



Oregon Coalition

Against Domestic & Sexual Violence

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 6

Newsletter June 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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2015 Annual Conference, June 22-24

This year the Coalition is pleased to partner with many businesses and organizations to bring you an amazing Annual Conference! Our silent auction features donations from companies and individuals across Oregon, including Coles-tin Caprines Goat Milk Soap, Frock, Portland Taiko, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Eugene Hilton, BITCH Magazine, Bob's Red Mill, Red Lion Hotels, Moon-struck Chocolates, Collage PDX, Perfect Look Hair Salon, Sunriver Resort, and a variety of artists who are sharing their talents with conference attendees! Items include two tickets to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, a two-hour tattoo session, 30 days of unlimited yoga sessions, an art supply basket, and an aromatherapy basket.

There's still time to register!

We look forward to seeing and networking with our members and guests from across disciplines!

If you haven't registered, click **here** for more information or visit www.ocadsv.org.

The Coalition is grateful to the sponsors of the 2015 Annual Conference for helping make the work to strengthen our movement on behalf of survivors of domestic and sexual violence possible.

Advocate Sponsor



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Deaf Survivors Project

This month we are honored to welcome Keri Darling, the director of Deaf Vermonters Advocacy Services (DVAS) and a national consultant on advocacy for D/deaf and hard-of-hearing survivors, to Oregon! Keri has extensive experience in developing outstanding training curricula that reflect best practices when serving deaf or hard-of-hearing victims and survivors. She will be presenting at the Coalition's conference, conducting a webinar for those who aren't able to attend the conference workshop, and supporting a statewide strategy development meeting between Oregon Deaf Empowerment and Advocacy for Families (ODEAF), and the Coalition. Please attend the workshop, look for upcoming information about the webinar, and if you're interested in improving services for D/deaf and hard-of-hearing survivors, contact me.

-Choya Adkison-Stevens, Equity and Inclusion Coordinator

Oregon PREA Update

The Coalition, the Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force, and the Department of Corrections have been busy meeting with local programs around the state since last December to discuss technical assistance, crisis line services, and advocacy for incarcerated survivors. The trio conducted a site visit to the Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs and other state partners to receive support and more information about Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) implementation, and the three have begun work on a curriculum. A training will be held between late August and mid November. Programs will receive a timeline.

The Coalition also met with the Oregon Youth Authority and coordinator Dallas Tully to discuss PREA and youth facilities.

On June 9, the Coalition is conducting a webinar covering PREA basics. For more support and information about serving incarcerated survivors, contact Keri Moran-Kuhn or Diana Camarillo at the Coalition.

-Diana Camarillo, Sexual Violence Program Coordinator

Upcoming Webinar:
Oregon's Implementation of
the Prison Rape Elimination Act

June 9, 11AM-12:30PM

Register [HERE](#).

Anti-Oppression Work Flourishes Across the State

The Coalition's February 2015 Anti-Oppression Train the Trainer event equipped thirty folks across Oregon to provide anti-oppression education for their own organizations and others in their communities. Four months later, half of the attendees have presented the curriculum at least once! We are providing ongoing support so that trainers have everything they need to feel confident in diving into this work. If your organization needs anti-oppression training, please contact me and I will connect you with your newly minted local or regional trainers.

Are you excited about anti-oppression work but missed the last training opportunity? Our February event was such a success that we are hold-

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Two At-Large Members

VACANT

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

ing another on July 15th and 16th! Seats in this training are very limited; if you are interested, please contact me for a registration link or to be added to the waitlist for next time.

With the roots of domestic and sexual violence growing from a world-view of entitlement, power-over, exploitation, and dominance—and with all forms of violence interconnected—an anti-oppression foundation is crucial to our work. Thank you for all you are doing to put Oregon on the map for outstanding work in social justice and dismantling oppression!

-Choya Adkison-Stevens, Equity and Inclusion Coordinator

Lifeline Program Update

AT&T bought out Cricket Wireless several months ago, and the Lifeline program is being phased out gradually. According to the company, existing Lifeline customers will still be able to utilize their Lifeline credit on CDMA phones for the next 18 months or so, but no new customers will be able to sign up for the program. Once the merger is complete, the Lifeline credit will no longer be available. However, Cricket now has a \$25 unlimited talk and text program which it points out is comparable to the basic Lifeline program that clients used to receive.

