

# National Bulletin on Domestic Violence Prevention

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## OVW's First Faith-Based Initiative: Promises and Pitfalls

In November 2008, the five principle researchers responsible for this evaluation assembled in Atlanta for a final meeting to discuss what conclusions could be drawn after several years of detailed study of the Office on Violence Against Women's (OVW) Rural Pilot Program. While we collectively understood that researchers are supposed to approach evaluations unbiased and without preconceptions, being human, we confessed to each other the expectations we brought with us when we were first funded by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) to evaluate this, OVW's first faith-based initiative.

While one of us who had extensive experience administering a faith-based health initiative in South Carolina thought the proposed program was "interesting and novel," others were less sanguine. One thought it was "problematic," although probably not a "tremendously bad idea." Another concluded OVW's proposal lacked "clear direction," with a fourth adding that he thought it would most likely "collapse under its own weight." The most experienced and knowledgeable domestic violence member of the team was, frankly, the most alarmed, admitting to being "terrified," particularly concerned that collaboration with existing domestic violence programs was not emphasized by OVW. She noted the fear expressed from the field was that OVW's goal was to "supplant and

replace" local secular domestic violence service providers with faith-based providers.

Fears from the field were perhaps heightened because the individual initially charged with heading the program had been hired by OVW only two weeks before the program was launched. Her immediate past position had been as an employee of the Republican National Committee, not the DV field. We all were concerned with a potential "clash of cultures," as one researcher phrased it, between secular and faith-based domestic violence programs and wondered how this would play out.

Some of our worst fears seemed to be born out shortly after the initiative got off the ground. Funding for two programs submitted by one of the first faith-based subgrantees, approved by OVW, came under fire after it was learned that the minister heading the two faith-based programs was on parole for torturing a former girlfriend. Although the minister had received prior Federal funding since his release from prison from another Federal faith-based prison ministry initiative, domestic violence program advocates were not convinced that a religious "transformation" qualified him to counsel domestic violence victims. OVW subsequently rescinded funding for the programs.

However, despite its rocky start, by the time of our Atlanta meeting, we were able to admit that most of

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## Editor's Letters, News and Notes

### *Letter to the editor*

I happened to notice your article written in October 2008 on the church and abuse and I wanted to respond to this. Klein states that theologian Mr. Bruce Ware, a professor of Christian Theology at the Southern Baptist Seminary, believes that because wives refuse to submit to their husbands, husbands respond sinfully by beating them. I understand highlighting an opinion such as Mr. Ware's may have a degree of utility; however, my concern is that consistently highlighting such marginal thinking, that a generalization is communicated regarding the church, theologians and their associated attitudes of submission. Quite the opposite could be said for a majority of those involved in the teachings of the church and seminary where an attempt to support and aid domestic violence victims in their search for safety and health in relationships is a priority....By highlighting such an outlying opinion, regardless of a sarcastic tone, do we run the risk of driving those further away from the very services and perpetuating generalizations that just don't stand up?

Charlene Woods  
 Crisis Center North Data Specialist  
 Sewickley, PA

**Editor's Response:** Ms. Woods is also a Youth Leader and a Sunday School Teacher at the Triumph Baptist Community Church

### *Call for Entries*

#### *Speak Out Against DV Short Film Competition*

The Avon Foundation for Women and Avon Products, Inc. has focused on ending DV since 2004, with programs now in over 50 countries. As part of Avon's global Speak Out Against DV program, Avon Mexico together with Expresion en Corto created a unique global short DV film contest in 2007. In 2008 entries were received from more than 23 countries. The call for 2009 entries from filmmakers around the world is now on through October 1. For more details, visit [www.expresionencorto.com](http://www.expresionencorto.com).

## From the Desk of Andy Klein

### Different Categories of Intimate Partner Violence Rely on Different Measures

Dear Reader:

Not all abuse between intimate partners is against the law and not all fits the power and control model long used to describe intimate partner violence. Not all of the abuse is committed by males against current or former female partners. Over time, researchers and others have attempted to identify different categories of intimate partner violence.

Some differentiate between two major categories, "characterological" and "situational." The former is closer to the power and control model of intimate partner violence, mostly male-on-female abuse. The latter is not. Female and male violence is more symmetrical, arising out of habitual patterns of conflict that the couple can't escape. The latter couples often care about each other and are committed to the relationship. And, some argue, with couple counseling they can stop their abuse of each other.

