

Workers' compensation insurance is optional for program volunteers

By MCADSV Staff

Q. Is our organization required to cover our volunteers with workers' compensation insurance?

A. Missouri's Workers' Compensation Law, section 287.090, RSMo, states that "volunteers of a tax-exempt organization which operates under the standards of Section 501(c) (3) of the federal Internal Revenue Code, where such volunteers are not paid wages, but provide services purely on a charitable and voluntary basis," can

elect to accept or withdraw from providing coverage. The organization is required to declare



the use of, and provide requested information about, their volunteers when completing their annual insurance renewal application. The insurance company is then required to provide the organization with a policy endorsement indicating the acceptance or withdrawal from workers' compensation.

If a program decides to cover its volunteers, the insurance rate will be figured according to the salary rate compensative with the duties performed. Whether a program opts-in or opts-out, it must still keep a timesheet of volunteer hours worked each day and respective activities. If a program chooses to opt-out of workers' compensation insurance, that program should **consult an attorney** regarding any liability assumed by opting out of coverage.

REGISTER ONLINE

Visit www.mocadsv.org/membership to register for statewide and regional trainings. Need your user name and password? Call MCADSV at (888) 666-1911.

alliance opportunities

MCADSV REGIONAL MEETINGS

Location	Date/Time	Regional Rep.
CENTRAL Jefferson City	Feb. 6 11:30 A.M.	Rita Westermann (417) 533-5201
KANSAS CITY Synergy Services	Jan. 25 10:30 A.M.	Beth Savitzky (816) 561-0550
NORTHEAST TBA	Mar. 8 10:30 A.M.	Donna Rodenbaugh (660) 886-9880
NORTHWEST Marshall	Feb. 21 Noon	Debbie Wallace (660) 886-9880
ST. LOUIS St. Louis	Feb. 13 Mar. 13 9:00 A.M.	Melissa Dann (314) 533-1313
SOUTHEAST Cape Girardeau	Feb. 1 11:30 A.M.	Brenda Smelser (636) 931-2700 ext. 196
SOUTHWEST Springfield	Feb. 2 11:00 a.m.	Christna Paul (417) 782-1772

UPCOMING MCADSV TRAININGS

Date/Time/Location	Information
SEXUAL VIOLENCE PERPETRATORS	
STEPHEN THOMPSON, TRAINER	
February 16 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Courtyard Marriott, Columbia	MCADSV (888) 666-1911
FOUNDATIONS FOR EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY	
March 6-7 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Courtyard Marriott, Columbia	MCADSV (888) 666-1911
PROGRAM ACCESS	
March 19 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Courtyard Marriott, Columbia	MCADSV (888) 666-1911
DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION	
April 4 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Courtyard Marriott, Columbia	MCADSV (888) 666-1911
BATTERERS, CUSTODY & VISITATION	
LUNDY BANCROFT, TRAINER	
April 26 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Courtyard Marriott, Columbia	MCADSV (888) 666-1911

the latest

January-February 2007

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

BJS reports decrease in domestic violence since 1993

A Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) report released in late December shows the rate of intimate partner violence has declined in the U.S. since 1993, from 5.8 to 2.5 victimizations per 1,000 U.S. residents 12 and older—a drop of more than 50 percent in the past 12 years. In addition, incidence of intimate

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partner homicides fell by about 30 percent, from 2,269 in 1993 to 1,544 in 2004. These numbers are consistent with an overall drop in violent crime recorded during this time period, according to the BJS.

For advocates, these numbers are encouraging and back the need for continued support for domestic violence services at the federal and state level. During this same time period, domestic violence programs in Missouri have seen a steady increase in services provided, including emergency shelter, hotline calls, professional counseling, support groups and advocacy services. Through expanded outreach and public awareness efforts, advocates are working to reach those in danger and let them know there is help.

But, it is clear to local service providers that domestic violence remains a devastating problem. In Missouri, more than 4,000 victims each year are unable to find emergency shelter for lack of resources. And, with more than 625,000 intimate partner victimizations in the U.S. in 2004 and, on average, more than three women a day murdered by their husbands or boyfriends, there is no question that there is much more to be done to help keep women and their children safe.

To view the BJS study, titled *Intimate Partner Violence in the United States*, visit www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/intimate/ipv.htm.

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project
update

Update on the FVPSA data collection and outcomes project

In January 2007, Missouri domestic violence programs began collecting data from survivors for the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) data collection and outcomes project.

Missouri was selected to pilot Documenting Our Work (DOW), a national project to develop data collection and outcome measures to accurately capture the impact of federal FVPSA funds on survivors' safety and well-being. In Missouri, FVPSA funds are distributed by the Department of Social Services (DSS) as Domestic Violence Victim Assistance (DVVA) grants.

Currently, MCADSV programs are using up to five DOW forms to collect data. In the near future, MCADSV will provide all programs with a Microsoft Access database in which to enter the data collected and will train programs on operating the database. Look for information on regional database training dates in a forthcoming MCADSV mailing. MCADSV will send the database to programs via e-mail prior to the regional database training dates.