-Florence Wood, OCADSV volunteer

Domestic Violence Is a Reproductive Health Issue

“Like the first couple of times, the condom seems to break every time. You know what I mean, and it was just kind of funny, like, the first 6 times the condom broke. Six condoms, that’s kind of rare, I could understand 1 but 6 times, and then after that when I got on the birth control, he was just like always saying, like you should have my baby, you should have my daughter, you should have my kid.”

(Miller et al, 2007; Futures Without Violence, *Did You Know Your Relationship Affects Your Health?*)

Domestic violence has documented impacts on the reproductive health of women. Domestic violence increases women's risk for unintended pregnancy. A Massachusetts study found that among women who experienced domestic violence and had also been pregnant in the last five years, 40% of the women reported the pregnancy as unwanted, versus 8% of other women (Hathaway et al., 2000). For adolescents in physically abusive relationships, they were 3.5 times more likely to become pregnant than non-abused adolescent girls (Roberts et al, 2005). Survivors also face higher rates of sexually transmitted infections, in addition to higher rates of unintended pregnancy and repeat pregnancy. Women and girls who are survivors are

Definition:

Reproductive coercion involves behaviors aimed to maintain power and control in a relationship related to reproductive health by someone who is, was, or wishes to be involved in an intimate or dating relationship with an adult or adolescent.

(Futures Without Violence, 2014)



Do you know that some areas have banned age discrimination in housing?

Cities and counties have the ability to enact fair housing laws that are broader than federal or state laws. Some areas in Oregon have added age over 18 as a protected class.

The federal Fair Housing Act protects families with children under 18. These areas are saying they don't want (and won't allow) any age-based discrimination in housing in their communities.

To check the local protected classes in the area you work or live, visit www.fhco.org/discrimination-in-oregon/protected-classes.

The Fair Housing Council is a non-profit civil rights organization serving Oregon.

Call the free Fair Housing Hotline at 800-424-3247 x. 2, or visit www.FHCO.org.

four times more likely to be infected with HIV (Decker et al, 2007; Futures Without Violence, *Did You Know Your Relationship Affects Your Health?*).

We know that there are different kinds of abusive and controlling behaviors that are used by abusers to maintain power and control in a relationship. Patterns of these kinds of behavior that affect women's reproductive health are called reproductive coercion: which includes rape, birth control sabotage, pregnancy pressure and condom manipulation (Futures Without Violence, *Did You Know Your Relationship Affects Your Health?*).

Interfering with contraceptive use or controlling pregnancy outcomes are common behaviors in abusive relationships, especially with young women. Interviews with 53 sexually active adolescent girls found that one quarter (26%) reported their male abusers were actively trying to get them pregnant. Tactics used included manipulating condom use (such as getting angry if asked to use a condom, or removing a condom during intercourse), sabotaging birth control use, and making explicit statements about wanting her to become pregnant.

This high prevalence underlines the importance of domestic and sexual violence advocates knowing about reproductive coercion and how to talk about it with the survivors they work with. It also points to the importance of partnering with healthcare providers and connecting survivors to healthcare. Among a sample of over 1,200 surveyed women and adolescents age 16-29 at five family planning clinics, 53% of their patients experienced domestic or sexual violence. Partnerships between healthcare providers and advocates are necessary for survivors to access appropriate care.

When reproductive coercion is one of the abuser's tactics, there are healthcare interventions that can help, mainly less detectable, long acting birth control methods such as an IUD. This is a great intervention especially if the abuser also monitors their partner's menstrual cycles. The IUD's strings can be cut so the partner can't feel them. However, that means the IUD will need to be removed in the future by ultrasound, when the survivor is ready to have children. However, the cost of this procedure may be worth the cost of having a child prematurely to some survivors.

You can learn more about these interventions and topics at the Coalition's Annual Conference in Sunriver, OR, on June 22-24. The healthcare track has workshops specifically on healthcare partnerships, reproductive coercion, working with healthcare providers, best practices working with survivors, as well as a track for healthcare providers who are passionate about serving survivors and are interested in partnering with advocates. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact me at sarah@ocadsv.org or 503.230.1951. If you would like a training for your organization specifically on reproductive coercion and its implications for advocates, please also contact me.

-Sarah Keefe, Health Systems Program Coordinator