



1978-2006

28 years of working in Colorado to end domestic violence in all its forms.

CCADV VISION

CCADV is dedicated to the elimination of domestic violence in all of its forms. We recognize that this requires a fundamental change in society's views of gender and gender roles.

CCADV MISSION

Through community education, networking and the empowerment of battered women and children, CCADV serves as a forum for social action and the development of services for battered women and their families by bringing its membership and the community together. CCADV is a diverse network of rural and urban advocates who work together through the coalition to coordinate services, exchange information and work on issues of common concern, thereby providing a unified, statewide environment that will nurture members' local, efforts to stop domestic violence.

THE VOICE

Summer 2006

Safety and Accountability Audits

The relationship between law enforcement and battered women victim advocates has long been fractious and sometimes hostile. The social change that swept our nation in the 1970's demanded better protection of battered women as well as the criminalization of domestic violence behavior. This shift in priorities was in effect forced upon the male-dominated criminal justice system.

It was the work of our founding mothers on behalf of their battered mothers, sisters and daughters that created social and institutional change regarding domestic violence. Yet their courage and perseverance would have been in vain had it not been for those courageous few police officers and prosecutors who chose to listen instead of talk, and who chose to build instead of destroy. It is because of the collaborative and sometimes confrontational efforts of feminist groups and progressive law enforcement agencies that systemic change occurs for the benefit of abused women and their children.

In this tradition, CCADV has collaborated to create social and institutional change with the Craig Police Department and Moffat County Sheriff's Office. As part of the Rural VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) Grant, CCADV conducted two Safety and Accountability Audits in Craig and Larimer County, CO. The Audit, or Community Assessment, is a systematic observation and analysis of the routines within and between agencies and the paper trails used in processing "cases" of domestic violence.

This intensive process examines how information is recorded, distributed, analyzed and used by other personnel within the same or a complimentary system. The Audit sees how, when and if the local response to domestic violence ensures the safety of victims and the accountability of offenders. The Audit has been expanded to include the accountability of the "system" as it responds to domestic violence in the local community.

While they already had a strong community collaboration, the Moffat County Domestic Violence Task Force entered into partnership with CCADV to conduct the Safety and Accountability Audit to examine ways to improve the community response to domestic violence. This process began in the fall of 2003, and after two years of critical examination, was declared a major success. The basic question the Moffat County team explored was, "How is the police report created and used?" The team determined that the police report

generated as a result of a domestic violence incident was the critical link between all of the responding agencies in Moffat County, and its use was instrumental to the life of the case, from arrest to post-conviction.

CCADV, with leadership and guidance from Advocates Crisis Support Services' Executive Director Pat Tessmer, had incredible collaboration with the Craig Police Department and the Moffat County Sheriff's Office. Ms. Tessmer assembled a team of 18 local Audit team members, including representatives from every domestic violence response agency in the county. The team included the chief law enforcement officers within their jurisdiction, Chief Walt Vanatta and Sheriff Buddy Grinstead. Their involvement helped foster an environment of cooperation between groups that historically did not have productive relations.

Craig Police Sergeant William Leonard and Sheriff's Investigator KC Hume provided the base leadership, and all team members participated in the challenging process from start to finish. This ultimately led to a more coordinated local response to domestic violence. The success of the Audit resulted in the creation of the Statewide Audit Training Team, which supports other communities in the use of the Safety and Accountability Audit model. Sergeant Leonard, Deputy Hume and Ms. Tessmer have traveled to Fort Morgan, Cañon City and Pagosa Springs to provide technical assistance and training on the Audit process. One of the reasons Moffat County committed to the SAA was their need to better determine the predominant

continued on page 2

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END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

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Safety & Accountability Audits

continued from page one

aggressor during a domestic violence investigation. The scope of the Audit included interviews and observations with battered women and system practitioners from all levels of experience. The analysis of police reports, which helped the team to determine the actual practices of responders, was critical in locating gaps in the local response. These gaps revealed intersecting themes regarding the response to children, language accessibility, evidence collection, predominant aggressor analysis, investigating strangulation, victim advocacy, 911 dispatchers and training of practitioners. The Audit highlighted strengths of the community response as well as areas needing development.

The cooperation of the Craig and Moffat County law enforcement officials was evident in the success of the Audit. Each participating agency was willing to take risks and accept constructive criticism as part of the Audit's process. Some notable achievements include the

task force developing a "checkbox" which helps determine predominant aggressor and the incidence and recognition of strangulation during the criminal investigation. Additional successes were specific to victim advocacy, dispatchers, training of law enforcement officers and the development of a Domestic Violence Review Team.

The most significant achievement of the Audit process, however, was the social and systemic change regarding dual arrests, which has always been challenging for law enforcement. The Audit was able to recognize the balance between officers who respond to often chaotic and lethal situations, and battered women victim advocates who have long demanded the criminalization of batterer behavior.

For the past two years, the Craig Police Department and Moffat County Sheriff's Office have recorded zero dual arrests in their communities. No other Colorado law enforcement agency has been able to achieve this goal. It is through this collaboration between law enforcement and grassroots feminist organizations in this community that we move towards ending domestic violence in all its forms.

2006 Legislative Wrap Up

The 2006 Legislative Session has come to a close. The following are highlights of legislation that CCADV actively supported or opposed. Only one bill that CCADV actively supported failed, and only one bill that CCADV actively opposed passed.

CCADV committed the most effort and time to ensuring the passage of **House Bill 1364**, which created a class one misdemeanor for someone to accept money to find a protected person. For example, it is now illegal for a private investigator to accept money to locate a person with a valid protection order and it is the private investigator's responsibility to determine whether or not the person has a protection order. This was an incredible victory, requiring compromise and collaboration which we managed without compromising the integrity of the bill. Once the bill moved from the House to the Senate, it was passed unanimously and has been signed into law!

House Bill 1122, also now signed into law, established criteria for a law enforcement agency to accept a missing person's report without delay and disallows refusal to accept a report on the basis that the person had not been missing for any specified length of time.

Senate Bill 207 made it a felony for persons to traffic in adults in the state of Colorado (there is already existing statute making it a felony to traffic in children.) This new law goes into effect this year.

The only bill which CCADV actively supported which did not pass was **House Bill 1166**, which would have required the interception of gambling winnings in order to pay child support, restitution and other legal obligations. This bill met with a great deal of resistance from the Gaming Commission, who did not want to be debt collectors. The intent of this bill clearly is meritorious; however, there are some problems in it to be addressed before it is introduced again.

There were bills that CCADV actively opposed that did indeed fail:

House Bill 1246 was essentially an extension of Colorado's "Make My Day" law – however, there were simply too many ways batterers could manipulate this law to defend their use of physical force against their victims. This bill died in committee.

Senate Bill 157 would have firearms dealers forego background check for persons with concealed weapons permits. Although the permit owner might have passed a background check upon initial application for the concealed carry permit, the permit is valid for five years. As we all know, a lot can happen in five years.

It is also important to note that there were two particularly challenging bills:

House Bill 1151 added "emotional abuse" to the definition of "child abuse." It criminalized any continuous pattern of the following acts: malnourishment or lack of medical care; cruel punishment or unreasonable isolation or confinement of a child; repeated threats of harm or death to the child or a significant other; and, witnessing domestic violence. CCADV opposed the bill as introduced. We had grave concerns that victims of domestic violence could be prosecuted under this law for the acts committed by their batterers. Although we were unsuccessful in defeating the bill, we were able to amend it so that it clearly stated that the person responsible for the crime was the person who **committed the acts themselves**. This directs the attention to the offenders and not their victims.

Senate Bill 90 requires members of law enforcement to report individuals they arrested to ICE (Immigrations and Customs Enforcement Agency) if they had a reasonable belief that the arrestee was in the country "illegally." CCADV exercised every tactic at our disposal to try to defeat this bill, but we were unsuccessful. The issue of greatest concern was that because of incidences of dual arrests and arrests of victims, undocumented victims of domestic violence would be reported to ICE. We were able to amend the bill so that it now includes an exception in cases of domestic violence. In other words, if an individual is arrested because of a domestic violence incident, law enforcement would not be required to report them to ICE, even if they believed the arrestee was undocumented. While this amendment somewhat ameliorates the potential negative consequences of this law for victims of domestic violence who are arrested, it does not ensure any protection if the arrestee is actually convicted.

Please contact Public Policy Director Twanna Latrice Hill with any questions, comments, or concerns at 303-831-9632 x815. CCADV's Legislative Committee needs your participation and input. The Committee is open to anyone across the state and generally meets the 4th Wednesday of every month from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

VAWA & Battered Immigrant Women

As lawmakers and the American people continue to struggle with our broken immigration laws, CCADV recognizes the unique challenges immigrant women face as they struggle for safety in this country. Earlier this year, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) 2005 was reauthorized. The reauthorization of VAWA created new funding for programs to assist immigrant victims of abuse in filing for U- and T-Visas and self-petitions. As a result, CCADV recognized advocates' need to better understand and leverage both new and pre-existing laws to help battered immigrant women.

In March of this year, CCADV sponsored an Advanced Advocacy training in Gunnison on legal issues for battered immigrant women. The primary trainer was Gail Pendleton, co-founder and Co-Chair of the National Network to End Violence Against Immigrant Women and Co-Director of ASISTA, a national immigration law technical assistance project funded by the federal Office on Violence Against Women. Pat Medige from Colorado Legal Services also brought her expertise on human trafficking victims to the group.

CCADV, the Colorado Bar Association (CBA), the American Immigration Lawyers Association, CLE and Project Safeguard also co-sponsored a one-day event in March with Gail Pendleton as the

keynote speaker. During her visit, she provided up-to-date information regarding VAWA self-petitions and U and T-Visas. Immigrant women's ability to access the services they need to overcome violence and escape poverty is hampered by barriers such as misinformation about immigration, domestic violence, civil rights, human rights, and public benefits laws. Their situation is further complicated by language barriers, incorrect assumptions about the immigrant woman's culture, and anti-immigrant sentiment. The goal of these trainings is to secure meaningful access to lawful immigration status for more immigrant women and their children.

CCADV is also working toward bridging the gaps that exist within the service providers and legal system. Because of the March meeting at CBA, a group of immigration attorneys and advocates now meet monthly to discuss strategies and best practices when working with battered immigrant women.

CCADV is also currently incorporating much of this work with the Latina Advocacy Committee. This past year, CCADV sponsored two advocates from the committee to attend trainings on the topic. One advocate attended a Sacred Circle training in South Dakota. Another advocate attended an Office for Violence Against Women training on "Best Practices for Serving Immigrant Victims" in Miami, Florida.

Survivors' Task Force Update

CCADV's Survivors' Task Force held its first-ever retreat in Colorado Springs in April. Survivors' Task Force is comprised of volunteers who are survivors of abuse that take a proactive approach to educating the community on the intervention and prevention of domestic violence. The retreat's purpose was to build public communication skills and discuss long-range recruitment plans. Constance Platt, Cheryl Law and Ruth Glenn put together a communication workshop and provided excellent training on how to deliver prepared speeches and impromptu commentary to individuals, groups and the media. In addition, rest and relaxation was provided and committee members brainstormed ideas for future committee projects.

In the coming months, the Survivors' Task Force will collaborate with CCADV to develop a website to highlight the work of the committee as well as issues and resources relevant to survivors of domestic violence.

The Task Force has also developed the "Voice of Survivors" award, which will be presented for the first time ever during this year's Domestic Violence Awareness Month rally to honor individuals and groups that have put the voices of survivors first and built strong alliances to help end domestic violence.

Please stay tuned for more from the volunteers of Survivors' Task Force, as we are rejuvenated and ready for an exciting and groundbreaking year to build public awareness around the issue of domestic violence.

