



WISCONSIN COALITION AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT

INTERVENE • ADVOCATE • EDUCATE

ANNUAL REPORT – 2013

“Someone was hurt before you, wronged before you, frightened before you, beaten before you, humiliated before you, raped before you...yet, someone survived...You can do anything you choose to do.”

— Maya Angelou

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Mission:

*The Wisconsin
Coalition
Against Sexual
Assault
creates the
social change
necessary to
end sexual
violence.*

The Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Inc. (WCASA) is a state-wide 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.

2013 Highlights

OUR COMMITMENT TO TRAINING

Legal Training

WCASA conducted several Legal Trainings in 2013 covering a wide variety of topics delivered to a wide variety of audiences. Some of the Legal Trainings were provided to:

- WI National Guard (3rd consecutive year providing this training)
- School Resource Officer Training
- WI State Victim Assistance Academy
- UW Law School (Humanitarian Immigration Law Class)

In all, 112 participants attended the Legal Trainings in 2013.

Northern Training

Each year our training reaches the far north in a collaborative effort with End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin and American Indians Against Abuse (AIAA). In 2013, 49 advocates from sexual violence and domestic violence programs came together at the Lake of the Torches Resort Casino in Lac du Flambeau. Lisa Brunner from the National

"This conference was very positive and upbuilding. Thank you."

Indigenous Women's Resource Center, explored historical trauma and the development of sexual assault programming within tribal communities. Additionally, Bev Scow and Alice Skenandore from Wise Women Gathering Place, deepened the discussion about developing and sustaining connections among different communities and programs.

Sexual Assault Victim Advocacy Schools (SAVAS)

More than 80 novice and experienced sexual assault advocates from 43 agencies shared their skills and built their knowledge at our two biannual advocacy schools, held at the Potawatomi Northern Lights Casino in Carter and Comfort Inn & Suites Airport in Madison. WCASA staff and other experts offered guidance on such vital topics as the dynamics

"It is very helpful and I learned a lot. I would recommend any person new to this field or collaborating service providers, community to take part in this."

of sexual assault, its impact on victims, supporting the healing process, facilitating support groups; conducting effective



awareness and outreach; working with law enforcement; legal advocacy and engaging communities to work for change.

We continued our format which includes 3 1/2 days in the classroom, and six sessions that participants complete via webinar. We continued to reduce costs this way and by distributing session materials via Dropbox.

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Training

More than 80 registered nurses attended one of WCASA's two five-day training seminars that addressed adult and adolescent survivors, and two that addressed pediatric survivors. Together, these seminars provided medical personnel with training on interviewing children, mandatory reporting, pediatric physical findings related to trauma, strangulation and responding to domestic violence within sexual assault cases.

“We GREATLY appreciate all of the info that you guys gave us!! It is going to greatly help! Thanks so much!”

PARTNERSHIPS & OUTREACH

Prevention

In 2013, WCASA continued work implementing Forward Wisconsin: A Plan for the Prevention of Sexual Violence. The Prevention Team managed the Rape Prevention Education (RPE) grant and the Sexual Assault Prevention (SAP) grant, both national projects out of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

RPE:

The Forward Wisconsin plan provides the focus areas for the RPE project, including: Data; Prevention Strategies; Public Policy; Infrastructure; Communications; Offender Accountability. Training, technical assistance and resources in these six areas were supported. Particular attention this year was on building evaluation capacity at both state and local levels through the development of an Evaluation Learning Collaborative. Additionally, efforts to increase the visibility of sexual violence were implemented through the use of technology, including Facebook, Twitter, newsletter and listservs.

SAP:

The focus of the SAP project is on Underserved Populations through the support of two state-wide committees: USP Committee and the LGBTQ Committee. The USP

Committee began meeting quarterly in December. This group brings together a diverse group of advocates from across the state to address the unique barriers that exist in communities for survivors. The LGBTQ Committee – in collaboration with End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin – continues to support the development of inclusive services through training, technical assistance and support. Trainings were hosted in all six WCASA regions, as well as one state-wide training, that reached over 200 participants.

Survivors & Allies Task Force

In 2013, WCASA and our community partners continued and expanded the great work begun last year with the Survivors & Allies Task Force (SATF). Two meetings were held: April 27th at Masonic Center in Madison, and October 5th at the Jefferson Street Inn in Wausau. In all, 143 people participated in the meetings. In addition, the SATF listserv continues to draw more members. As of the writing of this report, there are 366 members.

Statewide Technical Assistance Model

The development of a new model to enhance the level of services to victims of sexual assault was created and implemented in 2010. This comprehensive statewide technical assistance model for sexual assault service providers will create a conduit of networking and relationship building that will facilitate the exchange of information and expertise in the area of service delivery, regional and statewide resources,

and the development of specialized support to underserved and unserved communities. In 2013, 463 people participated in regional meetings, covering a variety of topics such as: prevention education, LGBTQ issues, trauma-informed care, volunteer training, outreach, deaf unity, and law enforcement. Also in 2013, 451 people attended Developmental Disabilities Meetings.

