



Network News

Journal of the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

August 2012

ANDVSA STAFF

Brittany Luddington, Project Director
Training Program

Christine Pate, Project Director Pro Bono
Program

Claudia Plesa, Prevention VISTA

Electra Gardinier, Office Manager

Emily Wright, Project Director Legal Advocacy
Program (LAP)

Kami Moore, Project Coordinator
Prevention

Katy Ruff, Staff Attorney

Kelsey Skaggs, Project Coordinator Pro
Bono Program

Lisa Mariotti, Policy Director

Liz Bogner, VISTA Leader

Lori Grassgreen, Project Director
Prevention Program

Madison Massey, Administrative Assistant
Training Program

Mary Norcross, Financial Administrator

Peggy Brown, Executive Director

Shannon Eddy, Staff Attorney

Tracey Miller, Accounting Tech

Taelyn Coffee, Temporary Administrative
Assistant

Network News Contents

Message from the ED.....	2
New staff update	5
Information on Victims' Rights.....	6
Empowering Housing Choice Plan.....	6
Legal Advocacy Project Updates	7
Pro Bono Project Updates	9
Training Project Updates.....	10
Real Tools Manual Information.....	11
Become a FAN of ANDVSA	12

Message from the Executive Director



There is no shortage of topics I could discuss! In the past few months, we have seen an increase in public discourse around rape and sexual violence with the Sandusky trial, the comments of Congressman Akin regarding rape, outcomes for trauma informed services for victims of domestic and sexual violence, etc. but I'd like to focus on the intersection of domestic and sexual violence with trafficking and the benefits of the Affordable Care Act to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Human trafficking thrives in rural, suburban, and urban jurisdictions across the country because it is routinely undetected, overlooked or misidentified. The common misconception that “we don't have human trafficking in our jurisdiction” leads many justice system professionals to fail to recognize common indicators of human trafficking. Further, a lack of coordination between the criminal justice system and community-based programs results in a lack of victim identification and offender accountability. While our ability to identify offenders and victims has improved, there are still significant gaps in the justice system's response to human trafficking.

The Intersection of Domestic and Sexual Violence with Trafficking

What are the Intersections?

Methods of Abuse - power and control exist in domestic and sexual violence as well as trafficking, Similarly, victims are subject to physical, sexual, emotional, psychological and economic abuse as well as isolation; **Cycle of Violence** - traffickers, like abusers, use cyclical violence to control victims by making promises of love or a better life and by using shame and manipulation. **Trafficking by Intimate Partners and Family** - traffickers can be those closest to a victim, including their spouse, intimate partner or a family member.

Some common myths exist within those intersections: **Myth** = Traffickers are always strangers to victims, using kidnapping to acquire victims. **Reality** = Like sexual abusers, traffickers are also known to victims, including family or partners. **Myth** = Abusers are jealous and won't exploit for sex. Abusers control economically, but don't exploit. **Reality** = In the same way abusers use economic and sexual abuse to control, they may use it to exploit as well.

Intimate Partner Trafficking

Spouses and intimate partners may compel their partner to engage in commercial sex, forced labor or involuntary servitude. The abuser may tell their partner that this exploitation is for the benefit of their family, the relationship, for financial support or to support an addiction.

Familial Trafficking

Family members, often adults or older individuals, may compel their relatives to engage in commercial sex, forced labor or involuntary servitude. The abuser utilizes existing power dynamics and vulnerabilities to exploit the family member.

The State of Alaska Task Force on Crimes of Human Trafficking, Promoting Prostitution, and Sex Trafficking was established by legislation passed in April of 2012. The purpose of the task force is to gather information and provide recommendations on the existence of human trafficking and sex trafficking within the state and the current services available to victims of these crimes. "Victims" include those that were induced, coerced, forced, or threatened into forced labor or prostitution. Any person under the age of 20 engaged in prostitution is considered a victim regardless of the circumstances. The task force is currently doing surveys and requesting input from victim service agencies throughout the state.

How the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Affects Victims of Domestic, Sexual, and Dating Violence

The Affordable Care Act allows abused women, children and teens to have access to services that would treat their abuse and many of the resulting conditions of that abuse before they worsen. Additionally, it enables women who are staying in abusive relationships for the economic support, which can include health insurance provided to them and their children by their abuser, to flee and seek safety away from that partner. Victims of violence and abuse, prevention of violence programs, and increased funding for research were specifically included in several new protections and programs. Here are some of the changes and opportunities ACA will provide:

Prohibits Pre-Existing Condition Exclusion Based on Domestic Violence History

Beginning on January 1, 2014, the Affordable Care Act will prohibit insurance companies, health care providers, and health programs that receive federal financial assistance from denying coverage to women based on many factors, including being a survivor of domestic or sexual violence. Before this protection was added, seven states allowed insurers to deny health coverage to domestic violence survivors, and only 22 states had enacted adequate domestic violence insurance discrimination protections.

