



# UDVC Newsletter

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Save the Dates

### The Advisory Council for the Violence Against Women With Disabilities project

is hosting a cross training near you! People who work in the domestic violence field will have a chance to get trained on working with people with disabilities. Those who work with people with disabilities will have an opportunity to learn more about domestic violence. Trainings are being planed in SLC, Price, Cedar City, and Vernal/Roosevelt before the end of June . Be on the look out for specific dates!

## ABUSE HAPPENSTO USTOO!

### The Segó Lily Center for the Abused Deaf by Joene Nicolaisen

#### Recognizing Abuse in the Deaf Community

According to the most recent Census, there are approximately 220,000 people with hearing loss in Utah. Of that there about 5,000 who are culturally Deaf, meaning we use a common language (American Sign Language – ASL), have norms and customs as any other cultural group.

While Deaf victims suffer the same abuse as those who can hear, there are some “red flags” providers need to be aware of when assessing Deaf victims. Signs of abuse suffered by a deaf or hard of hearing victim could include: damaging hearing aids or equipment; destroying the TTY (teletype telephone); refusing to use sign language; calling her/him names such as “deaf and dumb”; and damage to the ears or eyes to further disable the victim (a way for the abuser to gain more control).

#### Who We Are

The Segó Lily Center for the Abused Deaf (SLCAD) is a unique advocacy agency designed to meet the specific needs of Deaf, Deaf/Blind and Hard of Hearing (identified hereon as Deaf) victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. SLCAD began in 2001 through a grant from the Department of Justice, “Justice for Deaf Victims,” piloted by Abused Deaf Women’s Advocacy Services of Seattle, Washington. Our agency is one of 15 programs replicated across the nation from this grant. We primarily serve the Wasatch Front, but also offer consultative services to the entire State of Utah. SLCAD is staffed by volunteers.

#### Why We Exist – Abuse and Deafness

People with hearing loss are at a higher risk of being long-term victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. While their issues are the same as the mainstream population, these

*Deaf Abuse continued on page 3*

## Legislative Session Wrap Up

Stewart Ralphs, chair of the government affairs committee, expressed some frustration, but was positive overall for the progress made in this past legislative session. This legislative session saw everything from bills which passed unanimously (Lori’s Law) to bills vetoed by the governor after passing the House and Senate (Parent and Child amendment) and bills which failed to receive the support necessary (Marriage Preparation Education and Dating Violence). An incredible amount of

work was done this legislative session because the UDVC followed more bills this session then ever before. Any bill with potential impact on domestic violence was examined and a UDVC official position reached.

The mission of the Government Affairs Committee is “to seek justice for victims of domestic violence and improve the quality of life of the citizens of the state of Utah through review and/or draft of proposed legislation,

*Legislative session continued on page 4*

## Message from the Chair:

By Craig Harrison

I wish to thank everyone involved in the Utah Domestic Violence Council (UDVC) over the almost thirty years it has existed. As a Council, we have come a long way, but unfortunately, we also know that there is much more to do. The work of ending domestic violence in the state of Utah has been and will continue to be a profound challenge and a unique opportunity. But, with the help of many, it is progressing!

Over the years, the UDVC has had the opportunity to help inform people of the resources that are available to help them better their lives. Hopefully victims of domestic violence have come to know that they are not alone and there is help throughout the State. In addition, through training, the UDVC has helped many local coalitions and other service programs to strengthen their own capacity to serve and assist victims of domestic violence.

We appreciate all the collaboration and work of those involved. Overall, the UDVC has helped the issue of domestic violence become more visible in the public and an area of concern for all.

Despite all of the accomplishments and effort, the UDVC still feels a great urgency in the work of ending domestic violence in Utah. One of its current goals is to become more expert on the magnitude of the problem in Utah along with all other issues involved in domestic violence and more importantly, to share that information with all others within the state so that we can truly define and then resolve the problems. We have many allies in this effort and we appreciate all that they do. Together we can continue to clarify the important role programs have in the effort to end domestic violence, we can continue to strengthen those programs and we can continue to seek innovative solutions.

Together we can make a difference! Thanks again to all who have been involved!

## Council Membership and Staff Changes

As the New Year is progressing, the UDVC is pleased to welcome some new additions to its family. We would like to welcome six new council members who joined us at the March meeting. They bring with them a wide array of expertise.

**Jane Patten** of the Peace House in Park City joins us to fill a shelter position and hopes to bring a new perspective and a questioning mind to the Council. **Garry Holbrook** comes from DCFS in Garfield County and brings with him representation for rural areas and experience in work with victims and perpetrators in counseling and training. **Laurel Duncan**, with her work for Utah Coalition Against Sexual Assault (UCASA) and past experience will bring a dynamic perspective for sexual violence in DV. **Kevin Nudd** of the West Valley City Attorney's Office will be a great asset to the council with his law enforcement perspective. **Dorothy Hall** of DWS emphasizes that her multicultural background and experience will help the council to move in the direction of greater multicultural awareness. And **Mary Boudreau** from the Administrative Office of the Courts (Special Projects Department)



brings with her insight into the court system and protective orders. We would also like to welcome **Suvi Hynynen**, with her passion for women's rights, as the new Administrative Assistant. We welcome them and look forward to the variety and insights they will each bring to the Council and our work to end domestic violence.

