

Premier's Award for North Okanagan ICAT

The North Okanagan Case Management Team (ICAT) was announced as the winner of the Regional Premier's Award in the Partnership category during an online video presentation on September 4, 2014. The Premier's Award honours exceptional service to British Columbians by provincial public service employees and their partners.

The North Okanagan ICAT is a partnership between the Vernon Community Based Victim Assistance program and the Vernon RCMP detachment. In 2008, in response to recommendations made related to a series of domestic violence homicides in BC, this collaboration was co-founded by the former VVTHS Executive Director Debby Hamilton and RCMP Sgt. Robb Daly. Their vision has proven invaluable and has led to CCWS assisting 25 more communities to date across BC to follow this lead to ensure more cross sector, high-risk, domestic violence risk assessment and safety management initiatives are in place.



Seated in front, L-R are NOICAT co-founders Sgt. Robb Daly and CCWS Regional Coordinator Debby Hamilton, the former executive director of Vernon Women's Transition House Society.

Haida Gwaii Workshop Held



On October 15-16, 2014, CCWS' Morgen Baldwin and Debby Hamilton facilitated a two-day workshop for Haida Gwaii service providers who have a role in addressing intimate partner violence. Morgen and Debby were assisted in this by Cpl. Angela Kermer, Aboriginal Policing and Sgt. Loretta Smith, Domestic Violence Unit Coordination, both of RCMP E Division. The goal of the workshop was to solidify and strengthen the existing coordinated safety response on Haida Gwaii by enhancing links across Haida Gwaii, re-building the South End Coordinated Response Committee and moving the work forward on an Interagency Case Assessment Team (ICAT) in the northern communities of Haida Gwaii with solid links to the southern communities. Haida Gwaii coordination efforts are focussed on keeping women, their children, families and communities safer and to offer interventions to and accountability from offenders. Workshop attendees were from Haida Health Centre, RCMP, community-based victim services, women's anti-violence services, family services, MCFD, Substance Use and Mental Health, public health and hospital acute care nursing.

As well as reconnecting with colleagues and meeting new responders, we made time to enjoy walks on the ocean shore and take part in the local hospitality. What a beautiful part of BC!

Third Party Reporting Work Team

This CCWS team was established in October 2013 for the purpose of reviewing implementation successes, challenges and current needs with respect to Third Party Reporting (TPR). In addition to CCWS staff, the Work Team includes representatives from RCMP E Division, BC Chiefs of Police, Ministry of Justice and the Vancouver and Saanich Police Departments. Central to the team's work to date has been review and revision of the CCWS Backgrounder, *Third Party Reporting of Sexual Assault: The British Columbia Protocol* and the updating of the draft TPR Police Protocol Guidelines.

The updated Protocol Guidelines will provide a provincial framework and bring greater consistency to the processing of Third Party Reports in different parts of the province. The draft Guidelines will be reviewed and hopefully approved by the BC Association of Chiefs of Police later this at their November 2014 meeting.

Capacity Building Highlights

ICAT Consultation (Revelstoke; April 7, 2014): A meeting/training session was held with Interior Health to discuss information sharing.

Our Vision Is To Stop Abuse (OVISTA) (Quesnel; April 10, 2014): CCWS was invited by the Quesnel Women's Resource Centre to give a one-day workshop on VAWIR coordination. 26 participants attended a day of mapping and planning related to a Status of Women Rural Women's Safety Grant project.

Developing a Coordinated Response to Sexual Assault (Robson Valley; April 16-17, 2014): Over 30 participants from Dunster, Valemont, Clearwater, Barriere and McBride participated in this 2-day training that was attended by a broad cross section of service providers including police who presented on police sexual assault procedures.

Working Collaboratively to Identify and Respond to Highest Risk Domestic Violence; ICAT and VAWIR 2 Day Training, (Grand Forks; June 24 & 25, 2014): Contracted Regional Coordinator Debby Hamilton, Regional Coordinator Gail Edinger and RCMP Cst. Jeremy Bubar (Penticton DVU) presented this 2-day ICAT

Training and VAWIR capacity-building to 35 participants. RCMP and CBVS and PBVS representatives from Trail and Cranbrook participated in the training, along with service providers from MCFD, Health/Alcohol & Drug, Transition House, and school counselling services.

Fraser Health Authority "Safe Relationships, Safe Children" (Surrey; June 27, 2014): A presentation was delivered to SRSC leaders from throughout the Fraser Health Authority to give an overview of the objectives and process of ICAT.

ICAT Best Practices Guide

Following the ICAT Roundtable held in September 2013, the ICAT Best Practices Work Team was established for the purpose of developing best practice protocols and resources to assist developing ICATs and to be used as part of the two day ICAT training being offered by CCWS in partnership with police. Central to this has been the development of an ICAT Best Practices Guide that is being carried out by EVA BC/CCWS staffmembers Amy Fitzgerald, Debby Hamilton and Gisela Ruebsaat. In addition to outlining best practices, including risk management and information sharing procedures, the guide will also include sample forms which can be adapted for use by newly forming ICATs.

