

March 30, 2010, Vol. 16, Issue 4

**GOOD NEWS FOR DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE VICTIMS IN
HEALTH REFORM**

This morning, President Obama signed a health reform reconciliation bill, putting the final touches on a new law that offers significant benefits to victims of domestic violence. The new health reform law means that it will soon be illegal for health insurers to deny coverage to victims of domestic violence because they consider their abuse to be a preexisting condition.

Before the legislation was signed, there were no laws prohibiting insurance companies in eight states and the District of Columbia from discriminating against victims by declaring domestic violence, or a medical condition caused by domestic violence, to be a preexisting condition. Domestic violence victims in those states risked being denied health care when they needed it most.

“When this part of the new law takes effect in a few years, victims of domestic violence will be able to talk to their health care providers about the cause of their injuries without fear of losing their health insurance,” said Family Violence Prevention Fund President Esta Soler. “We’ve fought for many years at the state and federal levels for laws that outlaw discrimination on the basis of domestic and sexual violence. We are delighted that lawmakers have now addressed insurance discrimination against victims of domestic violence. We are especially grateful to Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA) for championing this provision.”

The bill also includes significant funding for expansion of home visitation
Health reform continued on page five...

**LAUNCH OF COACHING BOYS
INTO MEN IN ASIA**

Well-known cricket coaches and players in Mumbai, India are beginning to educate boys to treat girls with respect and recognize that violence is wrong, thanks to a new program that is based on lessons learned through the Family Violence Prevention Fund’s (FVPF’s) groundbreaking *Coaching Boys into Men* initiative. The new Parivartan pilot program launched in India on March 8 – *International Women’s Day*.

It has trained two dozen coaches and more than a dozen community mentors in Mumbai to take gender equity messages to the hundreds of boys learning cricketing skills from them. Using a variety of tools and methods, these cricket coaches have been taught to identify ‘teachable moments’ on the field, and to point out inappropriate language and behavior and the need to change it. Parivartan will eventually be implemented in 50 private and government-aided schools and communities across Mumbai.

“I reluctantly joined the programme last August,” said one of Parivartan’s master coaches, Nagesh Thakur. “But I am glad I did. I have always concentrated only on teaching kids how to hold the bat or throw the ball. I somehow accepted that boys use foul language on the ground, I never thought I can stop that and instill some values in them.”

Athletic coaches play an extremely influential and unique role in the lives of young men, often serving as parents or mentors to the boys they coach. Because of these special relationships, coaches are
Parivartan continued on page seven...

FAMILY VIOLENCE VICTIMS NOT GETTING HELP THEY NEED FROM TANF PROGRAMS, SURVEY FINDS

Bureaucratic black holes, indifferent or hostile staff members, inadequate benefits, and shortsighted procedures and policies are preventing many family violence victims from getting the resources they need to escape abuse from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. That is according to a national survey of service providers released on March 17.

[*Not Enough: What TANF Offers Family Violence Victims*](#) was produced by [Legal Momentum](#) and the [National Resource Center on Domestic Violence](#) (NRC DV). The survey on which it is based is a unique, comprehensive effort to understand when TANF successfully assists victims of family violence, and when the program falls short. Some 600 staff members from domestic violence programs, legal aid and anti-poverty agencies who work with victims on TANF-related issues completed the survey in late 2009.

When TANF works well, it makes a significant difference, the survey finds. But many family violence victims encounter serious difficulties that undermine their efforts to access resources and forge a path to safety for themselves and their children.

Just 14 percent of survey respondents said that the TANF family violence responses work well in their states, and 43 percent said fewer than half of family violence victims were able to access TANF benefits. One in four respondents said “no” when asked if family violence information disclosed by victims was handled in an appropriate way.

“The results of this survey are deeply troubling,” said NRC DV Director Anne Menard. “Studies consistently show that a high proportion of women living in poverty

also face abuse by an intimate partner or ex-partner. Being abused complicates their efforts to achieve economic stability, and poverty undermines their efforts to escape abuse. That’s why lawmakers put the Family Violence Option (FVO) in place, to help address the enormous challenges that impoverished victims of violence face. But even with the FVO, TANF is not working for many of the women who need it most. With the recession forcing so many families into poverty, we need to improve this policy now more than ever.”