Currently, there is one open membership position and two shelter position available on the UDVC. Anyone can apply for membership and we encourage you to do so. If you are interested, please contact the UDVC office at (801)521-5544, or fill out the membership application online at [www.udvc.org](http://www.udvc.org).

The members of the UDVC extend an open invitation to attend both the UDVC Community meetings and the Committee meetings. For a list of meeting times and places, please visit our website at [www.udvc.org](http://www.udvc.org).

If you or your organization would like to contribute to the UDVC newsletter or if you have an emerging issue you would like to see addressed in the newsletter or by the UDVC at a community meeting, please contact our office at (801)521-5544.

victims frequently encounter language and technical barriers when seeking services. Too often this leads to Deaf victims returning to their abuser or remaining untreated, putting them at a higher risk for more abuse or even death. Also, there is lack of knowledge (about abuse and where to get help) as information is not always readily available to them, which increases the chance that Deaf victims will not get help. SLCAD was developed to break through these barriers by providing a safe passage to services, support to agencies who serve those with hearing loss, and education/awareness within the Deaf community.



advocacy, etc.).

- Assistance with getting

medical help.

- Comfort and emotional support which helps prevent isolation.
- Empowerment to help victims become survivors.
- Advocates can bring ADA equipment to shelters for victims to use for the duration of their stay.

Services We Provide

We provide victims with specially trained advocates who are all fluent in American Sign Language (ASL), *but are not interpreters*. Advocates can be contacted 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through our pager system.

Advocates can help victims with:

- Finding a safe shelter and ensuring the victim's communication and technical needs are met).
- Legal help (obtaining a protective order, court

*Other Services We Offer*

- Deaf Women's Information Group (WIG). Provides educational, self-esteem and empowerment workshops.
- Children and teen programs.
- Parenting and relationship classes.
- Counseling services for victims and survivors.
- We also offer an in-service training and collaboration with other domestic violence, sexual assault, enforcement and legal agencies to educate and coordinate with their personnel

on how to serve Deaf, Deaf/Blind and Hard of Hearing victims in the most appropriate manner.

- Community awareness events and publications for the Deaf Community.

*How your agency can help improve services to Deaf victims:*

1. Invest in ADA flashing equipment for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
2. Obtain a TTY telephone.
3. Add a line item annually to your budget for interpreting fees.
4. Have Sego Lily train your staff!
5. Email us at: [info@slcad.org](mailto:info@slcad.org)
6. Contact an advocate: [advocate1@slcad.org](mailto:advocate1@slcad.org) , [advocate2@slcad.org](mailto:advocate2@slcad.org)

We are excited to announce our brand new office location:

**6526 S. State Street, # 404 Murray, UT 84107.** We accept visits by appointments.

Call us! Leave a message and someone will get back to you.

Our numbers are: **801-293-3263 TTY**

(If you do not have a TTY, use Relay by dialing 711, give the operator our number). OR

**801-263-3835** Video Phone (Dial 1-866-FAST- VRS follow the prompts).

Thank you for support Deaf Victims of Abuse.



**Utah Domestic Violence Council 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Treatment Providers Conference**

**August 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 2006**

**University Park Marriot Hotel  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
1-800-637-4390**

**(conference lodging rate: \$79.00 single/double occupancy)**

**“Working with Treatment Resistant Clients”**

**Keynote Speakers:**  
**Stanton E. Samenow, Ph.D. (<http://www.samenow.com>)**

**(Second Keynote Presenter: To Be Announced)**

**For more information, please go to [www.udvc.org](http://www.udvc.org) or contact Katie Sutton at [ksutton@udvc.org](mailto:ksutton@udvc.org).**



and by educating legislators to protect victims of domestic violence, including children, and to hold offenders accountable. The Committee publishes a legislative information alert weekly during the general legislative sessions” (*mission statement of the Government Affairs Committee*). And that is exactly what they have done, spending hours at the Capitol lobbying and educating our legislators on the importance of legislation that will help domestic violence victims.

The major high point this year was the passing of HB 102, better known as Lori’s Bill, which raises the sentencing for a first-degree felony murder from 5 years to life to a minimum of 15 years to life. This was passed in honor of Lori Hacking, a victim of domestic violence brutally murdered by her husband. Lori’s parents have been working tirelessly for the bill to pass. Her father, Eraldo Soares, said that watching Governor Huntsman sign the bill was very emotional and will hopefully save some lives, and

stated, “All I wanted was to give something back to the community. Now they can sleep at night. This will give them peace of mind.” The bill passed unanimously.

However, not all bills had the same personal connection to Utah and faced strong opposition. The Domestic Violence and Dating Violence Amendment proposed to add dating relationships for eligibility for protective orders and require law enforcement & court to provide services. This bill did not pass by a vote of 36 ayes to 39 nays in the House, and has moved into interim study. Though it did not pass, the Dating Violence Workgroup has high hopes that when studied in interim and proposed again next session, there will be more support. The DV workgroup will be meeting through the summer to work on this issue with the hope of bringing more protection to victims of violence in dating relationships, who currently are ineligible for protective orders if they are not cohabitants and may only file for a stalking injunction

(which has a high level of proof attached and can apply from strangers to dating partners).