VAWIR Committee Conference Call

On October 1, 2014 CCWS staff once again facilitated a conference call for coordination initiatives throughout the province. Topics discussed included how initiatives are meeting the demands of keeping interest in VAWIR alongside the competing interests of ICATs and other initiatives. Participants also shared ideas for invigorating and re-energizing VAWIR coordination initiatives.

Visit us online at:

endingviolence.org/prevention-programs/ccws-program/

Provincial Working Group

The most recent Working Group meeting was held in Vancouver on June 19, 2014. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on January 20, 2015.

Resources

View these and other CCWS resources and publications online at

<http://endingviolence.org/research-publications/>

What Are Domestic Violence Interagency Case Assessment Teams and What Do They Do?

This CCWS Info Bulletin written by CCWS staff member Debby Hamilton and Legal Analyst Gisela Ruebsaat, originally issued in May 2014, was revised in September 2014.

Third Party Reporting of Sexual Assault. This CCWS Info Bulletin prepared by CCWS Contractor Morgen Baldwin and Legal Analyst Gisela Ruebsaat, released in March 2014, provides background and current updates related to Third Party Reporting in BC.

Revised Income Assistance Policies to Support Persons Fleeing Abuse. A CCWS Info Bulletin prepared by CCWS Legal Analyst Gisela Ruebsaat in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation gives services providers information about the MSDSI Persons Fleeing Abuse policy and procedure changes that provide support to people fleeing abuse who apply for income assistance. It also includes contacts for MSDSI Community Relations and Service Quality Managers in each region.

Upcoming: ATF 2014

EVA BC's Annual Training Forum, ***Increasing Safety for Women Experiencing Sexual and Domestic Violence***, will be held at the Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel on November 6 & 7, 2014.

This year's Training Forum was developed with an eye to supporting workers and anti-violence programs in enhancing their abilities to respond to women located in a variety of communities who are impacted by sexual and domestic violence. (Please note that our use of the term "domestic violence" in this instance is meant to include a number of terms typically used in our field, which includes "violence

against women in relationships", "intimate partner violence", "spousal abuse or assault", "partner abuse or assault", "wife assault" and "family violence".)

Updates on the BC Family Law Act, protections orders and breaches will be provided in a Plenary Panel Discussion on Day 2 of the forum that will include CCWS Legal Analyst Gisela Ruebsaat, Nancy Carter from the Ministry of Justice's Civil Policy and Legislative Office, Clark Russell from the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence and lawyer Frida Tromans from White Rock Law.



Pondering the Miracle of Their Own Flight
by Sheila Norgate

As always, CCWS staff will be developing and delivering training relevant to workers in the field. This year, CCWS workshops are:

Get Your Gender Savvy On: Discussions about gender and violence at the local level are complex and challenging, particularly about how responders can stay true to what we know about male violence against women and the vital importance of gender analysis, while promoting a cultural mindset that is inclusive of all genders and increases safety for all

who are at-risk of violence. This workshop will allow people to talk about gender, to identify the issues surrounding dialogue at the local level and create strategies for enhancing community understanding of gender issues. Presenters will include regional coordinators from Community Coordination for Women Safety as well as representatives from rural communities who, as a requirement of the Status of Women Canada *Rural Women's Safety* grants, have done a community based gender analysis

Risk Assessment Across Communities: This workshop will provide in-depth information and tools to understand the importance of risk assessment and safety planning in situations involving domestic and sexual violence against women and children. It will include general risk dynamics, risk indicators, the importance of interagency collaboration, understanding high-risk teams, the importance of making timely and appropriate referrals and understanding cultural competencies. The workshop will also address strategies for keeping women engaged and at the centre of information-sharing processes, such as Interagency Case Assessment Teams.

For complete information about the Training Forum 2014, visit our website at:

<http://endingviolence.org/prevention-programs/annual-training/>

Contact Us

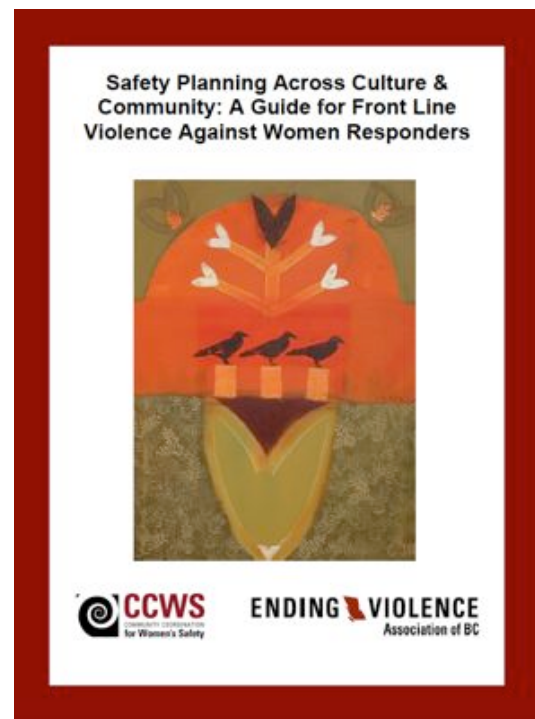
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