

Domestic Violence Housing Report
November 10, 2010

- Any next steps to VAWA ... guidance, training for PHAs, service coordinators? (Friday 11/5 COB)
 - The VAWA Final rule was published in the *Federal Register* on October 25, 2010.
 - HUD issued a press release to highlight the issuance of the rule.
 - PIH conducted a conference call with field office staff on Thursday, November 4 to explain the provisions of the rule.
 - PIH is developing further guidance about the rule which will explain provisions of the rule and provide some examples of best practices.
 - PIH may do more outreach once the guidance is issued next year, such as a webcast.
- PIH best practices in the field and any compelling personal stories. (Friday 11/5 COB)
 - PIH surveyed Field offices to find out if PHAs (most probably with service coordinators) are currently coordinating with domestic violence organizations and/or believe there's a need to do so on their community. In addition, field offices will collect any best practices or stand-out stories on how PHAs have connected with domestic violence or women's empowerment organizations and what the results have been. Such examples may be included in any speeches by assistant secretaries and/or other senior staff who make presentations around the country where VAWA may be mentioned.

Below is a compilation of best practices

Mendocino Housing Authority (CA084)

Project Sanctuary in Ukiah usually uses S+C program for getting families into housing. CDC uses Involuntarily Displaced preference for victims of domestic violence.

Project Sanctuary is the family shelter here in town. Interestingly, started and building acquired through CDBG grant written by CDC. First CDBG grant used for a shelter in state I was told.

Tulare HA (CA 030)

The best anecdote we have is that the local Family Services group who runs the Battered Women's shelter locally recently was awarded a grant to provide longer-term assistance through a HUD grant, however, the money was not going to be actually available for about 6 months. A triplex with 2 two bedroom units and one three bedroom unit was on the market in an area that

was perfect for their needs, but was not going to be available for long due to the great price and location.

Because we have the authority under our MTW Plan to use our reserve funding for other housing purposes, the Housing Authority was able to purchase the triplex for them so it will be available when their funding is available. We will stay in the ownership position with a long-term affordable lease so that they know an experienced property management agent will be taking care of the property. The Housing Authority will be able to keep the rents reasonable, but still be making about 4% on the investment which is better than it could realize through traditional investments. We all feel that it is the classic Win-Win situation.

The San Francisco Housing Authority has made a concerted commitment to implement the provisions of the Violence Against Women's Act ("VAWA"), and further, to work with local organizations to better assist the victims of Domestic Violence within our agency. Beginning in the year 2009, the San Francisco Housing Authority has steadily increased its commitment to those residents/participants who are victims of Domestic Violence.

2009: Women's Inc.

On April 30, 2009 the San Francisco Housing Authority entered into a two-year Lease Agreement with Women Organized to Make Abuse Nonexistent, Inc. ("**WOMAN, Inc.**") Women's Inc. has operated since 1978 as a community-based, multi-service agency, serving battered women in San Francisco and the larger Bay Area. Woman's Inc. presently has an office ("**MICKI CORINS EMPOWERMENT CENTER**" or "**The Center**") inside our Rosa Parks Development, which is located at 1251 Turk Street, San Francisco, California.

The scope of services for the center includes:

- Peer to peer support groups;
- One-on-one therapy; for women and children;
- Domestic Violence volunteer trainings: three per year;
- Crisis Line for 24 hours a day, includes weekends and holidays;
- Drop-in Domestic Violence Services: for Residents, their Family and Staff;
- Technical assistance for the San Francisco Housing Authority (in crafting Domestic Violence policy or counsel employees in need of Domestic Violence services); and
- Provide Trainings (Provide training to San Francisco Housing Authority Employees and Rosa Parks clients.)

Since its opening on June 1, 2009, The Center has answered 3,833 crisis line calls; held one forty-hour training for fifteen volunteers; held five continued education meetings; and mentored fifteen volunteers to enter into the next phase in their Domestic Violence education process.

2009-2010 Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy

When the San Francisco Housing Authority updated the Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy (“**ACOP**”) in 2009-2010, amongst other organizations that were invited, the San Francisco Housing Authority also invited advocates that represent the victims of Domestic Violence. After drafting, revising and meeting various times, the San Francisco Housing Authority submitted its updated ACOP to The Department of Housing and Urban Development (“**HUD**”) in July of 2010 with a new, improved, and updated VAWA provision.

