

Members INSIGHT

For participants in the Jackson County Safe Families Coalition



Meet-A-Member

Tina Malinowski, Rose Brooks Center

Tina Malinowski brings over 14 years of experience in family violence advocacy, program leadership and community collaboration to her dual roles of Shelter Manager and Community Educator at Rose Brooks Center.

For the past seven years, Malinowski has worked diligently to educate others about the need to provide language accessible and culturally relevant services to underserved immigrant communities, which led to her becoming a key contributor to the *Opening Doors: Making Domestic Violence Services Accessible to Immigrant Women and Their Children* guidebook, and companion video, *Insuring Equal Access: Addressing the Issues of LEP Clients*.

Of the motivation behind the Equal Access Training Program she said, "Domestic violence is not just a problem in Kansas City, it's a global issue. We have immigrants that come to our country, so very logically it makes sense that at some point there is going to be a battered woman in need of help. And from Rose Brook's perspective, we believe very philosophically that when you work with violence against women that means *all* women, not just Americans. So we have a moral and ethical responsibility to people who need our services, or come into the walls of our agency, to be able to respond effectively."

Citing the both legal and fiduciary responsibilities of with Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act prohibiting discrimination in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance, Tina said that translates into language as well.

"The reasons that people are not accessible, is primarily because there is a language barrier and a lack of feelings of competence and confidence in crossing those cultural lines. So if you are working with someone that you don't share a language with, and their culture is completely foreign to you, that can render people feeling pretty helpless and frustrated."

The daughter of a batterer and of a battered woman, Tina said that growing up in a violent home led her to this type of work.

"Domestic violence is complex. People have a lot of emotions around it, they don't understand it, and I am very committed to helping people resolve that. I understand that there is a process people need to have to get there."

Through the Equal Access Training Program, Tina and Rose Brooks hope to help SFC member agencies build upon the commitment they have to the people they serve by bringing immigrants into the fold "which is challenging to do," she explained, "because of the sociopolitical climate."

Welcome to the Members INSIGHT!

Jackson County Safe Family Coalition (SFC) is dedicated to creating communities where families are safe, as well as to supporting and serving its core membership agencies and partners.

Every one of you who have joined the organization plays an integral role in implementing the organization's core guiding principals and initiative objects. Therefore, it is important to SFC that it consider additional ways in which we can inform, assist, and inspire you along the way...ergo *Members INSIGHT*

Look to us for information about:

- Programming/Training Announcements
- Outcome data
- News/Legislation
- Agency/Member Profiles
- Best tips and practices
- Upcoming Events



Like any collaborative effort, the success of *Members INSIGHT* requires contributions from all parties. So please feel free to send us any suggestions, questions, comments, resource information, profile ideas or other information. Contact us through our website, coming online this March.

In the News

As the prevention of domestic homicide is a key objective of the coalition, SFC has decided to pilot the "Lethality Assessment Program for First Responders" (LAP), developed by the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence.

The LAP is a two-pronged first responder intervention process that makes use of a specialized lethality assessment instrument and an accompanying protocol. Trained police officers on the scene of a domestic violence call assess a victim's risk for serious injury or death using the one-of-a-kind Lethality Assessment Screen and immediately link "high risk" victims to the community-based domestic violence hotline in their area. The LAP enables police officers and local domestic violence service providers to work as equal partners in a more coordinated, communicative, and cooperative manner to engage victims who would be unlikely to seek support of domestic violence services.

This program is the only one of its kind in the nation, and was recently recognized by Harvard University's Ash Institute as one of the "Top 50" innovations in American government programs.

During the month of January, SFC worked with partner organizations to apply for a grant to provide SFC with cost-free technical assistance in the implementation of the LAP from the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence. This assistance includes train-the-trainer instructional sessions and implementation assistance through May 2009.

Letters of Commitment were signed by multiple police departments and domestic violence programs indicating their cooperation in making the program a success in Jackson County. Announcement of awards is expected by February 27, 2009 and will be announced to coalition members.

Working toward Outcomes

During the fall of 2008, Capt. Mark Folsom, Commander, KCPD Special Victims Unit and Sgt. James Trout, Domestic Violence Section, worked diligently with the domestic violence service community, the city prosecutor's office and several city council members to draft an amendment to Chapter 50 of the Code of Ordinances relating to Violation of Orders of Protection. In October of 2008, Capt. Folsom and Sgt. Trout received the "Courage to Serve" Domestic Violence Award for their leadership on this project.



