“While many of the legal needs of rural residents track those of their urban counterparts, rural living does increase the likelihood of certain types of legal challenges...If a lack of rural lawyers results in a disproportionate percentage of rural legal issues going unaddressed, then these already-disproportionate rural social problems will be compounded...In other words, a lack of access to justice can evolve into a greater and entrenched lack of agency in one’s life, effectively snowballing to become a much greater handicap than the original unaddressed legal issue(s).”

- Legal Deserts: A Multi-state Perspective on Rural Access to Justice -

Focus Areas
Wisconsin-specific information: p. 77-89
Proposed Policies & Strategies: p.129-153

Learn More!

STATEWIDE TRAINING EVENTS

Sexual Assault Initial Response Best Practices
April 1 - 2 | New Richmond, WI
April 29 - 30 | La Crosse, WI

The WI Department of Justice is proud to offer the training, Trauma-Informed Law Enforcement Response to Sexual Assault. This training will combine lecture, group activity, and discussion to enhance the learning experience and provide opportunities to put new information into practice.

On day one, participants will examine the biological backdrop from which trauma reactions
emerge to provide a more complete understanding of how various stakeholders should respond to victims and how to initiate these investigations. Offender dynamics will be explored and initial-responder action steps will be identified, complimented by survivor testimonials.

Day two will focus on the nuts and bolts of the initial-responder responsibilities, using trauma-informed techniques. Trauma-informed interviews, initial-responder report-writing, evidence identification and preservation, and effective testifying tips and demonstrations will be included, using case studies to engage participants more fully.

Register for New Richmond!

Register for La Crosse!

Conducting Trauma-informed Sexual Assault Investigations

April 15 - 17

Madison, WI

Day one (open to all multidisciplinary team members) will examine the biological backdrop from which trauma reactions emerge, providing investigators, prosecutors, advocates and other stakeholders with a more complete understanding of how to respond to victims, and how to investigate these cases more fully.

Days two and three (law enforcement only) will explore the research supporting the use of trauma-informed interview techniques as the best means for obtaining the most accurate information from victim survivors about the sexual assault. The trauma impact will be connected to the interview, providing explanation for what we know about the impact of trauma on the brain with demonstration of how “old” interview and interrogation methods are ineffective.

During this training, hosted by the WI Department of Justice, information will also be provided on how, due to these ineffective methods, we have inadvertently set victims up to fail, set up well-intentioned investigations to fail and set up prosecutions to fail. Finally, participants will be provided with information on forensic experiential trauma interview techniques, offender accountability, and identifying corroborating evidence.

Register Now!

SAVE THE DATE!

Foundations to Gender-based Violence: What Advocates Need to Know

May 30-31

Madison, WI

Join the Black & Brown Womyn Power Coalition, Inc. for this two-day interactive, skill-building training which will provide an introduction into intimate partner violence advocacy work with emphasis in the Hmong community. This introductory training will present domestic violence from a gender-based analysis with patriarchy and power at the root
causes, share lessons learned, and examine critical issues impacting the Hmong community. Through a series of intimate small group discussions, larger group processing, and engaging in thought-provoking activities, participants will be grounded in understanding how culture, and our experiences impact how we advocate for change on behalf of our community.

This training will beneficial for legal advocates, domestic violence and sexual assault advocates and bilingual advocates in domestic violence and sexual assault programs and agencies, district attorneys and prosecutors, and managers and directors of programs serving Hmong clients.

Please note there is a cost to attend this training.

Register Now!

National Institute for SART Team Leaders

June 11-13
Minneapolis, MN

The Institute is a 2½ day program designed for coordinators, team leaders, and state and territorial level leaders who coordinate or support local teams responding to sexual violence. The Institute’s primary goal is to build the capacity of team leaders to design and facilitate effective team processes. The Institute will help you lead multidisciplinary teams as they design, implement, and evaluate their community’s response to sexual violence.

In order to create a dynamic and meaningful environment, the National Institute is limited to 100 total participants and registration is limited to two people per team. The National Institute will most benefit team coordinators, team leadership, and state/territorial level positions that coordinate or support local teams responding to sexual violence. We strongly encourage the attendance of 2 team members per team. First priority is given to OVW funded Rural Grantees. OVW grantees are pre-approved to use OVW training dollars to attend the National Institute. We strongly encourage all interested grantees to connect with your OVW grant specialist prior to arranging travel for this event.

Please note there is a cost to attend this training.

Learn More!

Wisconsin Serving Victims of Crime Conference

August 21-23
Wisconsin Dells, WI

This conference, hosted by the National Criminal Justice Training Center at Fox Valley Technical College, brings multidisciplinary team members from around the state together to learn about best practice strategies on how to best serve and support victims of crime.

Register to Receive Updates!

WEBINARS
Beyond the Wheel: Domestic Violence in LGBTQ Communities

April 2
2:00pm - 3:30pm CST

This webinar, hosted by the National LGBTQ Institute on IPV, will center on the importance of building awareness of the context of LGBTQ people's lives as a key component in supporting creative, effective advocacy with LGBTQ survivors. Through story sharing and examples, we will expand our understanding of the strengths, vulnerabilities and barriers LGBTQ survivors face in navigating systems and communities, as well as addressing the unique considerations for safety planning and advocacy rooted in the lived experiences of LGBTQ survivors.

