

# NETWORK NEWS



The comprehensive resource on domestic violence

FALL 2011

A PUBLICATION OF THE OHIO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE NETWORK

## **Thinking Outside the Box: Advocacy with Victims in Contact with their Abusive Partners**

*By Rachel Ramirez-Hammond, ODVN Training Coordinator*

I remember one of my early days of domestic violence advocacy. Working in a large domestic violence shelter in Tampa, Florida, I met Anita. She was several months pregnant and had a young daughter. While doing her shelter intake, I remember our conversations about her intense feelings around the changes occurring in her life, things that she felt she had little control over. I quickly told her what I knew about domestic violence: It is dangerous, it is bad for you and for your baby, your partner isn't going to change, it will probably get worse. It is better to get out now, and we are here to help you do that. I told her not to worry about the future—she is a great mom and didn't need her partner. I quickly jumped into safety planning, and planned with her where to go, how to go, why to go, and how to stay away and move on with her independent life without her husband of 15 years.

At the time I didn't fix on it, but I remember her having a reaction to my words. Her body language changed, and she stopped looking at me. In hindsight, I realized that most of our time together had been me talking—making assumptions about Anita and her life. Her silence, her one-word answers, and her disengagement with the process: All of that should have been a clue for me. But I was focused on helping Anita succeed! I didn't even realize it at the time, but for me, success meant Anita and her children being completely safe, which of course meant leaving the batterer. But my view of success clouded my advocacy, and ultimately did a disservice to Anita and her family. Because of my singular focus on Anita ending her relationship, cutting off contact with her

partner, and moving on with her life, I had failed to help her plan to reduce her risks if she continued in her relationship, or how to increase her safety when in contact with her partner. I neglected to recognize that it often isn't realistic or practical for survivors who share children with abusive partners to have no contact. I didn't give Anita the chance to tell me how important her young child's relationship was with her husband's family—the grandmother that her baby adored, the church community that loved and cherished her, the fact that her sister-in-law was her best friend. I didn't give her the chance to tell me that he had only scratched her once, and she wasn't scared of him physically hurting her again. We didn't talk about her fear of homelessness if she left, or the fact that she had few job opportunities, and she had already exhausted her time limit for TANF benefits. We didn't talk about how important her religion was to her and how much her marriage vows meant to her. We didn't discuss the ways in which her partner and her family were a support system to her, or how her in-laws and religious community were working with her husband and supporting him in changing his behavior.

Ultimately, her contact with me didn't help her that much, because she wasn't looking for assistance in leaving her relationship. She was looking for assistance, support and help to create strategies to increase her and her child's safety while staying in the relationship. She also wanted validation that not only was the abuse at the hands of her husband wrong, but that it was okay that she still loved him. In this situation, I failed Anita and her family.

**OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH**

Visit [www.odvn.org](http://www.odvn.org) for the 2011 Statewide Calendar of Events

## Thinking Outside the Box

*(Continued from page 1)*

Much of our society's response to domestic violence has focused on providing survivors with the tools they need to leave an abusive relationship. Our main safety strategies such as shelters, protection orders, criminal codes and statutes, transitional housing, and other services have centered around the separation of a domestic violence victim from their abusive partner. This has been the ultimate goal of much of our work. We know that there are numerous victims who don't want to have contact with their partners, and want to move on with their lives on their own. But I have realized something interesting as I look back on my advocacy work. Often, those of us providing DV services have heard "I want the abuse to stop" as "I want to leave the relationship." Advocates have assumed that the best way for "the abuse to stop" is to cease contact with their partner. But "wanting the abuse to stop" and "wanting no more contact" with an abusive partner aren't always the same thing.

We are clear that all survivors deserve our advocacy and support, not just survivors who leave relationships. Survivors in contact with their partners need our services, support, and assistance in increasing their safety. Anyone who is currently doing domestic violence work is working with survivors who are in contact with their partners, whether you know it or not. When I was sitting in front of Anita, I often wondered why on earth she would want to maintain any relationship or have any contact with her partner. But I have been taught by such survivors as Anita that survivors have many good reasons for being in contact with their abusive partner, and when viewing the situation through the eyes of Anita (or the survivor we are working with) this contact often makes sense. Some are in contact because they want to be, some feel that not being in contact is dangerous, and sometimes it is necessary to be in contact, such as when dealing with custody issues and making parenting decisions. As the domestic violence movement evolves, it is critical that we learn how to advocate not only with survivors who leave, but with survivors who are in contact.

