



Board Briefing

September 15, 2010

Board News

Next Meeting

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 22, 2010, 5 pm, here in our Griggs office. Please let Nancy Cicero know whether or not you will attend (651-646-5553 x 312 or ncicero@casadeesperanza.org).

Staff

CEO

Patti is in New York for meetings with the NoVo Foundation. She is participating in the Advisory Committee for the NoVo Foundation's new ten-year initiative focused on strengthening the US movement to end violence against women and girls; the initiative will be launched in 2011. NoVo is committed to building the capacity of organizations with demonstrated ability for significant impact (including community building, advocacy, research and development), especially those organizations that are women-led or women-focused.

CEER

Amy is in Riverside, California, speaking to the California District Attorneys Association. Their meeting is on Domestic Violence and Underserved Populations, and Amy's presentation is entitled, *Working with Spanish-speaking Immigrants and Undocumented Victims*.

Programs

Training and Technical Assistance

Our current webinar series focuses on community engagement. Each of the three webinars is being presented by a staff member and a community participant—Lumarie Orozco and a youth peer educator (August), Cynthia Sanchez and a *líder* (September), and Josemy Morales and a community *puente* (October). The webinars provide a great opportunity to encourage other organizations in community engagement and to bring our community leaders into the conversation.

We are in the midst of final preparations for the conference that we are planning in Santa Fe, September 28-30. The meetings are for grantees of the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) of the Department of Justice—Culturally and Linguistically Specific Services Program (CLSSP) and Sexual Assault Services – Culturally Specific Services Program (SASP). We expect 120 attendees. We are pleased that Judge Sue Carbon, the director of OVW, will attend the meetings to hold listening sessions with grantees and celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

External Relations

Marketing

Eva Benavidez, marketing manager, attended Safety Net's Technology Safety Training of Trainers in Cambridge, MA, August 9 - 12. The training focused on the ways technology can assist survivors, be misused by abusers and perpetrators, and enhance our advocacy work. Eva will provide some of this critical information regarding social media in her presentation for CLSSP and SASP grantees in Santa Fe, NM.

Policy

Rosie Hidalgo, director of public policy, participated in a meeting, August 19, convened by Lynn Rosenthal, White House Advisor on Violence Against Women, with national domestic violence and sexual assault organizations to discuss the Administration's budget priorities for FY 2012 and strategies to prevent budget cuts and advocate for increases or level funding in Department of Justice and Health and Human Resource budgets that most directly impact domestic violence and sexual assault services.

Rosie provided the keynote presentation, August 30, at the conference of the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance. The one-day conference, entitled "Unheard Voices: Domestic and Sexual Violence in the Immigrant Community," focused on improving services for immigrant communities.

Gloria Fressia and Rosie were panelists at a workshop, September 11, at the annual convention of the Hispanic National Bar Association in Minneapolis. They presented on domestic violence issues and the special immigration provisions of VAWA and encouraged Latin@ attorneys to provide *pro bono* representation for victims of domestic violence.

Rosie presented a workshop in St. Paul, September 13, that we co-hosted with Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women. The event focused on improving meaningful access to services for individuals with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and immigrants. The workshop was well attended, with more than 40 participants representing a variety of organizations from the Twin Cities and outlying areas. Rosie will present a similar workshop, September 15, at the annual conference of the New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Grants

Patricia Moen, grant writer, returned from maternity leave on September 1. We're very glad she's back!

Verizon Wireless will contribute \$50,000 (\$25,000 from the Great Plains Region: thank you, Karen!) to continue to promote hope, connection and change nationwide. Building on the success of the Hope Campaign, this donation will further our efforts to engage individuals and organizations locally and nationally.

We had a site visit with the Nash Finch Company, September 14. If approved, this grant will be new funding for *El Refugio*.

We have received approval for a \$50,000 grant from The Saint Paul Foundation and \$10,000 from Mardag Foundation to support Family Advocacy efforts to recruit and train volunteers to provide support to women and children engaged in Family Advocacy.