Register!

Domestic Violence-related Mass and Spree Killings

April 2
2:00pm - 3:30pm CST

During this webinar, hosted by the National Domestic Violence Fatality Review Initiative, Dr. Websdale will define mass and spree killing and explain the differences between familicidal, felonious, and non-felony related forms of these offenses. The Webinar will concentrate on two forms of "public" mass and spree killings. The first form consists of those cases where the complex dynamics of domestic violence are of central significance and appear to be the principal precipitant of the killings. These cases involve offenders killing former or current spouses/partners and/or those such as family law attorneys, allied professionals, and/or friends who may have supported the spouse or partner. The second form involves those public mass killings, usually shootings, where domestic violence forms but one aspect of the case but may nevertheless be central to developing an understanding of the killings. Dr. Websdale will use case illustrations to flesh out themes across case types, examining, for example, the gendering of these offenses, the signaling of offenses, histories of intimate terrorism, planning and preparation, the possible role of mental illness, the social isolation of offenders, fascination and proficiency with weaponry, threatening changes in the life circumstances of offenders, and the role of suicidal feelings, depression, rage, extreme hatred, and vengefulness.

Register!

Language Access: A Lifesaver for Survivors

April 9
11:00am - 12:15pm CST

What is limited English proficiency?
Why is language access important in Wisconsin?
Who must provide language access?
How is language access appropriately provided?
What if language access is not provided?

Join Carmel Capati, Court Interpreter Program Manager of the Wisconsin Supreme Court, and Megan Sprecher, Immigration and Poverty Law Attorney at End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin, for a webinar about language access. Learn about how and when agencies
and organizations that receive federal funding need to provide interpreting services and written translations to people with limited English proficiency. This webinar, hosted by End Abuse, will focus especially on language access for survivors.

Register!

Sex Trafficking in Hawaii: Stories of Survivors

April 10
1:00pm - 2:15pm CST

During this webinar, hosted by the National Criminal Justice Training Center at Fox Valley Technical College, learn about a series of studies conducted on sex trafficking in Hawaii. You will learn about 22 victims of sex trafficking in Hawaii and their experiences with childhood maltreatment, recruitment into sex trafficking, sex buyers, and sex traffickers. Explore the structural barriers to providing necessary prevention and intervention to victims of sex trafficking in Hawaii.

Register!

Serving the Whole Community

April 11
2:00pm - 3:30pm CST

Rural advocacy programs typically have large spread-out service areas and a small staff to provide services to survivors of sexual and domestic violence. This reality for rural programs can make it difficult to provide outreach and services to all of the many small communities within the larger service area. This webinar, hosted by the Resource Sharing Project: Rural Training & Technical Assistance, will focus on mobile advocacy, hiring practices and organizational culture, and outreach to rural communities. Join Leah Green from the Resource Sharing Project to learn more about methods of structuring rural programs in order to best serve the whole community.

Register!

Language Access for Law Enforcement

April 15
1:00pm - 2:30pm CST

This webinar, hosted by The National Resource Center for Reaching Victims, will provide an overview of language access requirements under Title VI that apply to law enforcement agencies. Leslye Orloff, Director of the National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project (NIWAP), Investigator Michael LaRiviere from the Salem, Massachusetts Police Department and Wendy Lau, with the Asian Pacific Institute on Gender Based Violence Website will discuss Department of Justice recommended practices for language access on crime scenes and key elements of language access plans and share how agencies across the country are overcoming challenges by improving language access for limited English proficient survivors of intimate partner violence and sexual assault. The webinar will distinguish the difference between qualified and certified interpreters and best practices for using each. We will also share case
studies illustrating the impact lack of language access has on criminal investigations and successful prosecutions.

Please note registration closes April 8th.

Register!

The Road to Repair: Restorative Justice in the Aftermath of Serious Violence and Harm

April 16
12:00pm - 2:00pm CST

Join us as we discuss the use of community-based circles in the aftermath of serious harm and violence, including domestic and sexual violence. A panel of restorative and community-based practitioners will share the models and practices they apply to support those responsible for violence in their accountability, and those who have survived in their healing and resilience. During this webinar, hosted by the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, presenters will describe foundational principles and values, as well as the tensions and possibilities of this work in the context of the criminal legal system and its intersections with racial justice work more broadly.

Register!

Preserving the Right to Parent: Custody Issues for Survivors with Disabilities

April 16
1:00pm - 2:30pm CST

Survivors of domestic violence face barriers within the family court and child welfare systems. When a parent is a survivor with a disability, the odds of losing custody of their child(ren) increase exponentially. As of 2012, 35 states still listed disability as grounds for termination of parental rights even without evidence of abuse or neglect. This webinar, hosted by the Vera Center on Victimization and Safety, will provide an overview of some of the unique difficulties survivors with disabilities may face in child custody and welfare cases - and provide suggestions for improvements to the system to ensure that survivors with disabilities are not separated from their children because of their disability.

Register!

RESOURCES & PUBLICATIONS

Toolkits

CCR Toolkit
Training and Technical Assistance

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