If you are interested in more information on the task force, please contact the Survivors' Task Force's Staff Liaison, Bayonne Holmes, at 303-831-9632 x810.

Colorado Welcomes Three New Safehouses

Colorado's domestic violence resources are growing, with three new safehouses opening around our state by the end of 2006.

Domestic Safety Resource Center in Lamar opened their safehouse doors in April, which can house approximately eight clients at a time. Doris Hughes, Director of the Resource Center, stated that all funding for the facility was raised in the 15th Judicial District through events and donations.

Estes Valley Victim Advocates plan on opening their safehouse in late summer to early fall. They are in the process of a two-year capital campaign to raise funds to purchase the building, and have received community assistance with furniture, basic supplies, and decorating. They anticipate serving between 35-50 clients a year with their new facility.

Mary Mesropian, Director of Estes Valley Victim Advocates, said there was a need for a safehouse in their community. "We knew about eighteen women and children in 2005 that we could have housed that had no where else to go. Women have had to sleep on couches, stay in hotels for a couple of nights and leave the community because we couldn't house them."

Advocates Crisis Support Services in Moffat County anticipates opening their facility by October 1. Director Pat Tessmer explained that the Moffat County Commissioners recognized the growing need for safety and shelter and is leasing them a facility for ten years. They expect to serve around ten clients at a time.



Credentialing Victim Advocates

The battered women's advocacy movement began in this country with women who wanted to make social change. They started a revolution without money, without guns, without an army and without fear. Their courage as an oppressed gender became their most powerful weapon. Their courage still goes on today. It goes on in the work that we do as a Coalition. Their work became *victim advocacy*.

CCADV, CCASA and COVA, as the most recognizable victim advocacy organizations in Colorado, have differing opinions regarding what has become known as "credentialing" within the field of victim advocacy. CCADV is on record opposing the institutionalization of victim advocacy in Colorado. CCADV, as a membership-driven organization, issued a brief regarding the institutionalization of victim advocacy in Colorado, which can be found at <http://ccadv.org/publications.htm>.

The membership of CCADV believes strongly in increased training opportunities for victim advocates. All of our member programs have a successful internal training program specific to their client population and geographic location. CCADV further enhances these programs by providing the New Worker Institute, Advanced Advocacy Trainings, Statewide Meetings, and the Leadership Institute and Executive Director Trainings. CCADV and its members are committed to providing quality services to victims and survivors in Colorado. It is the belief of the Coalition that a state-regulated or self-imposed bureaucracy created to certify victim advocates will result in a less effective training program than those currently being provided, and run the risk of financially disabling victim service organizations throughout the state.

COVA has stated their certification program is voluntary and will not affect funding. However, there is no guarantee that it will not become mandatory in the future. We have only to look at our state for an example of the manifestation of "voluntary becoming mandatory." Certification or licensure, even if not required but offered, would eventually set a standard for workers in the field.

The Victim Compensation's Board in the 20th Judicial District (Boulder County) recently decided to refuse reimbursements to anyone but licensed counselors. For many years, the battered women's advocacy organizations in the 20th relied upon fee compensation through the Board for safehouse stays and outreach counseling services provided to battered women without financial means. When questioned by the local victim service providers as to why their policy changed, they were told that the state would soon be certifying workers in the field and that the issue would then be moot.

During the 2005 COVA Conference track regarding credentialing, it was clear that many CCADV members had concerns. In many views, certification is an extension of institutional oppression and the co-opting of values fostered in the civil rights movement.

There are currently several member programs taking action against the institutionalization of victim advocacy in Colorado. These programs already provide high-quality services and collaboration in their communities and have done so without fancy plaques on their walls or initials on their business cards. They understand that today's voluntary will become tomorrow's mandatory and that the line between a community-based victim advocate and system-based victim assistant will become even more blurred.

For more information on this issue, please contact Advocacy Director Randy Saucedo at 303-831-9632 x812.

