“Be the change you want to see in the world”
– Mahatma Gandhi
Welcome & Mission Statement

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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. WCASA is 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 mission is based on the following philosophy:

We believe it is a basic human right to live free of sexual violence.

We believe that everyone has a role and a responsibility in this work.

We do not do this work in isolation. We believe in the importance of collaborations and alliance building.

Our work is driven by survivors’ voices. Survivors and all those affected by sexual violence deserve compassionate services, dignity, privacy, and respect.

We believe that this work is based in a feminist perspective that sexual violence is rooted in oppressive power relations.

We believe that sexual violence is any unwanted sexual contact (verbal and/or physical), including rape, incest, child sexual assault, ritual abuse, acquaintance rape/assault, intimate partner or marital rape, sexual harassment, exposure, and voyeurism. Sexual violence refers to acts of violence where sex is used as the weapon.

We believe that diversity and safe, accessible services are fundamental to social change.

We believe in the power of advocacy, education, prevention, and driving public policy as agents of social change.
Our Commitment to Training

Annual Training Institute

138 people attended WCASA’s popular Training Institute Building Bridges- Communities Creating Change. Participants learned new information and innovative skills about the anti-sexual violence movement to make changes in their communities. Topics included rape, race, and resilience, human trafficking and prostitution, providing services to people with disabilities, mental health issues, and those struggling with substance abuse issues, sexual assault and immigration issues, and creating the path to sexual wholeness. Participants learned how to communicate more effectively throughout the intervention process; strategies to prevent sexual assault; how to consider cultural factors beyond ethnic differences; and how to build productive relationships to end sexual violence.

Prevention Education Conference

The 2008 Prevention Education Conference was a continued collaboration with the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence. This year’s focus on Community Readiness gave more than 44 sexual assault and domestic violence prevention educators’ strategies to focus efforts in communities at the appropriate level for maximum effectiveness. Community Readiness is a prevention model that evaluates the degree of Readiness that a community is prepared to take action on an issue. It can conserve valuable resources by guiding the selection of strategies that are likely to be most effective and evaluate change as it occurs.

“WCASA always does a wonderful job of bringing in exceptional workshops. There were so many good workshops that it was difficult for me to choose which one to go to.”

Law Enforcement Training Project

As a pacesetter in enhancing the quality of interactions with individuals who have been sexually assaulted, WCASA’s multidisciplinary team provided over 23 training days to 1427 law enforcement officers, advocates, district attorneys, and other members of the criminal justice system. Trainers covered sexual assault dynamics, victim reactions, SART, and sensitive crime investigation techniques and strategies. A special training event in collaboration with the Office of Justice Assistance (OJA) on investigating Alcohol-Facilitated Sexual Assault Training attracted over 48 officers.
Northern Training

Each year our trainings reach the far north in a collaborative effort with the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence. In 2008, 30 advocates from sexual violence and domestic violence programs came together to learn self care strategies and vicarious traumatization. Issues around Tribal law and culture were also discussed.

“\textit{This is by far the best conference I have ever attended. I learned more in this week about sexual assault than in my whole life.}”

Sexual Assault Victim Advocacy Schools (SAVAS)

More than 61 novice and experienced sexual assault advocates shared their skills and built their knowledge at one of our two bi-annual, week-long advocacy schools. WCASA staff and other experts offered 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.

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Training

More than 66 registered nurses attended WCASA’s two five-day training seminars that addressed adult and adolescent survivors, and 26 attended WCASA’s five-day pediatric/advanced seminar.

Wisconsin Summit on Teen Dating and Sexual Violence

In Collaboration with DHFS and WCADV, WCASA the Wisconsin Summit on Teen Dating and Sexual Violence attracted over 300 program staff, school personnel, law enforcement, youth development organizations, health care providers, and teens. Participants learned strategies to increase community awareness on the prevalence and dynamics of teen dating and sexual violence, developed and enhanced working relationships among systems serving teens, and encouraged teens to take an active role in their community in combating dating and sexual violence.

Sexual Violence on the College Campus

WCASA in collaboration with the Wisconsin College Professional Association (WCPA) made great strides toward breaking the silence surrounding sexual abuse by facilitating, supporting, and leading students and campus personnel in their efforts to develop sexual-assault prevention and intervention services on campus. More than 120 people par-
Participated in the campus conference entitled Campus Safety: Everyone’s Responsibility. Topics included sexual assault basics, creating inclusive campus communities, hate crimes, dating violence, and multidisciplinary approaches to campus safety.

Regional Meetings
136 people from WCASA’s member agencies attended 8 meetings held across Wisconsin. Participants shared ideas and learned the latest information on such critical issues as community readiness, Project Respect, human trafficking, and sexual assault in the deaf and hard of hearing community. These meetings furthered the crucial objectives of improving communication, decreasing duplication of efforts, and facilitating joint efforts.