Others add two more categories of intimate partner violence. In addition to what they term "Coercive Controlling Violence," and "Situational Couple Violence," they add "Violent Resistance" and "Separation-Instigated Violence." The former is the victim's response to coercive controlling violence visited against her. Their resistance does not always target their abuser. Many attempt or succeed at suicide. The latter is violence that only occurs at times of separation and is not intended to control or terrorize a partner.

Still others agree with the above, but change the name of "Coercive Controlling Violence" to "Abusive-Controlling Violence." They change the name "Separation-Instigated Violence" to "Conflict-Instigated Violence."

Depending upon how intimate partner violence is measured, there are widely different estimates of the prevalence of each kind of abuse. Most cases that eventually reach police and court houses result from "Coercive (or Abusive) Controlling Violence" because the abuse, both physical and psychological, is serious and sustained. While the abuse may be equally severe in cases of "Separation-Instigated (or Conflict-Instigated) Violence," it is more limited in time. Often perpetrators regret their actions afterwards and even obey protective orders lodged against them. On the other hand, surveys of the general population are much more apt to find "Situation Couple Violence." This violence does not generally send victims to emergency rooms and is readily reported by both male and female respondents in surveys. Because the level of violence does not rise to the level that would typically result in a criminal charge (I read one study where teen girls were equated with violent male batterers for pinching their boyfriends!), neither victim nor perpetrator is liable to feel shame or vulnerability in reporting their abuse to surveyors.

When the fathers' rights groups assert that women are as violent as men, they selectively rely on these surveys that most likely reveal low level "Situational Couple or Conflict-Instigated Violence." When battered women advocates assert that men are the abusers and their abuse escalates over time to control their female victims, they selectively rely on studies based on police reports, court protective orders or emergency room studies.

Serious problems arise when the criminal justice system and the courts confuse minor "Situational Couple Violence" or "Violent Resistance" with more serious "Coercive (or Abusive) Controlling Violence." As a result, they are lenient when they should be stern and send everyone off to one-size-fits-all batterer intervention programs that seek to "educate" hard core controlling abusers or their victims who retaliate to go gently into the night.

Peace,



Andy is the Senior Research Analyst at Advocates for Human Potential, Inc. and former Chief Probation Officer of the Quincy Court. You can reach Andy at [west.quinlan@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:west.quinlan@thomsonreuters.com).

## DV in the News

### Nevada Passes Strangulation Law

Nevada recently became the seventh state to enact legislation making domestic strangulation a felony.

Source: *CourtWatch Connection* (Minneapolis, MN)

### Colorado passed marriage/divorce tax for DV support

The cost of getting a marriage license has tripled in Colorado, from \$10 to \$30. The cost of divorce also increased by a \$10 fee. The additional monies will go to the Colorado Domestic Abuse Program. The fees are expected to raise a million a year

Source: Equal Justice Foundation (Colorado Springs, Co.)

### Illinois abuser GPS law off to slow start

Illinois' Cindy Bischof Law is named after a woman who was gunned down in March by a former boyfriend even though he was under an order of protection. It allows judges to order dangerous abusers to wear a global positioning systems as a condition of bail for people charged with violating protection orders. But few counties are implementing the law because of the cost of the equipment.

Source: *Chicago Tribune*

### Dad ordered to pay child support kills son

Danny Platt confessed murdering his son as he had threatened to do because he was ordered to pay child support. "He had said he would kill either his wife or his child before he paid child support," according to the Louisiana Sheriff. Although he had visitation, this was the only time he had visited the boy.

Source: *Associated Press*

### Prosecutor punished for denying her abuse

A county prosecutor lied in court to protect her boyfriend who beat her. The state Supreme Court ruled that the lie will cost her license to practice law for six months. The decision upset advocates, worried it might discourage

victims of abuse from coming forward to seek help. She should not have been forced to testify at her boyfriend's trial, Jane Doe Inc., the state DV coalition, and others argued in their legal brief to the court. At the prosecutor's hearing before the Board of Bar Overseers that reviews complaints against lawyers, her employer, the District Attorney testified on her behalf. But the High Court held that lying in court by prosecutors, even when appearing as victims, could not be tolerated.