The impetus behind the amendment stems from the fact that due to limited judicial system resources, coupled with non-prosecution of orders of protection, many abusers fail to take orders of protection seriously, essentially "testing the system" to see how far they can go, or what repercussions they would have to face. This results in a decrease in both the orders' effectiveness, as well as a victim's overall level of safety.

The ordinance has created a new mechanism for dealing with less serious order of protection violations that are not violent in nature, thereby enabling the Domestic Violence Section detectives to concentrate on repeat offenders and cases involving violence, as well as strengthened the city's ability to prosecute people who violate those orders.

Letters of support for the ordinance were submitted to the city's Public Safety and Neighborhood Committee by numerous local advocacy groups and organizations including the SFC, KCPD's Domestic Violence Section, Rose Brooks Center, Newhouse Shelter for Battered Women and the Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault (MOCSA), among others. In August, the ordinance received SFC Leadership Team support as an approved strategic objective. **The new Section 50-47, Ordinance no. 080765, became law on August 31, 2008.**

The following related activities are currently in progress by Sgt. Trout, Capt. Folsom, City Domestic Violence Prosecutor Marti Rigby, Judge Leonard Hughes III and others:

- Working with municipal and county prosecutors to develop guidelines for the type of cases to refer to the city;
- Determining court setting and bonding protocol as well as wording for the actual General Ordinance Summons;
- Police officer policy set-up and training of domestic violence and field personnel to begin implementation of the ordinance.

Of the whole process of finding a better way to deal with enforcement of Orders of Protection Capt. Folsom said, "It was all based on experience within the police department, city courts and domestic violence advocacy agencies to show that there was a problem that needed to be fixed."

Programming and Training

One of the newest activities covered under the latest Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City grant to SFC is the **Equal Access Training Program**.

The *Equal Access Training Program* was designed and will be implemented by the Rose Brooks Center, to provide training and consultation for SFC member agencies on the implementation of agency policies and protocols for ensuring meaningful access to services and communication for persons with limited English proficiency.

In tandem with cultural competency training, these policies and protocols are essential to carrying out the Safety Audit recommendations related to serving immigrant and refugee victims and their children experiencing domestic violence.

The training and consultation services are based on Rose Brooks Center's work over the last eight years to develop and implement this program, coupled with documentation of their process and lessons learned in the guidebook, *Opening Doors: Making Domestic Violence Services Accessible to Immigrant Women and Their Children*. Program activities will include:

- "One Survivor's Story," listening and learning as a survivor shares her story, followed by a facilitated discussion;
- Monthly overview presentations on developing and implementing policy and protocol, each one tailored toward a specific SFC member audience, and where each participant will receive a copy of the guidebook and each participating agency will receive the companion video, *Insuring Equal Access: Addressing the Issues of LEP Clients*;
- Follow up consultation services to provide assistance with the development and implementation of LEP policies and protocols. Areas of consultation include, but are not limited to: working with an interpreter and language line; agency assessment of language accessibility; creation of a Title VI Compliance Action Plan; developing a bi-lingual staff recruitment and retention plan.

According to Tina Malinowski, who will be administering the program, "The purpose for participating in this program is to be responsible to both the law and to the people, and you do that by increasing your capacity to be able to work with people who speak different languages and who are from different cultures." For more information on scheduling a training, contact Tina Malinowski at 816-523-5550 x247 or tina@rosebrooks.org.

Upcoming Events

- 2/27/09 – Leadership Team Meeting
- 3/5/09 – Core Team Meeting
- 3/5/09 – The Nature and Dynamics of Domestic Violence Workshop
- 3/11/09 – Safety Planning with Adult and Child Survivors of Domestic Violence Workshop
- 3/6/09 – Mini Grant Applications Due
- 3/12/09 – Legal Team Sub-committee Meeting
- 3/13/09 – Lethality & Risk Committee Meeting
- 3/17/09 – The Safe and Effective use of Orders of Protection Workshop
- 3/19/09 – Work Team Meeting
- 3/26/09 – CPC Collaborative Network Training
- 4/16/09 – Work Team Meeting (In-service)
- 4/17/09 – "Wear Blue Day" for Child Abuse Prevention
- 4/23/09 – Breaking the Silence Workshop
- April 2009 - Lethality Assessment Protocol Kickoff

The next *Members INSIGHT* will be published in April 2009.



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