures. The lesbians did not speak out for fear that a homophobic backlash would have sunk the whole fragile movement.

It is a critical movement. If we are not safe in our homes, we have no freedom to look beyond our homes to the forces that create institutional violence and injustice in the world.

People who work in shelters are usually underpaid and over-worked. Their work is often dismissed by activists as merely "social service." It is social service and it builds a movement by empowering those oppressed by direct violence. To live free of violence is a revolutionary idea.

Take a minute this fall to find someone who works in a shelter. Thank them for their revolutionary work.

Trainings:

December 5th & 6th (9:00am-4:00pm): Portland, Oregon. Volunteer Training. These advanced trainings will cover issues that impact American victims overseas and issues specific to answering calls on the international toll-free hotline. To qualify, you must be willing to complete additional training, have completed training with a domestic violence agency, have experience working on a domestic violence hotline or demonstrate experience working with victims. For more information please call us at 503-203-1444 or email caitlinm@866uswomen.org

December 8th, 2009: Tri-County Batterer Intervention Provider Network meetings.

December topic is a discussion of the larger social context of domestic violence including how to go about facilitating social change and change on the macro level. It is intended to remind us of the larger social issues which we can lose sight of when working with individual men. Contact Chris Huffine for location and time chuffine@pacifier.com

December 11th, 2009 (9:00am-4:00pm): Substance Abuse Treatment for Clients with Co-occurring Disorders, Clark County Washington, South Washington Medical Center-Memorial Campus 3400 Main St. Vancouver WA 98663. Gain awareness and understanding of effective assessment skills and treatment strategies for clients with co-occurring mental

health and substance use disorders. Fees: Member agency 50.00 Non-member 75.00, student 20.00. For more information or to register online visit their website at <http://www.addictionceu.org/trainings.php>

January 9th, 2010: Northwest Conference Against Trafficking (NWCAT)"Look Beneath The Surface", Janzen Beach Red Lion. This conference commemorates the National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. Speakers include Dallas Jessup from CNN's Just Yell Fire, and retired Special Forces Colonel Dr. Bill Hillar. Sponsors include City Club of Portland Multnomah County, Oregonians against Trafficking Humans, and Soroptimists. For more information visit the website at <http://www.nwcat.org>

January 19th , 2009 (10:00am-12:00pm): Multnomah County Family Violence Coordinating Council, Multnomah (FVCC) County Southeast Health Clinic, 3653 SE 34th Ave, Portland OR 97202. Advocate Forum; Join us for the advocate forum facilitated by Yolanda House Shelter Manager Patricia Martin; discussion will focus on finding real life solutions to the challenges advocates face doing the day-to-day tasks of domestic violence and sexual assault advocacy. Discussion offers advocates an opportunity to share their challenges and get suggestions from other advocates about what works, where to find local domestic & sexual violence resources, and practical supports for advocates in the trenches. This is a free workshop and registration is not required. For more information please contact Vanessa Timmons at 503-988-9166 ext. 26266 or vanessa.timmons@co.multnomah.or.us

The FVCC seeks to develop a coordinated community response that includes the domestic violence response system and community and social systems.

Newsletter feedback and article ideas are always welcome. Send comments to [Vanessa Timmons](mailto:Vanessa.Timmons)

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