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NEW COORDINATION LISTSERV

On February 7, the CCWS Project launched a listserv for people interested in or involved in violence against women coordination initiatives. We already have 98 members from a range of sectors (police, government, community-based programs, Aboriginal programs, transition houses, etc) and have started discussing issues. If you would like to join the listserv, please email Laura-Ashley at ccws@endingviolence.org.

NEW DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE

On our website

- *On Finding Common Ground*: an exercise for coordination initiatives
- *Confidentiality for Rural Women*: information on some of the barriers to confidentiality in small communities

Available on request from Issues Analyst

- The electronic version of MCFD's *Best Practice Approaches: Child Protection and Violence Against Women*
- Coroner's reports for: the Lorraine Moon inquest (Alert Bay), The Mission Inquest (Sherry Heron and Anna Adams)
- An electronic version of the updated RCMP Violence in Relationships Policy, including provisions relating to RCMP releasing copies of undertakings which include conditions to protect victims

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

CCWS Regional Coordinators Morgen Baldwin and Gail Edinger and Issues Analyst Gisela Ruebsaat have provided or will be providing coordination-related information, support and training to the following communities between January and March of this year: Smithers, Robson Valley (Dunster, McBride, Albreda, Dome Creek, Crescent Spur, Tete Jaune), Vanderhoof, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Kitimat, Massett, Skidegate and Queen Charlotte City.

CROSS-REGIONAL DISCUSSION GROUPS

In January and February, the CCWS Project held a series of cross-regional discussion groups on key issues in the area of violence against women. The calls in January were on the topic of Assaultive Men's Treatment. The February calls were on Coordination as Prevention, with a focus on the broad spectrum of prevention work

ranging from raising awareness in schools and the community, to crisis intervention with victims and offender, to working collaboratively across sectors to ensure gaps or problems in local responses are addressed. Participants on the calls represented a varied range of organizations, including community-based and police-based victim assistance, Community Corrections, ERA (Ending Relationship Abuse, formerly Association of Counsellors of Abusive Men), STROH consulting, counsellors working in immigrant and in Aboriginal communities, women's centres, Stopping The Violence counselling programs, Children Who Witness Abuse programs and transition houses. Provincial and federal government representatives from the CCWS Working Group also participated in the calls. The summaries of these calls will be completed soon and will be posted on our website.

TRAINING NOTES

Association Training Forum, December 2 & 3, 2004

The CCWS Project was very involved in the planning and organizing of the Association Forum this year, to ensure that representatives from coordination initiatives across BC attended this annual training forum for frontline anti-violence workers. One of the many positive outcomes of the Forum was the workshop, Advocacy/Liaison with the Criminal Justice System. There were three communities represented at the Forum that have positive working relationships with their local Crown offices—Dawson Creek, Campbell River and Penticton. Phil Seagram, one of the workshop presenters, stated his beliefs about how community-based victim assistance programs have great value to Crown Counsel and to the clients they serve. He says that "with Crown and CBVAP working together there is a better chance of something positive happening for the victim, and for the victim being protected, even if there is not a conviction."

Myth of "Mutual Battering" Workshops

In mid-February, Regional Coordinators and the Issues Analyst travelled to Dunster and Vanderhoof to deliver workshops on The Myth of "Mutual Battering." This has been an ongoing issue that coordination initiatives are dealing with, and the workshops have been well-received. Please contact one of the Regional Coordinators if you would like to book a workshop for your community.

CCWS FUNDERS

Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services
National Crime Prevention Centre: Crime Prevention Partnership Program

IMPORTANT RCMP VIR POLICY CHANGE

As part of our cross-regional discussion groups on protection orders and prevention, as well as our community development work, a number of communities provided feedback to CCWS project staff about the importance of the victim having a copy of the Undertaking to Appear or UTA (when the accused is released by an officer in charge subject to conditions designed to protect the victim.) Having a copy of conditions that are in place to protect her can be an important safety planning tool for the victim and can help police when they are called in to enforce any breach. Police in some communities were not releasing UTA's to victims, citing privacy restrictions. In collaboration with CCWS Working Group members Cpl. Robin Bridge and Chief Superintendent Al Macintyre, this issue has now been clarified by a specific amendment to the provincial RCMP VIR Policy. The Policy now directs RCMP to provide the victim with a copy of the UTA. CCWS will be preparing and circulating an Issues Update to assist communities in this area in the near future.

WORKING GROUP NEWS

Commanding Officers Meeting

On January 31, Anita Pascoe of the Pacific Association of First Nations Women (PAFNW) and the CCWS Issues Analyst made a presentation at the Commanding Officers Aboriginal Advisory Committee (COAAC) of the RCMP. The presentation was well received COAAC and PAFNW and CCWS look forward to maintaining an ongoing dialogue with RCMP regarding policing issues and the violence experienced by First Nations women. Thanks to CCWS Working Group member Chief Supt Al Macintyre for giving us the opportunity to help make the presentation a reality.

New Members

Shashi Assanand, Founder and Executive Director of the Vancouver & Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services Society

Alison Halyk, Program/Policy Analyst at the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services, Stopping the Violence Branch

Dr Harry Stefanakis, chair of the Ending Relationship Abuse Society of BC (ERABC), an association representing counsellors who work with assaultive men

Karen Stone, Executive Director of the BC/Yukon Society of Transition Houses

UPDATING THE PROTECTION ORDER ENFORCEMENT MATRIX: A COORDINATED EFFORT

The CCWS Project has formed a partnership with the Victim Services and Community Programs Division (VSCPD) of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (MPSSG). The partnership was developed in order to update the protection order enforcement matrix (POEM) that was developed by the Ministry of Attorney General (MAG) Police Services and sent out to police in 1999. The matrix lists the various types of protection orders available in violence against women cases and includes brief information about the type of order and the authority for police enforcement.

In addition to VSCPD and CCWS, other participants in this project include representatives from: the Protection Order Registry, MCFD (Senior Policy Analyst and representative from Provincial Youth Services), Legal Services Society and Crown Counsel. We also have support from senior municipal police and RCMP as part of the CCWS Project Working Group.

The matrix will be updated and distributed to RCMP, municipal police and victim service workers so that all parties are aware of what kinds of orders are available and options for enforcement. This project is an example of the important role that the CCWS Project and the BCASVACP can play in facilitating coordination both at the community and government levels.

PRIZE FOR WOMEN'S CREATIVITY IN RURAL LIFE

This prize (\$500) has been awarded since 1994 by the Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF). It honours women and women's groups exhibiting exceptional creativity, courage and commitment in improving the quality of life in rural communities. Go to www.woman.ch for more information. Deadline to submit nominations is March 15, 2005. Thanks to the BC Rural Women's Network for this information.

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CCWS MANAGING PARTNER

BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs