

# Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women

## Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women Staff:

**Loreline Arevalos**  
*Legislative Coordinator*

**Jeanne Barkey**  
*Membership Outreach &  
Special Projects Coordinator*

**Cyndi Cook**  
*Executive Director*

**Carla Ferrucci**  
*Director of Public Policy &  
Systems Change*

**Deb Foster**  
*Director of Community  
Connections*

**Kim Graham**  
*Program Assistant*

**Danielle Kluz**  
*Public Awareness &  
Prevention Coordinator*

**Tammie Larsen**  
*Executive Assistant/  
IT Specialist*

**Liz Richards**  
*Legal Program Coordinator*



## A Guide to the New Laws from the 2006 Legislative Session

The 2006 session of the Minnesota Legislature was one of the shortest in memory, but it resulted in some good news for battered women and their children, including funding for transitional housing for battered women and the requirement of entry of tribal orders for protection into the statewide protective order database.

### MCBW Legislative Priorities for the 2006 Session:

1. Transitional housing for battered women.
2. Child support policy that is fair and equitable for children.
3. Oppose custody legislation that will harm battered women and their children, oppose any rebuttable presumption for joint physical/legal custody because of domestic violence, and also deter lowering or obliterating child support obligations.
4. Ensure sovereignty and safety for Na-

tive battered women through full faith and credit by ensuring that tribal OFP's are entered into statewide registries.

5. Make a violation of a domestic abuse no contact order an enhanceable crime to a gross misdemeanor.

This edition of the MCBW newsletter is your guide to the new laws from the 2006 legislative session. In this overview, we have summarized the policy changes, and where applicable, we have indicated the implications for battered women and their children within the summary. This guide is by no means comprehensive, and may be subject to interpretation.

For more information and materials on state, federal, and tribal new laws, and new case law, we encourage you to order the packet from the Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project's New Laws Training by calling them at (612) 343-9842.

## Public Safety Omnibus Bill Includes Provisions to Provide Safety and Promote Justice for Battered Women

**House File 2656\*/Senate File 2633/  
Chapter 136**

**House Chief Author:** Steve Smith

**Senate Chief Author:** Jane Ranum

**Effective Dates:** Various

Thanks to the organizing efforts of MCBW member programs and allies, there were a number of positive changes for battered women in the in the 2006 Omnibus Public Safety bill. Many of these changes went into effect August 1, 2006. For the full text of the 2006 public safety bill and changes that will affect battered women and their

children, see the Legislature's web site at [www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us](http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us).

### Tribal or foreign protective orders:

This change allows orders for protection that were issued by another state, an Indian tribe, or United States territory to be honored in Minnesota counties with all of the same enforcements as an order for protection issued by any county in Minnesota and to be entered into the statewide order for protection database. This will ensure en-

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Director's Update

*Cyndi Cook, Executive Director*

Autumn can be a season for reflection and contemplation as our part of the world moves from sunshine and warmth to the routines and activities of fall. As the leaves change their color and the weather becomes more brisk, I find myself reflecting on the condition of the world we live in and our place in improving that world for everyone.

At times it is difficult to reflect without being deeply saddened by the events around us. At least 16 women and 10 children have been killed by intimate partners or family members in Minnesota so far this year. This tragic number increased recently with the murders of Teri Lee and Tim Hawkinson by Teri's former boyfriend. Teri Lee left behind four children, ranging in age from 6 to 12. Lee's husband had died in a car accident in 2001, so her children are now orphaned. Tim Hawkinson left behind two adult sons. Our deepest sympathies go out to their families and friends.

At the same time, I continue to be filled with admiration and respect for all who have committed themselves to ending battering and other forms of violence against women so that this kind of tragedy will someday cease. Some of the topics covered in this newsletter simply enhance that respect, as they confirm the importance of the work we all do every day.

Much of this newsletter is devoted to new laws passed in the 2006 legislative session, with six pages outlining many of the changes that have occurred and their effect on the safety of battered women and their children. By keeping up to date on these laws, and by continuing to be the experts

you all are on the laws that affect battered women, you play an extremely valuable role in advocating for the safety of those you serve. Your expertise on these issues makes it possible to create a bit more safety every day for women and children across the state, and that safety will only continue to grow as we all continue this critical work.

The newsletter also includes information related to the upcoming elections. Each one of you who works to encourage citizens to vote and ensures that all voters are informed about these important issues contributes to a groundswell of support for safety and the prevention of harm to all Minnesotans. Because of your efforts, public servants enter office with an awareness of how important it is to the citizens they represent that battering and sexual violence will not be tolerated.

This is also a time when many battered women's programs are holding events for this month's Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Keeping victims of domestic violence safe and holding batterers accountable are the responsibilities of the entire community. Through your efforts to get that message out during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, you bring communities a step closer to taking on the responsibility to provide safety, promote justice and prevent future harm for all battered women and their children.

While tragedies continue to occur, I am heartened by the fact that so many are dedicated to ending this terrible violence. With that knowledge, I have hope that we will someday succeed in that quest.

## Welcome to MCBW's Two Newest Staff Members

MCBW is excited to welcome Loreline (Lori) Arevalos as our new Legislative Coordinator. Lori comes to MCBW with extensive experience in community organizing around legislative and other policy issues. Her most recent work on housing with the People Escaping Poverty Project in Moorhead, Minnesota will lend significant expertise to the Coalition in an area of importance for member programs and survivors. Lori's experience in legal research and tribal law through her work as a paralegal with the Red Lake Legal Department and her educational background in political science make her a well-rounded candidate for this position. Lori will be working closely with member programs throughout the state on legislative analysis and organizing activities. Lori can be reached at (651) 646-6177, ext. 14 or

[larevalos@mcbw.org](mailto:larevalos@mcbw.org).

We are also very pleased to welcome Tammie Larsen who will be working with us through this fiscal year as Executive Assistant/Information Technology Specialist before she moves on to a legal career. Tammie brings extensive experience in both nonprofit management and the movement to end violence against women. She will be focusing on helping MCBW to establish the systems and procedures that will lay the foundation for the new structure. Tammie can be reached at (651) 646-6177, ext 26 or [tlarsen@mcbw.org](mailto:tlarsen@mcbw.org).

Please join us in welcoming both Lori and Tammie!

## Sex Trafficking and Prostitution

*Vednita Carter, Breaking Free*

### Sex Trafficking:

An estimated 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year. About 80 percent of trafficked victims are female, and 70 percent are trafficked specifically for the commercial sex industry. It is estimated that at least 20,000 of these victims are trafficked into the United States yearly. Minnesota has become one of the 13 most heavily sex and slavery trafficked states in the nation. Our state is particularly affected by trafficking because we border with Canada. Trafficking is a serious issue to which our legislators are paying serious attention by providing millions of dollars nationally for purposes of research, education, and services to these victims.

Sex trafficking, according to the federal government, is a modern-day form of slavery in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act is under the age of 18 years. Enactment of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) made sex trafficking a serious violation of federal law. As defined by the TVPA, the term “commercial sex act” means any sexual act for which something of value is given or received.

The TVPA recognizes that traffickers use psychological as well as physical coercion and bondage, and it defines coercion to include threats of serious harm to or physical restraint against any person; any scheme, plan, or pattern intended to cause a person to believe that failure to perform an act would result in serious harm to or physical restraint against any person; or the abuse or threatened abuse of the legal process.

### Prostitution:

In the United States it is estimated that there are at least 1,000,000 individuals used in domestic systems of prostitution yearly. These systems include, but are not limited to, street prostitution, escort services, child prostitution, stripping, and pornography. At least 90 percent of domestic prostitution victims are female and 50 percent are children. Domestic prostitution, just like sex trafficking, is clearly an extension of slavery and a human rights violation.

Over the last ten years Breaking Free has worked with over 4,000 prostituted women and girls in Minnesota who are from the United States. These individuals come from all walks of life and have been involved in various systems of prostitution. Over 40% of these women and children have

been sex trafficked domestically, meaning that they were taken from one state to another. 20% of the women and children we have worked with have pimps, usually those ages 22 and under. 75% have been sexually abused before the age of 18. Over 95% are chemically dependent.

