



Oregon Coalition

Against Domestic & Sexual Violence

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 8

Newsletter August 2015

Our mission:

The Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence promotes equity and social change in order to end violence for all communities. We seek to transform society by engaging diverse voices, supporting the self-determination of survivors and providing leadership for advocacy efforts.



Contact us!

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Close of Session Legislative Update

2015 has proven to be a momentous year for survivors of domestic and sexual violence in Oregon! A total of 19 bills focusing on offender accountability, improving access to protection orders, and increasing funding for programs were passed in the legislature. Thank you to all who attended Awareness Day at the capitol, wrote letters, made phone calls, and provided testimony; your voices were heard. A list of bills that have been passed can be found below.

Bill	Date Effective
HB 3476- confidentiality protection for sexual assault and domestic violence survivors	October 1, 2015
SB 525- implementation of federal domestic violence firearms prohibitions	January 1, 2016
HB 2628- removal of filing fee for all stalking orders	May 18, 2015
HB 2776- temporary emergency protective orders	January 1, 2016
SB 3- violation of restraining order	January 1, 2016
SB 188, SB 377, HB 2356, HB 2569- greater accountability for invasion of privacy	June 11, 2015 & January 1, 2016
SB 199- victim notification	January 1, 2016
SB 390- landlord-tenant protections for survivors	January 1, 2016
SB 454 & SB 492- survivors qualify for paid "safe leave"	January 1, 2016
SB 759- campus sexual assault	2016-2017 academic year
HB 2317- extension of statute of limitations on sex crimes	January 1, 2016
HB 2339- court interpreters for victims	May 26, 2015
HB 2758- confidentiality of healthcare information	June 18, 2015
HB 3466- improved criminal no-contact orders	January 1, 2016
HB 3468- expansion of crime of coercion	January 1, 2016
HB 3469- amendments to strangulation upgrade	January 1, 2016

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For more information, search by bill on the [Oregon State Legislature website](#) or contact Keri Moran-Kuhn at the Coalition.

On to New Adventures

July 31st was Diana Camarillo's last day at the Coalition as the sexual violence program coordinator. We miss her already but we look forward to hearing about her new endeavors! Over the past few months Diana was engaged in several projects and events, some of which are ongoing at the Coalition. She commented that "it has been a great privilege to be part of all these projects," and we look forward to continuing the work begun under her leadership. Here are some event and project highlights submitted by Diana:

- Work with SAFE, contacting programs about PREA and service implementation to discuss services to inmates, training needs, and MOUs with the Department of Corrections.

- Two radio interviews discussing sexual assault advocacy and women of color; recognizing forms of sexual violence like harassment, stalking, and coercion; and Sexual Assault Awareness Month and the Latino community in Spanish.

- A campus toolkit about intimate partner sexual violence that looks at community program and campus collaborations, Title IX coordinators and relevant training, and serving students.

- Fundraising for and attendance at the national Call to Action conference and Women of Color Network fellows and allies graduation.



Diana Camarillo



Women of Color Network graduation

- Presentations at the Resource Sharing Project roundtable for women and men of color and the Arte Sana bilingual conference about ethical communication and support group facilitation and ethics.

If you have questions about any of these projects, please contact Keri Moran-Kuhn at the Coalition.

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VACANT

Two At-Large Members

VACANT

Are you interested in joining the Oregon Coalition team as a board member? Contact Vanessa Timmons for more information.

Equity and Inclusion Program Updates

The Coalition's Equity & Inclusion Program has been busy this year! Connections with you all and the opportunity to support your work, have been the most meaningful aspects of solidifying this program at the Coalition since my arrival in April 2014. Some recent highlights include:

- The opportunity and honor of attending the Tribal, State and Federal Summit: Protecting and Healing, hosted by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Public Safety, Family Violence Services Program. Desiree Coyote and the Umatilla reservation have been doing amazing national-level work implementing VAWA 2013 with regard to prosecuting non-Native people who've done harm on Tribal land. Office on Violence Against Women Deputy Director Bea Hanson presented on this implementation project, and Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum provided commentary on Oregon-specific dynamics. It was powerful to learn from and alongside Native advocates and professionals in Indian Country. While I am not an expert in Native experiences or matters, I am better equipped to support the work of Tribal and community-based DV/SA programs. I am especially interested in aiding program leadership in enhancing their local community's response to alcohol-facilitated sexual assault.

- Not one but TWO Anti-Oppression Train the Trainer workshops, which have prepared 60 people across Oregon to facilitate anti-oppression education. Several attendees have already presented for their own staff and volunteers, organizational boards, DHS offices, other DV/SA programs, community partners, and more! The collective impact of this rapidly expanding anti-oppression work is incredibly wonderful to contemplate, and makes us very proud. If you need an anti-oppression presenter, please contact me and I'll recommend someone in your region! We'll likely offer another train-the-trainer in 2016, so stay tuned if you want to get trained.

- Continuation and expansion of our two racial equity workgroups, the Communities of Color Task Force and Aspiring White Allies Oregon. The CCTF will be releasing recommendations for organizational anti-racism practices this fall! These groups welcome new members anytime, so please contact me if you want to get involved.