2009-2010 Administrative Plan

When the San Francisco Housing Authority updated the Section 8 Administrative Plan in 2009-2010 amongst other organizations, the San Francisco Housing Authority invited advocates that represent the victims of Domestic Violence. After drafting, revising and meeting various times, the San Francisco Housing Authority submitted its updated Administrative Plan to HUD in July of 2010 with a new, improved, and updated VAWA provision.

2010-2011: Looking Forward

In an effort to make effective changes for victims of Domestic Violence, the San Francisco Housing Authority, in June of 2010, began to meet with the following Domestic Violence advocacy groups:

- Department on the Status of Women for the City and County of San Francisco
- Human Services Agency: Housing and Homeless Division for the City and County of San Francisco;
- La Casa de Las Madres;
- Bay Area Legal Aid; and
- Woman’s Inc.

Since June of 2010, the San Francisco Housing Authority and representatives from the above groups have met subsequently on July 19, 2010; September 14, 2010; and October 26, 2010 to discuss methods in which the San Francisco Housing Authority can better and more efficiently assist those residents and/or participants who are victims of Domestic Violence. Proposals have been made to the San Francisco Housing Authority to change policy affecting victims of Domestic Violence. The proposals will be submitted for the upcoming 2011 Public Vetting Process necessary to alter the San Francisco Housing Authority’s Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy and Section 8 Administrative Plan.

The San Francisco Housing Authority has made great efforts to change policy that will positively affect those who are victims of Domestic Violence and, further, has made efforts to coordinate and work with Domestic Violence Organizations throughout San Francisco in order to better assist our tenants/participants who have been victimized. We hope to continue to expand these relationships in the years to come.

SACRAMENTO HOUSING REDVELOPMENT AGENCY (SHRA – CA005)

We had Roger Freeman outreach presentation speaker from Women Escape A Violence Environment (WEAVE) the local domestic violence agency come and do a training for our management staff first in August 2010. Then he returned and did a training for our entire staff on September 1, 2010. WEAVE strives to partner with Agency's such as ours to provide in-depth and current information on domestic violence and sexual assault. Through various methods the training provided by WEAVE ranges from introductory to advanced. For an Agency such as ours we wanted the basic overview on domestic violence and to expand our staff knowledge about information and referrals

He educated our staff on how to treat cases when we suspect domestic violence may be involved, while ensuring we are protecting the victim's rights under VAWA. It was a great presentation and a collaboration effort we are proud to have. We now have literature we can make available in our reception area that lets our tenants know where they can go if they are victims, and our staff now know how to make effective referrals to WEAVE when needed.

The following Alabama PHAs partner with shelters in their area:

AL005, Phenix City Housing Authority – Once a year the PHA has representatives from the local Battered Women's Shelter come make a presentation to their managers and office assistants regarding their program and how the two agencies can work together to provide shelter, documentation, and sometimes assistance for rental and utility deposits. Flyers and brochures from the Shelter are posted at the housing authority.

AL002, Mobile Housing Board – A member of the housing authority's Coordinating Committee is from the Penelope Housing Family Violence Center.

The Housing Authority of the City of SLO has been working with its' local Domestic Violence Shelters for at least 10 years. HASLO began its implementation of the Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program (TBRAP) in 1999. This program was implemented through funds received through HOME funding in our county by the Housing Supportive Consortium. San Luis Obispo County has two operating shelters, the San Luis Obispo Women's Shelter Program (SLO WSP) and the North County Women's Shelter. Both agencies are members of the Supportive Housing Consortium along with 15 other county agencies. The consortium is a collaborative of agencies who serve clients who are homeless, experiencing chronic and mental issues, substance abuse, disabled population and critical fragile clients. TBRA is a temporary rental assistance program that has assisted many victims of domestic abuse that have been referred through this program. This program enables participants to become self sufficient and find suitable housing. The consortium meets monthly and we communicate frequently via email and phone. We have had numerous success stories with single moms and their placement in transitional housing units with SLO WSP as well as private market assistance utilizing TBRA funds. If not for these funds, and our collaborative efforts many victims may have no other option, and would have probably

returned to their abuser. Thankfully we have been able to assist 40 women and 82 children since 2006 to September 2010. Currently, this is an average of 10 families per year.