Supports Routine Screening and Counseling of Domestic or Interpersonal Violence

Starting on August 1, 2012, all new and non-grandfathered health plans must cover screening and counseling of domestic violence, and plans cannot require cost sharing or deductibles for these services. The Congressional intent under ACA was that screening and assessing for domestic violence can be considered a primary prevention or early intervention service, similar to obesity screening, smoking cessation, and alcohol misuse, which is already covered by providers. With nearly one quarter of women having a lifetime exposure to violence or abuse, the prevalence data clearly argues for this population receiving early assessment and counseling by their provider.

Domestic Violence Training in Early Childhood Health Program

ACA is providing \$1.5 billion over five years to States, tribes, and territories to develop and implement one or more evidence-based Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Visitation model(s). Home visitation programs are prevention programs that offer family oriented services to pregnant mothers and families with newborns where structured visits are made to the family's home. While current evaluations of home visitation models have found that up to 48 percent of the women surveyed who receive home visiting services have reported incidents of domestic violence, few programs have developed, implemented and tested interventions specifically designed to address the trauma these families experience.

The Affordable Care Act recognized the opportunity of home visitation programs to prevent domestic violence in two ways: 1) States were required to do a needs assessment during the planning phase to identify at-risk communities including communities with high concentrations of domestic violence; and 2) States were allowed up to 25 percent of the funding to be used for new program models, which could directly address the needs of mothers and children who are experiencing or at risk of experiencing domestic violence, the link between domestic violence and child abuse and neglect, and the impact of domestic violence on the health and well-being of children and families.

Providing Services and Reducing Unintended Teen Pregnancies

Research has shown a clear link that unintended pregnancies increase women and girls' risk for violence, and in reverse, violence increases women and girls' risk for unintended pregnancies. Adolescent girls in physically abusive relationships were **3.5 times more likely** to become pregnant than non-abused girls. The Affordable Care Act created two programs aimed at young women who could be affected by domestic or dating violence and unintended pregnancy:

The first, called **Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP)**, provides each state mandatory funds for personal responsibility education programs targeted to reducing pregnancy rates in youths between the ages of 10-19 years old. The educational programs were urged to include adult preparation skills such as healthy relationships. The other opportunity, called **Services for Pregnant and Parenting Teens**, established a competitive grant program to states to help pregnant and parenting teens and women. As part of this program, states could fund intervention and supportive social services to victims currently pregnant or were pregnant one year before being a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or sexual violence. The service dollars could be used for a hotline, housing, or counseling.



ANDVSA would like to welcome our new staff members!

Liz Bogner, VISTA Leader

Liz Bogner has joined ANDVSA as the first ANDVSA/Southeast Alaska AmeriCorps*VISTA Leader. Liz is a graduate of the University of Michigan with an undergraduate degree in Communication Studies. For the past two years, Liz has been a national service member with AmeriCorps*VISTA, a federal volunteer program devoted to eliminating poverty in America through capacity-building and community organization.

Liz's time in VISTA has mainly been spent in the realm of higher education. During her first term with Wisconsin Campus Compact, Liz trained nonprofit professionals to effectively use information technology to improve organizational outreach in rural west-central Wisconsin. The following year, she moved back home to Michigan to serve as the Michigan Campus Compact VISTA leader, coaching and supporting 29 VISTA members and Summer Associates placed all across Michigan. As the ANDVSA/Southeast Alaska VISTA Leader, Liz will support all VISTAs associated with the ANDVSA as well as any other projects unassociated with larger state-wide projects such as the University of Alaska Center for Economic Development and Rural CAP.

Liz is very excited to be with ANDVSA to serve her final term in AmeriCorps*VISTA. She is looking forward to the experience of working in a nonprofit organization, learning more about issues women face here in Alaska, and laying groundwork for VISTA Leaders to come...not to mention experiencing everything that Alaska has to offer!