### Commonalities:

Sex trafficking and prostitution have many commonalities. Prostitution, like sex trafficking, leaves women and children physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually devastated. Recovery takes years, even decades. Often, the damage can never be undone. Prostituted women must be offered a range of services and support that will allow them to free themselves from the many co-factors that entrap them on the street, in poverty, and make them at high risk for contracting HIV: drug addiction, constant sexual abuse, lack of education, lack of employment, lack of social support, and the lack of financial resources to care for themselves and their children. Few women and girls in prostitution want to be there, regardless of their age. Few seek it out or choose it, and like victims of sex trafficking, most are desperate to leave it.

Some people believe that while victims of sex trafficking enter into it unwillingly, prostituted women are prostituted voluntarily. This contributes to the idea that women and children involved in prostitution are not victims and they should be held accountable for everything that happens to them while involved in prostitution.

All women and children who have been involved in sex trafficking and prostitution should be treated in a humane manner and both types of victims deserve the services necessary to restore them to self dignity. We must remember that this fight against sexual slavery, both sex trafficking *and* prostitution, is key to dismantling systems of dual oppression—racism and sexism. Internalized oppression must be externalized. Only then can it be ended.

*Breaking Free was established in St. Paul in 1996 to serve women and girls involved in systems of prostitution. Vednita Carter may be reached at Breaking Free at (651) 645-6557.*

*Please join Breaking Free at their Tenth Anniversary Conference and Luncheon in St. Paul on November 2, 2006. This event is co-sponsored by the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women. For more information and the conference registration form, please see Breaking Free's web site at [www.breakingfree.net](http://www.breakingfree.net).*

## Funding for Transitional Housing Addresses Housing Needs of Minnesota's Battered Women

**House File 2959\*/Senate File 2718/Chapter 258**

**House Chief Author:** Dan Dorman

**Senate Chief Author:** Keith Langseth

Effective Date(s): various

When MCBW conducted the Legislative Survey in the fall of 2005 to determine our legislative priorities for 2006, one of the biggest issues identified by member programs all over the state was the need for more funding for transitional housing. Transitional housing is an important resource in providing safety for battered women and their children in Minnesota.

A study conducted by the Wilder Research Center in 2003 found that one in three homeless women was homeless at least in part due to domestic violence. Research also indicates that there is a lack of safe and affordable housing in Minnesota. For example, there are currently almost 7,000 households waiting for subsidized housing in Minneapolis. The city's housing authority has not added any new names to the waiting list since 2003.

Lack of housing is a major barrier to battered women leaving their abusers. In the same Wilder Research Center study quoted above, nearly half of homeless women reported that they stayed in an abusive relationship because they had nowhere else to live.

Transitional housing programs assist battered women who are ready to move beyond emergency shelter into a more independent living situation. Transitional programs allow battered women and their children to further develop the self-sufficiency needed to sustain permanent and safe housing.

Safety means a home  
for my  
children and me...



One of every three  
homeless women in  
Minnesota is  
homeless at least in  
part due to domestic  
violence.

Wilder Research  
Center, 2003

Provide safety for  
all battered women.

A 2003 study by Anna Melbin, Chris Sullivan and Debra Cain found that the majority of battered women in transitional housing stated that had these programs not existed, they would have returned to their abusers. According to the Wilder Research Center, in Ramsey County the average family stayed in transitional housing one year and two months. 48% of those families moved into rental housing after transitional housing, 10% moved in with relatives, and 20% moved into Section 8 housing.

"It is safe to say that the advent of the residential component of our program dramatically changed our rural agency," said Linda Riddle, Executive Director of Houston County Women's Advocates, a battered women's program in Hokah, MN, that also has a transitional housing program. She added, "We've seen women become licensed, insured drivers and vehicle owners for the first time in their lives; supported women as they have passed their GEDs and taken training for skilled jobs. Women have bravely spoken on panels educating adults and children about homelessness and related issues. We've worked with women to establish good rent, credit, and work histories. We've smiled as kids have headed off to school wearing new shoes and backpacks filled with all the school supplies that the other kids have. Domestic violence is devastating to home life. Mothers and their children have learned to replace chaos and destruction with a sense of order and caring for their surroundings."