HASLO is also a project partner with the San Luis Obispo Women's Shelter through their Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) Transitional Housing Program. We became a partner with this program in 2008. The partnership allows us to make referrals for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking and/or sexual assault. The program has also facilitated our relationship with respect to mutual clients we may be trying to serve. We meet semi-annually and confer via email should any vacancy become available or if we have a women in need of their services. We have not had the opportunity yet to make any referrals to the program.

Waco Housing Authority in Texas we have been doing the following to work with the Violence Against Women's Act within our scope of operations-

-Our Family Self-Sufficiency Program was given two cell phone (and the necessary paperwork, instructions and phone and fax numbers to activate these) from our Family Abuse Center. These were given to us to hand out to individuals who may need an "emergency only cell phone" because of past experiences of abuse. In addition, the Center has come to speak at the FSS support meetings about their programs.

-The Family Abuse Center representatives have come to all three senior centers to talk to the seniors about family violence and domestic abuse. These presentations include videos, inclusive of national and our local Waco statistics. They have in partnership with our elderly services coordinator facilitated group discussions where some seniors have opened up and talked about their previous abuse. The senior group at Estella Maxey was moved enough after one of the "sessions" to gather up a donation for the Abuse Center of several big bags of clothes, shoes and kitchen items.

-Our resident services coordinator, has collaborated with the Family abuse Center as well. Due to their interaction, he was able to recognize signs of abuse & refer tenants to FAC. Our Resident council officers and he attended a special event to support the Family Abuse Center. The staff at the FAC are great about coming to speak to the resident councils about their programs.

-Staff sponsored donations thru United Way, also benefit the Family Abuse Center.

-Our Director of Housing Operations has served on our local Family Abuse Center Domestic Violence Response Team. In addition, she was asked to come to the shelter to do presentations about housing options.

Per policy, this is a preference on applications. We have procedures in place to efficiently assist in housing as units are available.

Live Oak Housing Authority has been working with a program called "Vivid Visions" for years. This group works with women of domestic violence only. Vivid Visions uses our facility to meet with women that have called for their services, in secret, once a week, every week. We have helped numerous women (too many to count) that are now or were Tenants of ours. Some are still here, some move on and others go back to their abusers. It's difficult sometimes but that is Human nature. The Counselors bring them in here personally for orientation with us and Vivid Visions assists them with their deposits and we help them with their paperwork to get them started. We have a great working relationship with the Staff at Vivid Visions and are in constant contact with them. We're here to help people in all matters, good or bad. I personally think the Staff of the Live Oak Housing Authority are the best around in handling these situations.

Housing Authority of the City of Daytona Beach's (HACDB's) Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Program in partnership with the Daytona Beach Police Departments' Victims Advocate Program, helped in presenting a forum titled "Help Eradicate Domestic Violence in our Community". The forum was held at a local Community Center on October 13, 2010 from 6 P.M. to 9 P.M, to which FSS participants attended as a group. Sophie Vessa, Victims Advocate was but one of the guest speakers at this event. Ms. Vessa was asked and agreed to preside on HACDBs' FSS Program Coordinating Committee (PCC).

Union County Housing Authority has helped several victims of domestic violence from a local domestic violence shelter in Lake City, Another Way, just within this last year alone. I guess you could say we have coordinated with them on some occasions. We currently house 10 families that were a result of Domestic Violence. We have one lady in particular that had her child taken away because of the abuse that was in the home. She was able to receive assistance and shelter through Another Way, which helped her to contact us. She lived in the shelter for a few months and left everything she owned behind in order to get out of the abuse, she had moved from shelter to shelter in order to stay safe, so that her abuser couldn't find her. She now has a stable home, a protective order and the state has given her custody of her child back. We are proud to say that strict enforcement of HUD rules have allowed us to help these families receive the help they have needed to make a better life for themselves and their children and to truly see that there is another way of life.

Columbia Housing Authority in Columbia, South Carolina coordinates with Sistercare (Domestic Abuse refuge for families).

Sumter Housing Authority in Sumter, South Carolina shared their coordination and best practice in working with a domestic violence organization.

