Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence

1999-2000 Annual Report
Never Another Battered Woman!

This year our Annual Report reflects PCADV’s and the Battered Women’s Movement’s transitions from one century into the next. Our beginnings are found in the 1970’s rally cry “Never Another Battered Woman!” This call to action was powerful in its simplicity and focus:

- It gave voice to the outrage that violence against women had been tolerated for so long, and it was proudly adopted by women’s groups at the local, grassroots level whose approach was one of helping women.

The results of this sharp focus can be seen today in the assistance provided to victims of domestic violence and their children by our network of 62 local, community-based programs.

The accomplishments of PCADV this past year are commendable...

As this report indicates, Pennsylvania is the only state to receive an “A” for its efforts in enacting laws that would improve the health care response to domestic violence. This is due to the exemplary efforts of Nancy Durborow, PCADV Health Projects Coordinator, and our Medical Advocacy Task Force.

Pennsylvania played a major role in the successful reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act this year. Special recognition goes to Bonnie Fowler, Director of Administration, for coordinating our state’s grassroots network – one of the strongest and most visible in the nation.

Ellen Pence’s statement exemplifies where we are today. Our advocacy efforts have followed battered women into the courts, hospitals, social services, etc. We have expanded our focus and developed strategies which are far reaching and create long term social change. Today, the generic term “advocate” has been supplemented by specific terms, such as legal advocate, medical advocate, children’s advocate, community advocate. Our goals in the 21st century continue to be peace, safety and justice for battered women and their children – now we have many more strategies for getting there!

Onward!

Lynn Snead
President, PCADV Board of Directors

Susan Kelly-Dreiss
PCADV Executive Director

“For women who have been battered, separation from an abuser often shifts the site of the conflict from the privatized setting of the home to the public arena of the judicial system (and other systems).”

- Ellen Pence, National Training Project, 1993
25TH ANNIVERSARY PLANNING COMMITTEE

As the first state domestic violence coalition in the nation, PCADV’s 25th anniversary in October 2001 will mark a significant milestone in the Battered Women’s Movement. Since March 2000, an ad hoc committee of program and caucus representatives, PCADV staff members, the Board President and the Executive Director have been meeting to plan an event and materials to celebrate our achievements. The Committee is working with an emphasis on input and participation from every segment of the coalition and has already developed recommendations for a theme, a logo, and a site for a gala fundraising dinner.

STATEWIDE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

In June, PCADV conducted a needs assessment of PA’s statewide network of domestic violence service providers. The survey process is the first phase in the development of a statewide plan for services which will:

- describe the current status of domestic violence services in the commonwealth
- identify the issues having had the greatest impact on programs during the past three years
- clearly outline the services, systems changes and resources most needed by domestic violence victims in PA and the programs which serve them
- help set the priorities for statewide training and social change activities

Forty-five of PCADV’s 62 programs completed and returned the survey, providing information on 52 of PA’s 67 counties. The program response rate was 73% – an increase of 5% from the last statewide survey, conducted in 1994.
Public Policy

ENACTED BY CONGRESS

Reauthorization of the U.S. Violence Against Women Act

For many years PCADV has been in the forefront of efforts to develop sound national policy related to domestic violence. This year, however, the role of PCADV and its member programs was truly pivotal in achieving the reauthorization of the federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Coalition staff members worked with representatives of several national domestic violence organizations and allied groups to produce and promote a scaled-down version of VAWA II, which more accurately reflected the priorities of the Battered Women’s Movement. Staff also provided intensive technical assistance to congressional staff members on policy, program and funding issues to be addressed in the reauthorized Act. By coordinating a strong grassroots network, PCADV advocated forcefully with key PA legislators and congressional leaders on both sides of the aisle to bring VAWA reauthorization to a vote. PCADV programs responded instantly to calls for action throughout the year and their focused, sustained efforts were acknowledged as a model of effective advocacy by national organizations and other state coalitions. Staff, volunteers and board members wrote eloquently of the positive impact of VAWA at the local level, met with senators and representatives at district offices throughout the commonwealth, and inundated congressional faxes, voicemail and email with messages urging the reauthorization of VAWA.

The Violence Against Women Act of 2000 passed the U.S. Congress in early October and was signed into law by President Clinton on October 28, 2000.

ENACTED BY PA LEGISLATURE

Electronic Stalking

Pennsylvania’s Terroristic Threats and Harassment and Stalking statutes were amended late last year to add actions via electronic communications, such as e-mail, fax, etc., to the existing laws. Act 59 of 1999 was signed into law December 18 and became effective February 2000.

Expanded Duration of Protection Orders

Governor Ridge signed into law Act 10 of 2000 – legislation that expands the duration of protection orders from the current limit of 12 months to 18 months. This change to the Protection From Abuse Act became effective immediately upon signing on May 10. Pursuant to PCADV Legal Committee and Board directive, staff will continue legislative efforts to extend the duration to up to 36 months.

Child Hearsay Exceptions

Act 84 of 2000, signed by Governor Ridge on October 18, permits child hearsay exceptions to be admitted, if the court finds there is sufficient indicia of reliability of the statements and the child either testifies or is not available to testify. An out-of-court statement made by a child victim or witness, who at the time the statement was made was 12 years of age or younger, describing physical abuse, indecent contact or any of the offenses enumerated in 18 Pa.C.S. Ch. 31 (relating to sexual offenses) performed with or on the child by another, not otherwise admissible by statute or rule of evidence, is now admissible under certain circumstances. Previously, this was limited to criminal cases. These exceptions may now be admitted in every civil case, including custody and tort cases.
Bill of Rights for Victims of Juvenile Offenses

Act 86 of 2000, sponsored by Senator Jane Earll, amends PA’s bill of rights for crime victims to include rights for victims of juvenile offenders. These rights include:

- access to information regarding whether the juvenile was detained or released following arrest and whether a petition alleging delinquency has been filed
- immediate notification of a juvenile’s preadjudication escape from a detention center or shelter facility and of the juvenile’s subsequent apprehension
- to be accompanied at [public] criminal and juvenile proceedings by a family member, a victim advocate or other person providing assistance or support

The Act also:

- extends basic rights and services to children who witness homicide, sexual assault, or aggravated assault against a family member
- expands crime victim’s compensation to include crimes of homicide by vehicle and hit and run
- increases the penalty assessment for victim’s services from $30 to $40
- assesses a $15 penalty against all juveniles adjudicated delinquent

This Act, signed October 30, 2000, will take effect in sixty days.

