

THE CCASA CONNECTION

WINTER/DECEMBER 2009

LETTER FROM CCASA'S BOARD CHAIR

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **CCASA's Annual Statewide meeting will be held Tuesday, January 19, 2010 at 11:30am-1:00pm via webinar. Stay tuned for more details.**
- **We are starting a consistent annual regional meeting schedule. Mark your calendars for May and November, details to come!**
- **SAAM Planning has begun! This year's national theme is "Preventing Sexual Violence on our Campuses."**

Dear Members:

On behalf of the Board and staff at CCASA, happy holidays! This time of year we look back at what we've accomplished and where we see the organization headed in 2010.

Over the past year, CCASA has had the opportunity to rebuild the organization with new staff, new members, and input from around the state about your needs. As we continue to recreate our structure and improve services, we are proud that we have strong involvement and strategic direction from both staff and the Board of Directors.

The Board consists of 13 members from around the state who bring a wealth of knowledge and experience with sexual assault issues. New Board members were deliberately recruited this year in order to ensure that new ideas and perspectives were at the table. You can find a complete list of Board members on page 6.

CCASA also has an excellent staff including Erin Jemison (Interim Executive Director) and Karen Moldovan (Advocacy Coordinator). Erin and Karen bring professional experience in sexual assault theory and prevention, victim services, campus programs, and public policy to CCASA. They are energized and continue to look to the future while we strategically plan the Coalition's

service provision for member organizations and individuals.

And of course, our accomplishments this year would not have been possible without you, our members. This year we appreciate the return of past members while we welcome many new agency and individual members to CCASA.

We welcome and encourage feedback about CCASA as we move forward in increasing the quantity and quality of services for members.

Membership services in 2009 included two regional meetings in each of our five regions in July, our annual statewide meeting online in January, SAAM trainings and events, legislative support, and presentations at various conferences and trainings. We are also excited to announce that CCASA's budget doubled this year, putting us in a strong position to continue growing our programs.

As we look toward 2010, we have many projects in the works. The annual statewide meeting will be held online **January 19, 2010** (mark your calendars!) and we will be back on the road in **May 2010 for regional membership meetings**. In the meantime, CCASA committees are busy revising the Coalition's Sexual Assault Advocacy & Crisis Line Training Guide and gearing up for the 2010 Legislative Session where we hope to clarify mandatory reporting requirements for advocates and

other service providers in Colorado. Thank you to the Public Policy and Training Guide Committees who put so much time and energy into helping guide CCASA's work!

Back in the office, staff is revising and creating new brochures and materials as well as developing new training and

technical assistance tools based on your feedback and requests. CCASA's staff also continues to participate in multiple funding boards and advisory committees to ensure that we are providing you a voice on the statewide level. The SAAM Planning Committee has also been established and they've already begun planning for activities and events in April.

As we welcome the New Year, we look forward to sharing our progress in creating effective strategies to increase awareness and improve sexual assault services in Colorado. And as always, we encourage you to let us know about your successes, challenges, and what you need from us to continue your incredible work for survivors in our beautiful state.

Thank you for your enduring support of CCASA and our work to end sexual violence in Colorado. We wish you all a wonderful holiday season and a peaceful New Year.

Emily M. Tofte, MSW
Chairwoman, Board of Directors

COLORADO ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM

THERE ARE CURRENTLY 19 COUNTIES IN COLORADO THAT DO NOT HAVE TRAINED OR REGISTERED APPLICATION ASSISTANTS AND ARE THEREFORE NOT TAKING ADVANTAGE OF ACP.

What is the Address Confidentiality Program and why is it important for safety planning?

The Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) is a unique program that provides survivors of domestic violence, sexual offenses or stalking/harassment with a means to prevent abusers and potential abusers from locating them through public records. As of April 3, 2009, any person who resides with an ACP participant can enroll in the ACP if it will help ensure the survivor's safety. The Colorado ACP began on July 1, 2008 as a result of combined efforts of UCD, CCADV and Colorado legislators. It is administered by the Office of the Secretary of State.