During the 2006 legislative session, MCBW advocated for \$10 million in bonding for transitional housing. Transitional housing had not received general obligation bonding since 1998, despite a continued need for additional investment. MCBW worked extensively with the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless and other housing organizations during the session to ensure funding for transitional housing.

At the end of the 2006 session, \$2 million in bonding had been allocated for transitional housing, as well as \$17.5 million for permanent supportive housing. While this amount fell short of our original request, we are pleased that there is some new funding available for transitional housing. We thank our member programs around the state for organizing their communities and talking to their legislators about the need for transitional housing for battered women and their children. We are very grateful to Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher for her tireless efforts in securing this critical resource to provide safety for battered women.

## 2006 Family Law Changes

### House File 3585/Senate File 3199\*/Chapter 280

**House Chief Author:** Steve Smith

**Senate Chief Author:** Thomas Neuville

**Effective Date(s):** various

#### **Notification of residence with a convicted person:**

This law requires a person who is granted custody of a child or parenting time to notify the child's other parent, the county social services agency, and the court that granted the custody or parenting time if the person knowingly marries or lives with a person who has been convicted of a crime listed in §518.179, subdivision 2. These crimes are murder in the first, second or third degree; manslaughter in the first degree; assault in the first, second or third degree; kidnapping; depriving another of custodial or parental rights; soliciting, inducing, promoting, or receiving profit derived from prostitution involving a minor; criminal sexual conduct in the first, second, and third degree; solicitation of a child to engage in sexual conduct; incest; malicious punishment of a child; neglect of a child; terroristic threats; and/or felony harassment or stalking.

The burden is on a battered woman living with new partner to notify her ex-partner, Child Protective Services (CPS), and the court if that partner has certain convictions. The law does not state what CPS and/or the courts are to do with this information but it raises the possibility that living with a person with such a conviction will negatively impact custody and parenting time.

#### **Hennepin County referee appeals:**

Amends provisions governing the appeal of family court referee decisions in Hennepin County. The process for review of a referee's recommended order or finding by a district court judge will be replaced by new language providing that referee with orders and decrees may be appealed directly to the Court of Appeals in the same manner as judicial orders and decrees. The time for appealing an order would begin upon service by a party of written notice of the filing of the confirmed order. An immediate effective date is included.

Battered women in order for protection (OFP) proceedings and other family law matters will no longer be able to ask for judge review of a referee decision. The only avenue for review will be to go to the court of appeals. This costs \$500 for the initial filing fee plus the cost of transcript and a process that typically takes 6–9 months for a decision. The appeal process is not set up for pro se litigants (i.e. someone who is representing her/himself in court). This makes review more costly, lengthier, and less accessible.

MCBW provided testimony outlining concern regarding

this provision. Review of a referee decision by a judge provided pro se litigants an easy and fairly quick process to get review of referee decisions in OFP cases. This process was not often used and did not usually provide satisfactory results. Our members and allied groups did not think we should spend political capital fighting this change.

#### **Agreement on standard for removal of a child:**

This amends the statute dealing with moving the residence of a child to another state to authorize parents to agree upon the legal standard that will govern court decisions as to whether to allow a move by applying it to all cases, not just those involving parenting plans. In addition, the general law governing approval of moving the residence of a child was amended so that the court must apply the "best interest" standards when considering the request of a parent with whom the child resides to move the child's residence to another state.

Previously, if parties did a "parenting plan," they could specify what standard the court would use to review a request to move out of state with a child. The law states a parent must either get the other parent's approval or a court order to move out of state with a child. If a parent has sole physical custody the legal standard for the court to use in reviewing the request was whether that parent has a legitimate reason for the move. If a parent has joint physical custody, the standard is whether it is in the child's best interest. Proving the move is in the child's best interest is more difficult than showing a legitimate reason for the move.

Few parties draft actual parenting plans. It is a common strategy for abusers (who are legal system-savvy or represented by counsel) to ask that the other parent not be allowed to relocate out of state or to ask that any such move must be evaluated under the higher "best interest" standard.