Probable Cause Arrest Amendments

SB 1444, sponsored by Senator Michael O’Pake, changes and broadens the eligibility factor under the Probable Cause Arrest statute to include “family or household members” as defined by §6102 of the PFA Act. Currently, the Probable Cause Arrest statute applies only in cases in which the defendant and victim are spouses, are living together, or have formerly lived together. This law also adds terroristic threats, stalking and harassment to the warrantless arrest crimes delineated in the statute. The bill passed the General Assembly on November 22 and is in the hands of the Governor awaiting his signature. (The Act number has not yet been designated.)

OTHER LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

Full Faith and Credit

SB 516, sponsored by Senator O’Pake, provides for full faith and credit orders and foreign protection orders. These orders will be recognized and enforced by commonwealth courts and maintained by the Pennsylvania State Police Registry of Protection Orders. This legislation also provides for the enforcement of foreign protection orders; police officers will make arrests in the same manner as set for violation of other protection orders. PCADV was unable to secure passage prior to the end of the legislative session.

Address Confidentiality

HB 1436 proposed an Address Confidentiality Program that would provide a mechanism for battered women in the commonwealth to protect and maintain confidential addresses. PCADV was unable to secure passage of this bill prior to the end of the legislative session.

Access to Public Records

PCADV joined with other victims services organizations in the commonwealth to oppose legislation (SB 1333) that would provide access to public records as well as expand the definition of public records to include any information that is received or retained by an agency pursuant to law or in connection with the duties and responsibilities of that agency. PCADV raised concerns because, under the proposed bill, the names and addresses of plaintiffs and other persons who have current protection orders would be subject to release, upon request, to any member of the public, including the abuser. Efforts to stop the bill were successful.

Protection From Abuse Act Amendments

PCADV will hold its draft of amendments to the Protection From Abuse Act for introduction early next session.
Systems Advocacy

ATTORNEY GENERAL’S TASK FORCE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE

PCADV participated on the Work Groups of Attorney General Mike Fisher’s Family Violence Task Force that was set up to identify the myriad institutional responses to family violence. The Work Groups brought together representatives from major institutions within the community – employers, health care, law enforcement and the judiciary, neighborhood groups and associations, religious institutions, and schools and early childhood development programs – to help develop a blueprint for a coordinated community-based response to family violence. PCADV also provided extensive input on the Task Force Final Report that provides an historical perspective on the response to family violence within the commonwealth and recommendations on how each institution can improve its response. PCADV also participated in a rally at the Capitol in October to unveil this report.

IMPLEMENTATION OF JEN AND DAVE LAW

PCADV staff joined with PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency and the Administrative Office of PA Courts to present several workshops to explain and encourage use of the Jen & Dave Line. PCADV also assisted in the fourth annual Jen & Dave Silent Auction and Golf Tournament that raises funds for domestic violence services to children of battered women.

Privacy and Technology

PHONE LOAN PROGRAM

PCADV continued its collaborative project with Verizon Wireless (formerly Alltel Communications) to distribute free cell phones to victims of domestic violence in PA. Used cell phones, programmed to dial 911 or the local emergency access number, are made available to participating local domestic violence programs for use by battered women in emergencies. Distribution of the cell phones and the length of the loan are at the discretion of the programs. Domestic violence programs in all counties of the state are eligible to receive the phones.

SPRINT/UNITED TELEPHONE COMPANY

PCADV joined with the Office of Consumer Advocate to work out the final details of a negotiated settlement with Sprint/United Telephone Company regarding the company’s Caller ID consumer education efforts. The company agreed to develop privacy notices, bill inserts, blocking stickers, and other mailings to customers to keep them informed on the privacy implications of Caller ID and related services.
STATE-BY-STATE REPORT CARD GIVES PENNSYLVANIA AN “A”

In the State-by-State Report Card on Health Care Laws and Domestic Violence, released August 15, 2000, by the Family Violence Prevention Fund, PA was the only state in the country to receive an “A.” The Report Card assessed each state’s progress in passing laws that help doctors and nurses aid victims of domestic violence and prevent insurance discrimination against women facing abuse. This first-of-its-kind report evaluated state laws in five critical areas – training, screening, protocols, reporting and insurance – assigning a grade to each state based on whether it enacted laws in those areas.

PA received its “A” as a direct result of The Health Care Response Act of 1998 and the 1996 amendments to the PA Unfair Insurance Practices Statute.

NEW PROJECTS ADDED

Medical advocacy services were expanded from five to 42 hospitals across the state with the addition of 12 medical advocacy projects, funded as a result of passage of the Health Care Response Act (1998) and Governor Ridges’ generous appropriation of $500,000 for fiscal year 1999/2000.

During their first year of operation, these 12 new projects provided on-site services to 791 victims of domestic violence. Three hundred and fifty-eight hospital-based trainings were provided to 8,580 health care staff. An additional 98 community-based trainings, emphasizing a health care response to domestic violence, were provided to 1,927 professionals.

INCREASE IN PROVISION OF SERVICES

Across the state this past year, on site services at PCADV’s 17 medical advocacy projects (all projects funded from 1993 through fiscal year 1999/2000) were provided to 1,851 victims of domestic violence. This represents over a 190% increase in the number of women served (967) during that same time period in fiscal year 1998/99.

During fiscal year 1999/2000, 9,826 hospital staff (all projects funded from 1993 through fiscal year 1999/2000) were trained on recognizing and helping patients experiencing domestic violence. This represents over a 490% increase in the number of health care professionals trained (1,989) during that same time period in fiscal year 1998/99.

SURVEY/ASSESSMENT OF PROJECT SITES

In response to the Health Care Response Act’s provision that each medical advocacy project “develop formal project assessment procedures,” PCADV in conjunction with Johns Hopkins University made a grant application to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ – a division of the NIH).

This application had two goals:

1. An evaluation of PCADV’s statewide medical advocacy projects with outcome measures, including system change indicators; routine staff training; changes in hospital forms to include domestic violence screening and documentation; appropriate protocols; community collaborations and the hospital domestic violence culture.

The application also was designed to measure screening and identification rates; appropriate documentation and referral; female patient satisfaction and health care system cost indicators.

2. A randomized clinical trial conducted in two medical systems with individual women’s outcomes measured over time including: safety behaviors (prevention); use of resources; ongoing abuse; self perceived and diagnosed health problems and costs for services (health care system utilization, number of diagnoses and charges).

The grant application was designed as a five-year evaluation project. In order to establish a baseline for assessing PCADV medical advocacy projects as outlined in goal number one, and over a five year period, a survey was conducted in April 2000 of all 17 projects representing 42 hospitals.

Project scores ranged from 2-44, with a mean of 26, and the sites could be categorized into one of three strata:

1. fully mature
2. mid-maturation
3. beginning to develop

Ten sites had scores between 0-2 (beginning to develop); 19 sites had scores between 21-30 (mid-mature); and nine sites scored between 31-45 (fully mature). Although the survey process is somewhat subjective, PCADV believes it is an accurate assessment of the projects.
Publications

PCADV developed and produced an extensive number of publications, training and informational materials:

- Building Bridges: Developing Partnerships with Child Service Providers, Health Care Professionals, and School Personnel (Conference Brochure)
- Domestic Violence Awareness Month Materials
  - Bookmarks (five designs)
  - Dating Violence Magnet
  - Posters (eight designs)
- Domestic Violence Homicide Reports
  - Year End – 1999
  - Third Quarter Homicide Report – 1999
  - First Quarter Homicide Report – 2000
  - Second Quarter Homicide Report – 2000
- Father’s Day Packet
  - Children and Domestic Violence Fact Sheet
  - Guest Commentary
  - Posters (two)
- FYI Series
  - FYI: Jen and Dave Line
  - FYI: Special Privacy Issue
- Legal Advocacy Conference Brochure – 1999
- Mother’s Day Packet
  - Guest Commentary
  - Posters (two)
- PA STOP Conference Brochure
- PCADV 1998-99 Annual Report
- PCADV Statewide Training Institute & Conference Materials – 2001
  - Announcement Postcard and Call for Workshops
- Profiles in Participation
- Public Policy Agenda – 2000
- Public Policy Review – 1999
- Rural Domestic Violence Final Report
- Safety and Self-Sufficiency for Our Clients: A Handbook for Clerical Staff
- Safety Cards for Battered Women
- STOP Violence Against Women Training Materials
- Take Your Daughters to Work Materials
  - Logo
  - Registration Form
  - Poster
- The Art of Training Brochure
- Training for Advocates, Police & Prosecutors Brochure
- Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Alert Postcard
Financial Statements
June 30, 1999

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Assets:
Current assets:
  Cash $1,159,305
  Accounts receivable 19,207
  Prepaid expense 20,863
  Total current assets 1,199,375
Office equipment, net of $296,373 accumulated depreciation 669,013
  Total assets $1,868,388

Liabilities:
Current liabilities:
  Accounts payable & accrued expenses 376,313
  Unexpended DPW funds 8,024
  Subrecipients payable 21,281
  Contracts payable 677,668
  Total current liabilities 1,083,286

Net Assets:
  Unrestricted 768,029
  Temporarily restricted 17,073
  Total net assets 785,102
  Total liabilities and net assets 1,868,388

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Changes in unrestricted net assets:
Revenues, gains, and other support:
  Contracts with government agencies and foundations 20,888,981
  Contract administration 281,886
  Product sales, net 11,515
  Donations 6,070
  SECA and combined federal campaign 3,105
  Membership dues 5,685
  Interest 10,196
  Insurance program administration 3,231
  Total unrestricted revenues, gains, and other support 21,010,669

Total expenses and losses:
  Program and supporting services 20,960,107
  Change in unrestricted net assets 50,562

Net assets at beginning of year 734,540
Net assets at end of year $785,102

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
Cash flows from operating activities:
  Change in net assets 50,562
  Adjustments to reconcile to net cash provided by operating activities:
    Increase (decrease) in -
      Contracts receivable 20,200
      Accounts receivable (11,000)
      Prepaid expenses (6,339)
      Office equipment (197,396)
    Increase (decrease) in -
      Accounts payable and accrued expenses 112,178
      Unexpected funds – DPW 28
      Subrecipients payable (10,136)
      Contracts payable (185,671)
  Net adjustments (278,136)
  Net cash used by operating activities (227,574)

Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year 1,386,879
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year $1,159,305
Independent Auditor’s Report

To the Board of Directors
Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence

I have audited the accompanying statement of financial position of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (a nonprofit organization) (the “Coalition”) as of June 30, 1999 and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Coalition’s management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. I believe that my audit provides a reasonable basis for my opinion.