King County Housing Authority

We have done several initiatives to make certain that we are following the VAWA Final Rule. One of the items that hopefully will be a best practice is an initiative that is currently in development between several northwest MTW housing authorities. Seattle HA, Tacoma HA, King County HA, Vancouver HA, and Portland HA are currently developing a domestic violence transfer policy that will apply across our housing authorities. To date, we have put this initiative in our Annual Plans for the coming year, and it is our intent to have people who have experienced domestic violence have the option to transfer to a unit in another housing authority to increase the distance between them and their abuser. The final details have not yet been developed. We are looking at having a DV agency refer the clients and the housing authorities would then possibly provide financial assistance to assist in the move. We are excited to implement this new initiative and are grateful that we have MTW flexibility in order to accomplish this.

We also have an agreement with the YWCA to run a DV transitional housing program that is located in Kent. This complex was the first DV transitional housing outside of the urban core and is exclusively for DV. The YWCA refers DV clientele and from time to time takes referrals from other DV providers.

We also have in our Section 8 program 328 FUP vouchers that accept referrals from EDVP and DAWN. We have MOU's signed with these two agencies.

Grant County HA

The Housing Authority of Grant County works closely with the local Domestic Violence organization, New Hope. A referral system is used and the PHA efforts our collaborated with that agency.

Island County HA

We work very closely with our Domestic Violence Agency (CADA-Citizens Against Domestic and Sexual Abuse) and our local Community Action agency, Opportunity Council in a partnership called "Marjie's House". Here are the details and some history:

Marjie's House is named in honor of a Housing Authority of Island County employee who was shot to death by her daughter's estranged boyfriend in an act of domestic violence that also took her daughter's life.

Marjie's House is a 16-unit apartment complex serving homeless women and children. There are six (6) emergency housing units, eight (8) transitional housing units, one (1) resident

manager's unit and a unit for an onsite shelter manager for domestic violence victims. Opened in February 2005, Marjie's House is owned by the Housing Authority of Island County with resident referrals and case management services provided by Opportunity Council (the local community action agency) and Citizen's Against Domestic and Sexual Abuse (CADA, the local domestic violence agency).

The primary funding source for the acquisition of Marjie's House was a Washington State Housing Trust Fund recoverable grant of \$1,498,000. An additional \$300,000 was raised from foundations, local funders, churches and individuals. Operating funds for the units comes from tenants who pay 30% of their monthly adjusted income for rent and housing assistance payments from the Housing Authority of Island County's Section 8 Project Based Voucher Program. Operating funds for the emergency units, where no rent is charged, comes from State of Washington Operations & Maintenance funds for Housing Trust Fund projects and from a local county Low-Income Housing Fund created by the state legislature by assessing a document recording fee for most documents recorded by the county auditor.

Marjie's House was developed to provide an alternative to the HOME Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (HOME TBRA) transitional housing program. Many of the clients eligible for HOME TBRA had a difficult, if not impossible, task finding rental housing because of poor credit or tenant history. Marjie's House provides an environment where these clients can work on credit issues and establish a good rental history in preparation for returning to the rental market. All of our tenants are made aware of VAWA, it is in their lease, and we give them a brochure that provides easy to read and understand information regarding VAWA. Our HOME TBRA program is also a partnership with CADA and the Opportunity Council. Both agencies refer clients for this voucher program and provide the case management/advocacy piece to the services.

When Marjie's House opened, many told us it wouldn't work with 3 different agencies. It has not been without a few challenges; however, in the almost 6 years that we have been in operation, I am happy to report that our model is working well. As with anything new, we had a few kinks to work out, mostly surrounding the "rules" and tenant safety (especially for the CADA clients).

Everett HA:

The Everett Housing Authority provides 12 project based vouchers for Domestic Violence Services of Snohomish County, formerly Center for Battered Women. We provide vouchers to clients who have spent time in the shelter and have had counseling to help them continue in their search for a peaceful and safe environment. In addition, the Housing Authority is helping the Agency in their application for one of the defense department's local obsolete buildings, the

Oswald Reserve Center. Once this complicated transfer of ownership is complete, the Housing Authority has agreed in principle to build and manage a 20 unit apartment complex for these project based vouchers to provide victims of domestic violence a place with easy access to services and counseling as they progress in their efforts to rebuild their lives.

