**WCASA Fact Sheet**

**ABOUT WCASA**

The Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Inc. (WCASA) is a statewide coalition consisting of individual, affiliate, and sexual assault service provider members. The member programs provide comprehensive sexual assault services in counties across the state.

WCASA staff impacts state policy development and provides technical assistance, training, public awareness, and prevention education. WCASA is a private, nonprofit organization established in 1985; we are committed to effecting changes in policies, in systems, and in society with the goals of improving services for victims/survivors of sexual assault and ending sexual violence. These goals are reflected in the initiatives and programs supported and driven by WCASA.

Our work encompasses both intervention and prevention. For sexual violence to be eradicated, it must be met with a comprehensive response; this includes interceding where violence is happening to provide safety, support, and resources to those impacted by it (intervention), as well as educational outreach and social climate change which informs behavioral choices people make and precludes sexual violence from occurring in the first place (prevention). They are two sides of the same coin.

**WCASA PROGRAMMING**

**Training**

**Annual Training Institute**

WCASA’s popular Training Institute offers participants the opportunity to learn new information and gain innovative skills about the anti-sexual violence movement and bring this working knowledge back to their communities.

**Law Enforcement Training Project**

WCASA’s multidisciplinary team provides training to law enforcement officers, advocates, district attorneys, and other members of the criminal justice system. Trainers cover sexual assault dynamics, victim reactions, and sensitive crime investigation techniques and strategies.

**Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE)**

A SANE is a registered nurse (R.N.) who has advanced training to provide forensic examinations for victims of sexual assault. SANE’s offer compassionate care and are specially trained to provide evidence collection.
Sexual Assault Victim Advocacy Schools (SAVAS)
Two bi-annual, week-long advocacy schools are held each year with WCASA staff and other experts offering guidance on such vital topics as the dynamics of sexual violence, its impact on victims, supporting the healing process, facilitating support groups; conducting effective awareness and outreach; working with law enforcement; and engaging communities to work for change.

Public Policy & Legal Advocacy
Our public policy work encompasses advocacy in systems at the state and local level, in government agencies and within communities.

Technical Assistance
WCASA provides technical assistance to sexual assault service provider personnel, victims/survivors of sexual assault and their families, other professionals, and the general public. Technical assistance includes written information, gathering referral sources, or working with other professionals on issues related to sexual violence. This service seeks to provide answers or links to other organizations that may be of assistance to the caller.

SAAM
WCASA coordinates Sexual Assault Awareness Month (April) activities, including the state-wide observance of Denim Day (Wed., Apr. 25th, 2012).

Resource Center and Education Materials
WCASA houses an extensive resource center of books, videos, curriculum, manuals, and periodicals on sexual violence and related topics. This lending library is available to all Wisconsin residents. WCASA also produces educational materials. For a current listing of materials, please visit wcasa.org.