When I was doing my advocacy work, I also didn't know about the multiple resources that were available

to help me do a better job with survivors. My plan to improve my advocacy with survivors was influenced and shaped by a stellar resource developed by the Family Violence Prevention Fund (now Futures Without Violence). Authored by Jill Davies, [Advocacy Beyond Leaving: Helping Battered Women in Contact with Current or Former Partners: A Guide for Domestic Violence Advocates](#) is a 32 page free, downloadable, easy-to-understand, and extremely helpful guide that will answer some of your questions about advocacy in contact, such as, "What is included in a safety plan with victims in contact?" "What can I do to support a victim's parenting?" and "What should I say to a victim about her partner changing his violent and controlling behavior?" Davies explains victim-defined advocacy and offers an outline and tips on safety planning for victims in contact. If this guide had existed when I was working with Anita, I would not have made the mistakes I did. Please do yourself a favor, and do the survivors you work with a favor and download and read this guide. It will be one of the most valuable domestic violence resources you will ever come across.

I think back on my time with Anita, and how I could have been more helpful to her in her time of need. After reading the guide mentioned above, I came up with some ways in which I needed to change or adjust my advocacy to work with her effectively.

### **Changing my definition of "success"**

I realized that maybe Anita's definition of success was different than mine. I have shifted my view of the goal of my advocacy when working with domestic violence survivors. It no longer focuses exclusively on leaving, and is the same goal that I have in working with survivors who leave relationships. I want to help survivors increase their safety and the safety of their loved ones. I understand that safety includes not only physical safety, but emotional safety, economic safety, sexual safety, and being able to meet a family's basic needs. Most survivors of domestic violence approach domestic violence programs for that same reason: They want assistance in increasing their safety. Safety is defined in the eyes of the survivor, not by the advocate. By

## Thinking Outside the Box

(Continued from page 2)

focusing on increasing safety and reducing risks that survivors face, I am now able to form an effective partnership with survivors as we work toward this shared goal.

### **Understanding Anita's perspective, her view of her risks, and what she wanted to happen**

In trying to meet Anita where she was at and supporting her in her decisions, I first had to understand what Anita saw as her risks. In the domestic violence movement, we often automatically assume that the most important risk a survivor faces is the risk of harm from their partner. Yet Anita did not see her partner's physical violence as her biggest risk to her safety. She was very concerned about real issues she would face if leaving—her limited opportunities for employment, her concern about housing, and the way in which she might lose an important support system. These risks that Anita faced were much more prominent in her mind. In order to appropriately advocate with her and safety plan, I needed to understand Anita's view of her risks.

### **Creating a plan of action and a safety plan based on Anita's analysis of her risks**

A safety plan is an individualized plan to reduce the risks a survivor and her children face. Since I didn't have a good handle on Anita's situation, we couldn't develop an adequate safety plan together. Before we began safety planning, I should have understood Anita's perspective and her view of the risks she faced.

### **Exploring Anita's resources, strengths, and options**

Once Anita identified her risks, we could have explored the possibilities that Anita had to increase her economic independence. Her husband had never controlled her money, and was supportive of her returning to school. A part of the advocacy could have been investigating opportunities for school, taking into account she was expecting a child and had a toddler. Her husband's family was a great resource for her, as was her religious community. Exploring ways for those realities to help increase her safety would have been very helpful for Anita.

### **Expecting that what survivors need from us changes, because situations and life circumstances change**

Maybe something will happen in Anita's life that will change her situation and her analysis of her risks. Maybe her husband is violent again, or becomes extremely controlling. Maybe their relationship improves and Anita begins feeling better about the future. Maybe her child is born and has special needs. Maybe her mother-in-law gets sick and is no longer able to care for her toddler. All of those situations, and many more, will change not only how our advocacy with her looks, but also her safety plan.