The survey also found that:

- Victims are not consistently and effectively screened or notified of family violence specific responses, waivers or protections. One respondent described the problem this way, “ *Oftentimes women are interviewed in public places like a counter, and also when the abuser is present, or not asked at all.*”
- Respondents say the requirement that victims “prove” that they have experienced violence is a significant barrier. 61 percent say victims frequently don’t disclose violence because they fear it is unsafe to do so. 63 percent say victims don’t disclose violence because they see the TANF worker or system as unsympathetic. 73 percent say fear of child protection system involvement is a significant factor.
- Only 12 percent of respondents report that the child support enforcement cooperation exemption due to family violence is working well, while 29 percent said it is not working. One respondent reported, “*Child support enforcement has helped in many ways with some family violence victims that we have served and with others it has*

created more barriers for victims to overcome.”

- Respondents were asked to rate 11 features of their state TANF family violence response policies. Referrals to local domestic violence programs received the highest ratings, with 70 percent of respondents saying it works well or works OK.
- At least 85 percent of respondents say that increasing employment services that lead to a living wage, increasing access to child care, and increasing training on domestic violence for TANF and child support enforcement workers would make TANF a more effective resource.

“TANF is a lifeline for family violence victims, but it must be improved to be effective,” said Legal Momentum staff attorney Timothy Casey. “For too many victims, the TANF application process creates impossible barriers to assistance that prevent them from ever accessing the economic support they need. And for those who actually access benefits, too often the amount of aid that TANF provides is not enough to allow victims to meet their own and their children’s basic needs.”

Congresswoman Gwen Moore (D-WI), said, “This report shows us how women suffer under a broken system. A woman needs all the support she can get as she flees domestic violence, but instead she and her children face the heartbreaking possibility of being found by her abuser and the risk of becoming homeless. A safety net with holes like these is hardly safe. I am working on legislation to fill these holes and help give women a real support system.”

Not Enough: What TANF Offers Family Violence Victims is available at <http://www.legalmomentum.org/assets/pdfs/not-enough-what-tanf-offers.pdf>.

NEW INITIATIVE WILL HELP VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE, PREVENT ABUSE & UNPLANNED PREGNANCY

The Family Violence Prevention Fund (FVPPF) has selected ten sites in nine states to participate in a groundbreaking two-year violence prevention initiative designed to improve the health and safety of women and children. *Project Connect: A Coordinated Public Health Initiative to Prevent Violence against Women* is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It is designed to identify new ways to identify, respond to and prevent domestic and sexual violence, and promote an improved public health response to abuse.

More than half the Project’s funds are directed to ten geographically and ethnically diverse sites that will create comprehensive models of public health prevention and intervention that can lead to improved health and safety. Each site will work with family planning, adolescent health, home visitation, and other maternal child health and perinatal programs to develop policy and public health responses to domestic and sexual violence. *Project Connect* grantees will also provide basic health and reproductive health services in domestic and sexual violence programs.

The FVPPF is working with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Office on Women’s Health to provide technical assistance and monitor the grantees selected for *Project Connect*. They were selected through a competitive process and will be awarded \$200,000 for implementation. The grantees are:

- Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- Southern Indian Health Council in California

- Kima:w Medical Center/Hoopa Valley Tribe in California
- Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- Ohio Domestic Violence Network
- Iowa Department of Health
- Maine Centers for Disease Control
- Michigan Department of Community Health
- Texas Council on Family Violence
- Virginia Department of Health

“We have long known that the public health system is uniquely positioned to identify and help victims of violence, and that strengthening the public health response to violence can do a tremendous amount to help victims and stop abuse,” said FVPF Director of Health Lisa James. “*Project Connect* is especially important because it will help improve the response to violence in reproductive health and other programs where women seek care and services.”

In addition to the ten funded sites, this program also supports the FVPF to create continuing medical education materials designed to reach thousands of providers and health professional students. The project will use a web-based platform to educate and promote clinical skills for medical and nursing students and providers, giving them continuing education credits as they learn to assess, identify and provide support and intervention with victims of violence in a variety of health settings. In addition, new patient and provider education tools and will promote strategies to create sustainable system changes in health and public health programs nationwide.