Kittitas County HA

We have a great relationship with our local domestic prevention center – ASPEN – Abuse Support and Preventive Education Now. There is a local provider’s group that meets on the first Tuesday of each month. This event was started several years ago by the supervisor of the local CSO-DSHS. Every provider in the area is invited and attendance usually runs around 12 to 15 service providers. There is usually a 15 – 20 minute presentation and then an opportunity to do an agency roundtable sharing. This program has been recognized by DSHS as a ‘Best Practice’ to the other regions of the state.

We have worked with ASPEN on providing housing for a couple of their clients. We have had two clients that are on a national ‘do not disclose’ list. Their stories are gut wrenching. They have wound up in little ol’ Ellensburg from larger metropolitan areas. These folks have had the big houses, luxury cars, grand lifestyle, etc. These two have taken the brave step to remove their children and themselves from the situation to hopefully ‘break the cycle’. In one case, the family had to leave behind all family and friends and their established support group – contact with family, friends, etc. is dangerous and has to be done through various agencies to avoid being able to be tracked.

On the positive side, our local ASPEN conducted a ‘Walk a Mile in Her Shoes’ event during the annual Ellensburg Rodeo Parade. Several male community leaders (I chickened out) wore high heels along the 2.5 mile route to increase the awareness throughout the community of the domestic violence issue. The event raised good publicity and public awareness.

Renton HA

RHA in collaboration with the Domestic Abused Women’s Network (DAWN), the Downtown Action to Save Housing (DASH), and the Bill and Melinda Gates Sound Families Initiative, project-based 6 Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers for housing and services to support homeless victims of domestic violence. The families lease non-distinguishable 2 BR apartments in a new-construction, access secured, multifamily building.

Thurston HA

We partner with our local DV shelter and a local apartment complex owned by Mercy Housing. We have project-based units at the Mercy Housing property that serve DV victims coming out of shelters.

This project has been up and running for 3 years and has served several families. Many of the families have moved on with tenant-based vouchers.

Yakima HA

YHA has coordinated with the Yakima YWCA to provide project based vouchers for homeless victims of domestic violence. YWCA's facility is currently under construction with a target completing date of spring 2011. YHA has also helped provide funding for 5 families receiving YWCA services since 2008. This partnership has gone well with close coordination between our Housing Facilitators and YWCA Case Managers. The YWCA case manager, Robin has one example of a female with 4 kids also raising a grandchild whose husband went to prison for violent abuse against her and her children. She was able to get a work permit, establish residence, and is gainfully employed now.

Alaska Housing Finance Corporation

The Public Housing Division of Alaska Housing Finance Corporation gives the victims of domestic violence one of the top preferences on the program waiting lists. Local shelters and domestic violence crisis intervention programs provide verification of the applicant's situation to provide 20 "preference points". PHD developed the verification form in partnership with these domestic violence organizations.

Public Housing staff recently attended the fifth annual *Success Inside and Out Conference* at Highland Mountain Correctional Center to discuss housing options with women prisoners due for release. Many of the inmates were victims of domestic violence that ultimately led to their incarceration. While some of the inmates may not pass our screening at the time of their release, we were able to explain housing options and how to build up references to become eligible for our rental programs.

Housing Authority of Nicholasville

The VAWA act is important to us because we deal with a lot of social issues the community needs addressing besides just being a landlord. Some of the things we do may not be large in comparison to bigger agencies but they are impacting none the less. None are large enough to get recognized nationally but wanted to report our impact. We feel education to residents, applicants and the community is the best approach. Some education and information passed on are as follows:

1. Educate staff on what to look for (signs) that applicant/resident may be a victim
2. Give literature to every resident and explain at move in, or any other time needed
3. Educate Board of Commissioners on the Act and efforts to monitor by staff.
4. Report to the Board of Commissioners the number of people who are seeking protection under the act at each meeting
5. Guidelines/policies in place to help victims who seek protection under the act to help stop the habitual nature of it (aggressors are banded from property)
6. Aggressors are in lease violation hence process accordingly
7. Work with sheriff's department to show victim how it impacts their life by showing the number of police calls to apartment
8. Work with local Domestic Violence agencies to help victims by assisting through the process for housing assistance

We feel we have taken the education approach: All staff, Board of Commissioners and residents are informed in what to look for and ways to stop the habitual nature.