Web & Social Media Presence

WCASA continued to reach out to membership and the community at large through a variety of communications pathways. Our semi-monthly electronic newsletter was downloaded more than 2,000 times after it the format was redesigned. WCASA's email update covers timely topics such as funding opportunities, upcoming trainings and events, employment opportunities, new resources, and information on policy initiatives. WCASA continues to update the website and broaden its utility. Some 80,100 people visited the home page during the year as their first step to accessing other resources. For the third year in a row, the Prosecutor's Sexual Assault Reference Book topped the list of most downloaded resources at 6,078, followed by our Human Trafficking Resources/Contacts, After an Assault Infosheet and LGBTQ Infosheet. Our Facebook page saw an increase from 734 to 1,194 "Likes", and over 1,000 participated in conversations by liking posts, sharing, or commenting. WCASA also continues to explore increasing content on our blog and the use of Twitter, and maintaining listservs for the topics of Prevention, Legal Services, Expert Witness, Advocacy, SATF (Survivors & Allies Task Force) and LGBTQ.

Expert Witness Work

WCASA, in conjunction with the Department of Justice and End Abuse Wisconsin and DOJ continued the Expert Witness work begun in 2012. Building on that work, a list-serve was created to enhance the ability to respond to expert witness requests from across the state as well as to help connect those individuals who participated in the training in 2012. We also held two webinars on this topic in 2013, and expanded our audience to include prosecutors and victim/witness specialists.



Sexual Assault Awareness Month

April, as always, was Sexual Assault Awareness Month, the goal of which is to raise public awareness about sexual violence and to educate communities and individuals on how to prevent sexual violence. In 2013, WCASA in addition to championing events across the state, stepped up locally and hosted four major events. On April 25th, we hosted a modest event to observe the 3rd State observance of Denim Day; in addition, we joined with the WI Attorney General, J.B. Van Hollen, bringing a burst of blue denim the Capitol Rotunda. A few days later, on April 27th, we hosted the SATF (Survivors & Allies Task Force) meeting, our annual Voices of Courage Awards, and our second annual “Wrap Around the Capitol”. Over 200 people joined hands, and linked denim strips to literally encircle the Capitol building in a visible demonstration of support for survivors of sexual violence. Afterwards, participants took part in a 1Billion Rising flash mob.

ENACTING LEGISLATIVE CHANGE

2013 witnessed the culmination of years of advocacy related to the only state-level funds for sexual assault services in Wisconsin, the Sexual Assault Victim Services (SAVS) program. When the Governor released his Executive Budget in 2013, it contained a historic commitment to funding the SAVS program. Not only was the SAVS program funded at the previous high of \$2 million per year, but perhaps more significantly, it was doing using state tax dollars for the first time in the state's history. The prior surcharge funding structure for the SAVS program was convoluted, and a decline in the revenues coming from the surcharge led to a decrease in funding in 2011. Funding the SAVS program using state tax dollars stabilizes the SAVS program, and paves the way for future budget advocacy to increase SAVS funding in future years.

WCASA also held a Legislative Advocacy Day in conjunction with End Abuse Wisconsin. 88 people attended the event, which encourages advocates and survivors from across the state to become involved in the legislative process. We received the following feedback from the event:

“Today was good. It really helped meeting our representatives and conversing with them. It was great that survivors are able to come and share. I will come back to a future event.”

“Very informative event in regards to current legislation and proposed bills.”

“As a victim of SA it was hard to talk to legislators about the issue but I can tell it helped having a victim share her story.”

2013 Staff & Board

2013 WCASA STAFF

Sinem Bertling
Kathleen Brandenburg
Suzie Everett
Laura Ewing
Peter Fiala
Ian Henderson
Rose Hennessy
Lynn Johnson
Graciela Laguna
Pennie Meyers
Kelly Moe Litke
Stephen Montagna

2013 WCASA BOARD

Alice Belcher
Annie Bergsbaken
Maryann Clesceri
Dawn Helmrich
Kimberly Hoffman
Lynn Johnson
Shelby Mitchell
Lisa Penterman
Kris Porter
Mariana Rodriguez
Tami Schlickman
Faye Schouten
Judy Woller

2013 Sexual Assault Service Providers

Advocates of Ozaukee
Ozaukee

Association For the Prevention of Family Violence
Walworth

ASTOP, Inc.
Fond du Lac, Green Lake and Surrounding Counties

AVAIL, Inc.
Langlade

Bolton Refuge House, Inc.
Eau Claire, Jackson, Buffalo

Brighter Tomorrows
Monroe

CAP Services, Inc.
Portage, Waupaca

CASDA
Douglas

Community Referral Agency
Burnett, Polk

Domestic Violence Center's Sexual Assault Resource Center
Manitowoc

Family Advocates Inc.
Grant, Iowa

Family Center, Inc.
Wood

Family Support Center
Chippewa, Eau Claire

Forest Co. Potawatomi Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Program
Forest