Child & Youth Advocacy Happenings

The Children's Advocacy Committee has been reactivated and completed a very successful workday in June in Colorado Springs. Child advocates from all over the state brought curricula, treatment information, and other resources for working with children and adolescents who have been exposed to batterer violence. We are combining resources to create a library of videos/DVDs and books. We hope to publish the finished product as a resource guide for children's programs.

Child advocates from many member agencies are participating with the Domestic Abuse Assistance Fund (DAAP), CCADV, the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS), and County Departments of Social Services in the Domestic Violence/ Child Protective Services Protocol Task Force. This collaborative group will create statewide best practice guidelines and protocols for child welfare cases that involve domestic violence.

The Children and Youth Advocacy Director has participated with DAAP, CDHS, and other CCADV staff to help develop the child victimization section of the statewide TANF new worker training and the TANF Toolkit resource manual. The 2006 TANF trainings are being conducted in all four Colorado regions, and is an amazing opportunity to bring information about domestic violence to service providers who have contact with many victims of violence.

CCADV and DAAP are collaborating on a federal demonstration project, funded with the domestic violence stamp money, with an alliance of treatment and service providers including The Women's Crisis and Family Outreach Center, Arapahoe/Douglas Mental Health, Douglas County Department of Human Services, and AMEND. The goal is to develop and implement a collaborative, multi-disciplinary coalition of interconnected systems of care for children and youth exposed to domestic violence in Douglas, Elbert, Lincoln, Cheyenne, and Kiowa counties. This model for treatment and agency teamwork is expected to be exported to other communities statewide.

Child and adolescent issues have been center-stage during CCADV's training this year. The February Statewide Training with Lundy Bancroft featured sessions on child exposure to batterer violence and teen dating violence. The June CCADV statewide training on methamphetamine and domestic violence featured a session on children, meth use, and domestic violence. September's Advanced Advocacy training in Pueblo will be entirely devoted to child and adolescent issues and treatment. This two-day FUN experiential workshop uses creative arts to work with traumatized children and adolescents. Faculty and students from the Trans-personal Counseling Psychology-Art Therapy Program at Naropa will facilitate a workshop to introduce participants to art therapy.

CCADV is represented on the CDHS Children's Justice Taskforce and the Violence Prevention Advisory Group organized through the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. We have been nominated and approved as a member of the Governor's Colorado State Child Fatality Review Board, and also participate in CDHS's Colorado Fatherhood Initiative Steering Committee.

The Youth Advisory Council and Young Adult Focus Groups will meet soon. Prevention efforts, particularly involving teen dating violence, are continuing. CCADV recently participated in a whole-day training with Safehouse Denver and Jefferson County School District for high-school students, and will continue to work with member agency child and youth advocates to address teen violence.

From the Interim Director's Desk...

Allow me to introduce myself; I am Nancy Osborn Nicholas, the Interim Executive Director for CCADV. I came to this organization in December with over twenty-two years experience in non-profit management and community development. It has been an exciting and challenging time here and I am honored to be a part of an organization which makes such a critical difference in the lives of people who face and deal with the impacts of domestic violence.

As the Interim Executive Director, my role is to first ensure that CCADV meets its financial, organizational and grant obligations. I am also here to help the organization recruit its next Executive Director and to facilitate a smooth transition. I was gratified to find that the organization has a solid financial base and was substantially meeting its grant goals. The credit for this goes to my predecessor, Trish Thibodo, and the outstanding and dedicated CCADV staff and Board of Directors who have come together as a team to ensure that the work of the organization and the needs of membership come first.

The challenges inherent with an organization going through changes in leadership of board and executive director, often times also brings with it hidden opportunities. The staff and board of directors have been focusing on those opportunities. The board and staff are examining the fundamental question of what their roles are in a membership driven organization and what is the role of membership. They are committed to building strong and transparent partnerships with members and supporters as they strive to accomplish the vision of CCADV: "...the elimination of domestic violence in all its forms..."

I am impressed with the work of CCADV and all that it continues to accomplish. I am excited about opportunities CCADV will have with this period of re-examination and the goals for the future. The next executive director will be inheriting a vibrant, challenging and dedicated organization. My congratulations to that lucky person!