In my report dated February 10, 2000, I expressed an opinion that, except for the fact that I was unable to analyze all of the subrecipient audit reports for the year ended June 30, 1999 prior to issuing my report and I was unable to satisfy myself as to the balance of the subrecipient payable as of June 30, 1999 by means of other audit procedures, the financial statements presented fairly, in all material respects, the Coalition’s financial position and results of its operations on the basis of generally accepted accounting principles. I have subsequently been able to analyze all of the subrecipient audit reports. Accordingly, my present opinion on the financial statements, as presented herein, is different from that expressed in my previous report.

In my opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Coalition as of June 30, 1999 and the changes in net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, I have also issued a report dated May 1, 2000 on my consideration of the Coalition’s internal control over financial reporting and my tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants.

My audit was performed for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements of the Coalition taken as a whole. The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards is presented for the purposes of additional analysis as required by U.S. Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133, Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. The accompanying schedules of budgeted, reported and allowable costs are presented for the purposes of additional analysis as required by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in my opinion, is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Karl Raymond Wilcox, Certified Public Accountant
Harrisburg, PA

February 10, 2000, except for subcontractor payable as to which the date is May 1, 2000
The Statewide Network

The statewide network of 62 local programs provided comprehensive domestic violence services in all 67 counties of the commonwealth through a contract administered by PCADV. These programs offered a lifeline to safety through 92 community-based sites for more than 102,000 survivors of domestic violence and their children – with over 11,000 seeking refuge in PCADV’s statewide network of shelters.

Program services such as counseling, advocacy, shelter and transitional housing, outreach to special populations, and assistance in accessing other community resources included more than:

- 506,193 hours of counseling/advocacy services
- 193,504 shelter days
- 16,108 community education programs
- 20,719 communitywide public education events
- 199,137 volunteer hours
- 5,586 trainings for over 50,000 individuals
Statewide Allocation

The allocation for the provision of domestic violence services in Pennsylvania increased by approximately 9% to $18,001,900 for fiscal year 1999/2000:

- $1,205,000 in federal Social Services Block Grant funds (Title XX)
- $3,400,000 in federal Family Violence Prevention & Services Act funds (FVPSA)
- $424,200 in federal Drug Free Schools & Communities Act funds (SDFSCA)
- $640,700 in Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grants (TANFBG)
- $150,000 in federal Preventive Health & Health Services Block Grant funds (PHHSBG)
- $11,449,000 in state funds through Act 44/State Appropriation
- $733,000 in state funds through Act 222/Marriage License surcharge

NEED FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES

The need for critical domestic violence services continues to far exceed available resources at local programs throughout the commonwealth. PCADV’s funding contract with the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare covers just 51% of the total costs to provide intervention and prevention services in all 67 counties. Therefore, the 62 community-based programs must raise nearly half of their operating budgets and expend extraordinary time and resources on local fund-raising efforts.
SYSTEMS TRAINING

Several members of the PCADV staff are regularly involved in conducting workshops or facilitating sessions during statewide and regional events staged by other systems and organizations. Each of these events provides opportunities for sharing information on the nature of domestic violence and its impact on victims. During fiscal year 1999-2000, each presentation also addressed the critical importance of developing safety-focused interventions and stressed the need for working collaboratively with local domestic violence service providers.

Two regional two-day workshops were conducted in the fall for employment and training staff from the subcontractor services who work closely with the local county assistance offices.

This year, PCADV staff developed and offered a one-day training of trainers titled “Doing it Better: Effectively Getting Your Message Across” for members of the PA STOP TA Training Teams. Subsequently, this workshop was redeveloped and presented to PCADV staff and members of PCADV Medical Advocacy Task Force.

Other groups trained this year included the Healthy Choices Program in Pittsburgh, the Bucks County Pinnacle Health System and the Refugee Mental Health Network. The day-long workshop on “Understanding and Addressing Domestic Violence in Refugee and Immigrant Communities” for individuals making up the Network also provided another opportunity to begin dialogue about future collaboration between the refugee and domestic violence communities.

Additional conference events for other systems included a day-long workshop at a regional conference in Gettysburg for Children and Youth Service providers and a session at the “Nuestra America Conference” in Harrisburg.

BUILDING BRIDGES CONFERENCE

On May 16-17 in State College, a statewide conference was held for prevention educators, children’s advocates and medical advocates. The “Building Bridges: Prevention, Intervention, and Advocacy Conference” featured author and researcher Dr. Laurie Pearlman of the Traumatic Stress Institute in Connecticut. In addition to a one day workshop by Dr. Pearlman, 16 workshops were offered, with topics ranging from medical documentation of domestic violence injuries and coordinating health care responses, to supporting families affected by drugs and alcohol and child development. More than 150 participants attended.

CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY TASK FORCE

The Children’s Advocacy Task Force offers a voice to those who provide direct services to children who witness and experience domestic violence and who advocate on their behalf. At regional quarterly meetings this past year, trainings were provided on such topics as working with children on grief and loss, the Jen & Dave Law, collaboration with CYS, and parenting. Programs share materials they utilize with children and mothers, preview videos, problem-solve situations that arise in programs, and discuss advocacy and collaboration activities with agencies and systems in their respective counties.

COUNSELOR ADVOCATE NETWORK

By the close of the year, the PCADV Counselor Advocate Network was going strong and meeting every six to eight weeks in the eastern and western regions of the state. Over 120 people from subcontractor programs regularly participate in the meetings, usually rotating attendance with their co-workers. Each meeting provides opportunities for receiving and sharing information, gaining new skills and learning “best practice” for addressing the needs of victims of domestic violence. Training and discussion topics this year included accreditation/certification of programs and advocates, resident and non-resident services, understanding and working with the mental health system, confidentiality, working with battered women with disabilities, and woman-centered advocacy.