Source: *Boston Globe*

### Arkansas bill to increase penalty for violation orders

A bill making its way thru the Arkansas legislature would make repeat violation of protective orders a felony. Prosecutors and police support the bill, saying that they have had difficulty stopping some obsessed violators, usually men, from stalking and intimidating women. However the a Criminal Defense Lawyers spokesperson said the bill would criminalize "even innocent contact like emails, text messages or cards." Also passing committee were bills to create stricter penalties for those who commit domestic battery against someone under age 12 or over age 60 and one that would create a separate criminal offense for smothering or strangulation.

Source: *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* (Little Rock, Arkansas)

### TV executive accused of murdering wife

The founder of an Islamic television station in upstate New York aimed at countering Muslim stereotypes has confessed to beheading his wife. Muzzamil Hassan has been charged with murder in the death of his wife. His wife had filed for divorce earlier in the month and police had responded to several domestic violence calls at the couple's home.

Source: *CNN*

### Judges' respond to court watchers

When court watchers report a judge has returned to what used to be the norm, blaming victims for being abused, the Chief Judge listens. The offending judge is sentenced to DV training. DeKalb, Illinois court watchers report that watched judges are more patient and compassionate. The Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network wants to start court watch in Cook

our preconceptions were wrong. Despite a collective judgment that the structure and implementation of the initiative could have been stronger, particularly the relationship between OVW and the three intermediary agencies it selected to administer the program, overall we concluded major potential pitfalls had been avoided. Thousands of vulnerable victims received constructive (and perhaps even life-saving) assistance and support in some of the remotest rural jurisdictions that would not have been reached by programs, secular or faith-based, but for this initiative. While clouded by implementation challenges, as one researcher summed up, we saw "a glimmer of what could be," and it was good.

In regard to whether or not the "faith-based" part of the initiative added value, we could not answer definitively one way or the other. Partly, I am sure, this is because researchers typically pull their punches, but also because it turns out, there is no agreement what "faith-based" means. Until the definition of "faith-based" moves from the political realm to an empirical one, any evaluation of such initiatives would continue to be, as is ours, far from exact.

Based on our survey of the 54 rural domestic violence programs funded, only a third were self-described as faith-based. Most had little faith-infused content in regard to the services they delivered. In other words, the content of services actually delivered was no different than those offered by secular programs. In the few programs that offered specific faith related activities, participants could opt out. For example, in one program that incorporated prayer and scripture as part of the counseling/support sessions for victims, victims were first asked if they minded. According to the director, over several years, only one victim asked the religious content be removed in her sessions.

The faith-based agencies that were funded were confined mostly to mainstream religious collabora-

tives, such as ministerial alliances or councils of mainstream churches. Local fundamentalist churches, common across rural America, either did not apply for funding or were denied funding. The latter included several that sought through this initiative to continue prior federal faith-based funded programs for marriage promotion and fatherhood programs that ignored DV entirely. Although Mormon Churches are prevalent in many rural communities out West, none applied for funding.

We could not tell whether faith-based programs were more able to reach victims in their community than community-based programs because in most cases, the OVW funded programs in this initiative, whether faith or community-based, were the only programs in the county or that region of the state. One faith-based program that ran the only shelter for battered women and used its OVW funding to hire its first paid staff declared the faith content of the shelter helped attract battered women because of the deep roots of faith in the community. The director noted that "they still say a prayer before football games" in her community. Before receiving the OVW Rural Pilot Program funding, her state had rejected her program for funding, advising her to remove the cross from the shelter's logo. Before the OVW one year grant ran out, her shelter received its first state grant.

The three intermediary agencies that administered the Rural Pilot Program for OVW were mixed in their verdicts on the role of faith-based agencies. One concluded the OVW initiative "is the perfect kind of faith-based project...(matters of faith proved to be) important to battered women." In contrast, another stated that "the faith-based idea doesn't work. There are not enough victims that turn to (faith-based organizations) to make it worth...the effort and money." She added that working with faith-based

*continued on page 6*

## DV and the Law by Barbara Hart

### Reasonable Efforts – Recurring Breaches

The law is supposed to protect children and families from the abuse, neglect and destruction by child welfare agencies. You did not misunderstand that sentence. Certainly, child welfare agencies and courts are obligated to protect abused and neglected children from the parents or caregivers who maltreat them. But this column is not about abusing parents. It is about agencies and courts that do not meet their obligations under law to safeguard and promote the well-being of children who are abused or neglected.