Housing Authority of London

The Housing Authority of London works closely with the London City Police Department. The Housing Authority of London had a staff member on the Laurel County Family Violence Prevention Council until it recently merged with the London/Laurel County Christian Shelter's Council.

Fort Fairfield Housing Authority in Maine has been working with the local battered women's shelter for many years to coordinate services for individuals needing housing. The Battered Women's Shelter has provided funding to cover required security deposits for women needing assistance to get into our units.

We recently, last week as a matter of fact, coordinated with the local Knights of Columbus to make their hall available to a local group that put on a women's expo to cover domestic violence, medical issues such as cancer survival, and other issues for women.

We also coordinate with the local shelter to provide them with applications for our available housing programs.

Montpelier Housing Authority in Vermont, the executive director serves on the Washington County Continuum of Care which is a member of the State Continuum. Representatives of the local domestic abuse also serve on the Washington COC and we coordinate resources to assist victims of domestic abuse. Also, the Montpelier Housing Authority has as one of its preferences involuntary displacement which includes victims of actual or threatened violence.

Lexington Housing Authority in Massachusetts has been pro active in informing all of our public housing tenants on the importance of the Violence Against Women Act , we have notified all of our elderly and family developments as well as all of our section 8 voucher holders. We have also initiated communication with our senior center and local officials. We will continue to be involved in our community spreading the information to inform not only public housing tenants but to the general public. This information will help everyone be aware ,as awareness is the key for future growth in all of us.

Stratford Housing Authority in Connecticut has project-based two units to be used by victims of domestic violence through a local group called Emerge. The unit locations are kept confidential from the public.

Woonsocket Housing Authority in Rhode Island, it is an ongoing struggle to get the victim to accept the help of domestic violence agencies. The Woonsocket area has many agencies that offer help such as Sojourner House and we even have an Domestic Violence advocate at the Woonsocket Police Department who we call on to offer counsel to any of our residents in crisis. The WHA Security Department also serves trespass notices against the abusers when necessary to protect the resident. However the main issue regarding domestic violence at the development continues to be getting the resident to accept the help and understand it was not her fault.

The Woonsocket Housing Authority in Rhode Island coordinates with the local police department. If there is an incident of Domestic Violence, The Woonsocket Housing Authority will encourage the victim to pursue further action with the VAWA advocate from the Woonsocket Police Department. We will also suggest that the tenant seek assistance from the local City Agency such as Family Resources or the Sojourner House.

The Woonsocket Housing Authority has the authority to trespass the perpetrator. This means that the perpetrator will not be allowed on any of WHA's property at any time. If the perpetrator is found on any of WHA's property, he or she will be arrested.

We will do everything we can to assist a victim as long as it coincides with WHA's Code of Rules and Regulations, Chapter 30 Violence Against Women Act Policy.

The Woonsocket Housing Authority recognizes that 'Elder Abuse' is any physical, emotional, or financial abuse of a person 60 years of age or older. Whether or not the action is intentional or an act of neglect, it is still considered abuse. There is a mandatory reporting statute regarding elder abuse.

Woonsocket Housing Authority reports the abuse to our Security Administrator, the Rhode Island Department of Elderly Affairs and the Senior Advocate for the Woonsocket Police Department. Young disabled individuals are also housed within our high rise buildings. They

too are highly vulnerable to physical and sexual abuse as well as neglect. Reporting abuse of a disabled person is also legally mandated. Once again, the Woonsocket Housing Authority reports such cases to our Security Administrator and to the Woonsocket Police Department.

We are aware of the warning signs of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, financial exploitation and neglect. We place strict attention to the possibility that any one of our residents could be experiencing abuse. We realize that educating people on abuse is the most critical tool for prevention. Woonsocket Housing Authority will change the door locks and issue a *No Trespass Order* to keep our residents safe and secure. We also give the victim the names and telephone numbers for the Department of Elderly Affairs and the Woonsocket Police Departments' Domestic Violence Advocate. We notify the emergency contact person (if not the abuser) to request their assistance keeping their family member safe.

Auburn, ME

We have partnered and continue to do so with our local AWAP (Abused Women's Advocacy Project) agency. We have had Kelly Glidden –Dir. Of Community Outreach Services at one of our AHA staff meetings for an educational presentation, provided apartments to mothers with children and housed elderly victims at our senior developments. We have literature, brochures, contact information and do safety plans with our tenants. All of this was designed through our partnerships. We all continue to work as a team on the Elderly Abused Task Force. AWAP provides case managers to those DV victims, Orders of Protection and assists in legal representation. RSC'S are notified through our occupancy specialists that a new tenant has or needs a Protection Order and we do a safety plan at or before move in. We also do referrals for services.