This change will make it more difficult for battered mothers to relocate out of state if the abuser wants to oppose the move. The change does state that if there has been domestic abuse and the victim of domestic abuse is the person moving out of state, the abusive parent has the burden of proof to demonstrate that it is not in the child's best interest. In all other cases, the parent moving the child must show the move is in the child's best interest. It is always hardest to be the person having to provide the proof. This language was intended to provide a remedy for abuse victims but the problem is that it is unclear what the court will require before considering someone to be a victim of domestic abuse (e.g. OFP, criminal conviction, a "finding" of domestic

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Public Safety Omnibus Bill

*Continued from page 1*

forcement of these orders on and off tribal land and result in better protection for battered women and children. MCBW worked extensively with the MN Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition, the MN Indian Affairs Council, member programs, and Native women's groups all over the state to ensure the passage of this critical legislation.

### **Domestic abuse no contact order:**

This adds a gross misdemeanor penalty for violation of a domestic abuse no contact order. This penalty applies to violations of no contact orders that occur within ten years of a previous conviction of a qualified domestic violence related offense. A qualified domestic violence related offense is defined as domestic assault first through fifth degrees, domestic assault by strangulation, criminal sexual conduct first through fourth degrees, terroristic threats, harassment/stalking, violation of a domestic abuse no contact order and interference of an emergency call.

### **Qualified domestic violence-related offense:**

This change adds violations of domestic abuse no contact orders and interference with an emergency call to the list of offenses that constitute a qualified domestic violence related offense.

### **Violation of an Order for Protection:**

Amends the Order for Protection (OFP) statute by adding a ten-year look back period dating from the time of conviction and counting juvenile adjudications as well as adult convictions for the purpose of determining repeat violations, which will provide the basis for a higher charge. A look back period allows a "look back" into an offender's history of prior convictions, which would allow a stronger charge.

In addition to violation of an OFP, look back periods were added to the penalties for fifth degree assault (both gross misdemeanor and felony), domestic assault (both gross misdemeanor and felony) and violation of a harassment restraining order (both gross misdemeanor and felony).

### **Provisions related to prostitution and sex trafficking:**

In addition to the previous provisions specific to domestic violence, there were provisions that will affect prostituted women, who are considered battered women in need of protection.

There are increased penalties for certain misdemeanors, to include prostitution and loitering with intent to prostitute. Under this provision, if a person has been determined by the court at the time of sentencing to have had prior convictions in any of these crimes, that person is then guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

The trafficking legislation update is listed below; however, it is important to note that, while international trafficking is a serious issue that needs addressing, the current spotlight on traf-

ficking has taken the focus off domestic prostitution. In the coming year, MCBW will be working with Breaking Free, a St. Paul program that serves prostituted women, to bring the focus back to women who are being used in domestic prostitution and the johns that are exploiting them. Please see page 3 for Vednita Carter of Breaking Free's article about domestic prostitution and sex trafficking.

For Fiscal Year (FY) 2007, \$75,000 was appropriated to develop a statewide plan to address human trafficking. It requires the Commissioner of Public Safety to analyze the data collected as part of the statewide assessment of human trafficking and, with the assistance of a 22-member task force, develop a plan to address current trafficking and prevent future trafficking of persons in Minnesota. MCBW and the MN Coalition Against Sexual Assault will have seats on this task force. In addition, \$60,000 was appropriated for grants to three weekly legal clinics in Hennepin County to assist victims of human trafficking and \$65,000 was appropriated to implement a toll-free human trafficking telephone hotline and tip line.

For FY 2007, \$98,000 was appropriated for a grant to Ramsey County to implement the Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Youth pilot project. The project is to develop a victim services model to address the needs of sexually exploited youth, including trafficked youth.

Minnesota law was amended related to labor trafficking, by creating a 20-year felony for trafficking persons under the age of 18 and a ten-year felony for complicity in trafficking persons under the age of 18. The previous law did not make an age distinction.