Washington State is credited with conceptualizing and implementing the first ACP. The program began when Washington's then Secretary of State was approached by a woman who said she was once an active voter, but was now afraid to vote because her abusive ex-spouse kept locating her through her public records. Public information, people-locating websites, and publicly available information can all be used to locate a

sexual assault, stalking, or domestic violence survivor. Some examples of publicly available information are: frequent shopper cards, contest entries, school directories, purchases and services (even pizza delivery).

How does the program work?

The goal of the ACP is to help survivors stay safe by protecting their location. They must have relocated within the past 90 days, or be planning to relocate. There are no financial eligibility requirements and enrollment is available to men, women, and children. This goal is accomplished by providing survivors with a legal, substitute mailing address which may be used as a residential, school, and work address, as well as a first-class mail forwarding service. ACP authorization cards are issued to each participant. When program participants present a valid ACP authorization card, state and local government agencies must accept the ACP substitute address as an actual address and cannot require participants to disclose their true address. The ACP address can be used just like an actual address and with it, participants can change their drivers' license, obtain DHS benefits, get a library card, order Netflix, etc.

How can our organization utilize this program?

Those interested in enrolling in the ACP must meet with a trained and registered Application Assistant. The Applicant Assistant essentially helps the applicant fill out her/his paperwork. The Applicant Assistant training is very manageable, and can be completed in less than two hours. Enrolling in the ACP can be a vital component of safety planning for survivors. If you are interested in training Application Assistant(s) for your organization, please contact Jacqueline Sanders. A listing of Application Assistants and enrolling agencies can be found on the ACP website.

If you would like more information about the ACP, please contact:

Jacqueline Sanders, Program Director

1001 East 62nd Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80216

(303) 869-4911

(888) 341-0002

www.acp.colorado.gov
acp@sos.state.co.us

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: THE "JUSTICE FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT ACT"

On November 5th, U.S. Senators Representatives Al Franken (D-MN), Charles Grassley (R-IA), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), and Orrin Hatch (-UT) introduced the **Justice for Survivors of Sexual Assault Act of 2009 (Senate Bill 2736)**. The House companion bill (H.R. 411) was introduced by Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-N.Y.) and Dean Heller (R-NV.) According to Ms. Magazine, "There are no current national statistics regarding the number of untested rape kits, because no state or federal laws mandate law enforcement agencies collect this information. Some estimates suggest the total number of untested kits is over 180,000." If passed, the Justice for Survivors of Sexual Assault Act of 2009 will:

...require jurisdictions applying for federal funds to implement plans to halve rape kit backlogs in a two-year period.

...create monetary incentives for jurisdictions to reduce their rape kit backlogs, promptly process incoming rape kits, and report their backlog numbers.

...create an annual reporting mechanism for rape kit backlogs across the nation.

...require states to be responsible for the full, upfront cost of rape kit examinations. Victims should not have to pay for rape kits and seek reimbursement.

...require that health professionals notify victims that they have a right to a rape kit examination free of charge.

...create an additional funding stream for training of sexual assault forensic medical personnel examiners through the Grants to Encourage Arrest Program.

...define "trained examiner" in a way that will allow rural and tribal areas to use grant funds authorized under VAWA to pay for admissible rape kits, even if they don't have certified Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners to perform them.

Senator Grassley stated, "Victims deserve justice in a timely manner and our bill works to ensure that this back log is a thing of the past."

Tell your Representatives that you want them to support the Justice for Survivors of Sexual Assault Act of 2009!

You can also sign an online petition! It only takes a minute:

<http://womensrights.change.org/actions/view/tell-congress-to-pass-the-justice-for-survivors-of-sexual-assault-act-of-2009>

CCASA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: BILL TO CLARIFY MANDATORY REPORTING LANGUAGE

The Importance of Language Clarification in the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse or Neglect (C.R.S. 19-3-304)

The bill CCASA will be promoting during the 2010 Colorado Legislative Session “clarifies that the requirement that certain persons report child abuse or neglect does not apply if these persons do not have reasonable cause to know of or suspect such abuse or neglect until the child is 18 years of age or older.” The bill will be sponsored by Senator Hudak and Representative Levy.

What does the Bill do?

