



Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Annual Report – 2014

"I can be changed by what happens to me,
but I refuse to be reduced by it."

— 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 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.

2014 Highlights

OUR COMMITMENT TO TRAINING

In 2014, WCASA provided 79 total trainings, 68 of which were in-person trainings and 11 of which were webinars.

Legal Training

WCASA conducted several legal trainings in 2014 covering a wide variety of topics delivered to a wide variety of audiences. Some of the legal trainings included:

- 3 Regional Legal Trainings
- Wisconsin Department of Justice – Sexual Assault Trial Advocacy Training and Victim/Witness Specialist Nuts and Bolts Trainings
- WI State Victim Assistance Academy
- UW Law School (Humanitarian Immigration Law Class) – second consecutive year providing this training
- 2 Webinars on Confidentiality and Services to Minors

"I am always interested in learning about more opportunities to offer my clients that are culturally relevant."

In all, 347 participants attended the Legal Trainings in 2014.

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 2014, 55 advocates from sexual violence and domestic violence programs, tribal members and participants from other professions came together at the Menominee Casino Resort in Keshena. Kim Hoffman from Oskey Wapitah and Shelby Mitchell from Safe Haven presented on their community collaboration. Additionally, Dr. Steve Dakai, PhD of the Maehnowesekiyah Wellness Center presented on adverse childhood experiences and trauma-informed care. Other topics included prevention, human trafficking and traumatic brain injury.

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 Fairfield Inn & Suites in Weston and Madison Concourse Hotel in Madison. WCASA staff and other experts offered guidance on such vital topics as the dynamics 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 three and a half days in the classroom, and six sessions that participants complete via webinar. Webinar sessions continue to be updated, covering topics such as male survivors, sexual

"It was incredibly beneficial for anyone new to this work and opened the doors to so many more questions and research to do on my own."

assault nurse examiners (SANE), services to minors and confidentiality. We continued to reduce costs by using webinars and by distributing session materials via Dropbox.

PARTNERSHIPS & OUTREACH

Prevention

In 2014, WCASA continued work implementing Forward Wisconsin: A Plan for the Prevention of Sexual Violence. The Prevention Team



managed the Rape Prevention and Education (RPE) grant and the Sexual Assault Prevention (SAP) grant, both national projects from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS).

RPE:

The Forward Wisconsin Plan provides the focus areas for WCASA's prevention efforts, including: Data, Strategies, Policy, Communications, Infrastructure and Accountability. We provided training, technical assistance and resources in these six areas. Focused efforts continued in the area of evaluation with the development of a special section on the WCASA website to support program evaluation activities throughout the state.

In support of WCASA's priority on reproductive health, staff focused on preventing sexual violence through the promotion of healthy sexuality. Staff worked to develop and enhance relationships with leaders at state and local levels to enhance collaboration between sexual assault service providers and reproductive health services.

SAP:

The focus of the SAP project is on systematically oppressed groups through the support of two statewide committees that provide leadership and guidance to WCASA: ALL* Committee and the LGBTQ Committee. Both groups bring together a diverse group of advocates from across the state to

address the unique barriers that exist in communities for survivors. The ALL* Committee continued efforts to increase accessibility for “all” survivors through the implementation of a strategic plan. The LGBTQ Committee continued to support the development of inclusive services through training, technical assistance, and support.

Survivors & Allies Task Force

In 2014, WCASA and our community partners expanded the great work begun last year with the Survivors & Allies Task Force (SATF). Two meetings were held: April 26th at the Masonic Center in Madison, and October 18th at the Hilton Garden Inn in Green Bay. In all, 140 people participated in the meetings. The SATF listserv continues to draw more members, reaching 424 members at the time of the writing of this report.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

WCASA also provides technical assistance to a variety of members and partners. Technical assistance is defined as tailored guidance in the form of knowledge, expertise, or support to meet a specific need of a program, sexual assault service provider, multidisciplinary team, system, survivor, or other individual. During 2014 WCASA addressed 1,922 technical assistance requests via phone, email, web-based programs, in-person, or site visits. WCASA



3rd Annual Wrap Around the Capitol

provides technical assistance across the state, and directly reached 65 of 72 counties. Additionally, 75% of counties received over four technical assistance responses throughout the year, demonstrating both WCASA's reach and intensity of technical assistance across Wisconsin. Areas in which WCASA provided over 200 technical assistance requests or more included prevention, advocacy, program development, program support and ALL* (see information about ALL* at <https://www.wcasa.org/pages/ALL.php>).