### **Sexual assault and sex offender provisions:**

Legislation was passed regarding sexual assault, including requiring a prosecutor to notify a victim of a criminal sexual conduct offense if the prosecutor decides to decline prosecution of the case or dismiss the criminal charges; permitting counties, their designees, or courts to receive reimbursement for sex offender assessments; and in the prosecution of case of a sexual assault on a minor (age 14-16), if the perpetrator is ten years older than the victim, the consent or age of the victim cannot be used as a defense.

Courts that sentence offenders to prison based on a conviction for using minors in sexual performances and/or disseminating or possessing child pornography are now required to impose a five-year conditional release period

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Public Safety Omnibus Bill

*Continued from page 5*

to be served upon release of prison. The court must impose a ten-year conditional release term for those with previous sex offense convictions. The conditional release term runs concurrently with the supervised release term.

Funding was appropriated for Global Positioning System monitoring of offenders, increased supervision and surveillance, and to a report to the Legislature on the use of GPS monitoring of sex offenders.

For more information on sexual assault and sex offender provisions, please contact the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault at (651) 209-9993.

### **Other relevant legislation in the Public Safety Omnibus Bill:**

The local law enforcement agency in the location where a missing person was last seen is required to take a missing person report from an interested party. If this cannot be determined, the law enforcement agency where the missing person last resided must take the report.

Prosecutors are now permitted to charge persons with har-

boring, concealing, or aiding an offender and obstructing a criminal investigation in either the county where the offense occurred or the county where the underlying criminal act occurred.

There were quite a few changes in the criminal code with regard to computer access and privacy. MCBW will be monitoring the development of this legislation to see if there are any implications for battered women who are being stalked via their computers.

A Collateral Consequences Committee was established to include a member from crime victim services. The committee was created to study collateral consequences of adult convictions and juvenile adjudications. The Commissioner of Public Safety is charged with appointing members of the committee.

For more information on news laws from the 2006 legislative session, please contact Carla Ferrucci, Director of Public Policy and Systems Change, at (651) 646-6177, ext. 27.

## Family Law Bill

*Continued from page 4*

abuse).

### **Modification of custody order:**

The statute dealing with modification of custody orders has been changed to allow a modification in a case where a court has denied a request to move the residence of a child to another state and the primary custodial parent relocated despite the court's order.

This section provides for a penalty if a parent moves a child out of state after the court denies the request, including reversal of custody to the parent. If a battered woman wants to relocate and the court denies the request, she risks losing custody if she decides to move anyway. The law change does not state that the woman faces modification of custody if she moves without the other parent's consent but it does raise the likelihood that the court will consider custody modification in that situation as well.

### **Parenting time presumption:**

This change amends the statute to provide that in the absence of other evidence, there is a rebuttable presumption that a parent is entitled to receive at least 25 percent of the parenting time for that child. It suggests a standard for this calculation, including overnight stays, or time with each parent, and the

age of the child.

It is not clear as to how the court will determine parenting time when one parent is a victim of domestic violence by the other parent requesting parenting time, or, if such evidence is presented, whether that can be used to deny parenting time. MCBW will monitor the implications of this change and will advocate for appropriate modifications next session.

### **Child Support:**

Clarifications are also made to the 2005 child support/custody legislation, which allowed both parents' incomes to be included in determining child support. Besides updating the basic support guideline, the 2006 language clarifies the support order as it relates to those who receive public assistance. It also addresses situations where parents stay at home to care for a child. Added is a provision that states if a parent is voluntarily unemployed or underemployed, child support must be calculated based on a determination of potential income. MCBW will monitor the effects of these changes.

## Safe at Home Program Allows Address Confidentiality for Battered Women

**House File 3110/Senate File 2743\*/Chapter 242**

**House Chief Author:** Torrey Westrom

**Senate Chief Author:** John Hottinger

**Effective Date:** September 17, 2007

Legislation passed creating an address confidentiality program, known as the Safe At Home Program, for victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, and stalking to allow mail to be forwarded to a “safe” location known only by the Secretary of State’s office. This would include opportunities to have the address remain confidential while voting, and applying for county, or state, or local services.