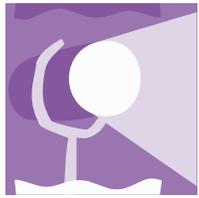
Here is the link to this free downloadable guide: [http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/userfiles/file/Children\\_and\\_Families/Advocates%20Guide\(1\).pdf](http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/userfiles/file/Children_and_Families/Advocates%20Guide(1).pdf)

### **ADVOCACY BEYOND LEAVING:**

**Helping  
Battered Women  
in Contact  
With Current  
or Former  
Partners**

**A Guide for  
Domestic  
Violence  
Advocates**





## Spotlight on Local Programs

### *Turning Point, Marion, Ohio First Ohio Domestic Violence Shelter to Put Levy on the Ballot*

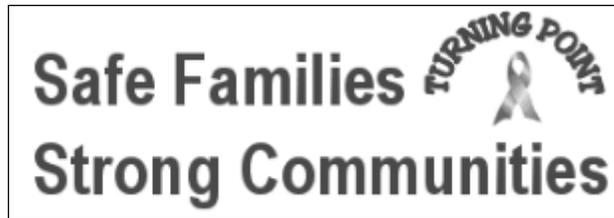
Turning Point, the shelter and program for victims of domestic violence located in Marion, is the first Ohio shelter to put a levy on the ballot.

In response to severe funding cuts, the agency was seeking ways to make up for losses and realized that a bill passed years ago that permits organizations benefitting victims of crime to put on a levy might be a solution. As a non-profit they had to secure permission from the county commissioners and after that was granted, they moved forward.

Executive Director, Paula Roller, says that the

community has been very supportive so far and, while they have met with some questions, there has been no organized opposition. She states, "Our community recognizes the value of the work we do and is very aware of our funding issues. We are very optimistic that this can work."

While the agency serves six counties, they are only putting the levy on in Marion County, their home county. The other five counties are paying their share and, in some cases, more than their share. While 55% of the shelter clients are from Marion, only 9% of local funding sources are provided by Marion. Roller says, "It is time for Marion County to step up and correct this disproportionate balance.



The agency is asking for a .5 mil levy which will generate approximately \$500,000 for the agency. This will cost the average homeowner in Marion County less than \$1 per month and will provide funding to keep

the agency working at full capacity. While not providing their full budget, it will certainly lessen their dependence on grants and sources of funding that are not guaranteed to be available in the future.

If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to Ohio Domestic Violence Network, please visit our website, and click on the "Donate" button or you can mail a check to the address below. You can also become a member by visiting our Membership page on the website or send in the form below with a check. If you have any questions, contact Becky Mason at 614-781-9651, Ext. 221 or by email at rebeccam@odvn.org.

\$100.00 Organizational Member

\$35.00 Individual Member

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**ODVN is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) agency. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.**

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*Mission Statement:*

*The Ohio Domestic Violence Network advances the principle that all people have the right to an oppression and violence free life; fosters changes in our economic, social and political systems and brings leadership, expertise and best practices to community programs.*

**ODVN Staff:**

Nancy Neylon, Executive Director  
Tana Carpenter, Resource & Technology Coordinator  
Rebecca Cline, Prevention Programs Director  
Nancy Grigsby, Legal Assistance Program Director  
Nasim Hoomanrad, Outreach Coordinator to Underserved Populations  
Becky Mason, Executive Assistant  
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Patti Schwarztrauber, Artemis Center  
Jim Slagle, Attorney at Law  
Melinda Swan, The Collective Genius  
Sandy Theis, Theis Research & Consulting

**ODVN Welcomes New Staff**

Nasim Hoomanrad, MSW joined the staff of ODVN in August 2011 as the new Outreach Coordinator. Graduating from Washington University in St. Louis with her Master in Social Work, she concentrated in intimate partner violence and prevention. Her experience in the field of domestic violence includes working for the National Domestic Violence Hotline and the National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline as well as interning and volunteering with a number of DV shelter and non-residential programs in the St. Louis area. Before coming to ODVN, Nasim worked on a CDC-funded research project conducted at The Center for Violence and Injury Prevention at Washington University in St. Louis on violence prevention for adolescent girls with prior maltreatment.

Nasim will provide training to community groups, agencies, and professionals as it relates to underserved populations, cultural competency, and economic justice. She will work with the ODVN Domestic Violence and Abilities Task Force, LGBTQI Task Force, and Domestic Violence and Immigration Task Force. She will also oversee and update the underserved services database, and provide technical assistance to shelters as it relates to underserved populations.

