“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 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 that everyone has a role and a responsibility in this work.
- We believe that this work is based in a feminist perspective that sexual violence is rooted in oppressive power relations.
- We believe in the power of advocacy, education, prevention, and driving public policy as agents of social change.

- 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.
Our Commitment to Training

Training Institute

190 people attended WCASA’s popular Training Institute. We are ALL WCASA: Partnering Together to Create a Diverse, Inclusive Voice to End Sexual Violence. Participants learned new information and innovative skills about the anti-sexual violence movement to make changes in their communities. Topics included the Neurobiology of Trauma; Sexual Assault Response Teams; Understanding Racism and Privilege; Drugs, Alcohol and Sexual Assault; Co-advocacy models; Involving Survivors in Sexual Assault Work; and Helping with Hope and Healing. Participants learned strategies to prevent sexual assault; how to communicate more effectively throughout the intervention process; the connection between anti oppression work and ending sexual assault; and how to work with multidisciplinary teams to build productive relationships to end sexual violence.

“The variety, intensity, and resources far exceeded even your printed information. Fabulous, awesome, nurturing, affirming.”

Prevention Education Conference

The 2009 Prevention Education Conference was a continued collaboration with the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence. This year’s focus Strategic Steps to Stop Violence gave more than 48 sexual assault and domestic violence prevention educators’ information about successful national and statewide prevention programs. The national programs featured included Darkness to Light, Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP), and Casa de Esperanza.

Legal Training

This year’s Legal Training was attended by 33 advocates who learned about Privilege and Confidentiality and how these two important and interrelated concepts impact the work advocates do on behalf of survivors on a daily basis. Barriers Facing Underserved Populations in the Legal System was also discussed. In addition, an Overview of Recently Passed Legislation Impacting Survivors including Human Trafficking, Safe Housing, and Strangulation was provided.

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 34 training days to 755 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.
Northern Training

Each year our trainings reach the far north in a collaborative effort with the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence. In 2009, 30 advocates from sexual violence and domestic violence programs came together to learn about Creating a Welcoming Environment, Trauma Informed Care, Self Care, and the Safe, Simple and Smart program. Tribal culture was also discussed.

Sexual Assault Victim Advocacy Schools (SAVAS)

More than 57 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 64 registered nurses attended WCASA’s two five-day training seminars that addressed adult and adolescent survivors, and 18 attended WCASA’s five-day pediatric/advanced seminar. A Hospital Summit- Planning for the Future was also held which attracted 21 participants. This intensive one-day summit focused on the future of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Programs in Wisconsin; clarifying the roles for hospitals and clinics; trainings, SART (Sexual Assault Response Teams) Programs; sustainability; program attrition; reimbursement; benefits for the community and hospital: the criminal justice system in Wisconsin and more.

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 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.

“It is super helpful to have such relevant information- I’ll be a better advocate.”
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.

Partnerships & Capacity-Building

Prevention-Education Grants for Youth & Underserved Populations

11 sexual-assault service providers (SASPs) received continuation funding and initial results were reported at this year’s Prevention Education Conference. These projects, funded through the RPE grant, emphasized developing young leaders and changing beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors that promote sexual violence.

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 2009 WCASA continued to provide efforts to promote leadership among women of color (WOC) advocates throughout the state by providing mentoring, networking, support and training opportunities. The Women of Color Network (WOCN) continued to provide an opportunity to bring together women of color advocates with quarterly
meetings and with the WOCN Pre-Intensive Training held during WCASAs Training Institute in which 30 woc advocates attended. Additionally, WCASA was a support to the WOC Leadership Institute sponsored by the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence and was one of the co-sponsors for the A Call to Men Regional Conference.

**Hmong Community**

For the past three years, WCASA has worked with the Hmong Community to support their groundbreaking work in understanding and bringing to light the complexity of international marriage and trafficking issues within Hmong communities. A WCASA sponsored event, the Third Summit on Abusive International Marriages and Sexual Assault Prevention, was held to continue to foster a safe space for dialogue about these issues, to develop prevention and intervention strategies, and to build cultural competency in organizations and in advocates doing the work. Discussion regarding the patriarchal structure of the Hmong community was held with Hmong women advocates and Hmong men where strategies and preventative measure were discussed. Over 50 people were in attendance including Hmong advocates, community leaders from the Hmong community and representation from WCASA.

**Support & Resources**

**Technical Assistance**

WCASA staff responded to over 3,685 state and national technical assistance requests from service providers, law enforcement officers, and others seeking information on sexual-assault issues. Staff contributed more than 2,143 hours toward generating thoughtful and thorough responses.

**E-Newsletter and Web Site**

WCASA continues to receive a positive response to the electronic newsletters we send out to WCASAs membership each week. WCASAs 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 WCASAs Sexual Assault Awareness Month was “Check Yourself.” 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 rein-
force 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 2009, 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**

In 2009, WCASA released the Statewide Adult Sexual Assault Response Team Protocol. The protocol, endorsed as ‘best practice’ by both the Governor and the Attorney General, is a culmination of 15 months of collaborative work by 16 highly qualified professionals representing all multi-system stakeholders with a wealth of experience in responding to sexual assault. The release of the protocol represents a first step in ensuring a victim centered and offender focused response to the crime of sexual assault in the state of Wisconsin. In August of 2009 WCASA, in partnership with the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance, hosted the National SART Training and Capacity Building Project Training. The training consisted of two parts – the first part brought together 10 teams from around the state for a 2 day intense training on the multi-disciplinary response to sexual assault. The second part - a 2½ day training for law enforcement focusing on non-stranger sexual assault was attended by over 100 officers from Milwaukee.

**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 2009-2010 legislative sessions were very successful for WCASA. Building on the passage of the Safe Housing Act in the previous legislative session, further improvements in the area of victim access to housing were obtained. The Lock Out Abusers Act enhances survivors safety by allowing requiring landlords to change the locks upon request. Survivors must prove their victim status via the same documentation required under the Safe Housing Act, including certified copies of injunctions and criminal complaints. Additionally, the Victim Fair Housing Act is a significant piece of anti-discrimination legislation in that it bars discriminatory housing practices based on an individual’s status as a survivor of sexual assault.

WCASA was also successful in enhancing victim privacy by lobbying for and securing passage of the Victim Privacy Act. The Victim Privacy Act creates a civil rape shield, thus ensuring that this type of evidence is now barred, with narrow exception, from introduction in civil cases just as it is in criminal prosecutions. Additionally, this legislation prohibits a court from requiring a victim to submit to a mental examination as a way of assessing her credibility and generally prohibits a defense attorney from requiring a victim to submit to pre-trial interviews/depositions. Finally, in the area of prevention, the Healthy Youth Act outlines the topics that must be included when school districts offer human growth development programming. The topics that must be addressed include: an emphasis on healthy relationships, the impact of the media and one’s peers on behaviors related to sexuality, and the skills needed to refrain from making inappropriate physical, verbal, and sexual advances as well as how to recognize, rebuff and report unwanted behaviors.
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Financial Statement

Prevention Block Grant
- Rape Prevention Education $655,098
- Sexual Assault Prevention $131,346

Technical Assistance/Training $467,801
SANE Training $205,060
Law Enforcement Training $202,457
Under-served Populations $18,896
Total Program Services $1,680,658
Management/General $121,281
Fundraising $54,369
Totals $1,856,308
WCASA would like to acknowledge major funders who worked with us in 2009 toward ending sexual violence: the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services Division of Public Health, 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.