

# alliance opportunities

## Housing protections for victims

**Q:** Are there housing protections for victims of domestic violence, stalking, teen dating and/or sexual violence?

**A:** For the first time at the federal level, housing protections for some victims were passed in the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) 2005 Title VI (Housing Opportunities and Safety for Battered Women and their Children). These were enacted on January 5, 2006. This law is specific for victims living in public housing or using federal housing vouchers anywhere in the United States. Individuals covered by the VAWA housing protections include: any survivor of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, or their immediate family members, who is seeking to reside in, or who resides in, federal Public Housing Authority (PHA), any housed subsidized by a federal "Section 8" voucher, or any building receiving a direct federal Section 8 subsidy. VAWA 2005 protects victims from being evicted from public housing and makes it illegal to deny access to public housing or a voucher based on the applicant being a victim. Further, criminal activity relating to domestic violence, stalking or teen dating cannot be grounds for an eviction.

It also allows a PHA or landlord to "bifurcate a lease" (split a lease) in order to evict, remove or terminate the voucher of the abuser while allowing the victim, who is the tenant, to remain. The landlord may request "proof" of being a victim, which does not necessarily mean receiving an Order of Protection or to have called the police, and must detail the abuser's name. Few of the housing provisions in VAWA 2005 are for individuals who are solely victims of sexual assault and one instance of domestic violence, stalking or teen dating is enough to use VAWA 2005. 42 U.S.C. §§1437d, 1437f.

There is no current Missouri law specifically protecting any victim of domestic violence, stalking, teen dating and sexual assault from housing discrimination or eviction.

## MCADSV REGIONAL MEETINGS

Location	Date/Time	Regional Rep.
<b>CENTRAL</b> Waynesville	June 3 11:30 A.M.	Tracie Lawson (573) 875-1369
<b>KANSAS CITY</b> Lee's Summit	May 29 12:30 P.M.	Beth Savitzky (816) 561-0550
<b>NORTHEAST</b> Mexico	July 17 10:30 A.M.	Donna Rodenbaugh (660) 642-1418
<b>NORTHWEST</b> St. Joseph	June 18 Noon	Debbie Wallace (660) 886-9880
<b>ST. LOUIS</b> Safe Connections	June 10 July 8 9:00 A.M.	Melissa Dann (314) 533-1313
<b>SOUTHEAST</b> Cape Girardeau	June 5 11:30 A.M.	Brenda Smelser (636) 931-2700 ext. 196
<b>SOUTHWEST</b> Springfield	June 6 11:00 a.m.	Deana Mueller (417) 298-3439

## UPCOMING MCADSV TRAININGS

Date/Time/Location	Information
<b>ENHANCING YOUR COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE</b>	
May 21	St. Louis
May 22	Cape Girardeau
June 10	Columbia
June 11	Kansas City
June 17	Springfield
Register for <i>Enhancing Your Coordinated Community Response to DV</i> at: <a href="http://www.regonline.com/domesticviolenceworkshop">www.regonline.com/domesticviolenceworkshop</a>	
<b>FOUNDATIONS FOR EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY</b>	
June 25-26	MCADSV
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	(888) 666-1911
Courtyard Marriott, Columbia	



## REGISTER ONLINE

Registration for all MCADSV trainings is online only. Visit [www.mocadsv.org](http://www.mocadsv.org) and click on "membership" to register.

Need your username and password? Click on "Forgot Password" and enter your e-mail address.

# the latest

May - June 2008

a bulletin for the members of the Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

## 2008 Annual Conference to focus on *The Heart of the Matter*

The 2008 MCADSV Annual Conference, *The Heart of the Matter*, will be held November 5-7 and features keynote speaker Veraunda Jackson. The theme of the conference focuses on the profound experiences of survivors—the heart of the matter. Paying tribute to these truths—honoring their enduring spirit—is at the core of our work for peace, for justice, and for the rights of women to live and flourish free of violence and the fear of violence. We are those who do our best advocacy as an expression of these values of our hearts. We come together to renew, reflect, reconnect as a community of advocates dedicated to social change and transformation. This conference is dedicated to the heart of the matter—remembering our work's purpose and valuing our contributions.

When: November 5-7, 2008

Where: Holiday Inn Select Executive Center, Columbia

Veraunda Jackson will be this year's keynote speaker. As an attorney, author, trainer and consultant, she is determined to keep survivors at the "heart of the matter." A survivor herself, and former prosecutor, she invites advocates into the extremely complex and private thought process of victims. She is devoted to touching the hearts of advocates and allies who often become worn out and hardened by the system in which they work. Her powerful presentation will remind service providers that they have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others every day. Veraunda was the featured keynote speaker at the 2007 National Sexual Assault Conference.