She can be reached at [nasimh@odvn.org](mailto:nasimh@odvn.org) or 614-781-9651 ext. 226.

Welcome Nasim!

**Support ODVN through Workplace Giving**

If you are an employee of the State of Ohio, City of Columbus, Franklin County, The Ohio State University or a number of other employers, you can make a donation to ODVN through Community Shares of Mid Ohio. ODVN is one of 65 member agencies that address a wide range of social and environmental services and issues.

Please consider giving to ODVN this year through your workplace giving campaign. Call Becky Mason at ODVN to get our codes for the campaigns.

For more information about Community Shares of Mid Ohio and to see a list of all the campaigns we are in, go to [www.comunityshares.net](http://www.comunityshares.net).



# PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

*By Nancy Neylon, Executive Director*

## **HB 25 Animal Cruelty (Representative Combs) Passed the House June 21, 2011, Referred to Senate Judiciary Criminal Justice Committee**

The legislation includes the protection of companion animals in protection orders, revises the penalties and sentencing provisions for cruelty to animals, requires the psychological testing and counseling of minors convicted of cruelty to animals, requires supervised probation for persons convicted of cruelty to companion animals and removes pit bulls from the definition of vicious dog.

## **HB 53 Sexting (Representative Magg) Referred to the House Criminal Justice Committee, Fourth Hearing June 21, 2011**

The legislation creates the crime of “sexting” and prohibits a minor by use of a telecommunication device or other means from knowingly sharing, exchanging, posting, or sending a video, photograph or any other material of themselves or another minor in a state of nudity and adds to the offense “unruly child” for purposes of this legislation.

## **HB 80 Sexting (Representative Pillich) Referred to House Criminal Justice Committee, Sponsor Testimony March 2, 2011**

The legislation creates the crime of “sexting” and prohibits a minor by use of a telecommunication device or other means from knowingly sharing, exchanging, posting, or sending a video, photograph or any other material of themselves or another minor in a state of nudity and adds to the offense “unruly child” for purposes of this legislation. It also defines nudity for these purposes and limits the offense illegal use of a minor in nudity oriented materials or performance to adults 18 and over.

## **HB 103 Address Confidentiality (Representatives Clyde and Stinziano) Referred to the House Judiciary & Ethics Committee, Sponsor Testimony March 1, 2011**

The legislation establishes an address confidentiality program and maintains voter registration for program participants in the Secretary of State’s office for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. Tier I, II, and III sex offenders are not eligible for the program. The legislation adds federal

law enforcement officer’s residential and familial information to the exclusion from public records definition to comport with other law enforcement officer exclusions.

## **HB 105 Housing and Employment Protection for Victims of Domestic Violence (Representative Murray) Referred to the House Judiciary & Ethics Committee, Sponsor testimony June 21, 2011**

Allows a victim of domestic violence to take unpaid leave to obtain a protection order, attend criminal proceedings, and meet with a law enforcement officer, prosecutor or counselor. It also allows a tenant to terminate a rental agreement or remove a co-tenant from the lease with a protection order evicting the co-tenant, allows a tenant to change the locks at the tenant’s expense and requires metropolitan housing authorities to transfer a victim to another unit upon request and prohibits a municipality from charging a victim or landlord for law enforcement response.

## **Am. HB 116 Bullying (Representative Barnes) Passed the House June 21, 2011, Referred to the Senate Judiciary Criminal Justice Committee**

The legislation would enact the school day security and anti-bullying act to require age appropriate education, to the extent state or federal funds are appropriated, and parental notification of public schools policies prohibiting harassment, intimidation or bullying.

## **HB 155 Bullying (Representatives Fedor and Garland) Introduced March 15, 2011, Referred to the House Education Committee**

The legislation would enact the “Jessica Logan Act” to require that public school bullying policies prohibit bullying by electronic means and address acts that occur off school grounds, including on school buses or at a school sponsored event, and to require staff training on the revised policy.

