

Action Alliance

The Virginia Sexual And Domestic Violence Action Alliance is pleased to bring you this electronic version of our weekly newsletter for SDVA advocates. Included in Resonance will be information about upcoming trainings, resources and notable work taking place in the state and nation. We invite advocates to share resources, information and best practices that you find helpful. If you have any questions or would like to submit information, please feel free to contact me: Rose Leone
rleone@vsdvalliance.org 804-377-0335

Best Practices

SEXUAL ASSAULT ISSUES IN THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY

By Thien Tho Ngoc Nguyen
Case Manager - CADV Program - BPSOS

Nobody likes to see domestic violence in our community. But why does it continue to be a problem for so many families? Vietnamese women usually don't want to report, call police, or go to court to solve their interfamily violence problems. The Community against Domestic Violence Program of BPSOS has successfully served and advocated on behalf of hundreds of clients who have been abused by family members. BPSOS offers many beneficial service programs in the areas of Community Health, Youth Development, Senior Support, Domestic Violence and, Economic empowerment and many others.

Vietnamese women will continue to suffer domestic violence as other women around the world if we as a community do not support an end to violence. The majority of older Vietnamese women living in the USA often don't want to talk about sexual or domestic violence to police officers, social workers, or to attorneys, and judges. They may talk to their family members when they need emergency housing. They don't want to live in shelters even in emergency situations. Shelters are not an ideal living situation, but for many women, it is an option that provides them much needed safety.

Domestic Violence in the Vietnamese Community creates many family conflicts. In one example, conflicts occurred



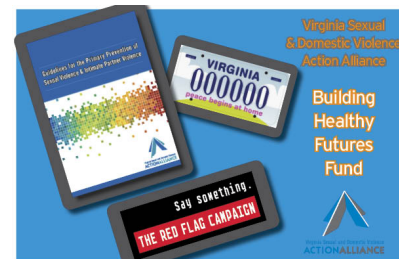
RESONANCE
September 30, 2011

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SPOTLIGHT

License Plates are on
sale NOW!!!



Building Healthy Futures Fund
Special Interest License Plate
The Action Alliance has begun pre-sale of our Special Interest License Plate! This is our first initiative to build a statewide fund to support prevention work. If

between a mother and daughters when the father beat his little daughter. The mother didn't call police but later the elder daughter called 911 to report her father's violent action towards her little sister. Another example showed conflicts and quarrels among sisters and brothers when finding out their married sister of 55 years old had been sexually abused by her husband for many years. This woman suffered and covered up her husband's sexual violence against her for more than ten years, thinking that it's her husband's right to do so to her. Seeing her losing weight, her sisters understood what happened in her own family and advised her to leave the husband as soon as possible. One day, after taking all the medications she had with a suicidal intention, she called her son and let him know. The son drove her to an Emergency Room for treatment. Afterwards, she came to BPSOS to seek help and services from a Case Manager of the Community against Domestic Violence Program. We escorted her in court to help her petition for a preliminary protection order against her husband. She moved out of the husband's house to her sister's. The attorney worked with her on to collect enough evidence for her case. The victim became worried and afraid her husband would be arrested and imprisoned in the next court hearing. This victim then changed her mind about seeking the court case. It's very hard to serve clients in sexual assault cases, but it is ultimately the victim's decision to decide what is best for her. We cannot judge a victim's decisions because we do not know what she experiences. Case managers are ultimately there as a support for the client's empowerment.

Attorneys of domestic violence clients always pay much attention to sexual assaults or marital rapes that clients might have suffered in the past with their husbands/abusers. In this field, advanced-age women who have lived and suffered their husbands too long may not want to work with police, or talk to attorneys or counselors about their private family stories. They may feel that it is too late for them to seek a life free from abuse. But younger women may feel that it they can change their lives and have more to look forward to. Sexual assaults and rapes are seldom reported in the Vietnamese Community compared to American communities. This may be a result of cultural stigma, but we feel at BPSOS it is never too late to want a life free from abuse.