Under this new law, battered women will have assurance that their addresses will remain out of the hands of their

abusers. While information contained on voter registration forms is public, this law makes an exception to protect victims of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking. They can apply for participation in the confidentiality program.

No funding was allocated for this new program because it will not go into effect until September 17, 2007. MCBW has been in contact with the Secretary of State’s office to offer our assistance in the development of this program.

For more information on Safe at Home and how battered women can safely vote in the 2006 elections, please see the MCBW web site at [www.mcbw.org/vote.htm](http://www.mcbw.org/vote.htm).

## Legislative Commission to End Poverty by 2020 Created

**House File 4162\*/Chapter 282**

**House Chief Author:** Jim Knoblach

**Effective Date(s):** various

The legislature’s Supplemental Spending Bill created and fully funded a Legislative Commission to End Poverty in Minnesota by 2020. The Commission will be an 18-member, bipartisan commission charged with developing strategies to end poverty in Minnesota by 2020. Affirmative Options Coalition members and partners did key work in advocating for the

commission.

The Commission will be an important opportunity to ensure that the voices of low income people and communities have a forum, to investigate big picture policy changes and to engage in a conversation that crosses political party, regions and racial/ethnic boundaries. The Commission must make its recommendations to the legislature by December 15, 2008.

## Child Care Assistance Funding Receives Much-Needed Boost

**House File 4162\*/Chapter 282**

**House Chief Author:** Jim Knoblach

**Senate Chief Author:** none

**Effective Date(s):** various

The legislature appropriated an additional \$24 million for the child care assistance program, which will pay for six percent increases to the rates paid to child care providers using the child care subsidy programs. The rates had been frozen since 2003 and meant that providers had to choose between turning away low income families using the assistance program or seeing their own incomes diminish.

This legislation also makes a small dent in the waiting list for basic sliding-fee child care; returns the higher rate paid to accredited child care providers; and clarifies absent day policies for families so that the policies do not prematurely put families in the situation of reaching the 24-absent day limits created last year.

**House File 2807/Senate File 2833\*/Chapter 64**

**House Chief Author:** Jim Abeler

**Senate Chief Author:** John Hottinger

**Effective Date:** August 1, 2006

A pilot program in Ramsey County was established to make child care assistance easier for teen parents to access, with the intent of keeping more teen parents in school.

**House File 3944/Senate File 3615\*/Chapter 191**

**House Chief Author:** Nora Slawik

**Senate Chief Author:** Hottinger

**Effective Date:** May 6, 2006

Families having a third party help pay for child care costs will no longer be penalized. Previously, if a family received financial help to pay for child care, it could count as part of their income. When the Department of Human Services counted the assistance money as family income, it could result in the family being ineligible for certain services.

# VOTE to End Domestic Violence!

## Vote to PROMOTE justice for ALL battered women and their children:

- Native American victims of intimate partner violence are more likely than victims of all other races to be injured and need hospital care. (U.S. Department of Justice)
- In the first year after a divorce, a women's standard of living drops by 73% while a man's improves by an average of 42%. (Action Notes, 1989)
- According to the American Psychological Association, 40-60% of batterers also abuse their children.



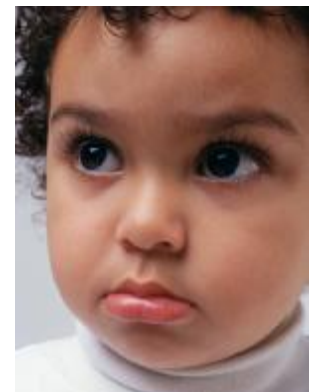
## Vote to PROVIDE safety for ALL battered women and their children:

- Nearly one-third of American women (31%) report being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives, according to a 1998 Commonwealth Fund survey.
- On average, more than three women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends in this country every day. In Minnesota in 2005, at least 26 women were murdered in domestic violence related cases. (Bureau of Justice Statistics Crime Data Brief, *Intimate Partner Violence 1993-2001*, February 2005)
- The health-related costs of rape, physical assault, stalking, and homicide committed by intimate partners exceed \$5.8 billion each year. Of that amount, nearly \$4.1 billion are for direct medical and mental health care services, and nearly \$1.8 billion are for the indirect costs of lost productivity or wages. (Center for Disease Control and Prevention, *Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States*, April 2003.)
- Forty percent of girls age 14 to 17 report knowing someone their age who has been hit or beaten by a boyfriend. (Children Now/Kaiser Permanente poll, December 1995)
- Forty to sixty percent of men who abuse women also abuse children. (Report of the American Psychological Association Presidential Task Force on Violence in the Family, 1996)