- Our conference equity track, which received fantastic feedback, though we know there is always more to do. (YES to workshops on African American/Black experiences of DV/SA! YES to more broad, deep and specific work around implementing anti-oppressive practice into gender-based violence work!) The equity track culminated in a conference-wide expression of solidarity with the Movement for Black Lives. Thanks to all of you who presented in this track, and to all who gave such meaningful feedback for future conferences.



2015 annual conference

The Perfect Victim

We found [this review](#) from *Bitch Magazine* about the documentary *The Perfect Victim* inspiring and informative. The film, which takes a look at domestic violence and incarceration, is available to be streamed for free all summer long. This is an important issue that connects to high-profile cases such as that of Marissa Alexander and many other survivors who have been criminalized, even within our communities.

Coalition Webinars

Many of the webinars that the Coalition produces in-house are available as [recordings on our website](#) for viewing at any time. Webinars in the archive include:

- Promising Practices for Sexual Violence Crisis Line Response
- Considerations for Serving Victims Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing
- Oregon's Implementation of the Prison Rape Elimination Act
- Addressing Intimate Partner Violence in Healthcare Settings
- Intervening in Domestic Violence for Mental Health Professionals

New projects are in the works! Please contact me if you'd like to get involved with the following:

- Interruptions Toolkit highlighting best practice for how to do anti-oppression work in interpersonal ways, with participants, coworkers, family, and more.
- Improving Services to Deaf and Hard of Hearing Survivors in Oregon statewide workgroup will collaborate with ODEAF (Oregon Deaf Empowerment and Advocacy for Families) and create/implement a statewide strategy.
- Quarterly faith leaders phone calls will provide your community's faith leaders with opportunities to connect with others across the state for support on addressing issues of gender-based violence in their work.

There is so much energy around issues of oppression, equity, anti-racism, and intersections within our movement right now. So many of you are leaders carrying this work forward to change social norms and make communities safer, more welcoming places: survivors and advocates of color, native women, Deaf and hard of hearing people, queer and trans advocates, faith folks, immigrants and refugees, men and white people striving to practice allyship. Advocates insisting on inclusive practices, and prioritizing survivor self-determination as the most vital component of empowerment. We acknowledge and celebrate your work! YOU are the heart of this movement. The Coalition is so moved by the opportunity to continue partnering with you, learning from you, and supporting your efforts.

Warmly,

Choya Adkison-Stevens, Equity and Inclusion Coordinator

Welcome to Hayley!

My name is Hayley Hayes and I have just begun interning at the Oregon Coalition. My time here is a part of completing my master's degree at Concordia University in northeast Portland. I am pursuing my degree in community psychology, so the Oregon Coalition is an ideal internship site for me with values that align almost perfectly with those in my program. Empowerment is something that I deeply believe in and hope to keep working on through my time at the Coalition. I am particularly interested in working with survivors of domestic and/or sexual violence in our community, which is why I feel grateful to be interning at this particular organization. Areas that I am interested in within this field include research and publication, awareness, education, and systems advocacy. I am beyond excited to expand my knowledge and experience in working at a nonprofit that is genuinely committed to ending violence in our communities through social change!

-Hayley Hayes
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Thoughts on Serving as an Expert Witness

I recently had the opportunity—and honor—to testify as an expert witness in a trial in my community. I have testified as an expert witness a few times before in local trials involving domestic violence but this was

NNEDV Census

The NNEDV Census is scheduled to take place on September 10th this year. The Coalition is currently making calls to programs to announce the date and connect with program staff members who are in charge of data collection for the Census.

We appreciate your work to make the Census a success and we look forward to even more programs participating than last year! Let's make it 100%!

a little new to me—a Measure 11 case that included multiple counts of sex abuse crimes. I had been contacted by the State to be their expert but I admit I was nervous. I considered not doing it and asking someone with a lot of experience to testify instead. But the State really wanted a local expert and they had a lot of faith in me. I contacted Jenna at the Sexual Assault Task Force to help me prepare. She and I went over possible questions, best practices, proper language, and citations for statistics. In preparation I also reviewed many of my past class coursework, read two books and attended two webinars to be up to date and have information fresh in my mind.

The Oregon Attorney General's Office sent an attorney from Salem to try the case due to the local district attorney's office being short staffed. I met with the State's attorney once in person several months prior to the trial and we talked on the phone numerous times. We met again the morning the trial started and each morning thereafter. I also made myself available throughout the trial just in case I was needed at the spur of the moment. Our district attorney's office was very helpful and even allowed me to use a space in their office to conduct my own work as I waited in the wings in case the State's attorney needed to move the time slot for my testimony.

It was indeed an honor to be of witness to the grace and courage the victim displayed throughout this grueling process of fighting for some justice. But I also experienced some unexpected feelings along the way. I felt a sense of bonding with the team as if we had all gone into battle together. When the verdict came back GUILTY on all counts I felt some justice way back in the recesses of my own being for some of the bad things that happened to me decades ago. And as I write this now my stomach tightens as I hold back an almost overwhelming emotion of gratitude for the whole awful and awe-inspiring experience, in large part because our criminal justice system, even with all its flaws and problems, strove to reveal truth—and it did just that.

My final thought on testifying as an expert witness is this: it's a big responsibility so consider it carefully, be prepared and consult with individual experts or organizations such as SATF or OCADSV. Being an expert witness is important and it can be fulfilling and it might make you grow in ways you had not expected.

-Lea Sevey
Executive director for Oasis Shelter Home, Inc.
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