



PROGRAM NEWS

May 2004

GREETINGS!

It's May and yes...the flowers are blooming and yes...the weather is warmer...but what this month means to us is that...many of our advocates will be graduating!!...So congratulations to you all!!! Then there are those who will be planning for the summer getaway...to you all, please let us know what your plans will be as soon as possible. Summer months are high statistical months for us for both sexual assault and domestic violence. We will need as many advocates and SAFE examiners on the calendar as possible.

SAG AWARDS AT ROOSEVELT: The Screen Actors Guild will be holding their annual Joseph C. Riley Awards at Roosevelt Hospital on Monday evening, May 17th, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. in Conference Room B and C. Recipients of these awards are voted by SAG committee members and are honored for their contributions to their community. This year...SAG will pay special tribute to Kathleen Bishop and Robert Armin who had been CVTC advocates for over 20 years (just retired from "active duty" with CVTC) and will acknowledge ALL our CVTC advocates, past and present who are SAG members!!! Those SAG folks are a clever and fun group and plan to transform those conference rooms into something very special. There will be great food, drink and entertainment too!!! You should all be receiving invitations...RSVP with us as soon as possible. What a treat!

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

Thanks to all of you who came to Albany or the annual Sexual Assault Legislative Awareness Day on April 20th. We are advocating for lifting the statute of limitations for criminal prosecution of rape and sexual abuse from 5 years post 18 years of age to 25 years post 18 years of age. We're also talking to legislators about lifting the

statute for DNA, more financial support for rape crisis programs and separate funding streams designated to maintain SAFE programs. In domestic violence, we are advocating for increased access to family court for household members. This definition of household members expands to same sex partners and dependents who are not blood related or are married; extension of orders of protection and having judges look at history of DV when assessing bail for a defendant. Lots to do...we will be going up to Albany again in mid June for a "final run" so if anyone is interested in joining us...call Susan at the office.

MAY UP-TRAINING: The up-training session this month will be held on Tuesday, May 18th from 6-8 PM in the Muhlenberg 4 Conference Center at the St. Luke's site. In addition to Program updates and case review, we plan to confirm a speaker from SNAP (Survivors' Network of those Abused by Priests), or Voices of the Faithful, to speak to us about the on the national grass roots advocacy group and their movement on clergy abuse and the Catholic Church. The remaining up-training dates for 2004 are:

Tuesday, May 18 th	GUEST SPEAKER / SNAP
Wednesday, July 21 st	Forms and Procedures
Thursday, September 23 rd	GUEST SPEAKER
Tuesday, November 16 th	Role Playing- Rape and DV

ADVOCATE NEWS: Rape Crisis Advocate, **Cara Buono**'s acting career has taken an exciting new turn! Her character will be introduced in the last two episodes of "Third Watch" on NBC at 10PM on Friday, April 30th

and May 7th. THEN, she'll be a regular on the series beginning next season, where she plays a BLONDE paramedic, Grace Foster. Remember to tune in....

ADVOCATE TIP OF THE MONTH: Tell us your favorite restaurant, store, bargain, book, video, CD, poem, place. Share your experience of something, which makes the city special. We'd like to hear from more of you.

Bodden: Take advantage of discount coupons from Barnes and Noble (www.bn.com) if you join their club OR try the Border's website (www.borders.com) which offers discounts to students.

STAFF NEWS: On Tuesday, April 20th, Louise Kindley, CSW was the recipient of the prestigious "Joan Unger Memorial Award" for Innovative Programming, presented by the New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault for her work with male survivors of sexual assault/abuse. She was honored at a ceremony at the Empire State Plaza in Albany on April 20th. We were so very proud ... Congratulations, Louise!

This month, we say goodbye to our graduate social work interns, Jessica Barnes and Lily Divino. (We get to keep Wendy Sobelman for another 2 months.) All were just wonderful to have with us all year. Jessica and Lily will graduate from Columbia University. Wendy will graduate from NYU. We wish them all the best of luck and we will miss them enormously.