This legislation seeks to clarify the language around mandatory reporting of child abuse and neglect if the victim is 18 years or older at the time of disclosure. Currently, due to the broad interpretation of Colorado Revised Statute 13-3-304, adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse can have their cases reported to the authorities without their consent. The statute currently states, “...any person specified in subsection (2) of this section who has reasonable cause to know or suspect that a child has been subjected to abuse or neglect or who has observed the child being subjected to circumstances or conditions which would reasonably result in abuse or neglect shall immediately upon receiving such information report or cause a report to be made of such fact to the county department or local law enforcement agency.” The bill would clarify that a mandatory report to law enforcement and/or the Department of Human Services does not apply if the victim is currently 18 years or older.

Why revise the definition?

- ◆ The statute is located in the “Children’s Code,” thus indicating that its purpose is to protect individuals who are presently children.
- ◆ Arguably, mandated reporting of child abuse disclosed by an adult survivor was not the legislative intent of the law. The mandatory reporting law is designed to give adult reporting voices to children whom we have reasonable cause to believe are the subject of abuse.
- ◆ Due to the added guilt, shame, and societal misperceptions about sexual abuse, it is not uncommon for survivors to wait until adulthood to seek professional support. If services providers are then required to report abuse disclosed to them by an adult client, victims may be deterred from receiving vital support services.
- ◆ If adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse are discouraged from disclosing the abuse and receiving support services, even fewer professionals become aware of the extent of these crimes in our communities.
- ◆ Victims can experience increased trauma from being forced to report an incident.

Whom will be affected by the bill and how?

- ✦ Adult victims will be able to obtain support services without the intimidation and fear associated with the repercussions of an unwanted investigation.
- ✦ Therapists will have an ability to work with clients who may have refrained from coming forward due to fears of an unwanted report.
- ✦ Support service agencies and nonprofit organizations serving adult survivors will be able to focus their time, staff, and resources on providing direct service.
- ✦ The primary focus of therapists and victim advocates can be the survivor’s immediate needs, rather than legal disclosures or statements that may alienate and intimidate the survivor.
- ✦ Law enforcement and the Department of Human Services will be able to focus their resources on investigating reports concerning children under the age of eighteen.

Please contact Karen Moldovan at advocacy@ccasa.org for more information about this bill or participating in CCASA’s Public Policy Committee.

Clearing up the confusion about lobbying and nonprofit status

As the 2010 Legislative Session approaches, many programs are understandably concerned about the federal law regarding nonprofits and allowable types of lobbying. While it is important that you check the grant stipulations specific to your organization and follow internal policies, an NNEDV (Nat’l Network to End Domestic Violence) fact sheet on this topic provides some clarification (information in brackets added by CCASA):

Bottom Line: Lobbying is one more way that domestic violence [and sexual assault] programs can represent the interests of battered women [and sexual assault survivors]. Participating in meetings with your members of Congress, emailing and calling your members of Congress and their staff, and asking your board members, volunteers and other supporters to contact Congress do not violate federal law.

For more detailed information on lobbying and public advocacy for nonprofit organizations, visit the Alliance for Justice at www.allianceforjustice.org or call 1-866-NPLOBBY. This is intended to provide information and is not a substitute for legal advice or counsel.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: ADVOCATES BUILDING PEACEFUL COMMUNITIES

Advocates Building Peaceful Communities, formerly Advocates Against Battering and Abuse, in Steamboat Springs has been nominated by CCASA for a special National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSRVC) initiative to highlight good work being done around sexual assault in rural, dual programs. We chose this program in order to recognize the new, innovative project they developed through a grant from the Women's Foundation.

The **Empowerment through Outdoor Experiential & Peer Education project** engages 7th, 9th, and 10th graders in three school districts. The program will be two-fold. One component will train students to educate their peers on issues related to dating violence, sexual violence, healthy relationships, conflict resolution, and self-esteem. Students will go through 12 hours of training to prepare them to do team presentations in 9th and 10th grade classrooms. Each school team will identify, design, and implement the curriculum, and then present the information to their peers.

Students will take an active role in identifying issues in their respective schools and will have the opportunity to be creative in the presentation approach. Peer advocates will also present to 7th graders in each of their respective school districts.