Child welfare agencies are required to make “reasonable efforts” to prevent removal of an abused or neglected child from parents who have endangered the child’s welfare, to return or reunify a removed child with parents or family when reunification appears safe, and to create a permanency plan for the child where safe reunification is not possible.

Judges are required to make findings of fact regarding abuse or neglect, removal, return, termination of parental rights and whether child welfare agencies have undertaken “reasonable efforts” in promoting the well-being and protection of children. “Reasonable efforts” are not enumerated in federal law, and few state statutes provide yardsticks to guide judicial determinations. *Due process* and *fundamental fairness* are the threshold measures of “reasonable efforts.” Agency action also should, at a minimum, be appropriate, timely, and tied to the problems presented when the abuse or neglect was reported to the agency.

Courts often ignore the safety and well-being of abused parents in their assessments of the “reasonableness of efforts” of agencies related to service plans, placement, return or termination. Courts seldom fault agencies for devising complicated service plans for non-abusing, battered mothers, while failing to broker resources necessary for plan compliance and/or for protection of abused children or adults. Furthermore, courts frequently fail to insist that agencies engage in aggressive intervention with child abusers who are domestic or sexual violence perpetrators.

Agency efforts targeted toward non-abusing parents could include: assistance with civil protective orders; risk assessment, safety planning and threat management education; shelter, transitional and permanent housing assistance; employment preparation and retention services; transportation; financial literacy training; childcare; interpreter and LEP services; community and affinity supports; health, mental health and drug rehabilitation services; counseling; child therapy, etc. If a child is placed, agency endeavors should secure children’s attachment to and communication (both in-person and electronic) with non-abusing, battered parents.

Agency efforts targeted toward a child abusing parent might include the all of the above if the parent is battered by a partner, and many of the above if the abusing parent is also battering a partner or the other parent. Additional interventions should be required of these parents – e.g., education as to the impact of child maltreatment over the life course; parenting education; responsible fatherhood engagement; violence cessation; batterer intervention services; restitution coaching; routine monitoring of service plan compliance and non-violence; and community service tailored to supplement rehabilitation initiatives.

If a court determines that an agency has not made “reasonable efforts,” the agency forfeits the Title IV-E matching funds it receives from the federal government for services delivered by the child welfare agency. Courts have been reluctant to make negative findings related to the “reasonableness” of agency efforts.

If courts are ineffective champions of the welfare of children or ineffective overseers of the integrity of the child welfare system, what might advocates for children and battered parents do? Consider the work of WATCH in Minnesota that is now engaged in a second courtwatch of CHIPS courts. Note the results and recommendations of their 2001 study at [www.watch@watchmn.org](http://www.watch@watchmn.org). Also, check out the initiatives/products of NCJFCJ, [www.ncjfcj.org](http://www.ncjfcj.org), Family Violence Department, and the FUND, [www.endabuse.org](http://www.endabuse.org)

County’s domestic violence court in Chicago. The DeKalb effort is run by the National Council of Jewish Women, which also runs a 56-volunteer court-watch program in Skokie, but has failed to launch an effort in Chicago. Many Chicago judges have not been enthusiastic, forbidding watchers to take notes in court. The Chief Judge, however, says he would welcome the extra eyes. Watchers in DeKalb got judges to make no contact a standard part of protection orders, before judges only ordered in a quarter of the cases. In DeKalb, victims feel comforted by the watchers, sometimes asking for them to attend their hearings. Most of DeKalb 20 watchers are retirees.

Source: *Chicago Tribune*

### DV flourishes in Florida, Court responses don’t

Domestic-violence homicides doubled from five to 10 in Orlando from 2007 to 2008. And 2009 began with two more dead in a hotel. One of the shooting victims had called her employer and said she would not be coming to work because her boyfriend was holding her against her will. To save money, the transit system eliminated the bus stop nearest the local shelter in 2007, making the closest one five miles away. Nevertheless, the local shelter, Harbor House, houses between 90 and 100 people with only two staff in the evenings. Despite the DV crisis, area judges granted less than a quarter of injunctions requested in Orange County in 2007. Even when abusers are conviction, half of the cases were diverted so the abusers would not have guilty findings, allowing them to be perpetual first offenders the next time, too. Officials say Orlando is not atypical across Florida.