DEAR CVTC:

What are the new boxes I saw in the SAFE closet? Curious

Dear Curious,

I'm glad you asked! One box is where our new digital camera will be stored and the other is for the media cards. Digital photography training will be offered soon for SAFE Examiners. Stay tuned... CVTC

Call or e-mail your questions to cvtc@cvtc-slr.org. Ask...and CVTC will answer.

CVTC WEBSITE FACELIFT: Our website has a new look and some added features. You can now print all the forms we use from the website. Information and an application for this Fall's new Advocate training is also available so send anyone you'd like to refer for training to our website! See below for our training dates for this year...

ADVOCATE TRAINING: Last year, for the first time, all new advocates were trained to advocate for survivors of both sexual assault and domestic violence. We feel this is an effective way to train new advocates, giving them greater flexibility for on-call shifts as well as preparing them more fully for what they may face when called in to the ED. Here are the training dates for this Fall:

Thursday, October 28 (6pm to 9pm)
Saturday, November 6 (9am to 6pm)
Sunday, November 7 (9am to 6pm)
Saturday, November 13 (9am to 6pm)
Sunday, November 14 (9am to 5pm)

NEW CLIENT INTAKE: As you know, we outreach to all patients who were seen in the ED by phone and/or mail (if the patient has given us permission to contact her or him) in an effort to provide the patient with much needed services. Last month we started offering a weekly intake orientation for new clients (except for sexual assault victims seen in the ED). This means that these new clients are called and invited to come in on the next Thursday or Friday at a designated time to meet with one of the Social Workers to learn about Program services. They are then briefly seen by the Social Worker on an individual basis. Afterward, based on their availability and the type of services needed, their case is assigned to one of the Social Workers on staff.

This has been a good way for us to get people in quickly as well as ascertain who is/is not ready to begin counseling. When you see DV survivors in the ED, you can tell them there will be an intake on the next Thursday or Friday. They may call the Program office for information about the next intake or wait to be contacted by us. Sexual Assault survivors will

be seen on an individual basis but they may also call the Program office if they wish. Please remember that in order to provide a sense of safety, we cannot be a walk-in clinic. Services are provided by appointment only.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We are in the process of restructuring our resource library and could use some help in the following ways:

- Reviewing and writing a brief synopsis of videos;
- Re-organizing the video cabinet and arranging and cataloguing videos according to crime;
- Entering books in the library into a database
- Reorganizing books according to subject
- Making labels for bookshelves.

If you would be interested in volunteering for any of these tasks and are available during regular business hours, please call the Program Office at (212) 523-4728. Thanks!!!

GOOD DEAL!: We've got the remedy for stress, compassion fatigue and ED overload. If you're feeling any of the above, the staff is available for a debriefing. You can call, make an appointment, come in to talk.

NEW E-MAIL ADDRESSES: CVTC's new web mail service is up and running! You can contact Sally at sclayton@cvtc-slr.org or Erika at eguzman@cvtc-slr.org. Please remember to let us know if your e-mail address changes so we can update our mailing list!

LET'S ZYDECO! What's Zydeco, you ask?!? Zydeco is a music (and dance) style that originated in Southwest Louisiana that is a funky blend of Cajun and Blues, and it's about as much fun as you can have on the dance floor! Cajun and Zydeco dances are held a few times a month in New York City and Westchester County. In May, dances will be held on the 15th in Hastings-On-Hudson and on the 16th at La Belle Epoque at 827 Broadway. Check out the website for more information (www.letszydeco.com) and COME AND DANCE! You don't need a partner and it is really great fun.



BIRTHDAY WISHES... to all our Advocates and staff who were born in the month of May: Linh Ha 5/3, Jessica Barnes 5/5, Jane Seskin 5/8, Aaron Frishberg 5/9, Jolanda Giacalone 5/10, Diane Nord Vega 5/15, Gabrielle Lambert 5/25, Lara Gibson 5/30. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ONE AND ALL!!!**

Thought for the Month

**"Let us open our natures,
throw wide the doors of our hearts
and let in the sunshine of good will and kindness."**

-O.S. Marden