Though the legislative session may be over for the year, the work continues here at UDVC. Plans are already being made on what issues to bring up in the legislature next year, and domestic violence has been placed on the Utah State Legislature Master Study Plan for interim.

Kudos to all the senators and representatives who have stepped up to the plate to end domestic violence, all the citizens who have contacted their legislators on these issues, the Government Affairs committee for all their hard work, and a big thanks especially to those who have been so involved this session in following all of these bills!

If you would like to know more or are interested in participating, please contact Stewart Ralphs at [sralphs@lasslc.org](mailto:sralphs@lasslc.org).

**Highs:**

- HB27: Divorce Education, supported by UDVC, passed.
- HB30: Emancipation of a Minor, supported by UDVC, passed.
- HB102: Sentencing for First Degree Felony Murder, or “Lori’s Bill”, supported by UDVC, passed unanimously.
- HB21: Child Welfare Provisions, under UDVC watch, was passed.
- HB 64: Driver’s License Qualification, opposed by UDVC, and did not pass.
- HB70: Statute of Limitations on Bodily Injury, supported by UDVC, passed.
- HB 124: Parent Time Amendments, supported by UDVC, passed.
- HB148: Parent & Child Amendment, opposed by UDVC, passed, but was vetoed by the governor.
- HB 174: Guardian ad litem, opposed by UDVC, did not pass.
- HB208: Aggravated Murder Amendment, supported by UDVC, passed.

- HB239: Child Welfare Amendments, opposed by UDVC, did not pass.
- HB290: Protective Order Amendments, opposed by UDVC, did not pass.
- SB7: Child Protection Amendments, supported by UDVC, passed.
- SB24: Weapons Amendment, opposed by UDVC, did not pass.
- SB106: Uniform Interstate Enforcement of DV Protective Orders, supported by UDVC, passed.

**Lows:**

- HB 8: Marriage Preparation Education, supported by UDVC, did not pass.
- HB10: Dating Violence, supported by UDVC, did not pass.
- HB61: Criminal Penalty for Animal Cruelty, supported by UDVC, did not pass.
- HB322: Costs of Divorce, opposed by UDVC, passed. But cost was reduced to \$155, which is palatable.

## A National Issue: Legal Momentum Fights For Immigration Reform That Will Help Women

Legal Momentum Immigrant Women Project (IWP) attorneys rally in Washington pushing for comprehensive immigration reforms that provide immigrant women with pathways to earn legal immigrant status through work. We applaud the Senate Judiciary Committee passage of a bipartisan bill that would provide lawful employment status to millions of undocumented workers while offering temporary guest worker visas to hundred of thousands of new workers each year.

However, we do not support any other bills that may contain Draconian provisions that could lead to an increase in the number of immigrant victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. In addition, many trafficking victims could die at the hands of batterers, rapists and traffickers due to some of these provisions. IWP attorneys on Capital Hill remain on-guard, ready to oppose legislation that could endanger the lives of immigrant women.



**"We are at a pivotal point in the immigration reform process," says IWP Specialist Amanda Baran. The Legal Momentum Washington staffer told reporters at a news conference, "Now is the time to fix the system before more immigrant women have to suffer."**

"Just three months ago Congress passed the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) with bipartisan support," says Joanne Lin, Immigrant Women Project Senior Attorney. "Progress was made by extending immigration relief to more victims of violence and expanding critical services to all undocumented workers. We trust that the Senate does not now want to undo all the progress made in VAWA."

*Reprinted with permission from www.legalmomentum.org. Legal Momentum is the new name of NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund 1522 K Street, NW Suite 550 Washington, DC 20005 Tel 202.326.0040 Fax 202.589.0511 www.legalmomentum.org*

## SAVE THE DATE!!

UDVC is hosting the **5th Annual Diversity Conference**

For local coalitions and domestic violence shelter Diversity Coordinators. Each local coalition can sent 2 people.

**Tuesday, September 12, 2006**

Red Cliffs Lodge,  
Moab, UT

For more information contact:

Gabriella Archuleta

Ph: (801)521-5544  
ext. 102

Email: [garchuleta@udvc.org](mailto:garchuleta@udvc.org)

Space is limited!

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CAN STOP!**

**1-800-897-LINK (5465)**

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INFO LINE**

**Eat your  
vegetables.**

**Don't play  
with matches.**

**It's cold out,  
wear a coat.**

**Don't talk to  
strangers.**

**Respect  
women.**



**Violence against women is a tragic reality.** We must teach our sons early and often what it means to be a real man – that women deserve honor and respect, and that violence never equals strength. A safer world is in their hands. Help them grasp it.

**[www.endabuse.org](http://www.endabuse.org)**

**Family Violence  
Prevention Fund**

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*UDVC Mission: "Lead a collaborative, statewide effort to eliminate domestic violence"*

UTAH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL

[WWW.UDVC.ORG](http://WWW.UDVC.ORG)