## **HB 208 Bullying (Representatives Stinziano and Antonio) Introduced April 20, 2011, Referred to the House Education Committee**

The legislation would require that school anti-bullying policies prohibit harassment, intimidation or bullying that is based on any perceived trait or actual trait or

characteristic of a student. This includes but is not limited to age, color, creed, national origin, race, religion, marital status, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical attributes, physical or mental ability or disability, ancestry, political party preference, political belief, socioeconomic status, or familial status.

**HB 253 Parental Rights (Representatives Weddington and Young) Introduced June 8, 2011, Referred to Judiciary and Ethics Committee**

To require the courts to allocate parental rights and responsibilities equally with regard to the care, legal responsibility and access to children except where there is clear and convincing evidence that shows equal legal and physical access would be harmful to the children.

**HB 262 Trafficking (Representative Fedor) Introduced June 14, 2011, Referred to the House Judiciary Committee**

The legislation requires that a minor who is a victim of trafficking be provided with services and that procedures to reunite the minor with her/his family be established by the Department of Job and Family Services. The legislation also requires the creation of a poster that displays the 24 hour toll free trafficking hotline and that shall be displayed in a number of establishments including hotels, any establishment with a liquor permit, hospitals, schools, agricultural labor camps, massage parlors, highway truck stops, fairs, and adult entertainment establishments.

**HB 281 Sex/HIV Education in Schools/Coverage for Prescription Contraceptive Devices (Representative Antonio) Introduced June 23, 2011, Referred to Health and Aging Committee**

**(SB 190 Sex/HIV Education (Senator Cafaro) Introduced June 28, 2011. This legislation is the Senate version of HB 281. )**

The legislation would revise sex education in schools providing education on human development, family planning, sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS prevention. The information for grades seven through twelve must be age appropriate, medically and scientifically accurate. Information will also teach students to recognize and effectively reject unwanted physical and verbal or sexual advances, emphasizing

personal responsibility and respect for others. Parents may have their child opt out through a written request. The language for schools to provide this education is permissive. The legislation also creates an Ohio Teen Pregnancy Prevention Task Force. The legislation also requires hospitals to offer emergency contraception to sexual assault victims and counseling regarding the risk of sexually transmitted infections. The legislation also disallows insurance companies from limiting or excluding coverage for prescription contraceptives and outpatient services related to the provision of such prescriptions, if the policy provides coverage for other prescription drugs.

**SB 66 Graphic Images (Sexting) (Senator Cates) Referred to Senate Judiciary – Criminal Justice Committee, Sponsor testimony April 12, 2011**

The legislation prohibits a minor by use of a telecommunications device from knowingly creating, receiving, exchanging, sending or possessing a photograph showing a minor in a state of nudity.

**SB 127 (Senator Schiavoni) Introduced March 22, 2011, Referred to the Senate Education Committee**

The legislation would enact the “Jessica Logan Act” to require that public school bullying policies prohibit bullying by electronic means and address acts that occur off school grounds, including on school buses or at a school sponsored event, and to require staff training on the revised policy.

**SB 144 Parental Rights (Senators Skindell and Grendell) Referred to the Senate Judiciary Civil Justice Committee, Sponsor testimony May 4, 2011**

To require the courts to allocate parental rights and responsibilities equally with regard to the care, legal responsibility and access to children except where there is clear and convincing evidence that shows equal legal and physical access would be harmful to the children.

If you have any questions or for more information on public policy, please contact Nancy Neylon or Becky Mason at ODVN.

This newsletter is funded in part by the  
U.S. Department of Health & Human  
Services

# Domestic Violence Has No Place In Ohio: Ten Ways to Take Action

*By Nancy Neylon, Executive Director*

Domestic violence has no place in Ohio. That's the guiding vision for those gathering throughout the state in October to illuminate domestic violence awareness month. Every year since 1981, advocates and allies striving to end domestic violence in our homes and our communities take time to celebrate the survivors, mourn the victims and recognize that we have broken the silence to reach millions of victims through support and services.

Having led the Ohio Domestic Violence Network, Ohio's statewide coalition, for the past seventeen years, I have seen firsthand how the most important gains have been realized. The biggest advances come when community members demonstrate support for survivors and service providers.

Effectively addressing and ultimately ending domestic violence requires a collaborative effort involving every part of our community. During Domestic Violence Awareness Month let us all recommit to ensuring domestic violence has no place in Ohio.