“We commend Congress and the Department of Health and Human Services for supporting this initiative,” added FVPF President Esta Soler. “It will help prevent domestic, dating and sexual violence; help train the next generation of health providers to do this work; and help reduce unplanned

pregnancy by promoting collaboration between the violence prevention and reproductive and child health care systems.”

Funding for *Project Connect* stems from the health provisions in the *Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2005*. More information on Project Connect is available at

<http://www.endabuse.org/userfiles/file/HealthCare/ProjectConnectWebinarSlides.pdf/>.

NEW SNAPSHOT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES

In one 24-hour period, more than 65,000 victims of domestic violence and their children received life-saving services from local domestic violence programs; domestic violence experts answered more than 23,000 emergency hotline calls; but 9,280 requests for services went unmet, largely due to lack of funding. These are the results of the National Network to End Domestic Violence’s (NNEDV’s) 24-hour survey of domestic violence programs across the United States. NNEDV released the report on March 8, *International Women’s Day*.

For the past four years, NNEDV has conducted a 24-hour survey of domestic violence programs across the country. The latest survey day was September 15, 2009, which saw two women miscarry as a result of domestic violence, seven babies born to mothers living in shelters, and seven children murdered by their fathers in domestic violence homicides.

The report finds that, “For victims of domestic violence, in these difficult economic times, barriers to leaving abusive relationships increase and opportunities to attain economic stability and independence decrease. Domestic violence programs have always worked incredibly hard to provide safety and resources for victims, but the

economic recession has made it harder to do that work.”

“Especially on *International Women’s Day*, it is a testament to the selfless women who serve domestic violence survivors that so many victims reached out for services,” said NNEDV President Sue Else. “Despite the economic downturn, it is truly amazing that victim advocates with ever-tightening budgets helped so many people in one day alone.”

“Year after year, we see staggering numbers of victims and their children who experience traumatic abuse and find support from local domestic violence shelters and programs,” said NNEDV Vice President of Development & Innovation Cindy Southworth. “We hope this survey will help people better understand domestic violence and inspire them to take action.”

Of the 1,980 local programs NNEDV identified, 83 percent (1,648) participated in the survey. *The full report is available online at <http://www.nnedv.org/census>.*

Health reform continued from page one... programs that provide health care and social supports to pregnant women and new mothers. These programs have demonstrated success in reducing child abuse, and the new legislation expands their capacity to also address domestic violence. The bill also establishes a new grant program to provide intervention and supportive services, including housing, vocation counseling and group counseling, for pregnant women and teens who are victims.

The law names domestic violence as part of the National Prevention and Health Promotion Strategy, an initiative that will set specific goals and objectives over the next five years through federally-supported prevention, health promotion, and public health programs.

In addition, the new health reform law improves access to health care generally, which should result in abused women, children and teens getting better access to services to treat their abuse, and the conditions that result from it, before they worsen.

“For victims of domestic violence, access to health care is critical,” said White House Advisor on Violence Against Women [Lynn Rosenthal](#). “All across the country, this bill will help domestic violence victims get the health care they need. They will not face gender discrimination or lifetime caps on benefits. They will not face the struggle of paying too much for health care while trying to rebuild their lives after suffering domestic violence.”

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that women experience two million injuries from intimate partner violence each year. In the United States in 1995, the cost of intimate partner rape, physical assault and stalking totaled \$5.8 billion each year for direct medical and mental health care services and lost productivity from paid work and household chores. When updated to 2003 dollars, the cost is more than \$8.3 billion, and that number is significantly higher in 2010 dollars.

More information on the new health insurance reform legislation is available at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/health-care-meeting/reform-means-you>.

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE EXPERTS URGE FOCUS ON PREVENTION

Some of the country’s leading violence prevention experts came to Capitol Hill in late February, during *National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month*, to describe new resources to help prevent

teen dating violence and to urge lawmakers, educators and parents to change social norms around teen dating violence in their communities and help young people build healthy relationships. Representatives from the Family Violence Prevention Fund (FVPPF), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Jewish Women International (JWI), U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Violence Against Women, MTV, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's *Start Strong: Building Healthy Teen Relationships* initiative described new programs and tools.