END THE SILENCE PROJECT

PCADV continued its participation in the End the Silence Project, a three-year public education project led by the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University in Philadelphia. The accessibility self-assessment tool was pilot tested in the spring and finalized for distribution to all domestic violence and sexual assault programs throughout PA early in the fiscal year. Following a series of site visits, the results will be compiled by the Institute and plans for training and technical assistance to victim service providers will be developed.
OLDER BATTERED WOMEN TRAINING PROJECT

Early in the year, PCADV was approached by the Pennsylvania Department of Aging about exploring a joint training project toward a common goal of better meeting the needs of older battered women. Initial discussions resulted in the formation of the Older Battered Women Task Force, comprised of staff from PCADV, the Department of Aging, local domestic violence programs, and aging services throughout the state. Planned as a three-year project with implementation in January 2001, the collaboration is expected to result in a training curriculum and regional trainings for domestic violence and Department of Aging program staff. By the close of the fiscal year, the Task Force began identifying potential sources of funding for the collaborative training project.

PREVENTION EDUCATION WORK GROUP

The Prevention Education Work Group, a sub-committee of PCADV Community Advocacy Committee, is composed of staff of PCADV subcontractors who conduct prevention and awareness programs in the school settings. The goal of the Work Group is to assist prevention educators in developing and implementing quality school programs. In addition to regularly scheduled regional meetings, a well-attended statewide meeting was held September 17 in State College. A member of PCADV legal office explored the many legal issues, and contract-related requirements inherent to any program decision to provide services to minors who request assistance following a school presentation.

TANF TRAININGS

Statewide DPW Caseworker Trainings
* fifty-five trainings of 4845 caseworkers, plus invited DPW management, and 200 employees of the Bureau of Child Support Enforcement, representing 66 counties at 25 locations throughout the state

Child Care Information System
* five regional trainings across the state to all of PA eligibility agents (197)

Statewide DPW Clerical Training Pilots
* three regional pilots were conducted in Scranton, Philadelphia and Harrisburg; 150 clerical staff and clerical supervisors representing 25 counties attended

TRAUMA THEORY REGIONALS

During March, PCADV engaged the services of noted author and physician Sandra Bloom to conduct a series of workshops for domestic violence direct service staff on “Trauma Theory and Vicarious Traumatization.” Executive Director of the Sanctuary Program at the Horsham Clinic in Bucks County, Dr. Bloom captured the hearts and minds of advocates as she reviewed trauma theory, its relevance to the experience of victims of domestic violence, and the impact that working with victims of trauma has on the caretaker. The topics addressed by Dr. Bloom are part of an on-going dialogue taking place among service providers on the impact of trauma and related caregiving models on victims of domestic violence. Mercy Hospital Health Systems co-hosted the session in Pittsburgh.

VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

A networking meeting of volunteer coordinators from PCADV programs was held near the close of the year. Attendees focused on training requirements, the content of training programs for volunteers, and training and volunteer resources. Volunteer coordinators in western PA will be provided a similar opportunity to meet early in the new fiscal year.
Legal Office

Harrisburg Staff

FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Susan Emmons - PFAD Project Senior Attorney; Angie Moore - PFAD Assistant; Michael O'Donovan - PFAD Trainer; Stephanie Trukenbrod - PFAD Project Technical Support Technician

BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Kelly Bock - Legal Assistant; Nikki Ker - Legal Resource Specialist; Christine Pfau Laney - BWJP/STOP Attorney; Charlene Schaefer - Pennsylvania Projects Assistant; Dean Picarella - Probation & Parole Coordinator; Liz Srinivasan - BWJP Senior Attorney; Sharon López - PA Senior Attorney; Carmen Rivera - Civil Representation/BWJP Staff Attorney; Andrea Farney - Managing Attorney

NOT PICTURED: Jane Hautzinger - PFAD System Administrator/Information Specialist; Dorothy Jones - Legal Secretary; Dawn Marron - BWJP Staff Attorney; Julie Pitassi - Legal Department Coordinator; Cindy Southworth - PFAD Trainer/Advocate; Jo Sterner - Criminal Justice Trainer

Washington, DC, Staff

FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Mercedes Lorduy - STOP TA Office Manager; Angela Natcheva - STOP TA Administrative Assistant; Joan Kuriansky - Consultant; Emily Bull - Full Faith & Credit Assistant

BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Gretta Gordy Holloway - STOP Senior Attorney; Mary Malefyt - Full Faith & Credit Senior Attorney; Darren Mitchell - Full Faith & Credit Staff Attorney; Pam Shea - STOP Domestic Violence Resource Coordinator

NOT PICTURED: Debra Rollo - STOP Sexual Assault Resource Coordinator

Barbara J. Hart, Legal Director
Pennsylvania Projects

STOP PA

Domestic violence advocates, police officers and prosecutors across PA benefited from this year’s STOP PA funding, administered through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. A “trainers bank” was completed so that a diverse group of advocates, police and prosecutors are ready and willing to train communities when called upon. The PCADV Criminal Justice Trainer and the Pennsylvania Senior Attorney completed a number of two-day specialized trainings around the state. These trainings focused on the special needs of that particular coordinated community response. The STOP PA program also hosted a two and one-half day statewide conference in collaboration with the Pennsylvania District Attorney’s Association and the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape. PCADV staff provided ongoing technical assistance to battered women, advocates, police and prosecutors on criminal justice issues throughout the year.