Case managers of Domestic Violence Program only advocate for victims according to their needs and consents. Clients' names, addresses, information must be kept confidential at all time except when clients need or consent case managers to release their information in order to work with related agencies. Professional case managers always respect clients' final decisions in solving their family problems and never judge clients' words or reactions against their abusers. Case managers can only help clients to access resources based on

you would like more information, please see our website: [License Plates](#)

Quick Links

[Our Website](#)

[Email Us](#)



From The Action Alliance Library

Sexual Violence on Campus

by: Allen J. Ottens and Kathy Hotelling

This book is a sober reminder that sexual aggression, violence, and rape are chronic and serious problems on college campuses today... and it proposes proactive steps for stopping sexual violence on campus

For more information on how to check out resources please contact Linda Winston 804-377-0335
lwinston@vsdvalliance.org

Action Alliance Anti-Racism Work

Racism Without Racists

By: Eduardo Bonilla- Silva

The author provides an insightful analysis that provides an important critique of those who want to shift explanations of racial disparities from racism to cultural deficiencies

their needs or to choose the best possible ways/options to defend their safety and dignity towards happiness and liberty.

We are so glad and thankful to share and exchange with Ms. Rose Leone - Community Advocacy Coordinator of Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance - our services, experience in advocating the Vietnamese community to find best ways to safety, free from any pattern of domestic abuse to reach self-sufficiency, happiness in their dignity and liberty in the USA.

The Action Alliance in keeping with our mission and guiding principles, is making a commitment to address racism as an essential component of our work to address sexual and domestic violence.

New Resources

Consumer Rights Screening Tool for Domestic Violence Advocates and Lawyers

Domestic violence leads to poverty, and poverty in turn leads to increased vulnerability to violence. The interconnection between economics and domestic violence is clear. While a great deal of research to date has documented the prevalence and consequences of physical, emotional, and sexual violence, economic abuse has received far less attention. “Economic abuse involves behaviors that control a woman’s ability to acquire, use, and maintain economic resources, thus threatening her economic security and potential for self-sufficiency.”

This section identifies some of the consumer challenges survivors frequently face as well as potential avenues to address them. Neither the list of issues nor the suggested remedies are comprehensive. Rather, they offer domestic violence advocates and attorneys an introduction to common consumer problems to look out for and where to seek potential solutions. [Tool Kit](#)

Kids and sexual abuse

A look at sexual abuse from a kid’s perspective and what we all can do to help keep kids safe. The Child Advocacy Task Force of the Action Alliance is a statewide collaboration to promote a healthy environment free of sexual and domestic violence for all children. Inside the brochure:

Listen to us...

- Believe us.
- Don’t shame us.
- Don’t pressure us.
- Make us feel safe.

- Pay attention to our non-verbal behavior.
- Don't make us feel guilty.
- Do something about it.
- Speak up for us.
- Remain calm and listen.

Please contact the [Action Alliance](#) for brochures

Events

Here are some great ways to help support the work of the Action Alliance

Mosaic

Come Enjoy Food, Wine, and Spirits and a portion of all proceeds will be donated to the Action Alliance!

Action Alliance Fundraiser in Richmond

Community Give Back Night at [Mosaic Cafe](#) and Catering

Wednesday October 5th, 5-9pm

6229-A River Road

River Road Shopping Center

Richmond, Virginia 23229

Want more info? Please Contact Megan Wood

mwood@vsdvalliance.org OR RSVP to our Facebook Event:

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/event.php?eid=125941484173809>

Action Alliance GALA

Celebrating 30 years!!!



Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance

30 th Anniversary

Act/Honor/Hope Gala

December 3 rd, 2011

6:00pm

The Renaissance Center

107 W. Broad Street Richmond, VA 23219

Tickets: \$100/person

Raffle tickets on sale for KINDLE

**\$1 for 1 or 6 for \$5 please contact Megan
mwood@vsdvalliance.org**

Amazing Raise

From **6:00am on October 5th to 6:00pm October 6th**
the Action Alliance is participating in the Amazing
Raise, an online giving event hosted by the Community
Foundation of Richmond.

Non-profits in the Richmond metro area are competing
for prizes from \$2,500 to \$10,000!

Please visit GiveRichmond.org after 6:00am on
October 5th, search for the Action Alliance's profile, and
make a donation of \$50 to help support the Action
Alliance during this unique event!

**Get it on your Calendar now
Legislative Advocacy Day
January 25, 2012**

Meetings

Task Forces, Caucuses & Committee Meetings

Child Advocacy Task Force- next meeting 11/11/2011
Charlottesville

For more information contact: Arlene Vassell-Richards
avassell-richards@vsdvalliance.org

Wild Women of Wisdom Task Force-next meeting
10/21/2011 Gumspring Deb Downing's home 11:00a-3:00p

For more information contact: Walker Thornton
walkerthornton@comcast.net

South West Task Force

For more information contact: Rose Leone
rleone@vsdvalliance.org

Northern Virginia Task Force-legislative breakfast on
October 19, 7:30 to 9:45 a.m. at the Jewish Community Center
on Little River Turnpike

For more information contact: Kathleen Kelmelis
kathleen.kelmelis@fairfaxcounty.gov

Women of Color Caucus- next meeting 11/15/2011

For more information contact: Cathy Coleman or Tishaun Harris-Ugworji cmaxfield@vsdvalliance.org
tishaun.harrisugworji@dss.virginia.gov

Queer Caucus

For more information contact: Ann Crittenden
acrittenden@vsdvalliance.org

Survivor Caucus- Conference Call 11/15/2011 6:30pm

For more information contact: Sherrie Goggans
sgoggans@vsdvalliance.org

Training Institute Committee

For more information contact Quillin Drew
qdrew@vsdvalliance.org

Principles and Process Committee- next meeting

10/24/2011 11am-1:30pm Richmond

For more information contact: Alba Jaramillo
ajaramillo@vsdvalliance.org
or Jeanine Beiber jbeiber@vsdvalliance.org

Leadership Development and Governance Group

The Governing Body of the Action Alliance is in the process of restructuring its work, and the Leadership Development Committee has been folded into the Governing Body's Leadership Development & Governance Group. If you are interested in serving on this Group or would like to learn more, contact Chair Carol Olson at director@rcasa.org

Public Policy Committee

For more information contact: Kristine Hall
khall@vsdvalliance.org Gena Boyle
gboyle@vsdvalliance.org

Accreditation Committee

For more information contact: Linda Winston
lwinston@vsdvalliance.org Darlene Ward
dward@alliance.org

Coalition Fund Development Committee

Fund Development Committee Update

The Membership and Fund Development Committee is charged with implementing the Coalition Membership and Fund Development Strategic Plan to strengthen the fundraising efforts of the Action Alliance as well as broaden our membership. Our current projects include creating Planned Giving Guidelines for the Action Alliance, reaching out to potential Lifetime Members, working on the 2011 Act/Honor/Hope Gala, and organizing the Catalyst Awards. If you would like to become a part of this dynamic committee,

please contact Megan Wood at mwood@vsdvalliance.org or 804-377-0335.

Upcoming Trainings

Local Trainings

November 16-18, 2011 29th Annual Conference on Crime Victims' Issues Williamsburg, VA <http://www.vanetwork.org/>

The Virginia Network for Victims and Witnesses of Crime, a nonprofit statewide crime victim advocacy group, will be holding its 29th Annual Conference November 16-18, 2011 at the Kingsmill Resort in Williamsburg, Virginia. This conference, appropriate for victim advocates, social workers, law enforcement, court and criminal justice staff, etc. includes workshops and plenary sessions on such topics as: international trafficking of persons, gang violence, civil commitment of sexually violent predators, new protective order legislation, offender re-entry, and identity theft.

