

Considering program budgets in the current economy

In response to recent concerns about current economic uncertainty, the following are just two ways programs can consider how to approach their budgets. These points are not meant to be all inclusive but are, instead, a means of encouraging members to consider ways to ensure as much stability as possible in uncertain economic times.

Be looking throughout the year for additional MCADSV listserv messages regarding finances and budgets.



1. During this time of financial uncertainty, the more an organization is prepared, the less it will need to be reactionary. One way to do this is to internally prepare an organizational budget for a 10 percent decrease in revenues from the approved budget. Making this budget now will allow time to determine necessary expenditure decreases. This revised budget can then be used if revenues do not meet original expectations and can prevent a reactionary cut to the budget.

2. Organizations should try to avoid funding 100 percent of a staff position with a single funding source. Diversifying funding for staff positions increases security of the position and alleviates stress sometimes associated with non-renewable funding. For example, if a staff person is funded 100 percent by an SSVF grant and that grant is not renewed, that staff person's salary and position are jeopardized. However, if that position is funded 60 percent by an SSVF grant and that grant is not renewed, there are other options for ensuring the staff person's continued employment.

For more information or questions, please contact MCADSV Fiscal Coordinator, Paula Richard at Prichard@mcadsv.org or (573) 634-4161.

mcadsv training

MCADSV will host a series of "MSR Train-the-Trainers," which will be an opportunity for individuals who are responsible for the organization's data collection to gain more information about completing Monthly Services Reports (MSRs). The trainings will be held at the Coalition office in Jefferson City on the following dates: May 25, June 30, July 30 and August 31. More detailed information about the trainings will be sent out in April.

alliance opportunities

MCADSV REGIONAL MEETINGS

Location	Date/Time	Regional Rep.
CENTRAL Waynesville	April 6 11:30 A.M.	Tracie Lawson (573) 875-1369
KANSAS CITY Rose Brooks	March 26 12:30 P.M.	Beth Savitzky (816) 561-0550
NORTHEAST Hannibal	May 13 10:30 A.M.	Judy Edmonson (573) 406-1400
NORTHWEST Lincoln	April 21 Noon	Ann Gosnell-Ellison (660) 259-4766
ST. LOUIS Safe Connections	April 13 9:00 A.M.	Meg Schnabel (314) 588-8300
SOUTHEAST Cape Girardeau	April 1 11:30 A.M.	Allison Leonard (573) 335-7745
SOUTHWEST Joplin	May 7 11:00 A.M.	Amy Lane (417) 782-1772

UPCOMING MCADSV TRAININGS

Date/Time/Location	Information
INTRODUCTION TO ADVOCACY INSTITUTE	
March 23 & 24	MCADSV
9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., day 1	(888) 666-1911
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., day 2	
Courtyard Marriott, Columbia	
MOVING AHEAD: A FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CURRICULUM TRAINING	
April 8	MCADSV
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	(888) 666-1911
Ramada Oasis, Springfield	
POLICY AND PROCEDURE WRITING	
April 15	MCADSV
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	(888) 666-1911
MCADSV Office, Jefferson City	
THE EVOLUTION OF HEALING	
April 28	MCADSV
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	(888) 666-1911
Courtyard Marriott, Columbia	

the latest

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



Advocates heed call to restore domestic violence funding

When state funding for domestic violence services was cut by 50 percent, Coalition members went to Jefferson City to meet with lawmakers in the Capitol each week in February during MCADSV's Regional Legislative Advocacy Days. Their direct activism joined with the calls and e-mails of advocates and supporters throughout the state to achieve the restoration of funding in the House Budget Chairman's appropriations bill for the Department of Social Services in early March.



In response to the proposed reduction of \$2.375 million in state domestic violence funding, advocates spoke up, showed up and stirred up support throughout their communities, and their voices were heard. State domestic violence funding was restored to \$4.75 million on Thursday, March 4, by the House Budget Chairman Alan Icet (R-Wildwood) in his Department of Social Services appropriations bill HB 2011. Chairman Icet's bill will be the basis of House Budget Committee deliberations on the budgets for each state department. Those hearings will begin March 15.

The final state budget must be passed by the Missouri General Assembly on May 7. Until that time there will continue to be severe budget cuts with state funding reduced or eliminated for a vast range of valuable state services and programs. Restoring funding to one program means reducing funding for another—so the protection of state domestic violence funding must remain advocates' public policy focus for the next two months.

As advocates continue to mobilize supporters and communities by sending e-mails, making calls and contacting legislators to protect domestic violence fund-

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MCADSV welcomes new staff

Sharon Giles joins MCADSV as a Program Development Specialist. Sharon, who has worked at member programs and served on the MCADSV Board of Directors, brings a wealth of experience to the Coalition. She has been a DOVE advocate (Domestic Violence Enforcement Unit) with Boone County's coordinated response team and an advocate in shelter and a hospital advocate with The Shelter in Columbia, Mo. She has worked with domestic violence offenders as a facilitator of batterer intervention groups. In her most recent position she served as the coordinator for the University of Missouri Columbia's (UMC) Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention (RSVP) Center, Department of Student Life. While at RSVP, Sharon was instrumental in bringing the Green Dot sexual violence prevention program to UMC. Sharon began work at MCADSV on February 16, 2010. She can be reached at sgiles@mocadsv.org.