COUNTY-BASED PROBATION & PAROLE PROJECT

PCADV moved to the next phase of the Probation & Parole Project, aimed at keeping the batterers, who are criminal defendants, accountable for their actions. The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency funds this project. This year, the project embarked on the development of a protocol for county-based probation & parole offices in PA. A Project Advisory group was formed and pilot counties were selected. Probation line officers and community-based domestic violence advocates came together to refine training material and protocol. The first training for the pilot counties is scheduled for early December 2000. PCADV staff provided ongoing technical assistance to battered women, advocates, probation officers and prosecutors on probation issues as they relate to domestic violence throughout the year.

LEGAL ADVOCACY NETWORK

PCADV expanded its Legal Advocacy Network this year by increasing the number of meetings and by moving the meetings to more geographically accessible locations. There are presently four regions and six meetings, including one statewide meeting, per year. Legal advocates were trained on substantive law issues that affect battered women across the state. Some of the topics included federal firearms restrictions, the procedure and process of obtaining a custody order, amendments to stalking laws, appellate advocacy for battered women in the courts, the unauthorized practice of law and legal advocacy, assessing a batterer under supervision of the probation department. A critical component of this project is the networking of problem-solving and the identification of problem areas that are systemic in nature rather than particular to a single county. PCADV staff provided ongoing technical assistance to advocates and the battered women they serve on legal advocacy strategies and safety planning throughout the year.
CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM ADVOCACY PROJECT

PCADV held a two-day conference for domestic violence advocates on criminal justice issues. The focus this year was new and challenging: to increase knowledge of the criminal justice system and the advocacy skills that would best serve battered women through that process. Topics for workshops included expungement concerns, how to manage a safety plan when multiple legal issues are present, custody issues and the criminal justice system, police response to domestic violence, and ascertaining the primary aggressor in a domestic violence call.

THE PROTECTION FROM ABUSE DATABASE (PFAD) PROJECT

The Protection From Abuse Database (PFAD) Project is a computer archival system for the electronic entry of all pleadings and orders relating to Protection From Abuse Act cases. PFAD automates the entire PFA process; provides critical PFA orders to the courts and law enforcement; creates and disseminates the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) Protection From Abuse Summary Data Sheet – information necessary for inclusion in the PSP Registry; and contains all standardized PFA forms approved by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court as well as other forms necessary for Protection From Abuse cases. Records from PFAD are immediately available 24 hours a day/365 days a year to authorized users via a secured Internet website.

This year, PFAD staff trained 23 PA counties including a week of initial hands-on training and, when requested, additional follow-up training for agencies and users. This year, PFAD staff created accounts for 793 new users and assisted PFAD users on 1,570 technical support calls.

As of June 30, 2000, 39 counties were voluntarily participating in the PFAD implementation process. Of those 39 counties, 27 were transmitting live data and had filed over 13,901 temporary and final orders in PFAD. In June 2000, there were 1,163 active user accounts. Since PFAD’s inception, there were 52,484 visits to the PFAD Website, 639,733 PFAD pages opened, and the average length of a PFAD visit was four minutes and 56 seconds.

LEGAL COMMITTEE AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PCADV increased its number of Legal Committee meetings this year from four to six. Another change included a substantive training component for each of the meetings. The training issues included funding strategies for civil legal representation, the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction & Enforcement Act, stalking law amendments, federal firearms restrictions, when and how to file an appeal, and when advocates should/should not testify for battered women. PCADV staff reviewed legislation and rules that affect battered women. Testimony was offered on a Unified Family Court bill (HB 1977) and on a bill that permits release of incident reports (SB 1333) and others. A special subcommittee was formed to review the need for safety audits or fatality reviews in PA. PCADV staff provided ongoing technical assistance to domestic violence program directors, legal advocates, attorneys and courts that serve the needs of battered women in PA.

OTHER PENNSYLVANIA LEGAL PROJECTS

PCADV PA legal staff provided technical assistance to advocates and domestic violence programs directors who were in the process of implementing monitoring programs for batterers intervention programs in their counties. Staff also attended and helped plan programming for the Batterers Intervention Services Network. Staff participated on several committees of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, including the Civil and Equal Rights Committee, and the Legal Services to the Public Committee. Staff also participated on numerous advisory committees for the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, including the Subcommittee on Compensation, and the Advisory Committee of the Victims Assistance Academy. PCADV staff met with members of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Rules Committee to discuss pending rules and possible rule changes that would affect battered women in PA. Staff met with the First Response Team Task force to discuss issues and plan for future training issues; provided training for volunteer civil attorneys sponsored by the American Bar Association in Washington DC; and conducted two days of training to police and victim/witness staff around PA on the origins of domestic violence and the laws affecting victims of domestic violence in PA.
National Projects

BATTERED WOMEN’S JUSTICE PROJECT

The Battered Women’s Justice Project (BWJP) provided technical assistance to nearly 2,000 battered women, advocates, attorneys, judicial personnel, and researchers throughout the country. Technical assistance included responding to requests for information, problem-solving, case consultation, focus group participation, training, and on-site intensive assistance. Areas of assistance included: advocacy, child and spousal support, confidentiality, custody, divorce and related economic issues, domestic torts, housing, protection orders, public benefits, and relocation. Staff provided extensive technical assistance to “The National Agenda on Domestic Violence Project,” a joint undertaking of the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

BWJP Staff continued to participate in two national institute initiatives: (1) Advocacy Institutes; and (2) Judicial Institutes. Additionally, staff continued to work on two national manuals for distribution:

- child support manual for advocates
- confidentiality manual for advocates

Staff commenced a new form of technical assistance, Package TA Calls. These calls, occurring on a bi-monthly basis, provide subject-matter technical assistance to the Domestic Violence Resource Network and related ally audience. Key participants, based on knowledge and expertise, are designated for each call. The forum allows for information sharing, education, and policy development/discussion. Written materials support the call and are distributed to participants.