Source: *Orlando Sentinel*

### Mother killed trying to stop abuser Texas courts released

According to police, Elaine Walker died trying to protect her daughter after the daughter’s boyfriend, Roydrick Jiles, burst into the daughter’s house and kidnapped her and their 17 month old daughter. The daughter was later able to escape with the child. The daughter had refused to speak to Jiles after he beat her. Her mother had then moved in with her. Jiles later shot himself at his mother’s house but survived. Jiles had been sentenced in 2001 to two years in prison for a 1999 aggravated assault after his deferred adjudication was revoked. He also pleaded guilty in 2001 to

misdemeanor assault. Yet when he was charged with beating his girlfriend, he was released, allowing for the kidnapping and murder to take place.

Source: *Houston Chronicle*

### Post endorses Maryland DV gun bans

Gail Pumphrey dreaded meeting her ex-husband to transfer custody of their children for visitation. He continued his abuse until on Thanksgiving Day two years ago, he fatally shot her and their three children before killing himself. He used the same rifle, she had asked a court to confiscate in a hearing several weeks earlier. The Maryland General Assembly is again considering two bills that would make it harder for those accused of domestic violence to keep their guns. One would all judges to confiscate firearms when temporary protective orders have been issued. The other would require judges to seize firearms once final protective orders are issued as required in North Carolina, California, and elsewhere. The bills have died in the legislature before. The House Judiciary Committee is chaired by a criminal defense lawyer who told *The Post* that he was concerned that law enforcement officers accused of domestic abuse would not be able to carry their guns for work. For its part, a *Post* editorial found the legislator's reasoning unconvincing. In Maryland, guns accounted for more than half of domestic-violence-related deaths from June 2007 to July 2008. Advocates believe the legislation has a chance this year because of the Governor's support. Lt. Gov. Anthony G. Brown (D), whose cousin Catherine Brown was shot to death by an estranged boyfriend, spoke passionately before the legislature this year about the need for tougher domestic violence laws.

Source: *Washington Post*

### Defense argues DV claim incites court

New York State Senator Hiram Monserrate, accused of injuring his companion, causing her 20 stitches, argued that the prosecutor should be replaced because he transformed an minor fight and accidental injury into a violent attack in order to "incite the court." The victim rose to support the Senator, but the judge ruled that the hearing was to continue the protection order, not try the case. The couple contends that Mr. Monserrate tripped in his bedroom while bringing her a glass of water and accidentally cut her with the broken glass. At the hospital, she told police

agencies to do DV programming is "trying to reinvent the wheel through churches."

In terms of programming, the faith-based programs were more likely to commit resources to training and educating clergy about DV. Presumably they had credibility, being faith-based themselves. Based on reports from the field, such campaigns may be particularly important. One of the intermediaries reported one of its rural churches "publically spanks women when women sin." (Whether men sin or not, they are not also spanked.)

In other feedback, we found the faith-based agencies typically worked closely and well with existing community-based DV programs across their state. And vice versa, the community-based programs reached out to faith-based institutions in their communities. In one frontier state (less than 6 people per square mile), the community-based DV program told us that it specifically applied for the OVW funding to prevent a faith-based agency from getting it that it didn't trust. Afterwards, having used some of its funding to reach out to the faith community, a clergyman from that agency now sits on the board of the community-based program and helps educate clergy in other churches on DV.

Finally, we compared the Rural Pilot Program initiative with OVW's regular Congressionally mandated rural domestic violence initiative. In regard to the faith and community-based programs funded, the two initiatives did not differ substantially although the former did fund a greater proportion of self-designated faith-based agencies. The impact of the latter initiative was much greater as it was not restricted to one time only, one year grants limited to a maximum of \$100,000, as was the Rural Pilot Program.

In addition to the role of faith-based agencies, we looked at the role of the three intermediary agencies utilized by OVW to administer the initiative. Use of intermediaries

is an innovation promoted by almost all of the faith-based federal initiatives. It was difficult to compare the three intermediary agencies utilized by OVW as they had very different assignments. One, Advocates Against Family Violence, was assigned to recruit, screen and then offer TA to local grantees across southwestern Idaho only. The Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence was assigned that whole state and FACTS, a program created out of Baylor University for this initiative, was assigned the rest of rural America, including rural areas of urban states.