MCADSV Salary Study will assess member programs' salary and benefit structures

MCADSV released its long-awaited Salary Study in January. This project will assess salary and benefit structures of member programs and provide information that will assist program administrators and board members in making decisions regarding employee compensation. Through this study, MCADSV will compile salary and benefit information and compare the results both state-wide and regionally. Further, the data will be stored in SPSS software to adapt to individual inquiries, and the Coalition will release a publication detailing the overall results of the study.

Work on the Salary Study began in 2006 when Coalition staff recognized the need to develop a tool to address the range of compensation questions programs ask. Extensive staff and intern time has been dedicated to this project, and staff have worked hard to ensure the it will address the full range of requests received. Last year, four programs pilot-tested one version of the tool. Since that time, two professors from the University of Missouri School of Social Work have also reviewed it.

To access a writable PDF of the survey, visit the MCADSV Web site at www.mocadsv.org/membership and click on "Publications." Hard copies are available upon request. The deadline for submission is February 23, 2007. Contact Marie Montano, Intern, or Jennifer Carter, Program Development Specialist, at (888) 666-1911 with any questions.

Individual membership dues and Annual Conference fees increase for 2007

During the December 2006 MCADSV Board meeting, the Board of Directors passed a resolution to increase annual individual membership dues and MCADSV Annual Conference registration fees for the first time in 10 years. Below is detailed information regarding the 2007 increases.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Student members: \$25.00
Advocate membership: \$35.00
Supportive membership: \$45.00

ANNUAL CONFERENCE FEES

Students' 3-day conference fee: \$100.00
Members' 3-day conference fee: \$250.00
Non-members' 3-day conference fee: \$300.00
One-day fee: \$100.00

Regional Legislative Advocacy Days will be held each week in February

MCADSV will host Regional Legislative Advocacy Days (RLAD) during February. This event provides participants with the opportunity to meet and speak with their state lawmakers regarding specific issues pertaining to their programs and communities as well as to familiarize themselves with legislative advocacy. The seven MCADSV regions are scheduled for the following dates: Kansas City and Northwest—February 6; Central and Northeast—February 13; Southwest and Southeast—February 20; and St. Louis—February 28. Although RLAD is set up to allow members to network with their legislators regionally, those who are unable to attend the day their region is scheduled are welcome to attend any of the other three dates.

To prepare advocates for meeting with legislators, MCADSV will offer training sessions at the MCADSV office preceding the trip to the Capitol. Attendees are encouraged to attend one training session before visiting with legislators, and the trainings will be offered the evening before and the morning of visit dates. Participants must set up their own appointments with legislators.

To register for RLAD, visit www.mocadsv.org/membership. The deadline for registration is January 26.

MCADSV members elect 2007 Board; Board nominates officer candidates

The January Board meeting was postponed due to weather. The nominees for 2007 Board officers are: Chair, Sharon Meusch; Vice Chair, Brenda Smelser; Secretary, Jim Clardy; and Treasurer, Debbie Wallace. The Board will vote on the officers at the next meeting.

New Members

Ebony P. Brabham, St. Louis Circuit Attorney's Office
Kathleen Hanrahan, YWCA St. Louis Regional Sexual Assault Center
Jennifer Hill, Haven House, Poplar Bluff
Bridgette D. Mavec, Newhouse, Kansas City
Palle Rilinger, MOCSA, Kansas City
Jelena Todic, AWARE, St. Louis

Regional Representatives

Central: Rita Westermann, COPE, Lebanon
Kansas City: Beth Savitzky, KCAVP, Kansas City
Northeast: Donna Rodenbaugh, CARDV, Fulton
Northwest: Debbie Wallace, The Lighthouse Shelter, Marshall
St. Louis: Melissa Dann, St. Martha's Hall, St. Louis
Southeast: Brenda Smelser, A Safe Place/COMTREA, Festus
Southwest: Chrishna Paul, Lafayette House, Joplin

MCADSV welcomes MSW intern

Marie Montano, a Master of Social Work student at the University of Missouri-Columbia, began her internship with the Coalition in January. Originally from St. Louis, Marie worked at Legal Services of Eastern Missouri's Lasting Solutions where she assisted with intake and crisis intervention in family law cases involving domestic violence. Last year, she interned with The Shelter in Columbia and continues to volunteer there as a hotline and court advocate. Marie is interested in cultural competency issues and addressing the service needs of immigrants, refugees and individuals with limited-English proficiency.

Continuing Members

Jim Clardy, RACS, Jefferson City
Erin Ercoline, ALIVE, St. Louis
Joyce Karrenbrock, Turning Point, Warrenton
Philip Masaoay, Legal Services of Southern Missouri, Springfield
Sharon Meusch, Russell House, Rolla
Susan Miller, Rosa Brooks Center, Kansas City
Barb Tenholder, A Safe Place, Festus
Becky Vermeire, Women's Crisis Center of Taney County, Branson
Teresa Willis, St. Martha's Hall, St. Louis
Robin Winner, Synergy Services, Kansas City