Here are ten ways all of us can address and prevent domestic violence and create communities of safety and support.

1. With the passage of HB 19 in 2010, every school is required to provide education on dating violence to students in grades 7 through 12. Talk to your local high school principal and school board to ensure that they are implementing this legislation in your school district.
2. The Institute of Medicine has recently recommended that health care providers screen for domestic violence, recognizing the potential health impact of domestic violence and the importance of prevention on future health concerns. If your physician is not screening, talk to them about the importance of screening. For materials for health care professionals contact the Ohio Domestic Violence Network.
3. Victims say that one of the necessities in remaining free of violence is a stable income. Yet a May survey by the Corporate Alliance To End Partner Violence suggests that 64% of domestic violence victims say their ability to work is affected by the abuse. Does your employer have a policy on domestic violence in the workplace? If not ask your employer about forming a committee to consider such a policy. Contact your state Representative to support HB 105 (Sponsored by Representative Dennis Murray) which would allow victims to take unpaid work time to secure a protection order without fear of reprisal.
4. Domestic violence programs in Ohio are reporting cuts in funding while experiencing increasing demands for services. Consider having a group you belong to host a fundraiser for your local domestic violence program, or hold a "shower" for needed items.
5. The Ohio Domestic Violence Network's survey of domestic violence programs found that there was at least a \$5 million lack of civil legal services for victims in Ohio every year. The civil legal needs of survivors of domestic violence cover a wide range from immediate needs for safety such as securing a civil protection order, longer term issues including divorce and custody, to holistic needs including financial cases such as bankruptcy, foreclosure and credit as many abusers engage in financial abuse in addition to physical and emotional abuse. If you are an attorney, consider providing pro bono civil legal assistance in your area of expertise through your local bar association, local legal aid or ODVN.
6. Many victims of domestic violence are reluctant to leave because they must leave their pets behind. Abusers are known to control their victims through the abuse of beloved animals. Consider providing foster care for a victim's pet while they are in emergency shelter. Or ask your vet or animal care provider to consider fostering a victim's pet. Ask your state Senator to support HB 25 (Sponsored by Representative Courtney Combs) a bill that has passed the Ohio House of Representatives that would allow pets to be included on protection orders.
7. Break the silence. If you believe you have a friend in an abusive relationship tell them you know what's happening and that they do not deserve to be abused. Be supportive and remember your role is to provide information and alternatives.
8. Start prevention early. Purchase a book or game or

## Ten Ways to Take Action

(continued from page 8)

- poster for the children you love that highlights cooperation and non-violence.
- Engage and mentor our young men in respectful, non-violent relationships. Consider becoming a facilitator for the Men of Strength Club (MOST) or incorporating the Coaching Boys Into Men materials from Futures Without Violence into your work as a coach.
  - Pause and remember ... the victims who still live with domestic violence and pledge to take action this October. Wear a purple ribbon, display a purple light, or attend a vigil or event in your community. Pause and remember... that together we can build communities of non-violence and prevent future violence.

The Ohio Domestic Violence Network will continue to work in partnership with survivors, Ohio's domestic violence programs, multi-disciplinary professionals who address domestic violence, policy makers and communities beyond October to ensure that victims have access to the services they need to end the violence in their lives and to engage in critical prevention initiatives and policy reform to ultimately end domestic violence.

Please join us in making the vision of peace and safety in all of our homes a reality. For additional information please visit ODNV's web site at [www.odvn.org](http://www.odvn.org).



## Women Who Use Force By Celeste Waller, Psy.D., ODVN BIP Training Specialist

In the early 1990s, legislation was enacted to address domestic violence. As a result of preferred and mandatory arrest policies there was an increase in the number of women who were arrested for domestic violence and more women have been court ordered to treatment. Women who use force are also becoming involved in treatment as a result of staying in abusive relationships and exposing their children to potential harm. These individuals become involved with case managers from children's services who link them to advocates and other treatment providers as part of their case plan to keep or reunify them with their children. Although more women who use force are coming to the attention of healthcare providers or social service agencies, not much is known about providing services to females who use force. Who are these women? Are they primary aggressors, individuals who batter for the sole purpose of manipulating and controlling their partners or is their motivation to use force different? Can traditional male batterers' treatment programs address the issues that drive women to use force?