Notwithstanding the adoption of intermediary agencies to administer the initiative, OVW appeared to have some power and control issues, retaining veto power over the selection of local programs funded. As a result, instead of enhancing grassroots efficiency, OVW basically duplicated the work of the intermediary agencies, delaying start up of the local projects so that some were unable to spend all of the monies eventually granted to them before the grant period ran out.

As we concluded in our report, the Rural Pilot Program experienced many of the challenges facing any new program. However, the intermediaries each performed heroically to recruit and help programs funded through them. The Wyoming Coalition actually took out a bank loan to keep its local grantees funded because OVW only provided it reimbursement funding at the end of the grant period. OVW provided saner funding streams to the other two intermediaries.

Despite OVW/intermediary problems, the overall initiative was successful in building the capacity of organizations to provide DV services, including creating capacity in some faith-based and community agencies which were previously uninvolved. Although the full potential of the initiative was unrealized, the lessons learned provide valuable guidance for future efforts for reach victims of DV in rural areas, espe-

cially if the current Administration desires to continue faith and community-based funding initiatives.

The OVW evaluation was completed by Advocates for Human Potential, Inc., with Mitchell Brown, Rob Fischer, Andrew Klein, Mark Small, Debby Tucker & Christina Walsh. The full report is posted under “publications” on the AHP website, [www.ahpnet.com/Publications.html](http://www.ahpnet.com/Publications.html).

## Two state DV Coalition Director Plucked for White House Role

Vice President Biden, the author of the landmark Violence Against Women Act, appointed NM DV coalition head Lynn Rosenthal as the new White House Advisor on Violence Against Women, a newly created position at the White House, dedicated specifically to advising the President and Vice President on domestic violence and sexual assault issues.

According to the Vice President, Ms. Rosenthal’s areas of domestic violence expertise include housing, state and local coordinated community response, federal policy on violence against women, and survivor-centered advocacy. Before coming to NM, from 2000-2006, she served as the Executive Director of the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV). She played a major advocacy role in the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act in 2000 and 2005. She also worked closely with corporate partners to bring millions of dollars to local communities to respond to domestic violence, partnering with The Allstate Foundation to develop a highly successful national initiative to promote economic empowerment for survivors of violence. Prior to her service at NNEDV, Rosenthal was director of the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence where she developed innovative service

models for rural and legal services. On her return to Florida in 2006, Rosenthal developed the state’s first comprehensive plan to help survivors of violence find housing.

In this new position, Ms. Rosenthal will also serve as a liaison to the domestic violence and sexual assault advocacy community; coordinate with the Department of Justice’s Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) on implementation of Violence Against Women Act programs; coordinate with the Department of Health and Human Services on implementation of Family Violence Prevention Act services (including the National Domestic Violence Hotline); coordinate with the State Department and USAID on global domestic violence initiatives; and drive the development new initiatives and policy aimed at combating domestic violence and sexual assault with advocacy groups and members of Congress.

Ms. Rosenthal was the first recipient of the Sheila Wellstone Institute National Advocacy Award in 2006.

As of her appointment, the White House had not appointed a Director for the Office on Violence Against Women in the Justice Department.

## DV Funding and Resources

*By Ryan Wood*

The Verizon Foundation has long supported the prevention of domestic violence, and beginning Jan. 1 of each year, it accepts applications for its grants program. Proposals may be submitted up to Oct. 31, of the current year. For its domestic violence grants program, the Verizon Foundation provides funding to eligible tax-exempt organizations (in particular 501(c)(3) subsections). It offers up to \$10,000 in funding. If your organization is seeking more than that, it is required to include a breakdown of the program and project. For requests of less than \$10,000, you must provide a summary or your program

or project and explain what you will do with the grant money. The Verizon Foundation notes that the result is either a direct gain in one of its focus areas. For example, a given number of individuals at risk that confirm they are able to use new choices, or a change in condition or behavior that is a good predictor of that success in the long run. It also notes that, “In a shelter program, you might not be able to state safer living situations for survivors of abuse, but you can focus on demonstrated capacities that in turn predict those gains of safety longer term.” For more information on the domestic violence prevention grants program that the Verizon Foundation offers, visit [http://foundation.verizon.com/grant/example\\_dom.shtml](http://foundation.verizon.com/grant/example_dom.shtml). The application form is also provided on this Web page.