The second component is an outdoor experiential course with Outward Bound. It will be available to 7th grade girls through the grant, and other funding will ensure that 7th grade boys can participate as well. The outdoor challenges will raise self-awareness, foster personal growth, encourage teamwork, and build trust in one's self and others. This experiential education will build on the skills taught by

the peer educators.

The Empowerment through Outdoor Experiential & Peer Education project is an excellent example of collaborative violence prevention programming. Partnering with school districts and community organizations that are "out of our usual box," like Outward Bound, results in more comprehensive and effective strategies for preventing violence before it begins. Please join CCASA in applauding this forward-thinking effort in Colorado!



**OUTWARD
BOUND**

For more information on this project, please contact Advocates Building Peaceful Communities at 970.879.2034 or advocate@advocatesaba.org.

2010 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FROM THE COLORADO COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (CCADV)

Many CCASA members are dual programs, providing services to both sexual assault and domestic violence survivors. Those programs that focus solely on sexual assault services often still have an interest in legislative issues that affect domestic violence victims. We therefore thought it would be helpful to provide you with the following update from CCADV about its legislative efforts for the upcoming session.

CCADV will be proposing two bills; one to establish animal abuse remedies in civil protection orders and the other to create a consistent definition of domestic violence in the "best interests of the child" standard used to determine child custody orders. A brief description of each piece of legislation follows:

- ◆ Strengthen domestic abuse civil protection orders by including animals so that victims can leave abusive situations without fear that their animals will be harmed or killed as well as protect children who witness acts of animal abuse from continued exposure to violence. The bill also seeks to enhance safety for victims of stalking, elder abuse and abuse of an at-risk adult.
- ◆ Update the definition of "domestic violence" in the Best Interests of the Child standard in order to better serve and provide safety for families. The bill will replace the current definition of "spouse abuse" with a comparable definition to that of "domestic violence" in the criminal code, but will not reference this statute directly. Currently C.R.S. 14-10-124(4) states: "spouse abuse means the proven threat of or infliction of physical pain or injury by a spouse or a party on the other party." The proposed definition of "domestic violence" would be as follows: "Domestic violence means an act or threatened act of violence upon a person with whom the actor is or has been involved in an intimate relationship. Domestic violence also includes an act against a person, or against property, including an animal, when used as a method of coercion, control, punishment, intimidation, or revenge directed against a person with whom the actor is or has been involved in an intimate relationship".

For more information about CCADV's 2010 legislative agenda, please contact Amy Miller, Public Policy Director, at amiller@ccadv.org or 303-962-0933.

NATIONAL INTIMATE PARTNER & SEXUAL VIOLENCE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

Intimate partner violence (IPV), sexual violence (SV), and stalking are important public health problems with serious consequences and costs to individuals, families, communities and society. Growth in research has occurred during the past twenty years with respect to these forms of violence. Still, there is a lack of reliable information on the incidence and prevalence of IPV, SV, and stalking victimization and trends over time at the national and state levels.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC), in collaboration with the National Institutes of Justice (NIJ), and the Department of Defense (DoD) has developed the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Surveillance System (NISVSS). Beginning in 2010 NISVSS will collect ongoing population-based surveillance data, generating accurate and reliable incidence and prevalence estimates for IPV, SV, dating violence, and stalking victimization.

The survey will be conducted among English and/or Spanish-speaking male and female adults (18 years and older) living in the United States. In addition, over-sampling for American Indian and Alaska Natives will provide important information on these underserved and understudied populations. During the first year, data will also be collected from: 1) female members of the active duty component of the US Armed Forces (Army, Air Force, Marine Corps and Navy); and 2) female spouses of married male service members.

NISVSS is a random digit dial (RDD) dual frame (landline and cell phone) telephone survey that is approximately 25 minutes in length. Information will be gathered regarding both women's and men's experiences with a range of IPV victimization (including physical and psychological aggression and sexual violence); SV victimization by any perpetrator (including unwanted sexual situations, abusive sexual contact, and non-consensual sex [completed and attempted]); and stalking victimization by any perpetrator.

NISVSS will gather information regarding experiences that occurred across the lifespan (including experiences that occurred before the age of 18) and within the previous 12 months.