Claudia Pleša, VISTA

Claudia Pleša has joined ANDVSA as a AmeriCorps*VISTA volunteer. Claudia is a graduate Eastern Oregon University, with a bachelor of science in Sociology, with a minor in Gender Studies. She also has her Masters in Sociology from Portland State University. While in graduate school, Claudia focused on studying the experiences of underprivileged groups, and focused her research on gender, racial and class inequalities, as well as the intersections in between these major categories. After receiving her Masters, Claudia spent a year teaching undergraduate level sociology classes at Eastern Oregon University. Although she enjoyed teaching, Claudia wanted to work in a field where her gender studies knowledge was being used, and where she could feel that she was making a real difference. While in Alaska, Claudia will be spending most of her time hiking and spending time with her newly acquired puppy.

Taelyn Coffee, Temporary Administrative Assistant

Taelyn Coffee joined ANDVSA as a temporary Administrative Assistant while Madison Massey is on leave. Taelyn attended the University of Minnesota Morris for three years where she studied Elementary Education and Psychology. She recently moved home to Juneau to continue working towards her degree at the University of Alaska Southeast. Taelyn enjoys getting outdoors, playing community sports and being around loved ones.

Information on Victims' Rights

Article I, section 24 of the Alaska constitution provides to all crime victims the following rights.

The right to:

- Be treated with dignity, respect and fairness;
- Protection from accused through the imposition of appropriate bail or conditions of release by the court (including release on appeal)
- Confer with the prosecution;
- Timely disposition of the case;
- Obtain information about and be allowed to be present at all criminal or juvenile proceedings where the accused has the right to be present;
- Be heard, upon request, at sentencing, before or after conviction and at any proceeding where the accused's release from custody is considered;
- Restitution from the accused;
- Be informed, upon request, of the accused's escape or release from custody before or after conviction or juvenile adjudication.

For more information on the rights of crime victims' please call the State of Alaska Office of Victims' Rights, toll free 1-866-274-2620, or visit their website:

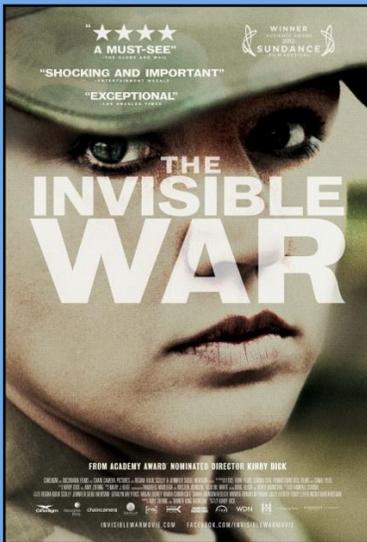
<http://officeofvictimsrights.legis.state.ak.us>

Empowering Choice Housing Plan on its way to HUD!

On August 29, 2012, the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) Board of Directors unanimously approved a resolution to adopt the Empowering Choice Housing Plan (ECHP). The ECHP is a 3 year transitional housing assistance program designed in collaboration with the Network, AHFC and the State of Alaska Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault to meet the needs of displaced victims of domestic and sexual violence. The Plan is now on its way to HUD for final approval. We look forward to continuing to work with AHFC on implementation of the Plan.

A copy of the Empowering Choice Housing Plan can be viewed on the Policy Page of our website at www.andvsa.org.

Legal Advocacy Project Updates



In Honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, ANDVSA and AWARE will present the investigative documentary, *The Invisible War*. The film is about “the epidemic of rape within the U.S. military.” To learn more about the film, visit the website invisiblewarmovie.com

Film Screening:

October 10th, 2012

Gold Town Nickelodeon Theater (Juneau, Alaska)

7:00pm (doors open at 6:30pm)

Suggested donation \$10/\$5 (students)

All proceeds to benefit victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

There will also be a teleconference on Working with the Military hosted by LAP with our Training Project Director, Brittany Luddington on October 24th at 3:30pm. Contact Emily Wright for more information, ewright@andvsa.org

ANDVSA Information and Referral Hotline Dates:

Call toll-free: 1-888-988-3725

September 4, 5-7 pm

September 25, 12-2pm

October 9, 5-7pm

October 23, 12-2pm

WHO SHOULD CALL?

VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND/OR SEXUAL ASSAULT WHO WANT BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR LEGAL RIGHTS & OPTIONS AND REFERRAL INFORMATION FROM AN ATTORNEY

WHAT TYPES OF QUESTIONS CAN THE HOTLINE ATTORNEY ANSWER?

GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT MANY LEGAL ISSUES, INCLUDING FAMILY AND CRIMINAL LAW

WHO WILL BE ANSWERING THE LINE? ONE OF THE ANDVSA PRO BONO PROGRAM'S VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS

***PLEASE NOTE: THE HOTLINE ATTORNEY WILL NOT BE REPRESENTING CLIENTS BUT RATHER PROVIDING BRIEF LEGAL EDUCATION TO CALLERS AND POSSIBLE REFERRAL TO OTHER LEGAL AND SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS.

Legal Advocacy Project Continued...



The Legal Advocacy Project thanks Ian Petersen, our volunteer intern in our Anchorage office! Since March 2012, Ian has volunteered 4-5 hours per week, assisting Katy and Shannon with administrative tasks and paralegal duties. Ian grew up in Anchorage, graduated from Willamette University in 2010, and now works as a supervising legal assistant with the Office of Special Prosecutions and Appeals. Ian plans to attend law school and hopes to represent underrepresented groups in the future. He wanted to volunteer with ANDVSA to gain experience in civil law and in working for a non-profit.

Ian enjoys the variety of projects he works on, including preparing exhibits for trial, analyzing property and debt information, and reviewing audio recordings and trial testimony. Because our staff attorneys do not have administrative help in Anchorage, Ian's work has proved invaluable. "Thanks to Ian, I am able to prepare more efficiently for trial and provide better representation for my clients," says staff attorney, Katy Ruff. "We are so lucky to have him!"

GTEA Conference

On August 23rd and 24th the LAP program was able to host a follow-up conference for those legal advocates who attended the December 2011 GTEA Conference. With funding from CDVSA, six advocates attended the two day conference in Juneau. Topics included: Compassion fatigue and vicarious trauma, protection orders, family law, working with interpreters, and working with children exposed to trauma. We had an excellent group of advocates and the speakers were great! Beyond the sessions offered, advocates had the opportunity to network and build strong connections with other advocates.

Pro Bono Project Updates

ANDVSA Pro Bono Volunteers Awarded!

The two main pro bono volunteer awards given out at the Alaska Bar Convention in May were awarded to ANDVSA Volunteers. Retired Judge Rene Gonzalez received the individual practitioner award and Atkinson, Conway and Gagnon received the firm award for their help on behalf of victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

Atkinson Conway & Gagnon—Firm

2005 was a big year for the firm of Atkinson, Conway & Gagnon: their 30 year anniversary and a leap out of their comfort zone to take on an area of law completely new to them. Responding to the great need for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault to have representation at long term protection hearings, they agreed to start a novel project to take on these cases in exchange for mentoring and training by the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Under the leadership of firm partners Pat Gilmore and Chris Slottee, the firm has represented 26 clients who have obtained long term protective orders and thus, long term safety for their families. The project has served as a reliable source of pro bono work important to the firm, especially as they train new associates and it is not unusual for the dedicated attorneys to drop everything and come at a moment's notice to help a victim with an upcoming hearing. We are very grateful for their service.

Retired Judge Rene Gonzalez

Most pro bono volunteers come to their work in response to a desperate plea from one of the providers but not Rene Gonzalez. After retiring from the bench in 2003 he took the initiative to contact the agencies to volunteer after years of seeing so many unrepresented—many with little to no English speaking skills—litigants trying to navigate the court system.

In the last nine years Judge Gonzalez has represented 14 clients in cases involving domestic violence, divorce, custody, and protection orders primarily for Hispanic clients. In addition he helped create the Pro Bono Spanish Committee that launched the Spanish speaking legal hotline through Alaska Legal Services Corporation to help Alaskans understand how to access the legal system.



Atkinson, Conway & Gagnon – from left – Partner Chris Slottee, Associate Sarah Marsey, partner Patrick Gilmore, all ANDVSA volunteers.



From Left: Christine Pate, Pro Bono Program Director; Retired Judge Rene Gonzalez; Erick Cordero, Pro Bono Volunteer, and PB coordinator for ALSC and Ann Gonzalez (legal right hand woman and wife of Judge Gonzalez).

Training Project Updates

The Full Lives Conference was hosted in Anchorage in April of 2012. ANDVSA partnered with UAA's Center for Human Development and AWAIC to provide an interactive workshop from the Washington State Coalition *In Her Shoes*. Approximately 20 participants explored navigating systems and the challenges survivors face in seeking safety and support. We received positive feedback and hope to bring this powerful activity to future Full Lives Events.

In May, ANDVSA Training Project partnered with UAF, UAS and UAA to bring a 3 hour presentation to satellite campuses across the state. The workshop was for an elective course on critical social topics in Alaska. We worked with students at each location simultaneously on topics such as domestic violence, sexual assault, male victimization, serving the LGBTQI community and considerations for serving people living with disabilities. ANDVSA would like to thank the University of Alaska for the opportunity.