In 2009, prompted by concerns regarding the appropriateness of services available for women who use force, Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN) convened a Women Who Use Force (WWUF) Ad Hoc Committee comprised of representatives from Batterer Intervention Programs (BIPs), domestic violence programs, corrections departments, probation departments, law enforcement agencies, and other legal systems to address this issue. This committee developed a document entitled "Guidelines for Programs Working with Women Who Use Force." The main purpose of this document is to inform providers of the issues related to providing services to women who use force and to establish standards to increase the likelihood of providing appropriate and successful services. The standards address victim/client safety, partner contacts, confidentiality and communicating with the referral and other service providers. The standards provide information to consider when assessing if the individual is appropriate for services and provides recommendations for working with this population. This document also provides some information relevant to working with marginalized cultures within this population. The guidelines can be used specifically to help develop new services or evaluate existing services.

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## CHECK IT OUT!

### From ODVN's Resource Center

*Materials from ODVN's Resource Center may be borrowed for free by ODVN members and Ohio residents. For more information or to borrow resources from our clearinghouse, please contact Tana Carpenter, 1-800-934-9840, Ext. 224.*

#### **Sourcebook on Violence Against Women (Second Edition)**

The new edition of this vital resource provides extensive coverage of the current state of research, theory, prevention, and intervention regarding violence against women. Each of the 18 chapters belongs to one of three parts: theoretical and methodological issues in researching violence against women, types of violence against women, or prevention and direct intervention. The editors and contributing authors have crafted their work to encourage discussion and debate and also to address issues of diversity and cultural contexts, as well as to examine inequalities of race and ethnicity, social class, physical ability, sexual orientation, and geographic location. This second edition of *Sourcebook on Violence Against Women* includes new chapters that address emerging topics, such as: assessment, sexual harassment, pornography, cross-cultural issues, the economy, primary prevention, school-based programs and interventions, and faith-based initiatives.

This resource is actually a textbook for advanced undergraduate or graduate courses in Violence Against Women, Family Violence (Domestic Violence, Intimate Violence, Interpersonal Violence), and Violent Crime.

**Publisher:** Sage Publications

**Format:** Paperback

**Length:** 404 Pages

**Year Produced:** 2011

#### **Telling Amy's Story**

Actress and advocate Mariska Hargitay and Detective Deirdri Fishel present an emotional story about America's pervasive and largely unreported epidemic-domestic violence. *Telling Amy's Story* is based on a timeline of events leading up to a domestic violence homicide that occurred in central Pennsylvania in 2001.

This resource can be used as a catalyst for discussion about how every individual in every community can be part of the solution. This DVD includes a 43 minute documentary, 15 minute awareness discussion, 17 minute local coordinated community response discussion, and a four minute trailer.

**Publisher/Author:** PennState Public Broadcasting

**Format:** DVD

**Length:** 79 Minutes (Total DVD Length)

**Year Produced:** 2010

#### **Sin by Silence**

From behind prison walls, *Sin by Silence* reveals the lives of extraordinary women who advocate for a future free from domestic violence. Inside the California Institution for Women, the first inmate-initiated and led group in the U.S. prison system shatters the misconceptions of domestic violence. Against the system and against the odds, the women of Convicted Women Against Abuse have risen to expose the stigma of the cycle of domestic violence. Through their stories of terror and hope, the viewer can begin to understand the cycle of violence, the signs of an abuser, and how each and every one of us is responsible for changing the tragedy of domestic violence.

**Publisher/Author:** Women Make Movies

**Format:** DVD

**Length:** 49 Minutes

**Year Produced:** 2009

#### **Coercive Control: How Men Entrap Women in Personal Life**

Despite its great achievements, the domestic violence revolution is stalled, Evan Stark argues, a provocative conclusion he documents by showing that interventions have failed to improve women's long-term safety in relationships or to hold perpetrators accountable. Stark traces this failure to a startling paradox, that the singular focus on violence against women masks an even more devastating reality. In millions of abusive relationships, men use a largely unidentified form of subjugation that more closely resembles kidnapping or indentured servitude than assault. He calls this pattern coercive control. Drawing on sources that range from FBI statistics and film to dozens of actual cases from his thirty years of experience as an award-winning researcher, advocate, and forensic expert, Stark shows in terrifying detail how men can use coercive control to extend their dominance over time and through social space in ways that subvert women's autonomy, isolate them, and infiltrate the most intimate corners of their lives. Against this backdrop, Stark analyzes the cases of three women tried for crimes committed in the context of abuse, showing that their reactions are only intelligible when they are reframed as victims of coercive control rather than as battered wives.

