

“Thinking Shelter”

Distance Learning Course

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Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

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How to use this presentation

- ❑ Read and study all the slides.
- ❑ Follow the links if you want to learn more.
(tip: right-click on the link and choose “open in new window”)
- ❑ Once you complete reading the entire presentation, take the quiz to test your knowledge and to complete Lesson 1 of this course.
- ❑ You are welcome to take this lesson with a co-worker(s).

Contents

1. Welcome
2. Refresher on state regulations
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Welcome!

- Are you *new* to domestic violence shelter advocacy or management?
 - Welcome! This course will provide some basic grounding in 2 important topics that can support your success.

- Are you a *seasoned* advocate or manager?
 - Excellent! This course will provide a refresher and some new ideas.

Part 1: Refresher on WAC 388-61A



State regulations for
domestic violence shelters and supportive services
contracted by DSHS

What is a WAC?

“WAC” = Washington Administrative Code

The WAC are regulations and rules adopted by state agencies to carry out laws passed by the state legislature.

What is WAC 388-61A?

- ❑ Regulates services and operations by agencies contracted by DSHS to provide domestic violence shelter and supportive services.
- ❑ Provides minimum standards for these contractors.

Why should I care?

Understanding the WAC can help you do your job.

- ❑ *Why?* Because any DV program contracting with the Washington State DSHS has to meet the requirements laid out in WAC 388-61A.
- ❑ *How does that matter in the Big Picture?* Understanding the environment in which your program operates can help you support the safety and self-determination of domestic violence survivors and their children.

What does WAC 388-61A cover?

- Service Model
- Supportive Services Standards
- Confidentiality
- Training
- Facility Standards

Self-Study

Take a minute now to review WAC 388-61A. Use this link:

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=388-61A&full=true#388-61A-0140>

Read these sections:

- ❑ Service model, WAC 388-61A-0230.
- ❑ Supportive services standards, WAC 388-61A-0270.
- ❑ Confidentiality, WAC 388-61A-0310 through -0340.
- ❑ Training, WAC 388-61A-0350 and -0370.
- ❑ Facility standards, WAC 388-61A-0390 through -0630

On the next few slides, we will cover highlights of the above sections.

Service Model

WAC 388-61A-0230

Minimum standards for the services and practices must use an empowerment model that

- ❑ Promotes safety for victims and their children
- ❑ Is survivor-centered
- ❑ Offers options and support for the survivor's decisions

Supportive Services Standards

WAC 388-61A-0260 and -0270

- ❑ Sheltering is more than just providing a bed. This section outlines the minimum services to provide for adult residents and their children.
- ❑ Safety planning, problem solving and dealing with crisis are some of those services.
- ❑ Participating in services cannot be a requirement for staying in shelter.
- ❑ Services must respect each person's right to self-determination
- ❑ Services and resources must be available to children/youth at shelter too!

Confidentiality

WAC 388-61A-0310 through -0340

- New as of May 2007.
- The survivor's personal information and confidential communication are protected.
- Protecting confidentiality is so important that it takes precedence over an agency's desire to share information with its partners or funders.

Training

WAC 388-61A-0350 and -0370

- ❑ Because the advocate's work is so important, advocates are required to obtain initial and annual training.
- ❑ Advocates (paid and volunteer) and supervisors have specific training requirements.
- ❑ Training should cover certain topics, such as empowerment-based advocacy; advocating with systems (for example, the criminal legal system); history of domestic violence; safety planning; and providing services to individuals from marginalized populations.

Facility Standards

WAC 388-61A-0390 through -0630

- ❑ This section outlines the minimum health and safety requirements for the shelter's facility (such as kitchens) and what it physically provides for residents (such as food).
- ❑ For example, shelters are to store medications in a way that is inaccessible to children, and to provide culturally appropriate food when possible.

Questions about the WAC?

- ❑ You are welcome to call WSCADV, or your agency may want to call your DSHS contract manager.
- ❑ Now, we will shift gears to look at where all these shelters came from in the first place...

Part 2: A Short History of the Anti-Violence Movement

(Yes, it is a movement!)

Overview

- A brief history of violence against women in Western society.
- The Women's Liberation Movement
- The "Battered Women's Movement" and shelters

Part 1: Socially and Legally Accepted

Violence against women is historically based...

- ❑ Laws of Chastisement (established legal precedent to allow husbands to beat their wives and children) - *753 B.C.E., Rome*
- ❑ Witch trials, Stake-burning
- *1500's through 1700's, Europe and American Colonies*
- ❑ Marital Rape: "Wives give themselves to their husbands" was the legal argument that supported rape in marriage. This became established in English law. - *Lord Hale, 1500's*

A Tool for Conquest and Slavery

. . . and violence against women was (and is) a tool used for war, colonization and slavery . . .

For example, rape against slaves was not a crime; it was a common way for slave owners to produce more slaves. Post-Emancipation, a reality that permitted the rape of African American women continued.

“Nowhere in the law was the rape of a black woman considered a crime.”

- “Rape, Racism and Reality,” Feminist Alliance Against Rape, 1978

A Private Family Matter

. . . Violence against women and children within the family was considered a “private family matter.”

Local and state laws regulated what kind of wife battering was allowed (such as the size of the stick), and when it was allowed (such as not on Sundays).

U.S. case law established battering by husbands and fathers as a private family matter, not to be interfered with by government. - State v. Rhodes, 1868

Part 2: Resistance

However, feminist historians have found organized resistance to violence against women at many moments in history.

Here are some examples of recent social movements that were driven, in part, by women striving for freedom from abuse and violence:

- ❑ Temperance Movement (Prohibition)
- ❑ Suffrage Movement (women's right to vote)
- ❑ Civil Rights Movement

All had women in leadership who linked the struggle for human rights to freedom from violence against women in their community.