BWJP provided administrative support for the Lawyer Education Initiative, a project funded by the Violence Against Women Office of the U.S. Department of Justice. This project is developing a core domestic violence continuing legal education curriculum and will pilot test the curriculum in PA.

FORD PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

The Ford Partnership Project responds to the lack of access to, and the quality of, legal representation for battered women, and the failure of the civil legal system to effect equitable and safe outcomes for battered women. Joining PCADV in this project are Legal Services of North Carolina and Legal Aid Services of Oregon. Legal Services of North Carolina, via the Partnership Project, serves as a statewide resource on domestic violence issues and, in particular, on the issue of increasing the quality and quantity of services offered to battered Latinas in North Carolina. Legal Services of Oregon, via the Partnership Project, specializes in the provision of direct representation and technical assistance in the areas of pro se and pro bono delivery of legal services involving domestic violence.

In January the Partnership Project hosted a second regional conference, Civil Legal Access for Domestic Violence Survivors: Pro se and pro bono Practices and Strategies, held in Portland, Oregon. Approximately 50 invited participants attended the training. Attendees included state domestic violence coalitions, legal services programs, bar organizations, law schools, court services-based programs, and the judiciary. The states represented included: Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, California, New Mexico, Arizona, and Hawaii.
THE FULL FAITH AND CREDIT PROJECT

In 1996, PCADV established the Full Faith and Credit (FFC) Project pursuant to a cooperative agreement with the Office of Justice Programs of the U.S. Department of Justice. The mission of the FFC Project is to promote and facilitate implementation of the full faith and credit provision of the federal Violence Against Women Act, with the goal of creating a seamless system of protection order enforcement across the U.S. To that end, the FFC Project provides ongoing individualized training and technical assistance on cross-jurisdictional enforcement of protection orders, and enforcement of firearms laws to law enforcement, federal and state prosecutors, judges and other court personnel, private and legal services attorneys, advocates, and others who assist survivors of domestic violence. In particular, the project develops policy and assists states, tribes, and communities in developing promising practices and procedures that promote victim safety and offender accountability. The project provides assistance through its toll-free telephone line, email, fax, on-site training and consultations, and by developing and disseminating materials.

During the past year, the FFC Project received 1,017 requests for technical assistance via the project’s toll-free telephone line and email. Of these requests, 602 were placed by callers seeking materials produced by the FFC project for their own information or to provide to staff in their own or other agencies. The project’s attorneys provided in-depth technical assistance to another 415 callers. The types of calls requiring in-depth assistance included:

- court staff requests for help with service of protection orders in another state
- petitioner and attorney requests for assistance in filing or registering a protection order in another state
- advocate and law enforcement officer requests for help in interpreting and applying the federal full faith and credit provision
- assisting prosecutors and battered women’s attorneys in preparing for trial for violations of protection orders issued in other jurisdictions
- requests to review and provide input on draft state full faith and credit legislation
- requests for help in understanding and facilitating enforcement of the federal domestic violence firearm prohibitions and state firearm laws

In response to requests from advocates, law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, and others, the project provides training and on-site consultations tailored to the needs of the state/tribe or community requiring assistance. In the last 12 months, project attorneys provided on-site training, consultation, and policy/legislative recommendations to 29 states, tribes, and communities.

As a follow-up to the national full faith and credit conference held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in 1997, the FFC Project convened the Full Faith and Credit Advocates’ Summit in Whitefish, Montana, in July 1999. One advocate from nearly every state and U.S. territory participated, along with a number of tribes. Participants learned what other jurisdictions had accomplished since the 1997 conference, exchanged ideas for next steps, and began planning for future work.

The FFC Project produced or contributed to a number of publications during the past year that were designed to increase understanding and implementation of the full faith and credit provision.

- In October 1999, the project published “An Advocate’s Guide to Full Faith and Credit for Orders of Protection – Assisting Victims of Domestic Violence.” This 24-page booklet provides information on the federal statute and practical tips for advocates on what they can do to facilitate enforcement of protection orders issued in other jurisdictions. During the 12-month period, staff distributed 52,946 copies of the booklet to callers and at trainings conducted by project staff.

- This spring, staff published an article on full faith and credit in a publication of the National College of District Attorneys (Barbara Hart, Mary Malefyt, and Seema Zeya, “Domestic Violence Full Faith and Credit: Protection Orders,” The Practical Prosecutor, Spring 2000). The article provides specific information on how to prosecute for violations of protection orders issued in other jurisdictions with a focus on victim safety and offender accountability, including tips on charging, arraignment/bail proceedings, trial, sentencing, and post-sentencing follow-up.

- Project staff contributed to a chapter on the Violence Against Women Act, which will be included in “A Sourcebook on Violence Against Women,” set for release by Sage Publications.
STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN GRANTS
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT

The STOP Violence Against Women Grants Technical Assistance Project (STOP TA Project) provides technical assistance, training, and information to state STOP administrators and local subgrantees through a cooperative agreement with the Violence Against Women Office of the U.S. Department of Justice. The STOP TA Project strives to increase the quality and effectiveness of STOP-funded efforts to strengthen the criminal justice system’s response to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking. Toward this end, the STOP TA Project emphasizes victim safety and support, offender accountability, and the development of strong, local statewide collaborations.

STOP TA’s Promising Practices Workshop Series began in 1999. The first workshop in July in Denver, CO, focused on Multidisciplinary Training and was attended by 34 participants from 16 States. The second workshop in November in Tulsa, OK, addressed the issue of Multidisciplinary Response Teams. Forty-eight participants from 22 states and territories participated. The third series was held in Milwaukee, WI, in June 2000. The workshop explored meeting the needs of underserved communities and promoting their leadership in responding to violence against women. Fifty-nine participants from 25 states attended. The fourth Promising Practices Workshop was held in Wilmington, DE, also in June, and highlighted promoting court and judicial responses to domestic violence. Sixty-one attendees from 25 states participated in this event.