Statewide Technical Assistance Model

WCASA implemented a regional model of providing training and technical assistance in 2010. Each region of the state has a designated WCASA staff member who coordinates and hosts trainings and technical assistance to meet the unique needs of that region. This model provides a conduit of networking and relationship building that facilitates the exchange of information and expertise in service delivery, regional and statewide resources, and the development of specialized support to underserved and unserved communities. In 2014, all six regions received multiple trainings with 24 total trainings offered in a variety of topics such as: prevention education, LGBTQ issues, trauma-informed care, volunteer training, and outreach.

Web & Social Media Presence

WCASA continued to reach out to membership and the community at large through a variety of communications pathways. Our monthly electronic newsletter is downloaded an average of 186 times each month. WCASA's email updates cover 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. In fact, 49,138 people visited the home page during the year as their first step to accessing other resources. The Quick Guide on SMART Dos and Dots topped the list of most downloaded resources at 16,064, followed

by the Prosecutor's Sexual Assault Reference Book at 10,783. Our Facebook page saw an increase from 1,194 to 1,305 "Likes", averaging about 300 views per post. Our Twitter following increased 27% and our Youtube videos increased 40% to an average of 800 views per video. WCASA also continues to utilize its listservs for the topics of prevention, legal services, expert witness, advocacy, Survivors & Allies Task Force (SATF), campus and LGBTQ.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

April, as always, was Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), 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 2014, WCASA supported events held by Sexual Assault Service Providers and other community partners. As its main contribution to SAAM, WCASA hosted its three major events, all on April 26th. It hosted the SATF meeting, the annual Voices of Courage Awards, and the third annual "Wrap Around the Capitol." Around 150 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 on the steps of the Capitol.

Multidisciplinary Team Work

In 2014, WCASA brought multidisciplinary team work coordination in-house and hired a Coordinated

Community Response (CCR) and Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Coordinator position. With this role, WCASA is able to expand its reach on a variety of levels, including: intensive technical assistance with counties across the state in their multidisciplinary team development and sustainability efforts; coordination and delivery of regionally- and state-based training and networking opportunities; and development of essential resources and toolkits for professionals to access on victim-centered best practices that hold offenders accountable.

One highlight from the year includes monthly facilitation of the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) SART in Fond du Lac County, one of the first teams of its kind in the state of Wisconsin. WCASA was able to provide on-going technical assistance in the team's development of a strong multidisciplinary team infrastructure, best practice protocol, and a signed Memorandum of Understanding between seven core agencies. One team member wrote, "Thanks so much. We would have never made the progress we did without your help!"

WCASA also successfully hosted two statewide SART meetings that brought professionals, including law enforcement, district attorneys, victim advocates, and medical and forensic personnel, from across the state together to collaborate and learn about innovative research and initiatives for responding to cases of sexual assault.

In addition, WCASA, with support from other state

and local level allies, developed the guidebook *Tools for Advocates Working with Incarcerated Victims of Sexual Violence in Wisconsin*.

PUBLIC POLICY & COMMUNICATIONS

In 2014, WCASA hired a new public policy and communications coordinator to help steer and implement the coalition's work of shaping state laws and policies, informing the media narrative about sexual violence and the coalition's work, and generally advancing the visibility and brand of the coalition. With its Public Policy Team in place, WCASA reconstituted its Public Policy Advisory Committee to inform WCASA's policy work and to act as a sounding board on future matters. WCASA also established a transparent, criteria-driven process by which the coalition sets its public policy priorities.

Informed by the Advisory Committee, the coalition developed its multi-tiered 2015-2016 Public Policy Agenda, consistent with WCASA's mission, philosophy, and agenda-setting criteria. The following were the Agenda's "Tier 1, Leadership Issues":

- sexual assault services funding,
- victim accompaniment legislation,
- and an annual, public reporting system of data concerning sexual violence and related matters.

Effective public policy requires effective strategic communications. Thus, many of WCASA's newsletters and press releases, for instance, focus heavily on

public policy. Over the last year, in total WCASA issued eight press releases, 17 action alerts and updates, 11 newsletters, and five testimonies for legislative hearings. In addition, WCASA responded to at least 65 requests for technical assistance on policy or communications matters. WCASA also provided policy and communications trainings and updates via one webinar and four regional meetings with sexual assault service provider agencies. At our biannual Legislative Advocacy Day in Madison, WCASA co-presented legislative updates and best practices in legislative advocacy with End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin before attendees advocated with their lawmakers on top policy priorities. Over the year, WCASA's Public Policy Team conducted numerous meetings and other communications with lawmakers and their staff, representatives of the media, community members, allied organizations, and other stakeholders.