Women's Movement

- ❑ The women's movement grew out of the Civil Rights and Gay Rights Movements.
- ❑ It is no accident that this occurred at a time of great economic change in the U.S., when a significant percentage of middle-class women obtained jobs that allowed them new economic choices. Poor women came together as mothers and organized for welfare rights (a radical idea at the time, and today).
- ❑ It is often said that the greatest struggle for freedom occurs within the mind. Women in many cities and towns around the country formed consciousness-raising groups to talk about the conditions of their lives.

Raising Consciousness

In the informal environment of small consciousness-raising groups, masses of women broke the silence about rape. They began to talk about rape as an act of dominance rather than sex, and a common experience that reinforced the social order.

“Today this sounds obvious; [the idea that rape is not the victim’s fault] was a revelation. The anti-rape movement changed women’s consciousness...” (Susan Schecter, *Women and Male Violence*, p. 34).

Part 3: Battered Women's Movement

In the 1970's, a new movement emerged among women's liberation and rights activists, including those organizing to stop rape.

- ❑ Survivors of domestic violence opened their apartments and houses, forming an informal, loose network.
- ❑ Del Martin published the ground-breaking book "Battered Wives" (1976), giving a name and credence to many women's reality.
- ❑ Women created and organized hotlines, safe homes, networks, legal action and much more. Many women became leaders by doing, acting on their own experiences of sexual violence and battering.

Hotlines, Shelters and Support Groups

With the rallying cry of “We will not be beaten!”, women (and a few good men) created crisis lines, support groups, safe homes, and shelters all across the country in the 1970’s through the early 1990’s. Some communities of color organized culturally-specific programs.

Some efforts were rooted in a feminist analysis of sexism as the root of violence against women. Other programs started with a more neighborly emphasis (especially in rural areas) or social service focus (especially among multi-service agencies) of helping women and children in need.

Successes of the Movement

The anti-violence movements achieved great success in just three decades. Prompted by activists, a sea change in legal rights and protections against rape and battering became institutionalized. Survivors could find a safe place to call or go in every state. Media reports began to reflect the shocking frequency of violence in the family. Clergy, medical providers, schools, social service providers, and employers responded to the call to get involved.

Perhaps most importantly, the social acceptability of domestic violence and sexual assault shifted. They are no longer “private family matters.”

Unintended Consequences of Success

However, the successes of the movement had some difficult consequences.

Grassroots power and all-volunteer energy began to fade in the face of community pressure to become social service-oriented, structured, and hierarchical. Meeting the endless need for shelter began to eclipse organizing for social change. Some funders declined to support organizations with lesbians or women of color in leadership, leading to a national split within the movement. Backlash against women's rights began to take hold.

Part 4: A few challenges of managing a shelter today

The early successes, as well as unintended consequences, shape many of the challenges that shelters face today.

See if the next few slides address a few that resonate with your experience.

Tension between creating a safe, shared living environment and supporting survivors' autonomy

"Oh my goodness, those awful house rules! I began to think I was in a branch of the armed forces. The rules were to be enforced without exception."

- shelter worker, *Women and Male Violence*, p. 90

Facing the downsides of becoming more professional and structured

"[By becoming an agency,] we were driven away from the main issue, which is: How are we going to stop violence against women? . . .

Are we going to change the situation? Or are we just going to build a social service to meet the needs of abused women only to a point; we get that far and no further."

- *Women and Male Violence*, p. 111

More Challenges of Shelters Today

- ❑ Lack of enough funding for comprehensive support to help survivors get free, or to pay a living wage to workers;
- ❑ The myth of the “good victim,” vs. the complex realities of how survivors sometimes cope with powerlessness (such as using drugs, alcohol and illegal violence against an abuser);
- ❑ Pressure to cooperate with the criminal legal system and social services that hold great power over a survivor and her children;
- ❑ An artificial, national divide between rape and domestic violence services and agencies;
- ❑ Can you think of more?

Meeting the challenges

In Lesson 2 of this distance learning course, we will explore what a few shelter leaders in Washington State are doing to deal with some of these challenges creatively and successfully.

Conclusion

Activists for women's rights and liberation helped give birth to domestic violence shelters. The history of violence against women, as well as the history of organizing to stop it, helps us understand the challenges facing those shelters today.

"We were not alone because thousands of other women were doing the same thing we were all across the country. And we were not alone because we got so much from each other . . . So much women's pain came out in that building, but so much caring and attention were born. . ."

-Women's Advocates: The Story of a Shelter, 1980, from Women and Male Violence, by Susan Schechter, p. 39.

Resources

Intrigued? Want more? Check out these resources:

“Herstory of Domestic Violence: A Timeline of the Battered Women's Movement,”

<http://www.mincava.umn.edu/documents/herstory/herstory.html>

(The Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse (MINCAVA) has an excellent website with all sorts resources on violence against women. It is directed by Jeffrey Edleson, PhD, a leader in the movement.)

Women and Male Violence: The Visions and Struggles of the Battered Women's Movement, Susan Schechter (1982)

Parenting in Public: Family Shelter and Public Assistance, Donna Haig Friedman (2000) (DSHS sent a free copy of this book to every shelter contractor in 2006.)

The books are available from the WSCADV lending library.

Congratulations! You made it!

- ❑ You've completed this portion of the course, now it's time to see how much you can remember.
- ❑ Click the link below to test yourself and to signal to us that you have completed this section so we can record your credit.
- ❑ No worries, no grades.
- ❑ [Take the quiz](#)