District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA) holds monthly meetings with community advocates who have housing-related concerns.

In one such meeting, a representative of the District Alliance for Safe Housing, Inc., reported on the dilemma of a public housing resident who had moved several times due to threats of domestic violence. The victim's ex-husband managed to find her after each move, and she wanted to move to another city, but could not afford to leave public housing.

Adrienne Todman, DCHA Interim Executive Director, subsequently proposed an amendment to DCHA's admission preferences to the Board of Commissioners. DCHA decided to exercise its MTW flexibility as it relates to helping public housing residents who are victims of domestic violence.

The DCHA Board approved a resolution (attached) authorizing the referral of and acceptance of victims of domestic violence in partnership with other housing authorities in the East Coast. Ms.

Todman has communicated with several PHAs to set up Memoranda of Understanding allow clients to have the potential to relocate to a new city during a difficult time in their lives. Discussions are ongoing.

The initial discussion of the problem in the advocate's meeting also resulted in DCHA's partnering with the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless and the District Alliance for Safe Housing to provide training for DCHA's Housing Managers and members of the Office of the General Counsel.

DCHA's ongoing relationship and communications with community groups was instrumental in the authority's ability to identify a major domestic violence issue and provide remedy in a timely way.

Portland Housing Authority

We have a Local Preference (25 vouchers) working with Womenspace. This preference is for women who are in the Turning Point program and are living in transitional housing and are moving to more independent housing with continue case management. It has been very successful. They love us and at any community forum they sing our praises loud and clear.

The Housing Authority and Urban Renewal Agency of Polk County, Oregon West Valley Housing Authority is doing a lot to assist the Victims of Domestic Violence. We have worked out an agreement with the local domestic violence shelter and advocacy non-profit organization, SABLE House, for victims who can demonstrate that they are ready to make a break from the violence and start a new life by actively participating in ongoing counseling and then they receive a local preference for a Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher. This has been working well in our local area for over ten years and the collaboration between agencies has really helped a lot of domestic violence victims to begin new lives free of abuse and violence.

The following are initiatives that DHS now employs to address domestic violence (DV) or will arrange in the near future to assist in educating families regarding VAWA

DHS will continue to invite Ms. Ellen Johnson and her staff (OLS) to come make presentations regarding VAWA to our employees, which allow Q&A sessions for staff members.

DHS will continue to take the initiative and make this a viable topic for discussion at our quarterly Landlord Liaison Meeting, which are held in order to assist area complex managers, owners and landlords learn more about our programs and how they benefit our communities..

During each HCV Program Briefing, DHS uses its PowerPoint Presentation to discuss, in depth,

Domestic Violence and its impact to clients participating in the HCV Program. Information is provided to applicants/participants (port-in) during these sessions. Additionally, DHS provides printed information regarding DV in our lobby as well as assist clients who are facing these types of situations by directing them through our process and making them aware of specific agencies where additional resources may be available to them. .

The first quarter of 2011, DHS may arrange to meet with our partnering agencies and discuss the possibility of DHS making quarterly presentations to their clients with emphasis on "Maintaining Continued Housing Assistance During an Episode of DV.

Burlington County Board of Social Services PHA refers individuals seeking shelter from Violence to the Human Service Agencies in the Community for assistance. While locales of these shelters are kept anonymous, individuals are able to make contact via telephone. Our communities also have access to 211 which is a number for individuals who need help and do not know where to begin. This number connects to professionals who know community resources. It is free, confidential, and available 24 hours, seven days a week.

Bristol Housing Authority in Connecticut

Under the VAWA Act, which was adopted by BHA as required, we have been able to assist 8 Applicants (6 were housed and 2 are pending to move in) in the Public Housing Program. We also assisted 2 residents with two Housing Choice Vouchers.

The Bristol Housing Authority is taking steps to ensure that victims of domestic abuse are given a preference on our waiting lists. If a potential resident or current resident is in need of emergency housing due to domestic violence they are given eleven points on their application, allowing them to move up on the waiting list. In the last year Bristol Housing Authority has given points to a total of seven applicants, and three of those applicants have been housed using the VAWA preference.

