February is African American History Month. Sexual violence affects many in the African American community, and people of color can face additional barriers to accessing services; they constitute an under-served population in the violence prevention movement. For some context, we reached out to WCASA Board Member Dr. Alice Belcher, B.A.| M.S.| D.D., herself a woman of color, with both African and Native American ancestry, and long-time member of the movement to end violence. Dr. Belcher is Commissioner for the Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, and a member of the Milwaukee Domestic Violence Homicide Review Commission. She is the founder of the Christian Woman Perspective Ministries, Inc., a volunteer holistic faith-based community outreach program.

Read WCASA’s interview with Dr. Belcher

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Please fill out this survey about your 2012 prevention work...
The Wisconsin Children’s Trust Fund, the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Social Work, the Departments of Children and Families and Health Services, the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault would like to know more about prevention programs and services provided in your city or county during 2012. You can find the link to the survey here: [http://www.wcasa.org/pages/Prevention-Prevention-Survey.php](http://www.wcasa.org/pages/Prevention-Prevention-Survey.php)

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**Public Policy Update**

**Governor and Attorney General General Seek to Fund Sexual Assault Services with General Purpose Revenue for First Time Ever**

Last week Governor Walker released more details of his Executive Budget Bill - to be released in full on February 20th - including important news for sexual assault services. In addition to restoring the funding level of the Sexual Assault Victim Services grant program to its peak of $2 million per year, for the first time in the state’s history it is to be funded with general taxpayer dollars, or what is called General Purpose Revenue. WCASA Executive Director Pennie Meyers had this to say about this important development, “Advocates from across Wisconsin have worked hard over the last several years to make sure that policymakers understand the scope of the sexual assault problem in this state and the value of the services that can be provided to victims of sexual assault.” For the full press release from WCASA, click here. [http://www.wcasa.org/file_open.php?id=534](http://www.wcasa.org/file_open.php?id=534)


We will be working hard to ensure that these positive developments are kept in the state budget as it moves along and the legislature deals with it next.

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**Ten Things That End Rape Culture**

Rape culture exists because we don’t believe it does. From tacit acceptance of misogyny in everything from casual conversations with our peers to the media we consume, we accept the degradation of women and posit uncontrollable hyper-sexuality of men as the norm. [Read more](http://www.thenation.com/doc/2013/02/04/ten-things-that-end-rape-culture/)

The Nation February 4, 2013
Regulation and determining which communication aid to provide an interpreter be given primary consideration in require that the expressed request of victims for Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 The Americans with Disabilities Act 1990 and Deaf Unity to us advocates.

Are Deaf, hard of hearing or newsletter for providing services to victims who are Deaf, hard of hearing or Deaf-blind. Here is some introductory and useful information from Deaf Unity to us advocates.

Use of Sign Language Interpreters:
The Americans with Disabilities Act 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 require that the expressed request of victims for an interpreter be given primary consideration in determining which communication aid to provide (US Department of Justice).

What would you do if you had to work with a deaf victim? Are you prepared?

Deaf Unity will be offering tips in the WCASA newsletter for providing services to victims who are Deaf, hard of hearing or Deaf-blind. Here is some introductory and useful information from Deaf Unity to us advocates.

Use of Sign Language Interpreters:
The Americans with Disabilities Act 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 require that the expressed request of victims for an interpreter be given primary consideration in determining which communication aid to provide (US Department of Justice).

Read and learn more about Deaf Unity....

WCASA Events
Registration Open:
- 4/15-20: SANE Adult & Adolescent Seminar, Weston
- 4/27: Survivors & Allies Task Force Meeting, Madison
- 4/27: Voices of Courage Awards, Madison
- 4/27: Wrap Around the Capitol, Madison

Save the Date:
- 3/27: Legislative Advocacy Day, Madison
- 5/6-10: SA Victim Advocacy School, Carter

News..Training..Events..Resources..Jobs
02/27/2013-03/01/2013 Responding to Missing & Unidentified Persons National Training Conference-Appleton, WI. Learn more...

02/27/2013 Cafe y Conversacion; Entrada Gratuita! 5:00pm-6:30pm. The Healing Center (“El Centro Para Sanar”) Milwaukee

3/06/2013 SEX OFFENDERS - WHAT EVERY PERSON/BUSINESS NEEDS TO KNOW! 1:30-2:15 Webinar Learn more..

03/10/2013 Girls Not Brides Movie Screening, Madison. Learn More..

03/15/2013 Social Emotional Development: Play Therapy Based Assessments and Interventions with Infants and Young Children” presented by Dr. Sally McCoy. Please see event flyer...

The Sexual Assault Across the Lifespan National Technical Assistance Project, a project of the NSVRC, is excited to announce three upcoming webinars:

Putting the Pieces Together: Prosecuting Perpetrators of Incest while Supporting Child Victims & Families Tuesday, February 26, 2013

Growing Resiliency: Meeting the Needs of Children Surviving Incest Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Prosecuting Cases of Sexual Violence in Later Life Friday, March 8, 2013

WCASA WINTER SCARF SALE
Support WCASA this winter by purchasing a beautifully handmade scarf for the low price of $20. Half of the proceeds will help WCASA continue to be the voice for programs and survivors and to achieve our mission of creating the social change necessary to end sexual violence. Purchase now.

Wisconsin Was All Pink on V-Day!
Did you see how pink Wisconsin was on V-Day? On the left is the map from V Day’s website showing events in WI. Proud to have so many pink dots on our map...

Watch the video from Baraboo Rising!!!

Regional WCASA Meetings and Trainings
North Central Regional Meeting: February 27, 2013 Topic: Planning for Sexual Assault Awareness Month Activities Location: T.B. Scott Public Library, 106 W. First St., Merrill, WI.

South Central Regional Meeting: March 21, 2013 Topic: Trauma Informed Care, Advocacy in Rural Communities. APFV(association for Prevention of Family Violence, Elkhorn-Walworth County, WI

Support Group for Men
WCASA is sponsoring a support group for men who are survivors of sexual assault. The group is geared towards men who have identified as survivors previously and are on a path of healing. There will be an informal meeting for those interested on Tuesday, March 5th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Resource Library of WCASA, 600 Williamson St, Ste. N-2, in Madison. For information, or to RSVP, please contact Stephen Montagna at (608) 257-1516 or stephen@wcasa.org.