“Thanks to WCASA for this training- it’s the best I’ve ever had”

Partnerships & Capacity-Building

Prevention-Education Grants for Youth & Underserved Populations
WCASA awarded nearly $200,000 to 16 sexual-assault service providers (SASPs) to provide educational seminars to youth and those who interact with youth in Wisconsin communities. Projects emphasized developing young leaders and changing beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors that promote sexual violence.

Another $90,000 was distributed with the goal of providing primary prevention education with activities that involve changing beliefs, attitudes, behaviors, procedures or policies. The five grantees included the Alzheimer’s Association, Milwaukee LGBT, New Concept, Parenting Network, and UNIDOS.

Community partnerships around sexual assault and people with disabilities

In collaboration with Disability Rights Wisconsin and WCADV, WCASA has implemented a needs assessment for programs around the state and selected several communities to intensively work in to improve services for survivors with disabilities. WCASA is also partnering with UNIDOS, Deaf Unity, and several tribal communities on this project. WCASA continues to provide technical assistance to help improve accessibility and safety for survivors with disabilities Statewide.

Rural sexual assault program development

WCASA began its efforts to create a program that addresses sexual assault in rural communities in collaboration with WCADV. We began by assessing the status of sexual assault
services in each County around the State including dual programs, rural outreach offices, and Counties with no sexual assault services. We collected and developed relevant resources. We helped modify the established domestic violence peer review tool to include questions about sexual assault and overall program accessibility. We also conducted two peer reviews of dual sexual assault and domestic violence programs.

**Promoting Leadership among Women of Color**

In 2008 WCASA continued to strategically increase efforts to promote leadership among women of color through the established Women of Color Leadership Network (WOCLN) by providing one-on-one mentoring, networking, support and training opportunities for WOC advocates. WOCLN continued to be a platform to bring 55 WOC advocates together to create a joint vision to end sexual assault with their voiced being center stage. During quarterly meetings and continued communication WOCLN, addressed common issues faced in their organizations. Some of the difficult issues faced by WOC advocates include: isolation, lack of training or support, racism, lack of leadership opportunities, being the only person of color, having their work be an "add on" to the organizations mission, etc. This was also the focus of the Women of Color Pre-Intensive that was held before the annual Training Institute and brought together 27 WOC advocates.

**Hmong Community**

In the past two years the Hmong Community has worked hard to develop a shared understanding and analysis of International marriage and trafficking issues. Action plans for meaningful change in the work to address this issue were discussed along with strategies to take back to communities to create positive changes and solutions. The goal is to improve, create new services, and take collective action to change social norms. The WCASA sponsored retreat in September 2008 helped to give voice, language, and awareness to the International marriage and trafficking issues in the Hmong community. It was attended by over 70 participants including community leaders, natural leaders, Hmong advocates, WCASA, WCADV, allies, victims and survivors. With support from WCASA, Hmong advocates have taken the lead in creating a grassroots movement to find solutions to this issue.
**Support & Resources**

**Technical Assistance**

WCASA staff responded to over 2,000 state and national calls from service providers, law enforcement officers, and others seeking information on sexual-assault issues. Staff contributed more than 1,000 hours toward generating thoughtful and thorough responses. Especially noteworthy is the 500 hours spent responding to requests for Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) technical assistance, nearly twice that of the previous year. These requests came from hospitals, clinics, sexual assault service providers, law enforcement, and others.

**E-Newsletter and Web Site**

WCASA continues to receive a positive response to the electronic newsletters we send out to WCASA's membership each week. WCASA's weekly email update covers timely topics such as funding opportunities, upcoming trainings and events, employment opportunities, new resources, and sexual assault in the news. WCASA continues to update the website to broaden its utility and to make it fully accessible to people who use assistive technologies.

**Sexual Assault Awareness Month Materials**

The theme of WCASA's Sexual Assault Awareness Month was “Adjust Your Reaction.” Since sexual harassment and violence thrive on silence the campaign encourages people to speak up and confront behaviors that support sexual violence, advocate for victims and encourage change in the community and in the workplace. WCASA developed a poster to reinforce the theme, as well as a resource packet suggesting new activities focused on community engagement and leadership development. Resource packets and posters were distributed free of charge to WCASA's member agencies as well as to health departments throughout the state.

**Coordinated Community Response (CCR) Project**

In 2008, a survey was conducted about CCR activity statewide. Sexual assault programs were interviewed about their local CCRs and the data from these interviews was compiled and presented in a CCR Report. The report included information on the various structures of CCRs and how they operate as well as current trends and challenges. A CCR Toolkit was also created, and was made available to the public at the end of the year through WCASA/WCADV’s websites. The toolkit includes information and activities for CCRs at various stages of development.

**Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Project**

The SART project team conducted five community meetings with a wide range of SART topics and presented on SART at the Statewide Training Institute. The SART project also held six SART Protocol meetings with the protocol develop-
ment team to begin work on Statewide SART Protocol. Part of this process was to meet with focus groups of survivors, members of law enforcement, and prosecution regarding what they thought should be included in the protocol.

**Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program**

The SANE Program worked to create an algorithm of sexual assault services to allow for improved triage of sexual assault clients. Included are advocacy services, medical services and SANE services. A Statewide training was developed to include the comprehensive care of inmate protocols, policy and procedures and all written materials. The SANE program was also a part of the Statewide protocol development process and worked with community SARTs to assist with implementation.

**Enacting Legislative Change**

The 2007-2008 legislative sessions were successful for WCASA. All of the hard work on the Compassionate Care for Rape Victims (CCRV) Legislation came to fruition when Governor Doyle signed this bill into law in March of 2008. The CCRV legislation requires hospitals to inform sexual assault victims about emergency contraception (EC) and to dispense EC to victims who request it. This legislation ensures that sexual assault victims in Wisconsin will now receive the information and health care services that are recommended by the American College of Emergency Physicians.

Additionally, WCASA is pleased to report the passage of several other pieces of legislation in 2008. The Anti-Human Trafficking legislation creates new criminal penalties for those engaging in this form of modern day slavery. This legislation also provides protection to trafficked persons through access to crime victim compensation and restitution. The Safe Housing Act was also signed into law by the Governor in 2008. This legislation allows victims of sexual assault to secure safe housing by terminating their current rental agreement if they provide legal documentation of their victim status and notice to their landlord. Legal documentation includes a certified copy of an injunction or criminal complaint alleging sexual assault. WCASA was pleased to work closely with WCADV to secure passage of this important legislation.
Advocates of Ozaukee
Ozaukee and Surrounding Counties
Association For the Prevention of Family Violence
Walworth
ASTOP, Inc.
Fond du Lac and Surrounding Counties
AVAIL, Inc.
Langlade and Marathon, Lincoln, Oneida, Menominee, Shawano upon request
Bolton Refuge House, Inc.
Eau Claire, Jackson, Buffalo
Brighter Tomorrows
Monroe
CAP Services, Inc.
Portage, Waupaca, South Wood
CASDA
Bayfield, Douglas
Community Referral Agency
Burnett, Polk
Family Advocates - Sexual Assault Services
Grant, Iowa, Lafayette
Family Center, Inc.
Wood
Family Support Center
Chippewa, Eau Claire
Franciscan Skemp Health-care - Safe Path
La Crosse and Surrounding Counties
Friends of Abused Families
Washington
Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center, Inc.
Crawford, La Crosse, Monroe, Trempealeau
HAVEN, Inc.
Lincoln
Holy Family Memorial's Sexual Assault Resource Center
Manitowoc
Hope House
Columbia, Sauk
LCO Oakwood Haven Sawyer
New Day Shelter
Ashland, Bayfield
Passages
Crawford, Juneau, Richland, Vernon, Grant, Sauk and Iowa
People Against a Violent Environment
Dodge, Jefferson
People Against Domestic & Sexual Abuse
Jefferson
Rape Crisis Center
Dane
REACH Counseling Services
Winnebago
Safe Harbor of Sheboygan County, Inc.
Sheboygan
Safe Haven
Shawano
Sexual Assault Center
Brown, Door, Oconto
Sexual Assault Crisis Center-Fox Cities
Calumet, Outagamie
Sexual Assault Recovery Program
Rock, Green
Sexual Assault Services of LSS
Racine
Sexual Assault Treatment Center
Milwaukee
Stepping Stones, Inc.
Taylor
The Bridge to Hope
Dunn, Pepin
The Counseling Center of Milwaukee
Milwaukee
The Healing Center
Milwaukee
The Women's Center
Waukesha
The Women's Community Marathon
Time-Out Family Abuse Shelter
Rusk, Washburn, Price
Tri-County Council on DV & SA
Forest, Oneida, Vilas
Turningpoint for Victims of DV & SV
Pierce, St.Croix
Violence Intervention Project
Kewaunee
Women & Children's Horizons
Kenosha
Financial Statement

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2008 WCASA STAFF
Beth Ballo
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2008 WCASA BOARD
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Theresa Valenti
WCASA would like to acknowledge major funders who worked with us in 2008 toward ending sexual violence: the State of Wisconsin Division of Public Health of the Department of Health and Family Services, the State of Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance, the State of Wisconsin Department of Justice, Office of Crime Victim Services, and the United States Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women.