"Dating violence affects every school and every community. We urgently need – and our youth deserve – a comprehensive prevention response from schools, parents, teens themselves, and the government," said FVPPF Director of Public Policy Kiersten Stewart.

Susan Pfeil, Principal of Jenks Junior High School – a *Start Strong Rhode Island* partner – discussed how schools can help address and prevent relationship abuse for their students. She emphasized the importance of academic programs and behavioral interventions that teach "the whole child," particularly at the middle school level.

Last year, Jenks Junior High School joined Sojourner House, youth advocacy group Young Voices, and the Rhode Island Department of Education to apply for a prestigious Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Start Strong grant. The application was successful and the Rhode Island team became one of only 11 communities to receive a grant to develop innovative grassroots solutions to teen dating violence.

JWI Executive Director Loribeth Weinstein discussed the positive impact of faith-driven programming. JWI recently launched a healthy relationships curriculum and campaign in partnership with United Synagogue Youth. "Every teen should have

access to a structured education about dating and relationships," she said. "Dedicating a month to awareness about teen dating violence is a great step, but we need to take it further. For example, advocate for mandatory healthy relationship training in our schools, religious institutions and sports teams. It's at least as important as health or gym class, which are non-academic and required." *Learn more about JWI's healthy relationship programs at*

http://www.jwi.org/site/c.okLWJ3MPKtH/b.5381187/k.3FA0/Healthy_Relationship_Programs.htm.

CDC leaders announced that the agency has teamed up with Liz Claiborne, Inc. to produce the first free, online training program designed to show educators how best to teach courses on teen dating violence and abuse. The 60-minute training, *Dating Matters: Understanding Teen Dating Violence*, will be available to middle school and high school teachers. *Learn more about Dating Matters at*

<http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/datingmatters.html>.

The briefing also featured Dr. Rodney Hammond, Director of the Division of Violence Prevention at the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, CDC; Catherine Pierce, Office on Violence Against Women; and Jason Rzepka, Vice President of Public Affairs, MTV.

The National Council on Crime and Delinquency Focus reports that one in three adolescent girls in the United States is a victim of physical, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner – a figure that far exceeds victimization rates for other types of violence affecting youth.

Senators Mike Crapo (R-ID), Joseph Lieberman (I-CT) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) and Representatives John Lewis (D-GA), Patrick Kennedy (D-RI), and Janice Schakowsky (D-IL) were honorary co-sponsors for the briefing, and the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned

Pregnancy, Break the Cycle and the National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline were partners for it.

CA LEGISLATOR NAMES SOLER “WOMAN OF THE YEAR”

California Assemblymember Tom Ammiano (D-San Francisco) selected Esta Soler, founder and president of the Family Violence Prevention Fund (FVPPF), as his 2010 Woman of the Year.

“I am proud to announce Esta Soler, one of the world’s foremost experts on violence against women and children, to be Woman of the Year for Assembly District 13.” Ammiano said. “Esta is a pioneer who founded the Family Violence Prevention Fund nearly 30 years ago and made it one of the world’s leading violence prevention agencies.”

Along with the other honorees, Soler was recognized Monday March 8, *International Women’s Day*, at the 2010 Woman of the Year ceremony held at the California State Capitol in Sacramento. Each year, each member of the California State Assembly and California State Senate honor a woman from their district who has distinguished herself in service to her community.

“It’s a tremendous honor to receive this award from Assemblymember Ammiano, a wonderful friend to all of us working to end domestic, dating and sexual violence and help victims,” Soler said. “At a time when state funding for domestic violence programs is in peril, we especially appreciate champions like Tom Ammiano.”

Parivartan continued from page one...

poised to positively influence how young men think and behave both on and off the field. From speeches to the team, to practice sessions, to casual conversation, these coaches have many opportunities to share their philosophies with athletes.

“Many girls and women in India are exposed daily to several forms of violence, from routine ‘cat calling’ and sexual harassment to sometimes-fatal physical beatings at home,” said Brian O’Connor, FVPPF Director of Public Communications. “Parivartan will help address these negative behaviors and attitudes. We hope to reach more than 1,000 boys with this innovative new program.”

The FVPPF developed Parivartan with the International Center for Research on Women, Mumbai School Sports Association, Apanalya and Breakthrough. The work was made possible by a grant from the NIKE Foundation.