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**New regional assignments for Program Development Specialists**

With the addition of a fourth Program Development Specialist in February, MCADSV has shuffled staff regional assignments. St. Louis and Southwest, two of the larger regions in the state, have been assigned two PDSs to keep up with increasing demand. The new PDS regional assignments are as follows:

- ▶ **Southwest:**  
Jennifer Carter and Angela Lucero
- ▶ **Southeast:**  
Laura Zahnd
- ▶ **Northeast:**  
Angela Lucero
- ▶ **Northwest:**  
Marie Montano
- ▶ **Kansas City:**  
Jennifer Carter
- ▶ **St. Louis:**  
Laura Zahnd and Marie Montano

**MCADSV encourages on-site trainings**

As a benefit of membership, MCADSV staff members are available to conduct on-site trainings at no cost to Coalition member programs. On-site trainings are tailored to meet the needs of individual organizations. Trainings can be for staff, volunteers and/or board members and are scheduled to meet your needs. MCADSV staff trainer assignments are based on expertise and availability. For more information or to schedule an on-site training, contact Emily Hayes, Education Coordinator at emilyh@mocadsv.org or (888) 666-1911, extension 106.

**MCADSV welcomes two new staff members**



Laura Paulus will join the MCADSV staff on June 2 as the Publications Coordinator. Laura graduated with a bachelor's degree in communications with an emphasis in public relations and a minor in English from Stephens College. She has held positions such as graphic designer, marketing coordinator, and creative director, and has worked with clients including Hallmark, George Brett, Mattel, Coleman, McDonald's and Taco Bell. In Laura's last position she was responsible for two daily newspapers, two weekly papers and two magazines. Laura has won numerous awards for design and layout work. With more than 17 years in marketing, publication design and graphic design, Laura's creativity and strong technical writing skills will benefit the world of MCADSV.

Cynthia Reeves, CPA, also will join the staff on June 2 as the Fiscal Coordinator. Cynthia (Cindy) is an accountant and auditor with 23 years experience in the field. During those years, she has worked for a private accounting firm, opened and operated her own accounting business, acted as the Assistant Bureau Chief for the Missouri Department of Health, Bureau of Family Health and a Senior Auditor for the Missouri Department of Revenue and she worked as a staff accountant at Price Waterhouse. She has conducted audits, prepared financial statements, and managed the fiscal operations of a \$22 million dollar operating budget for the Department of Health and tracked more than \$17 million dollars for more than 300 contracts through the Department of Revenue.

Lisa Weingarth, former Communications Coordinator, will take on new responsibilities as MCADSV's Development Director in June.

MCADSV would also like to take a moment to recognize the contributions, passion, and spirit that Lynn Mitchell, MCADSV Fiscal Coordinator, has brought to this organization. While many of our members have already expressed their sense of loss at her departure, that loss is felt by each staff member at MCADSV. We wish her all the very best and express our gratitude for her.

**Call for MCADSV Annual Conference workshop proposals and affinity group facilitators**

MCADSV invites members and interested individuals to share their expertise by submitting workshop proposals for the annual conference. MCADSV is looking for original presentations that address domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence and/or stalking. Workshops also may incorporate other topics such as cultural competency, reaching underserved populations, forming community partnerships, and leadership. Workshop presenters will receive compensation of free registration and one night of hotel expenses.

Additionally, MCADSV invites members and interested individuals to volunteer to facilitate an affinity group discussion during the conference. The Coalition promotes communication among its members, and recognizes that opportunities may be limited for advocates with similar backgrounds and roles to discuss their work of ending violence against women. MCADSV will include this opportunity at the Annual Conference and seeks facilitators willing to engage all interested individuals in facilitated discussions. Affinity groups can include cultural identity groups (e.g. Latina advocates), gender identity and/or sexual orientation groups (e.g. LGBT advocates), job description groups (e.g. volunteer coordinators), attendee characteristics (e.g. new executive directors) or program characteristics (e.g. advocates from start-up programs).

All proposals must be received by MCADSV no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 20, 2008. Please contact Emily Hayes at emilyh@mocadsv.org or (888) 666-1911, extension 106, to receive a workshop or affinity group facilitator proposal form or with questions.

**FVPSA outcomes pilot project data shows service quality**

Thank you to all the programs that participated in the 2007 Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) Outcomes Pilot Project. For recipients of grant funds administered through the Missouri Department of Social Services (DSS) participation in the pilot outcomes project was mandatory. The pilot phase of this project ended December 31, 2007.

MCADSV compiled the pilot survey results on the two mandatory outcomes, so member programs can review the statewide responses. Overall, 4,255 surveys from 62 programs were collected. Based on the responses from those surveys:

- ▶ As a result of contact with the domestic violence program, 92% of domestic violence survivors reported having strategies for enhancing their safety.
- ▶ As a result of contact with the domestic violence program, 88% of domestic violence survivors reported having knowledge of available community resources.

These percentages exceeded the federal target of 65%, and reflect the hard work of programs to promote survivors' safety and access to community resources.

MCADSV encourages programs to review their data in order to identify strengths as well as areas for improvement. If you need any assistance with analyzing your data, please contact MCADSV.

These two outcomes are included as a reporting requirement in the most recent DSS Request for Application. DSS contractors must continue to collect and report on the two mandatory outcomes. Look for more information in the future about how the two outcomes will be submitted to MCADSV.