2014 Staff & Board

2014 WCASA STAFF

Eve Bertrand
Kathleen Brandenburg
Suzie Everett
Laura Ewing
Peter Fiala
Ginger Francis
Bob Geenen
Ian Henderson
Rose Hennessy
Dominic Holt
Lynn Johnson
Graciela Laguna
Pennie Meyers
Kelly Moe Litke
Naomi Takahashi

2014 WCASA BOARD

Danita Carlson
Maryann Clesceri
Anne David
Anna Grzelak
Micah Henning
Kimberly Hoffman
Andrea Jean
Cheeia Lo
Shelby Mitchell
Lisa Penterman
Tami Schlickman
Faye Schouten

2014 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
Barron, 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 Services
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, Jefferson

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

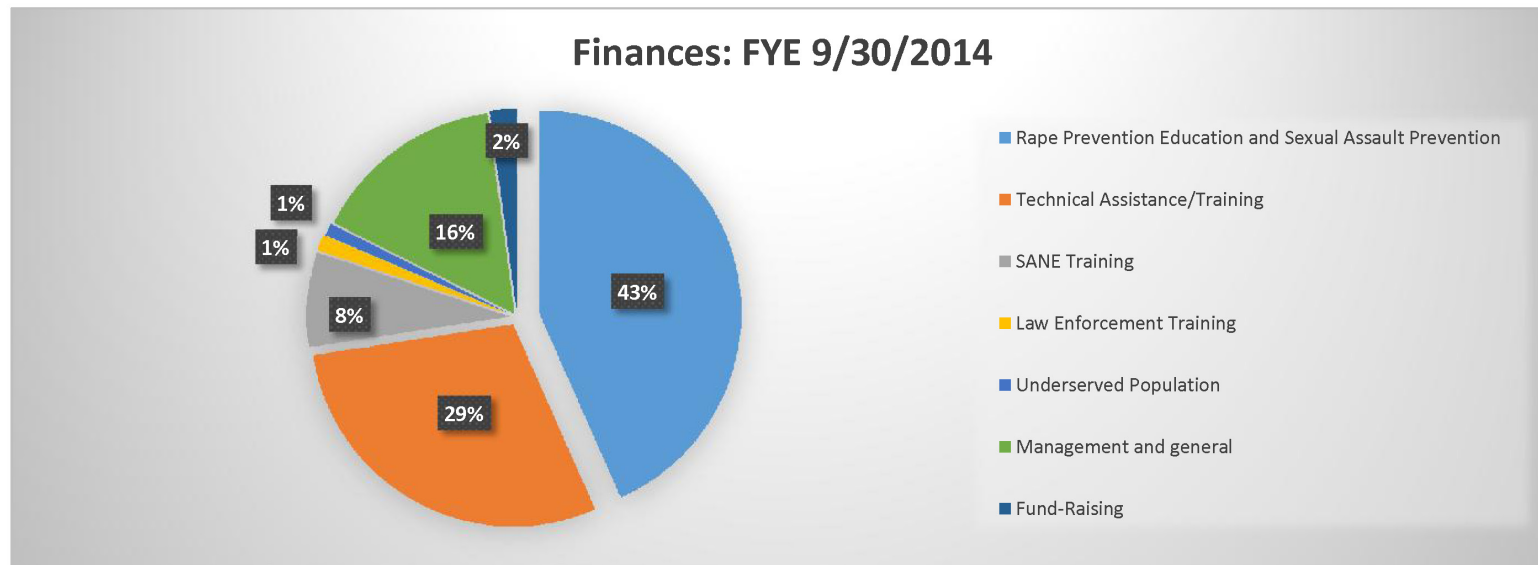
Wise Women Gathering Place
Brown, Outagamie

Women & Children's Horizons
Kenosha

Finances: FYE 9/30/2014

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

	2014	2013
Program Services:		
Rape Prevention Education and Sexual Assault Prevention	\$ 538,105	\$ 481,003
Technical Assistance/Training	362,148	333,872
SANE Training	93,983	243,534
Law Enforcement Training	16,078	70,502
Underserved Population	12,301	19,717
Total program Services	1,022,615	1,148,628
Management and general	191,482	151,112
Fund-Raising	26,712	30,487
Total	\$ 1,240,809	\$ 1,330,227



WCASA would like to acknowledge major funders who worked with us in 2014 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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