

the calendar

TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE, TRAINING &
NETWORKING THROUGH
MCADSV

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FOR REGISTRATION AND
AGENDA INFORMATION

Children's Task Force
■ NOVEMBER 19
Okemos, MI

LBGT & Allies
■ NOVEMBER 22
Okemos, MI

SAVE THE DATE!
2005 Women of
Color and
Professional
Development
Institutes
■ JUNE 13-16, 2005
Gaylord, MI



Preparing for Successful Grant Proposals

The Michigan Nonprofit Association is sponsoring *Preparing for Successful Grant Proposals* December 1-2, 2004. This course, taught by the Indiana School of Fundraising, offers useful information for newcomers and professionals wanting to refresh their grant writing skills. It provides in-depth discussion and activity on the proposal development process, including researching potential funders; budget development; gearing proposals to foundations, corporations and government; and writing "between the lines." For more information on this seminar, contact Mike Corbin at (888) 242-7075, ext. 2412 or mcorbin@mnaonline.org. Full course descriptions and information regarding the certificate program can be found at www.philanthropy.iupui.edu.

Domestic Violence Strangulation: Coordinating Dispatch, Police, Medical, Prosecution and Advocacy

The Battered Women's Justice Project presents *Domestic Violence Strangulation: Coordinating Dispatch, Police, Medical, Prosecution and Advocacy* December 9-10, 2004 in San Diego, California. This interactive, multimedia training will demonstrate how to investigate and prosecute domestic violence strangulation cases and how criminal justice, advocacy and medical systems need to collaborate for effective investigation and prosecution. For information on registration contact Dauhn Jackman, Battered Women's Justice Project, at (800) 903-0111, prompt 1 or jackman@bwjp.org.

Requests for Workshop Proposals for the 2005 National Sexual Assault Conference

Proposals for workshops are being accepted for the **Institute for People of Color Who are Working to End Sexual Violence** and/or the **National Conference on Sexual Violence Prevention and Intervention** hosted by the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape and the National Sexual Violence Resource Center. The national conference, scheduled for September 27-30, 2005 in Pennsylvania, is an opportunity to celebrate and share innovative works with others from around the country. For more information and to submit a proposal, go to <http://www.nsvrc.org/proposals/propnatconfer.html>

the Coalition Connection

Your link to cutting edge information on the issue of violence against women

Ruling May Help New York Battered Mothers Keep Their Children

Reprinted from the Family Violence Prevention Fund Newsflash.

The New York State Court of Appeals ruled unanimously on October 26, 2004 that the child welfare system cannot remove children from non-abusive parents simply because there is domestic violence in the home. The ruling is considered a victory for victims of abuse, and may have an impact beyond New York because it is one of the first rulings on this complex issue.

A federal appeals court that is considering a class action case brought by battered mothers and their children against New York City's child protection agency had asked the state court to answer three questions regarding how the state's laws affect child protection proceedings. The answers, which comprise Tuesday's ruling, all support federal court rulings to date in *Sharwline Nicholson vs. Nicholas Scoppetta et al*, which find that removing children from homes in which domestic violence is occurring violates the rights of battered mothers.

Tuesday's seven to zero ruling by Chief Judge Judith Kaye says, in part, "Exposing a child to domestic violence is not presumptively neglectful. Not every child exposed to domestic violence is at risk of impairment ... In many instances, removal of the child may do more harm than good."

The decision also concludes that, "a blanket presumption favoring removal of the child was never intended" by the state. Before removing children from non-abusive parents, authorities must exhaust alternatives, balance the risk of leaving children in violent homes against the trauma caused by separating the child from a nonviolent parent, and show in family court that there is an imminent threat to the child's health and welfare.

Jill Zuccardy, who represented the battered mothers in the federal lawsuit, told the *New York Times* that the federal court rulings coupled with the state court ruling are a wake-up call for child welfare agencies nationwide. "It

November
2004



The Michigan
Coalition Against
Domestic and Sexual
Violence is dedicated
to the empowerment
of all the state's
survivors of domestic
and sexual violence.

Our mission is to
develop and promote
efforts aimed at the
elimination of all
domestic and sexual
violence in
Michigan.