**Publisher/Author:** Evan Stark

**Format:** Book (Hardback)

**Length:** 452 Pages

**Year Produced:** 2007

## **Women Who Use Force** *(Continued from page 9)*

The guidelines help advocates working with this population to allow women to open up about their use of force because batterers often use this as leverage in the relationship, telling the survivor she is as bad as he is. This belief is then reinforced in the court system, with family and friends and other systems if the survivor chooses to share her use of violence. One role of the advocate is to assist the survivor in understanding the complex dynamics of domestic violence and that while we do not condone or encourage violence, not all violence is about power and control.

In 2010, with the rising number of individuals seeking information and resources regarding WWUF, ODVN invited Melissa Scaia, M.P.A. (Executive Director of Advocates for Family Peace) and Laura Connelly (Director of Programming at Advocates for Family Peace) to speak in Columbus, Ohio September 22-23, 2011 about their work with this population and their new curriculum (Turning Points) co-authored with Ellen Pence. The two day conference provided a context for understanding women who use force and provided experiential opportunities for participants to facilitate groups using the Turning Points Curriculum and receive feedback. The facilitators addressed the importance of a coordinated community response to working with this population. They stressed the need for advocacy programs to focus on the continuum and not just providing court mandated groups. Laura and Melissa encouraged exploring what is happening in the participants' communities and looking at what other services might be appropriate, such as doing outreach at the women's jail, talking to probation officers about different ways to modify probation for survivors, and speaking to prosecutors about recommending treatment in lieu of pressing charges. The facilitators stressed the ramifications of incurring legal charges for women who use force and the ongoing harm it can cause and led a discussion about what the service providers' obligations were in working with this population.

During the two day conference, participants explored what it might be like to be in a controlling and abusive relationship. The purpose of this exercise was to get a better understanding of why it is important for service providers not to define their

client's experience but to allow the woman who uses force to define her own unique experience.

Participants also had the opportunity to facilitate a group discussion to help women become more aware of all the facets in their life that contribute to their final decision to use force. Participants lead group discussions that challenged traditional beliefs and concepts to help women become more familiar with their own reality and how to develop plans that addressed these issues and decreased their use of violence as well as the violence being used against them. The conference was well received and participants left understanding that WWUF are not generally primary aggressors, that indeed their motivation for using force is very different from men and that traditional male batterers' treatment programs do not address the issues that drive women to use force.

### **Upcoming ODVN Trainings/Meetings**

#### **Documentation and Court: What Advocates Need to Know**

**November 9, 2011**  
**London, Ohio**

#### **"What Happened to You?" Understanding Trauma-Informed Care**

**November 18, 2011**  
**Youngstown, Ohio**

#### **Statewide Legal Advocacy Caucus**

**December 2, 2011**  
**Columbus, Ohio**

#### **"What Happened to You?" Understanding Trauma-Informed Care**

**December 9, 2011**  
**Marietta, Ohio**

Watch your mail in December for the 2012 Annual Training Institute Calendar! For more information or to register, go to [www.odvn.org](http://www.odvn.org) or contact Rachel Ramirez, Training Coordinator at [rachelr@odvn.org](mailto:rachelr@odvn.org).



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# OHIO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE NETWORK

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## **Financial Tip from our Finance Director *Amy Smith***

### **Economic Justice Resources on the ODVN website**

The Economic Justice Resources section of the ODVN website is currently being updated. This section contains a tool kit, *Economic Resources for Advocates & Domestic Violence Survivors in Ohio*, which has links to numerous websites and agencies.

Some of the tool kit categories include:

- Child Care
- Credit and Credit Repair
- Education
- Financial Management and Planning
- Healthcare
- Housing
- Employment
- Public Benefits

For more information, visit our website at [www.odvn.org](http://www.odvn.org). Economic Justice Resources can be found under the Info for Survivors and Resource Center menu items.