The STOP TA Project co-hosted a site consultation in May with the Family Refuge Center, the Women’s Resource Center, and the West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Forty-five participants and 28 states were represented. Since the inception of the federal STOP Program in 1995, the West Virginia STOP Program has elected to use its resources to fund countywide multidisciplinary STOP teams. This approach has sparked the development of a diversity of partnerships and innovative local projects.

The STOP TA Project continued to facilitate monthly dial-in conference calls for state STOP administrators to discuss challenging issues they face in their positions. Topics of recent calls have included: examining the legal needs of battered immigrant women, confidentiality, and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner programs. Fifteen to 25 states, and as many as 56 individuals, participate in each dial-in call. STOP TA continues to publish the bi-monthly Administrative Memo which provides information and analysis about topics of interest, such as data collection, evaluation, enhancing services to underserved communities, civil legal assistance, and updates on the Violence Against Women Act.
PUBLIC EDUCATION

The Public Education Team of the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRC) responded to over 600 requests for information on a variety of topics of interest to those working in prevention and public awareness. Planning was initiated for the development of two new projects including organizing and hosting a summit to create a school response to children who are exposed to domestic violence and distribution of a guide for school personnel interested in acquiring school curriculum dealing with domestic violence.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The NRC Technical Assistance Team responded to over 4,000 requests for assistance from local programs, state coalitions, federal and state agencies, victims, schools, churches, friends and neighbors of families experiencing violence, students, media, and many more. Continued effort is placed on maintaining current and relevant resources from which to draw upon when responding. This year saw an increase in requests via email prompting NRC to begin work on an electronic information management system.

BUILDING COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTIONS

The NRC’s Building Comprehensive Solutions project, funded by the Ford Foundation, provided a two-day training session for state coalition advocates and representatives from national organizations. The training curriculum included new models in providing woman-defined advocacy, collaboration within communities, and direction in working with communities that have been historically marginalized. An evaluation of the training’s effect is currently underway.
PROMISING PRACTICES PROJECT
The goal of the NRC Promising Practices in Providing Services and Implementing Prevention Approaches to End Violence Against Women project is to highlight the efforts of groups and agencies that provide new and innovative mechanisms in the provision of services to battered women and children and implement unique measures aimed at reducing the incidence of violence against women. In the first two years of the project, six organizations were chosen in a competitive process to receive funding to advance new ideas in areas of interest to those who work with domestic violence.

During this reporting period, the NRC Promising Practices project developed and distributed four reports describing the efforts of the grant recipients. Topics include dating violence on college campuses, community organizing, preventive programming targeting young males, and providing services to multi-lingual and rural communities. Over 5,000 reports have been distributed.

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS PROJECT
For the past several years, the NRC has been the national coordinating agency for the development and distribution of organizing guides for local communities. This project is a collaborative effort between national organizations such as the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the National Network to End Domestic Violence and the Family Violence Prevention Fund, as well as grassroots local and state domestic violence organizations. This year, the committee expanded to include representation from the national disabilities community and the older battered women’s organization. Over 3,500 packets were distributed with the theme Domestic Violence – It Is Your Business.

NATIONAL ELECTRONIC NETWORK
The NRC’s National Electronic Network on Violence Against Women (VAWnet) continues to provide online coordination for a private network of state domestic violence coalitions and national organizations. This year outreach efforts were implemented to provide access to meaningful content and discussion for the sexual assault coalition community.

WOMEN OF COLOR NETWORK
The Women of Color Network (WOCN) is working with a 15-member training committee on development of the Training and Technical Assistance Project, designed to provide leadership training to women of color activists involved in culturally-specific programs.

WOCN regularly publishes a newsletter for its membership of more than 1,200 activists with information on projects and activities, funding announcements, new resources, updates on several national culturally-specific initiatives, upcoming conferences and events, and job announcements. In addition, WOCN responded to over 300 requests for information from around the country.
Members of the Board

BOARD OFFICERS

President: Lynn Snead, Alle-Kiski Area Hope Center, Inc.
Eastern Vice-President: Margaret Ruddy, Women’s Resource Center, Inc.
Central Vice-President: Shirley Tannenbaum, Survivors, Inc.
Western Vice-President: Martha Friday, Women’s Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh
Secretary: Dolly Wideman-Scott, Domestic Violence Center of Chester County
Treasurer: Linda Lyons King, SAFENET

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A Woman’s Place .............................................. Susan Hauser
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Abuse Network .................................................. Marilyn Pupo
ACCESSYork, Inc. .............................................. Deb Markel
Alice Paul House .............................................. Cherie Rolison
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AW/ARE, Inc. .................................................... Leah Koon
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The Center Against Domestic & Sexual Violence ........ Ruth Duncan
Tioga County Women’s Coalition .............................. Lydia Brennan
Turning Point of Lehigh Valley, Inc. ....................... Victoria Coyle
Victims Outreach Intervention Center .................... Elizabeth Clark-Smith
Victim’s Intervention Program ................................ Michele Minor-Wolf
Victim’s Resource Center of Venango County ........... Jennifer Feicht
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Womansplace ................................................ Iris Kelly-McGee
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Women In Need Inc. ....................................... Barbara Channing
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Women of Color Caucus ................................... Dawn Adams, Co-Chair
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Women’s Center, Inc. Bloomsburg ......................... Kathlene Russell
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Women’s Services, Inc./The Greenhouse ................. Gillian Ford
Women’s Shelter/Rape Crisis Center of
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Your Safe Haven ............................................. Jeannee Mallow

In memory of Terrie Fichera, former Executive Director of
  Turning Point of Lehigh Valley, Inc., who passed away in November