### FYI ...

In what is widely referred to as The Greenbook, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges’ publication, “Effective Interventions in Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment Cases: Guidelines for Policy and Practice,” provides valuable insight into domestic violence programs, and more importantly, ways to find grants and funding for various prevention and intervention programs. The Greenbook Initiative’s “Funding the Work: Community Efforts to End Domestic Violence and Child Abuse,” is a paper from The Greenbook that outlines those funding programs. The paper, which may be found by visiting <http://www.thegreenbook.info/documents/fundingstreams.pdf>, outlines federal funding resources. It directs readers to seek funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and/or the Department of Justice’s Office for Victims of Crime, and it gives advice on how to find grants at the state and local levels and from private foundations and corporations. Under each category, the paper details specific grants, providing a wealth of information.

## State DV Coalition Spotlight

### Better service to native communities: NM coalition's challenge

By Susan R. Paisner

Advocates face a particularly daunting challenge in responding to domestic violence against Native women. The U.S. Department of Justice estimates that 1 of 3 Native women will be raped and 6 of 10 will be physically assaulted. Native women are stalked at a rate at least twice that of any other population.

Complicating matters, many Native women may not be covered by state laws.

Take New Mexico.

The domestic violence situation in New Mexico involves some small but very serious numbers, to wit:

There are 19 different pueblos [small native communities] with governors in New Mexico, each sovereign nation with a different set of laws. Some have adopted part of state law, so if, for instance, they do not have a domestic violence code, they can use state law or federal law. Others have their own unique codes.

There are 14 Native domestic violence coalitions.

There is one New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

The challenge for all the coalitions?

"Our agenda," said Lynn Rosenthal, the Coalition's Executive Director, "is working together on training for advocates and capacity building for the local domestic violence programs to better serve Native communities." One way they accomplish this, she said, is to ask the Native coalition to be present and give feedback and input from their perspective. She added: "We're going to be embarking on doing joint training for advocates next year."

One of the most important issues, she said, is the lack of understanding that these are sovereign nations, which operate very different from state law and legal remedies. "So even if a survivor stays in a shelter, she's very rooted in her own traditions and the way her tribe sees and understands domestic violence," she said.

That's why it's critical for non-Native advocates to understand that. "This is beyond the idea of cultural awareness to respect where someone comes from and what that means to them – to a very deep level of respect," she said.

The advocates' reaction to the training has been very positive, but Rosenthal stressed that it's an ongoing process. "It's important for us to be able to be open to ongoing learning, and to be able to understand when we're off base about something."

The training includes a section on Native history, including colonization, because "we want people to understand that you're not starting where we are today – you're starting with this history. Most native experts believe that the violence wasn't a part of their culture, their tradition – it was imposed on them – and now those cultures are trying to tell them how to fix it. It's very complex," she said.

Things may get a little more complex too for the NM Coalition. It could be called both good news ... and "bad." Good for the country, bad for the NM Coalition. Because, at the end of June, Vice President Joe Biden, the author of the landmark Violence Against Women Act, announced the appointment of Lynn Rosenthal as the new White House Advisor on Violence Against Women. This is a newly created position at the White House, dedicated specifically to advising the President and Vice President on domestic violence and sexual assault issues.

"It's an honor to announce the first ever White House Advisor on Violence Against Women, Lynn

Rosenthal," said Biden. "Lynn is passionate about these issues and knows them backwards and forwards. And as a former director of a shelter, she's also seen the human face of this tragic problem. She will be a leader in this White House in stopping the violence and sexual assault of women and will be an integral part of this Administration."

Ms. Rosenthal's areas of domestic violence expertise include housing, state and local coordinated community response, federal policy on violence against women, and survivor-centered advocacy. She most recently served as the Executive Director of the New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence. From 2000-2006, she was the Executive Director of the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV). Before that, she directed the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

From her recent work in New Mexico, she should be in a great position particularly to implement Title IX of VAWA, the Safety for Indian Women Act enacted several years ago, which strengthens governmental responses to violence perpetrated against Native women. It authorizes a national tribal sex offender and protection order registry to enhance the ability of tribal governments and tribal law enforcement agencies to deal with violence against Indian women on tribal lands. It also contains provisions requiring that the Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services consult on a government-to-government basis with Indian Tribes on the administration of VAWA programs and the safety of American Indian and Alaska Native women. What she did on a state level must now be done across the nation.

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