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Movement Leader Dies

Sharifa Alkhateeb, founder of the North American Council for Muslim Women (NACMW), died October 27, 2004 at her home. NACMW is a national nonprofit women's organization working to improve the image and possibilities for Muslim women in America. Ms. Alkhateeb had 35 years of grass roots organizing experience within Muslim communities. In 1993, NACMW was the first national Muslim organization to nationally and publicly address the issue of violence against women and children. Ms. Alkhateeb spoke at the 2003 MCADSV Women of Color Institute. Sharifa Alkhateeb, a friend and ally to many in Michigan, will be missed.

April 5, 2005 – A Day to End Sexual Violence

Save the Date! The National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) has named April 5, 2005 "A Day to End Sexual Violence." Sexual assault service providers are all encouraged to plan a Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) event on this day to increase the national impact of SAAM. Mark your calendars and begin planning early! For more information on SAAM and "A Day to End Sexual Violence," including a list of suggested activities for April 5, visit www.nsvrc.org.

National Domestic Violence Hotline
Linea Nacional sobre la
Violencia Domestica
 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
 TTY 1-800-787-3224
www.ndvh.org
Rape, Abuse & Incest National
Network (RAINN)
 1-800-656-HOPE (4673)
www.rainn.org

New Toolkit for Working with Men and Boys Available

The Family Violence Prevention Fund (FVPPF) launched a new online toolkit on October 22, 2004. Funded by the CDC, *Working with Men and Boys to Prevent Gender-Based Violence* is a comprehensive toolkit designed to help organizations work with men and boys to prevent violence. It provides readings, case studies, handouts, exercises, and other resources as well as community-building tools. A discussion board is also available to ask questions and share experiences with peers doing this work. FVPPF maintains and coordinates the toolkit as part of the commitment to enhancing prevention work with men and boys, which includes the Coaching Boys into Men program and the Founding Fathers Campaign. *Working with Men and Boys* is available at www.endabuse.org/toolkit.

Ruling May Help Battered Mothers

(Continued from page 1)

says you'd better listen to domestic violence agencies or you will wind up being sued," she said.

"How to act in the best interests of battered mothers and their children is one of the toughest issues facing our court system today," said Family Violence Prevention Fund President Esta Soler. "We need to do a much better job of ensuring that battered mothers and their children are treated fairly, and that courts rule in ways that will both protect children and allow them to remain with non-abusive parents. This ruling is an important step in the right direction." With the state court ruling in hand, the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Second District may rule at any time to resolve the case.

MCADSV Professional Development Institute Call for Workshops

The Women of Color and Professional Development Institutes will take place June 13-16, 2005 at the Treetops Resort in Gaylord, Michigan. The institute theme is "Putting It All Together." MCADSV is looking for workshops that are educational in nature, relevant to domestic and/or sexual violence with an emphasis on skill building, practical application, and interactive audience participation. The workshops will focus on the application of the violence against women movement's empowerment philosophy to work as advocates, administrators and educators. For more information, contact Angelita Velasco Gunn at (517) 347-7000, ext. 22.

New Opportunity for Low-Income Women's Advocates

The National Women's Law Center announces the Progressive Leadership and Advocacy Network (PLAN) for Women which will bring together up-and-coming advocates who have demonstrated a commitment to working on issues that affect low-income women and their families in a professional capacity and help them to develop the skills and network necessary to take their advocacy to new heights of effectiveness. Participants in PLAN will have an opportunity to learn successful strategies and techniques from established leaders and skilled trainers, as well as engage in an ongoing dialogue with peers across the country. NWLC will provide ongoing support for these new leaders, offering information, targeted skill-building and access to professional networks. For more information on PLAN, including how to apply, visit www.nwlc.org.

Funding for 2005 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Community Awareness Projects

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) is offering funding to aid communities in conducting public awareness initiatives during National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 10-16, 2005. The theme of this 25th Anniversary celebration is "Justice Isn't Served Until Crime Victims Are." OVC will reimburse up to \$5,000. Interested organizations can download the application form at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/. Deadline is December 3, 2004.

Limited English Proficiency and Immigrant Women Subcommittee

The MCADSV Women of Color Task Force is looking for individuals to participate in a Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and Immigrant Women Subcommittee to work on issues affecting LEP and Immigrant survivors. MCADSV recognizes that LEP and Immigrant survivors may face obstacles such as lack of or limited access to bilingual services, lack of or limited access to culturally competent services, and additional issues around immigration. Although this is a workgroup of the Women of Color Task Force, women of color and allies are encouraged to participate. If you are interested in becoming involved, contact Jessica Coloma, Program Manager, at (517) 347-7000, ext. 33 or jcoloma@mcadsv.org.

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