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Community Development

Between October and January, CCWS Regional Coordinators provided telephone and email support to 41 communities and in-person support to four communities (100 Mile House, Kelowna, Kitimat and Vernon). An additional nine communities were waitlisted for in-person workshops.

If you need help developing or improving cross-sector coordination in your community, please contact Michelle (250-862-2887) or Gail (250-397-2389).

Community Leadership Training

On February 24-26, 18 anti-violence workers from 18 different communities across BC participated in our Community Leadership Training in Vancouver. Once again, demand for the training far exceeded the number of spots available. Initial feedback indicates the training was a success!



Participants at the 2009 Community Leadership Training.
(Source: Gail Edinger)

Women Who Are Mistakenly Arrested

Our meetings with RCMP "E" Division regarding relationship violence cases in which women were mistakenly arrested have been very promising.

In December 2008, CCWS presented the details of specific cases to "E" Division, which were forwarded to the appropriate District Officers for follow-up. In January 2009, "E" Division reported back on 18 cases.

A number of next steps are under consideration, including:

- police training,
- detachment audits of domestic violence files to look for consistent application of primary aggressor assessment,
- follow-up with individual detachments where the mistaken arrest of women is clearly an issue.

"E" Division is examining several of these options and will be reporting back to us shortly. If you have any new cases to report, we would appreciate hearing from you. Please seek your client's permission before contacting Michelle (250-862-2887, micheno@telus.net) or Gail (250-397-2389, rosebud@bcinternet.net) with a file number and synopsis.

Third Party Reporting

As reported in our December 2008 News Bulletin, the Third Party Reporting Initiative was officially launched this past November. Third party reporting is intended to be the "resource of last resort" for survivors who are 19 years of age or older and reluctant to make a direct police report.

A friendly reminder to all programs regarding statistics collection: Please enter the number of third party reports you complete each month in the "Notes" section at the bottom of your OPRA statistical report (e.g., 2 TPR). We expect this number to be very low, but please record it every month (even if it is zero). This will help us track the total number of third party reports being filed across the province.

Immigrant Women Project

CCWS is partnering with EVA BC, MOSAIC and Vancouver Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services on a three-year project to consult, analyze and take action to address policy gaps that compromise the safety of refugee, immigrant and non-status women who experience violence.

For the first phase of the project, Ju Hui Judy Han was hired to conduct an international literature review of change-making initiatives that led to policy changes. Judy is an immigrant Korean/American activist and PhD candidate in geography at UC Berkeley. Phase 2 is underway and involves conducting five focus groups with immigrant, refugee and non-status women across BC to develop a strategic action plan. In phase 3, we will develop a series of backgrounders on the major policy issues identified and meet with relevant policymakers in the hopes of negotiating changes in policies and/or practices that will increase safety.

Thanks to the Law Foundation for supporting this important work.

Domestic Violence Response Fund

In April 2008, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General announced the creation of a \$150,000 Domestic Violence Response Fund aimed at enhancing local responses to victims of domestic violence and improving victim safety. Proposals from the following eight agencies were selected from among the 26 applications received:

- Tri-City Women's Resource Society (Port Coquitlam),
- South Cariboo Elizabeth Fry Society (Ashcroft),
- Family Resource Centre of Invermere (Invermere),
- Vernon Women's Transition House Society (Vernon),
- Northern Society for Domestic Peace (Smithers),
- Tahltan Health & Social Services Authority (Telegraph Creek),
- Campbell River Family Services Society (Campbell River),
- Cowichan Women Against Violence Society (Duncan).

Self-Referred Offenders

CCWS is working with Community Corrections and the Ending Relationship Abuse Society of British Columbia (ERA) to develop a strategic plan for a system of services for self-referred (non-court ordered) offenders. Community Corrections and ERA are surveying their programs to determine referral sources in BC for this population. Once this is done, we will distribute a survey on our listservs to EVA BC programs and coordination initiatives requesting additional information to develop a comprehensive picture of services currently available for self-referred offenders in BC. This will allow us to identify gaps and plan for solutions.

Changes to the Working Group

The following new members will be joining the CCWS Working Group at the next meeting in June:

- **Sherri Mohoruk**, Superintendent/Liaison, Liaison Division, Ministry of Education
- **Michelle Kinney**, Senior Policy Analyst and Legal Counsel, Civil/Family Law Policy Office, Ministry of Attorney General

At the same time, the Working Group bids farewell to **Gloria Morgan** of the Spallumcheen (Splants'in) First Nations. Gloria has been an active member since 2005. We thank her for her contributions and wish her all the best in future endeavors.

Announcements

CCWS' managing partner, the BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Program (BCASVACP), has changed its name to the **Ending Violence Association of British Columbia (EVA BC)**. Please update your address books and web links to reflect the Association's new identity.

Recent Publications

The following publications are now available for download at www.endingviolence.org.

- Protection Orders: What they are and how they are registered (November 2008)
- Selected presentations and videos from the EVA BC annual training forum, "Creating Stronger Safety Nets: Ending Violence Through Risk Assessment and Safety Planning" (November 2008)



Kelly Watt



Susan Davis (background)
Raven Bowen (foreground)



Dr. Stephen Hart



Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell



Dr. Pat Ogden

(Source: Stephanie Bennett)

Mark Your Calendars

Visit our online Calendar of Events (www.endingviolence.org/event) for an up-to-date listing of training opportunities.

Contact Us

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