Friends of Abused Families
Washington

Gundersen Lutheran Sexual Assault Service
La Crosse

HAVEN, Inc.
Lincoln

Hope House
Columbia, Sauk, Marquette, Juneau and Adams

LCO Oakwood Haven
Sawyer

Mayo Clinic Health System (Safe Path)
La Crosse

New Day Shelter
Ashland, Bayfield

New Horizons Shelter and Outreach Centers
Trempealeau

Oskey-Waepitah Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Program
Shawano

Passages
Crawford, Richland and Vernon

Pathfinders
Milwaukee

People Against a Violent Environment
Dodge

People Against Domestic & Sexual Abuse
Jefferson

Personal Development Center, Inc. - Clark County Outreach
Clark

Project RESPECT
Dane

Rape Crisis Center
Dane

REACH Counseling Services
Winnebago

Safe Harbor of Sheboygan County, Inc.
Sheboygan

Safe Haven
Shawano

Sexual Assault Center
Brown, Door, Oconto and Marinette

Sexual Assault Crisis Center-- Fox Cities
Calumet, Outagamie

Sexual Assault Recovery Program
Rock, Green, Lafayette

Sexual Assault Services of LSS
Racine

Sexual Assault Treatment Center
Milwaukee

Stepping Stones, Inc.
Taylor

The Bridge to Hope
Dunn, Pepin

The Healing Center
Milwaukee

The Women's Center
Waukesha

The Women's Community
Marathon

TimeOut
Rusk, Washburn, Price

Tri-County Council on SA & DV
Forest, Oneida, Vilas

Turningpoint for Victims of DV & SV
Pierce, St.Croix

UMOS Latina Resource Center
Milwaukee

Violence Intervention Project
Kewaunee

Wise Women Gathering Place
Brown

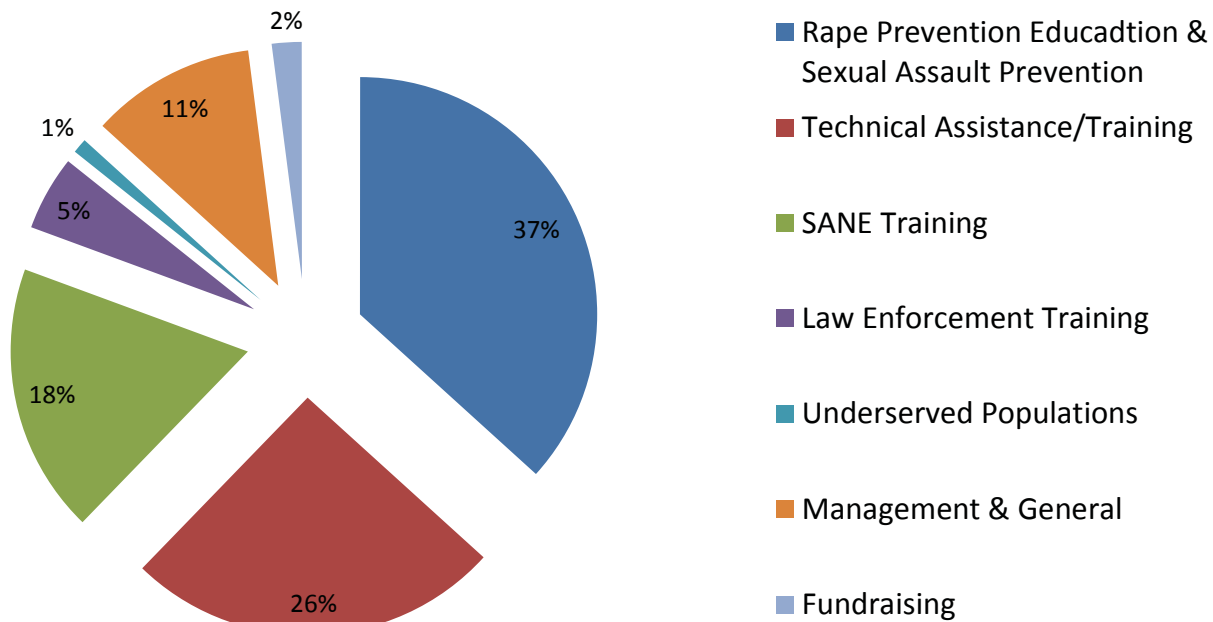
Women & Children's Horizons
Kenosha

Finances: FYE 9/30/2013

The following program and supporting services are reflected in the statements of activities for the years ended September 30:

	2013	2012
Program services:		
Rape Prevention Education and Sexual Assault Prevention	\$ 481,003	\$ 412,733
Technical Assistance/Training	333,872	403,258
SANE Training	243,534	174,866
Law Enforcement Training	70,502	68,244
Underserved Population	19,717	10,367
Total program services	1,148,628	1,069,468
Management and general	151,112	144,331
Fund-Raising	30,487	19,331
Totals	\$ 1,330,227	\$ 1,233,130

Finances: FYE 9/30/13



WCASA would like to acknowledge major funders who worked with us in 2013 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.

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