Kristen Duda, a student at UMC's Sinclair School of Nursing, is doing her practicum, similar to an internship, at MCADSV this spring. Kristen plans to graduate in May with her Bachelor's degree in nursing and then begin graduate studies, also at UMC, for a Doctorate in Nursing Practice. She has already been working as a student nurse at the Pediatric ICU and as a nursing assistant in the Surgical/Trauma ICU at University Hospital in Columbia. Kristen will be at MCADSV Tuesday mornings.

Mail forwarding system keeps hundreds of victims' addresses confidential

Safe at Home is a mail-forwarding system that provides survivors of sexual assault, rape, stalking and domestic violence a substitute mailing address. This address confidentiality program, administered by the Secretary of State's office, was created in August 2007 to help keep participants' locations confidential. Since it began, the program has served 680 participants.

Program participants have their first-class mail, legal documents and certified mail sent to a Safe at Home program address which helps prevent assailants from being able to locate their victims. It also allows participants to keep their addresses confidential in court records and government documents requiring an addressing.

For more information contact Brenda Sites, Safe at Home Program Manager, Missouri Secretary of State's Office 866-509-1409 (toll free), 573-522-1622 (direct), or brenda.sites@sos.mo.gov. Their Web site is www.MoSafeAtHome.com.

The Latest is going digital. mcadsv going green. In two more issues, The Latest will be sent electronically. The July/August issue of The Latest will be the first electronic copy and the last paper issue. MCADSV members currently receiving Coalition Listserv messages will continue getting this membership publication. Please contact Laura Paulus with any questions at lpaulus@mocadsv.org or (573) 634-4161.

New Jersey Supreme Court ruling validates protection orders as constitutional

In a recent case, captioned Crespo v. Crespo, the New Jersey Supreme Court affirmed an intermediate appellate court's decision that found the protection order process does not deprive respondents of their constitutional rights. This case holds significance for anti-VAWA groups that had hoped it would contribute to their movement. The groups had been asserting that protection orders violate due process and deprive people of the right to a jury trial. This New Jersey Supreme Court ruling affirmed the protection order process as valid.

Domestic violence services census results released

On March 8, the National Network to End Domestic Violence released results of the 2009 Domestic Violence Counts, a 24-hour census of domestic violence services. This year Missouri and 24 other states and territories achieved a 100 percent participation rate. Nationwide, 83 percent of programs participated.

In Missouri, 2,033 victims were served and there were 416 unmet requests for service, half of which were for emergency shelter or transitional housing. There were 515 hotline calls answered, 21 calls every hour, and 1,419 individuals educated in training and prevention sessions.

Nationally 1,648 local domestic violence programs participated. They assisted 65,321 adults and children through shelter, transitional housing and advocacy, answered 23,045 hotline calls, more than 16 calls every minute, and trained 30,735 individuals. More than 17,000 children younger than 18 spent the night of September 15, 2009 in a domestic violence shelter or transitional housing program.

There were 9,280 unmet requests for services due to a lack of resources or staff. Of those unmet requests, 60 percent were for emergency shelter or transitional housing and 40 percent were for non-residential services.

By highlighting the number of survivors served in one day, these results are an important and effective means of safely describing the work programs do every day and are a tool for advocates to use in the effort to protect domestic violence funding in the 2010 legislative session.

Advocates heed call

ing, they are also expanding the advocacy to state Senators. Activism ideas from around the state are keeping a strong and constant message in the news and motivating the community. Advocates' creative approaches, such as personalizing messages on the backs of copies of enlarged dollar bills, have given voice to the needs of survivors of domestic and sexual violence throughout the state. By writing letters to the editors of local newspapers and engaging the online community via Facebook and Twitter, advocates have been gaining support and widening their circles of influence. By hosting representatives and inviting legislators and leaders for tours of their programs, advocates have been telling the stories of the women who seek services and the women they are forced to turn away.

Opportunities to contact and visit legislators are not limited to a single week or month. Therefore, MCADSV is available in an ongoing capacity to assist and support advocates as they connect with their legislators. Advocates' unified message is making a significant difference in this time of financial uncertainty. In the midst of the most severe fiscal crisis the state has faced in decades, this achievement of having the state domestic violence funding restored is a definitive testament to the power of activism and advocacy.

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Pictured above: MCADSV member and Board member Sharon Meusch meets with Senator Frank Barnitz (D-16) in mid February and explains how the budget cuts would affect her community.