The FVPPF launched *Coaching Boys into Men* in 2001. *Learn more at* http://www.endabuse.org/section/programs/public_communications/

IN THE NEWS

NATIONAL – [Vital Voices](#) and [The Avon Foundation for Women](#) have announced a new collaboration with the U.S. State Department to stop violence against women. “The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Women” will address the need for serious, sustained on-the-ground research and development, as well as actionable, collaborative, culturally-sensitive local solutions that can create measurable change. To facilitate the new partnership, Avon and the Avon Foundation for Women announced \$1.2 million in donations to Vital Voices to bring together 15 country delegations to share insights, forge collaborations, and seek

ways to overcome challenging cultural realities that have been barriers to progress. Actress Reese Witherspoon, Avon's global ambassador and honorary chairperson of the Avon Foundation for Women, announced the sale of Avon's newest fundraising product – the Women's Empowerment Ring – with 100 percent of net profits going to support domestic violence programs. *Learn more at www.avon.com.*

MILITARY – There were 3,230 restricted and unrestricted reports of sexual assault involving military members as either victims or subjects in Fiscal Year 2009, an 11 percent increase from the previous year. The Department of Defense says it believes the increase is due in part to a social marketing campaign encouraging victims to come forward. This year, 123 victims converted their reports from restricted – a confidential reporting option that allows service members to obtain medical, mental health care and other services without becoming involved in the military criminal justice process – to unrestricted. More than one in five (714) of the reports of sexual assault in 2009 were unrestricted. The Department of Defense released its “2009 Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military” on March 16. *Read the complete report at http://www.sapr.mil/media/pdf/reports/fy09/annual_report.pdf.*

FL – After fatally shooting his wife, Anicia Yankton, while she worked at a Publix grocery store in Orlando this month, Andreau Yankton was confronted by a police officer and committed suicide in the parking lot outside. According to the *Orlando Sentinel*, there have been other shootings at or near Publix facilities in the past few years: in February 2009, a worker at a Publix warehouse shot and wounded a co-worker after a dispute; and in December 2008, a security guard shot and wounded the

boyfriend of his estranged wife in the parking lot of a Publix in West Palm Beach.

MA – More than 350 people, including Lt. Governor Timothy Murray, Middlesex District Attorney Gerry Leone, WBZ Sportscaster Steve Burton and others, pledged their commitment to be part of the solution and help end violence against women on White Ribbon Day on March 2. The campaign encourages violence prevention advocates and others to wear a white ribbon, display a poster at workplaces, organize events to speak out against violence toward women, and challenge attitudes and behaviors that condone or tolerate violence. *For more information on White Ribbon Day, including a photo and video gallery, visit <http://www.janedoe.org/whiteribbonday2010/>.*

ND – For the second time in less than a year, state representative David Weiler has been charged with domestic assault, reports the *Bismarck Tribune*. Weiler first pled guilty to charges of simple assault against his wife in April 2009. The Weilers have separated but, in the most recent incident, the police report says that Nicole Weiler alleges that her husband punched her in the face several times. Weiler was elected to the state House in 2000 and re-elected in 2004 and 2008. He could be barred from serving if his House colleagues deem him ineligible to serve or impeach him, but action will have to wait until the legislature is back in session.

NM – Governor Bill Richardson signed two domestic violence bills into law this month. One strengthens the definition of household member in the state's *Crimes Against Household Members Act* and the *Family Violence Prevention Act* to correspond with the federal definition and focus attention on intimate, dating partner and elder abuse.

The other bill creates a Domestic Violence Commission in statute. Governor Richardson had created the Commission by Executive Order in 2007, but this new action allows the group to continue working on domestic violence issues.

OH – Governor Ted Strickland signed the *Shynerra Grant Law* on March 17, giving Ohio juvenile court judges the authority to issue protection orders against youth younger than 18. The law is named after a Toledo teen who was murdered by an abusive former boyfriend in 2005. Supporters say protection orders can help curb harassment and abuse before they escalate, the *Columbus Dispatch* reports. The new law allows the order to be wiped from a juvenile’s record once he or she is 19. It will take effect in 90 days.