November 2, 2011 Basic Sexual Violence Advocacy Richmond, VA

<https://app.etapestry.com/hosted/VirginiaSexualDomestic/OnlineRegistration2.html>

Content includes: : identify the root causes of sexual violence; learn about the history of the anti-rape movement; clarify personal values and beliefs about healthy sexuality and sexual violence; understand how trauma manifests itself; skill building for advocacy at the time of an assault, with secondary victims, related to past sexual violence, and in the context of larger issues; protocols and practice to keep safe records, maintain confidentiality and deliver culturally appropriate services; practice advocacy skills.

November 15, 2011 Basic Domestic Violence Advocacy Roanoke, VA

<https://app.etapestry.com/hosted/VirginiaSexualDomestic/OnlineRegistration2.html>

Content includes: identifying the root causes of domestic violence; clarifying personal values and beliefs about healthy relationships and domestic violence; identifying risk factors for serious harm and tools for assessing risk; practicing the use of advocacy tools including safety planning, legal advocacy and advocacy for parents on behalf of their children; introduction to domestic violence laws in Virginia; and advocacy protocols and practices including safe recordkeeping, confidentiality, creating a multicultural environment and systems advocacy.

November 16, 2011 Basic Crisis Intervention Roanoke, VA

<https://app.etapestry.com/hosted/VirginiaSexualDomestic/OnlineRegistration2.html>

The training provides participants with the opportunity to clarify values and beliefs about crisis; assess the benefits of an empowerment model approach to crisis intervention; and practice effective communication techniques. Participants will identify cultural influences on crisis and crisis response; assess emotional and safety needs; and demonstrate problem solving-skills.

November 29, 2011 Basic Cultural Competency Richmond, VA

<https://app.etapestry.com/hosted/VirginiaSexualDomestic/OnlineRegistration2.html>

Content includes: understanding of the definition of culture and the levels of competency in interacting with diversity; assessment of value difference as a source of tension; identifying strategies for managing conflict; exploring ways to increase appreciating and valuing difference.

November 30, 2011 Basic Child and Youth Advocacy Front Royal, VA

<https://app.etapestry.com/hosted/VirginiaSexualDomestic/OnlineRegistration2.html>

Content includes: understand the ways in which children and youth are impacted by violence perpetrated against significant adults in their lives; identify the scope of physical and sexual

violence perpetrated against children and youth; clarify personal and community values about children and youth; understand the importance of developmentally appropriate intervention with children and youth; practice skills associated with child/youth advocacy; explore unique issues of legal protections, confidentiality, empowerment and culturally appropriate services for children and youth; identify policy and procedure related to reporting suspected child abuse/neglect.

National Trainings

October 14-16 The Undoing Racism Workshop Suffrin, NY

Registration

Are you challenged by how to deal with race issues in your agency, workplace, classroom or community? Are you concerned about the impact of racism in your county and state? **VCS** invites you to be part of an initiative to advance institutional change for racial equity. Undoing Racism Workshop participants will engage in a comprehensive exploration of how racism shapes American institutions, often without our conscious understanding that it is doing so. Registrants will be able to take knowledge gained in the workshop back to their colleagues, agencies, schools and communities. The goal is to work together and support local initiatives to continue the conversation and work toward institutional change.

www.safeta.org

The Victim Centered Care Webinar Series

Available until October 28, 2011:

Sexual Abuse Behind Bars: Serving Victims who are Incarcerated with Linda McFarlane.

The Action Alliance is available to provide training on request or technical assistance in the following areas: Protective Orders, BAT's, SART's, CCR's, Healthcare Guidelines and much more. For more information contact Quillin Drew qdrew@vsdvalliance.org

5008 Monument Ave Ste. A. Richmond, VA 23230

www.vsdvalliance.org