This year we continued to have a Health Fair at their Gaylord Towers Property, many residents were in attendance. Prudence Crandall Center Inc, our local Domestic Violence Agency, provides related information. They had a table with information and an Outreach Counselor available to talk with residents about domestic violence and the services that they offer at their agency.

Our Resident Service Coordinator is in the process of working with Prudence Crandall Center Inc., to create informational packets on domestic violence that will be handed out to potential and current residents who have been or are a victim of domestic violence. These packets will

include information about the 24-hour crisis hotline, where to get help if you need it, and information about domestic violence.

The Bristol Housing Authority is in the process of reviewing, creating best practices, and making changes to their ACOP that reflect the changes to the VAWA final rule that was published in the Federal Register on October 27, 2010.

Coventry Housing Authority in Rhode Island

Over the past two years The Coventry Housing Authority has participated in Domestic Violence Awareness month in coordination with the Coventry Police Department and The Elizabeth Buffum Chace Center. This year all Housing Authority staff wore shirts promoting Domestic Violence Awareness along with town employees and local businesses on October 29th. The Coventry Housing Authority was also a collection site for the donation of old cell phones which would be refurbished and distributed to victims of domestic to call 911.

In addition our Family Self Sufficiency clients participated in a presentation by the Coventry Police Department Domestic Violence advocate. The focus of the presentation was to educate our clients on how to help themselves or their loved ones recognize and remove themselves from a Domestic Violence situation.

Throughout the year, Coventry Housing Authority works closely with the Coventry Police Department Domestic Violence Advocate. The advocate sits on the Program Coordinating Committee for The Family Self Sufficiency Program. We work together advocating with for our clients who are victims of Domestic Violence, with the common goal of providing them a safe environment.

Additionally, the Rhode Island Service Coordinator Collaborative sponsored a panel for “Help for Domestic Violence – an in-depth look at domestic violence and elder abuse.

Coventry Housing’s Resident Service Coordinator served on the panel to provide clarification of the Violence Against Woman Act as a lease addendum. The RSC was able to share the policy that the Authority had developed and the lease addendum.

We also routinely request the public records of service to the developments in order to be aware of any problem situations within our complexes.

We have used the No Trespass orders on persons that have demonstrated threatening behavior on the properties as a measure to insulate our tenants and property from problems.

Wayland Housing Authority, MA., organized a regional workshop on VAWA held at the Wayland Public Safety Building. The program was presented by Reaching Beyond Domestic Violence and Voices Against Violence. PHA members from the Voluntary Independent Community Housing Network (VICHN) and staffs were invited. The program gave an overview and myths, indicators, progression of violence, and referral information. Staff were surprised at the prevalence of domestic violence, learned about the indicators to look for and the effect of domestic violence-particularly how it affects as it relates to the socioeconomic group PHAs serve.

Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County, Kensington, MD

Resident Services staff has assisted many victims of domestic violence in obtaining protective orders, accessing services from the county's Abused Persons Program, and in completing emergency transfer requests. One example is described below:

Recently, a public housing resident who had been a victim of physical and emotional abuse by her spouse for many years sought assistance from her Resident Services counselor. The counselor accompanied her to the Family Justice Center and assisted throughout all stages of the process, included the resident's petition for a Protective Order. Under VAWA, housing authorities can bifurcate the lease when proper documentation has been provided, however Maryland law does not allow for bifurcation except by court order. In this case, the Resident Counselor spoke with the alleged perpetrator by telephone prior to Protective Order hearing. She then accompanied the victim to court where the Protective Order was upheld. She met with the alleged perpetrator at the courthouse immediately following the hearing and he completed the paperwork to voluntarily remove himself from the lease. The counselor then counseled the resident and helped set up a safety plan which included assisting her with an emergency transfer request process since the spouse threatened harm to her and their children. HOC's Occupancy Office moved swiftly and identified another unit in a different part of the county. The counselor took the resident to see the unit and she accepted it and will relocate in the immediate future. The Resident Counselor also referred the resident to local resources she was eligible to access, including financial, vocational, and legal services. This was an example of inter-departmental and inter-agency collaboration to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all the family members.