Approximately 26,000 interviews will be conducted in 2010. Reliable and statistically stable prevalence estimates for IPV, SV, and stalking victimization at the national and state levels will be available beginning mid 2011. Subsequent annual sample sizes of 12,500 respondents are anticipated, providing national estimates for females and males by race/ethnicity and age-group. These data will help inform public policies and prevention strategies at both the national and state levels and will help guide and evaluate progress toward reducing the substantial health, social, and economic burdens associated with IPV, SV, and stalking.

Source and for more information: <http://cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pub/NISVSS.html>



The **SAAM Planning Committee** needs t-shirts to display for the Clothesline Project at this year's kick-off rally at the Capitol in April.

Would you be interested in receiving t-shirts for your clients to make for this project? Or do you already have a project with t-shirts you can contribute for the day of the rally? Contact us at advocacy@ccasa.org or 303-861-7033 if you're interested.

NEW RESOURCE! FACT SHEETS

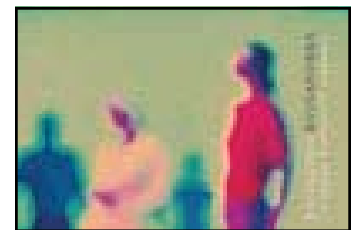
Hopefully you already know that CCASA is offering new Fact Sheets to members through eblasts and our website. These materials are put together by Karen on a monthly basis as part of the new Advocacy Program at CCASA. We try to make sure each fact sheet corresponds with the month it is released (e.g., October's Fact Sheet was "Interpersonal Violence & Sexual Assault" in order to highlight Domestic Violence Month).

The Fact Sheet of the month is sent out in our eblast and posted on CCASA's homepage. Past Fact Sheets

can always be accessed on our website at <http://www.ccasa.org/publications/index.cfm>. We encourage you to take advantage of this resource and use the Fact Sheets at your discretion.

You may also contact Karen at advocacy@ccasa.org to have any Fact Sheet "personalized" for your program with contact information and your logo!

December's Fact Sheet is "Teens and Sexual Assault." Check it out at www.ccasa.org.



Engaging Bystanders in Sexual Violence Prevention is a great resource for programs through the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) and is available in Spanish and English. Did you know you can order as many hard copies as you need at no cost to you?

For more info, visit <http://www.ccasa.org/education/index.cfm/Prevention>.

WE ARE EXCITED TO WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS TO CCASA

New 2009-2010 Agency Members

Advocates-Crisis Support Services – Dual Program in Craig, CO
 Alternatives to Violence – Dual Program in Loveland, CO
 High Plains Sexual Assault Center – SA Program in Sterling, CO
 Tu Casa, Inc. – Dual Program in Georgetown, CO

New 2009-2010 Individual Members

Deon Cobasky
 Tina Lynn Collins
 Maureen Daberkow
 Jennifer Eyl
 Marissa Lorenz
 Brooke Marsh
 Emily Tofte
 Lynn Williams

Thank you all for your support and welcome to CCASA!

CCASA COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Do you want to be more involved in your CCASA membership? Our committees directly guide the work that we do. Please contribute your time to one of these important groups!

- ◆ **Public Policy Committee:** Next meeting is Tuesday, January 5, at 11:30am.
- ◆ **SAAM Planning Committee:** Next meeting is Thursday, January 14, 2010 at 3pm.
- ◆ **Sexual Assault Advocacy & Crisis Line Guide Committee:** Next meeting is January 22, 2010 at 2pm.

All meetings are held at the CCASA office at 1120 Lincoln St., Suite 900, in Denver. You may also call in to each meeting. Contact Karen at advocacy@ccasa.org for conference calling information.



CCASA: FREEDOM FROM SEXUAL VIOLENCE

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Karen Moldovan
 Advocacy Coordinator
 303.861.7033
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Erin is still coordinating membership activities. You are welcome to contact her at the email address above or at membership@ccasa.org.

REGIONAL REPS

Metro – Emily M. Tofte
 Southwest – Open
 Southeast – Cassie Acquista
 Northwest – Marissa Lorenz
 Northeast – Open

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