INTERNATIONAL – Despite continuing resistance from religious and cultural elites, over the last five years women in the Middle East and North Africa have made modest progress and are enjoying more economic opportunities, fewer barriers to education, and greater abilities to participate in the political process – but women in the region still suffer from greater inequalities than do women elsewhere. According to “Women’s Rights in the Middle East and North Africa: Progress Amid Resistance,” a new study released this month by Freedom House, 15 of the 18 countries in the region recorded some gains in women’s rights over the past five years. Kuwait, Algeria and Jordan have made the most significant progress while Iraq, Yemen and the Palestinian Territories – countries enduring internal conflict and the rise of religious extremism – recorded declines. Only Tunisia and Jordan offer specific protections against domestic violence, and none of the countries explicitly prohibit spousal rape. *Read the report at* <http://freedomhouse.org/uploads/specialrep>

[orts/womensrights/2010/womensrights2010.pdf](http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR36/004/2010/en).

HAITI – There are increasing reports of women experiencing sexual violence in the wake of the devastating earthquake. No reliable data on the number of sexual assaults are available, but Amnesty International released a report last week finding that thousands of women living in temporary camps around Haiti are threatened by sexual violence and have inadequate protection from authorities. The earthquake disrupted existing reporting systems for victims, and the capacity of local organizations to help women get access to medical and mental health services has been undermined. In a column in *The Daily Beast*, Liesl Gertholtz, Director of Human Rights Watch’s Women’s Rights Division, says: “The camps are unsafe places, and many women live with strangers, having lost contact with family members and friends... Although some latrines have been provided, there is no separation of facilities for women and men – and no lighting – so these are unsafe after dark... The camp is on open ground, allowing anyone to enter the camp and shelters.” *Read Amnesty International’s report, “Haiti: After the Earthquake: Initial Mission Findings, March 2010” at* <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR36/004/2010/en>.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

“To keep her from testifying against a man who had abused her. It’s really... It’s just unbelievable. The idea that he would use the state police and himself – he called her himself to basically say – or is alleged to have [said], ‘Don’t show up in court to testify against my friend, who beat you up.’ You know, that is the worst kind of

harassment of women who are already very reluctant to go the court on domestic violence issues.”

---Cokie Roberts, ABC’s “[This Week](#),” February 28, 2010

“In my travels around the world as the Global Ambassador for YouthAids and Population Services International Board Member, I have seen first-hand the devastation that violence imposes on women and girls. However, I have also witnessed how programs that empower and support women, especially in impoverished areas, can help break the cycle of violence, therefore making an enormous, positive difference not only for themselves, but also for their families and communities. I believe that it is important for our government to focus on ending this global issue and work towards finding solutions that can be implemented and sustained. I-VAWA [[International Violence Against Women Act](#)] is a way to help end this scourge for millions of women around the world.”

---Actress and humanitarian Ashley Judd, March 17, 2010

NEW RESOURCES

The Family Violence Prevention Fund has released [Team Decisionmaking and Domestic Violence: Trainer’s Guide and Guidelines for Facilitators](#). This free advanced domestic violence curriculum outlines safely preparing for and managing effective meetings, engaging parents around domestic violence issues, assessing the impact of children’s exposure to domestic violence, and making decisions and plans to increase safety for children and battered mothers. *Download the curriculum, guidelines and other resources at*

<http://endabuse.org/content/features/detail/1468/>.

UNIFEM has launched a new Global Virtual Knowledge Centre – www.endvawnow.org – designed to help programmers, policy makers and advocates who are working to end violence against women and girls worldwide. It includes step-by-step guidance to help advocates develop: legislation; programs that engage men and boys; safer cities and public spaces for women and girls; indicators, monitoring and evaluation frameworks; and more. The website is available in [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#) and contains 600 practical tools in more than 40 languages.

With support from Casey Family Programs, Child Trends has launched the [State Child Welfare Policy Database](#), a new online clearinghouse with information on child welfare laws, procedures, and agency guidance for all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The site can be navigated by state or by topic. Violence prevention and child welfare advocates can learn about their state’s expenditures on child welfare services, policies for relatives caring for children involved in the child welfare system, benefits and services provided to foster youth after age 18, and more. In addition to the traditional web version, the site is designed to be compatible with mobile devices, allowing for accessible information on the go. *To access the new database, visit* <http://www.childwelfarepolicy.org/pages/map.cfm>.