The Training Project has been working in partnership with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Alaska Native Women's Coalition, Alaska Native Justice Center and Interior Regional Public Health to bring a collaborative DV/SA training curriculum to rural areas around the State. Since May we have provided 2-3 day workshops in Barrow, Metlakatla and Seldovia. Trainings are planned throughout the next 6 months and include a follow-up in Metlakatla and a visit to Beaver.

The Alaska Family Law Self-Help Center and ANDVSA have completed their statewide training of Court Clerk staff. Training was provided to the staff in Nome, Kotzebue, Anchorage and Palmer in spring of 2012.

The Training Project would like to thank the Allstate Foundation for the opportunity to attend the Training of Trainers for the Economic Empowerment Curriculum in July. Allstate covered travel and hotel for 4 participants from Alaska. For more information on Allstate's Domestic Violence Program, visit: <http://www.allstatefoundation.org/domestic-violence-program>

Rebecca Odor and Shena Williams from Family Violence Prevention and Services Program made a visit to some of our SAFT grant pilot sites in August. They began their tour of Alaska in Juneau where they met with AWARE, ANDVSA, Tlingit-Haida tribal representative and OCS. They then ventured on to Fairbanks and traveled with Fairbanks Native Association to Minto. The following day they met with the SAFT partners, including Tanana Chiefs Conference, IAC and OCS representatives and were given a tour of the shelter and a walk through of TCC programs. Their trip to Kodiak was unfortunately cancelled due to weather, but they enjoyed their time in Alaska and were able to explore many of the unique geographic and weather related challenges we face in Alaska. The pilot sites will be meeting in Anchorage the last week of September to talk about year two challenges and accomplishments and plan for year 3 of the grant. The training partners are presenting on the SAFT grant at the Child Maltreatment Conference in October.

The Training Project is excited to be shifting part of the effort of the program to producing and providing online resources for our member programs and ally agencies. AVV in Valdez hosted the first online Advocacy Training this year and more are being scheduled into the winter. To book an online live training with Brittany Luddington, email her at bluddington@andvsa.org.

Real Tools Manual Updates!



Real Tools Three, “Responding to Multi-Abuse Trauma,” Spanish translation version is complete and available for download on the ANDVSA website:

<http://www.andvsa.org/publications/>

Real Tools continues to be in demand from domestic violence/sexual assault coalitions across the country. We can send an electronic copy to our programs free of charge or it can be downloaded on our web-site free of charge. The newest online version of Real Tools will be coming out soon! In the meantime, if you are interested in obtaining a hardcopy of the Real Tools Manual, please contact Taelyn Coffee at tcoffee@andvsa.org



Lead On! 2012 will take place in Anchorage on November 10th-12th

Lead On! is a two and a half day conference for youth leaders (age 13-18) and community partners across Alaska. Participants come together to develop leadership skills for promoting peace and equality that can be used in their home communities. The documentary about Lead On! 2011 should be available on our website soon. If you have questions about Lead On! 2012, please contact Claudia Plesa, cplesa@andvsa.org

The FINAL deadline for Lead On! applications is September, 14

You may access the application online at:

www.andvsa.org/prevention-projects/lead-on or at standupspeakupalaska.org

Become a FAN of ANDVSA!

Friend of the Alaska Network (FAN) Membership is for individuals or persons who have vested interest in the activities of ANDVSA, are supportive of the philosophy statement and are supportive of the agency goals and objectives.

Privileges of FAN Members:

- 1) Are eligible to participate in any ANDVSA sponsored event or activity at the discounted or special rate
- 2) Will receive the newsletter(s) and other regular ANDVSA informational mailings or publications
- 3) Will receive notice or any invitations to activities or events sponsored by ANDVSA

Privileges of Affiliate Membership:

- 1) Are eligible to serve as ex officio members of standing and ad hoc committees of ANDVSA
- 2) Will receive notice of and invitations to activities or events sponsored by ANDVSA
- 3) Are eligible to participate in any ANDVSA sponsored event or activity at a discounted or special rate
- 4) Will receive the newsletter(s) and other regular ANDVSA informational mailings or publications
- 5) Can request technical assistance, trainers and speakers at a discounted rate



For more information on how to become a FAN or Affiliate Member of ANDVSA, please visit our website www.andvsa.org or call the Juneau office at (907) 586-3650