CCADV Welcomes Tracey Schlafer

In January, CCADV welcomed Tracey Schlafer as the Children and Youth Advocacy Director. Tracey earned a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and Social Work and a Master's Degree in Social Work with a specialization in Children, Youth, and Families. She has twelve years of experience in the child welfare and mental health fields. She served as a child protective caseworker for seven years in Texas and Colorado. Tracey then worked as a psychiatric social worker in a for-profit/government pilot partnership at the Florida State Psychiatric Hospital. Returning to Colorado, she was employed as a liaison between a non-profit network of child residential treatment centers and three County Departments of Social Services providing service and utilization management for children in the child welfare system who required intensive treatment services.

In her position as Children and Youth Advocacy Director at CCADV, Tracey provides membership and community technical assistance and consultation regarding children and youth exposed to and experiencing domestic violence. She has the opportunity to use her skills in therapeutic assessment and intervention, group facilitation, and public policy and systems training in the areas of child abuse/neglect and family violence. She is developing strategies to balance the needs of traumatized children and families and the child welfare, mental health, court and other systems in which they often function.

CCADV STAFF

- *Administrative Assistant:* **Bayonne Holmes**, ext. 810
- *Advocacy Director:* **Randy Saucedo**, ext. 812
- *Children and Youth Advocacy Director:* **Tracey Schlafer**, ext. 823
- *Interim Executive Director:* **Nancy Osborn Nicholas**, ext. 818
- *Information and Technology Director:* **Jennifer Lynch**, ext. 822
- *Membership Services Director:* **Jessica Khan**, ext. 821
- *Office Manager:* **Jane Klostreich**, ext. 816
- *Public Policy Director:* **Twanna LaTrice Hill**, ext. 815
- *Safety and Accountability Audit Coordinator,* **Jorgelina Karner**, ext. 823
- *Special Projects Coordinator:* **Emily White**, ext. 817

CCADV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee

- *Co-Chair (Rural):* **Julie Olson**, Advocate Safehouse Project – Glenwood Springs
- *Co-Chair (Urban):* **Dora-Lee Larson**, Denver Domestic Violence Coordinating Council – Denver
- *Secretary:* **Claudia Sidebottom**, Allied Individual Member – Ft. Lupton
- *Treasurer:* **Ruth Ann Russell**, Family Tree – Jefferson County

CCADV Committee Board Representatives

- *Anti Racism Alliance:* **Open**
- *Children Advocacy Committee:* **Claudia Gonzales**, Safehouse Denver – Denver
- *Development Committee:* **Open**
- *Legislative Committee:* **Amy Miller**, Project Safeguard – Metro Denver
- *Queer Advocacy Committee:* **Open**
- *Region I (NE Colorado):* **Mary Mesropian**, Estes Valley Victim Advocates – Estes Park
- *Region II (Metro Denver):* **Open**
- *Region III (SE Colorado):* **Vikki Allen**, T.E.S.S.A. – Colorado Springs
- *Region IV (Western Colorado):* **Carol Simmons**, Allied Individual Member - Durango
- *Region IV (Western Colorado):* **Open**
- *Rural Issues Committee:* **Carol Romero-Crossman**, Advocates Crisis Support Services – Moffat County (Craig)
- *Survivors' Task Force:* **Connie Platt**, Allied Individual Member - Denver



Colorado
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Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) is a non-profit organization, dedicated to the prevention and elimination of domestic violence in all of its forms.

Members of CCADV include shelters, safehouses, counseling & advocacy programs, and concerned individuals.

CCADV staff provide information and referrals, train advocates statewide, and work to develop sound public policy.

SAVE THE DATE!

October is
Domestic Violence Awareness Month
(DVAM)

Mark your calendars for the annual

DVAM Rally
Monday, October 2
11:30am -12:30pm
State Capitol, Denver

Featuring Domestic Violence Survivor

Hedda Nussbaum

who will also present the keynote at the
Fall Statewide Meeting
October 1-3, Denver