SAVE THE DATE

April 16, 2010, Madison, WI

Men of Change Community Dialogue
Family Violence Prevention Fund Senior Program Director Juan Carlos Areán will address the root causes of gender violence, including men's attitudes toward women and the norms and cultures that support violence, at this community dialogue. It will be held at the Fountain of Life Family Worship Center in Madison. A panel discussion featuring violence-prevention leaders will follow. Call 608-257-2453 for more information.

April 27-29, 2010, San Antonio, TX

10th Annual International Family Justice Center Conference

This three-day conference, "Dream Big. Start Small," from the Family Justice Center Alliance, will include discussions on issues related to the handling of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, elder abuse cases and funding in the context of the Family Justice Center model. The conference faculty includes nationally and internationally recognized subject matter experts, advocates and survivors.

Workshops will highlight the importance of leadership, accountability to survivors, guiding principles, and promising practices. The conference will include information about successful and struggling Family Justice Centers, including lessons learned from communities pursuing co-located services for victims using a variety of co-location models. It will be held at the San Antonio Crowne Plaza Hotel on the Riverwalk. To view the agenda and register, visit

<http://www.familyjusticecenter.com/>.

May 4-5, 2010, Dearborn, MI

Being the Wave of Change: How Social Change Vision Informs Our Services and Advocacy

The Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence will host its 2010 Professional Development Institute at the Hyatt Dearborn. Scheduled speakers include Barbara Hart, Byron Hurt and Dorothy Edwards. Specialized tracks are planned on prevention, advocacy, civil and legal justice, and executive administration. For more information, please visit www.mcadsv.org or contact Sarah Jarous at 517-347-7000, ext. 30 or sarah.jarous@mcadsv.org.

May 10-14, 2010, New Orleans, LA

WOCN Action Institute and Conference
Registration is open for the Women of Color Network (WOCN) Action Institute and Conference at the Westin New Orleans Canal Place. This conference is co-sponsored by the Office for Victims of Crime. It will feature a two-day Institute and two-day Conference with workshops, panel discussions, conversations and a Cultural Bazaar celebrating local talent. To register, visit

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e2s4rfzpf68aa0c&oseq=a006g65dz03i>. For more information, contact WOCN at 1-800-537-2238, ext 142.

May 24-26, 2010, Richland, WA

Hand in Hand through a Lifetime

The Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs annual conference will be held at the Red Lion Hotel Richland Hanford House. Olga Trujillo is the featured keynote speaker. Workshop proposals are now being accepted. A pre-conference institute (on May 24) addressing issues involving children with sexual behavior problems will be offered. For more information, contact Grant Stancliff at grant@wcsap.org or 360-754-7583 or visit the website at

www.wcsap.org/events/annualconference10.htm.

August 1-4, 2010, Anaheim, CA

Changing Faces of the Movement
The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence is holding its 14th National Conference on Domestic Violence: *Changing Faces of the Movement* at the Hilton Anaheim. Advocates are encouraged to join hundreds of domestic violence survivors and other allies for critical discussions, networking and vital information aimed at providing services and support for victims of domestic violence. For more information about attending the conference or presenting a workshop, visit www.ncadv.org/conferences/GeneralConferenceInformationandOverview.php.

September 1-3, 2010, Los Angeles, CA

2010 National Sexual Assault Conference
The California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA) is hosting the 2010 National Sexual Assault Conference in Los Angeles. CALCASA is asking participants

at this educational conference to imagine the world in which they want to live – a world free of sexual violence. CALCASA will create space for attendees to share public service announcements (PSA), and will show PSAs developed by agencies and organizations across the country. For more information about submitting your organization's PSA, visit <http://calcasa.org/calcasa/psa/>. For more information about the conference, visit <http://calcasa.org/nsac/>.

Does your organization sponsor a conference that you would like to highlight in *Speaking Up*?

If so, please let us know about it! Send conference information to *Speaking Up* editor Luci Manning via email: speakingup@prsolutionsdc.com, or via fax: 202-371-9142. Be sure to include the registration deadline!