## Vote to PREVENT future harm to ALL Minnesotans:

- We must ensure that Minnesota implements effective domestic violence prevention efforts that target *every* person in this state—men, women and children.
- It's time to stop domestic violence before it starts by investing in prevention. Prevention of domestic violence is the most cost-effective use of State of Minnesota dollars.



## Election Day is November 7, 2006!

For more information on voting, and safe voting for battered women, please see our web site at [www.mcbw.org/vote.htm](http://www.mcbw.org/vote.htm).

## Verizon Wireless and the Minnesota Lynx Contribute to the Choose Respect Initiative and to Teen Leadership to End Dating Violence and Sexual Assault

The Minnesota Choose Respect public awareness initiative kicked off on August 1st at the Minnesota Lynx game. The national Choose Respect effort was designed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to increase awareness about the importance of forming healthy teen relationships to prevent dating abuse and sexual assault. MCBW, the MN Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MNCASA), and 23 of their member programs are participating in Choose Respect.

Verizon Wireless and the Lynx generously donated 100 game tickets, a buffet dinner for teens and advocates, and Choose Respect backpacks as a giveaway to game attendees.

In addition, Verizon Wireless and the Minnesota Lynx have donated \$10,000 to MCBW and the MN Coalition for Sexual Assault to develop a Choose Respect Teen Leadership Summit. This will be a spring 2007 training for Minnesota teenagers to develop skills towards preventing dating violence and sexual assault in their schools and communities.

“It is the commitment of businesses such as Verizon Wireless and the Lynx to the prevention of teen violence that enables us to do more in ensuring that the lives of our young people are violence free. We truly appreciate their partnership!” said Deb Foster, MCBW Director of Community Connections.

For more information on the Minnesota Choose Respect Initiative, please see the MCBW web site at [www.mcbw.org](http://www.mcbw.org).



*MCBW and MNCASA receive Verizon Wireless' \$5000 donation for the game night for youth and to build teen leadership to end dating violence and sexual assault.*

*L-R: Dresden Jones, Sexual Violence Prevention Coordinator, MNCASA; Danielle Kluz, Public Awareness and Prevention Coordinator, MCBW; Karen Smith, Public Relations Manager, Verizon Wireless; and Angela Taylor, Vice President of Business Development, Minnesota Lynx.*

## Farewell to Naly Yang

Naly Yang, who served as the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women's Training Coordinator, has resigned to pursue further career goals and has accepted a position at Ramsey County as a planning specialist with MFIP Child Care.

Since she joined MCBW in 2003, Naly developed and implemented innovative trainings for battered women's advocates all over the state, including the Domestic Violence 101 trainings and MCBW's audio conference trainings and monthly membership audio conference discussions. She also partnered with many members and allied groups to bring fresh perspectives to our training program, such as collaborating with Casa de Esperanza on the Latino Families and Domestic Violence training and the Hmong Women's Action Team on the Sexism and Domestic Violence training.

Naly was key to the success of MCBW's 2004 Statewide

Conference as the overall coordinator of the event. She also led the MCBW Women of Color and Native Women's Network and represented MCBW on the Immigrant and Refugee Battered Women's Task Force, among her many accomplishments.

“Naly has contributed so much to MCBW,” said Cyndi Cook, Executive Director. “Hundreds of advocates all over the state have advanced their skills due to Naly's training achievements. She also has done tremendous work in promoting the leadership of women of color and Native women in the battered women's movement. We are very grateful to Naly for her contributions to providing safety for battered women and their children. We wish her the best of luck at Ramsey County.”

## Thank You to Our Amazing Donors

Thank you to the wonderful people, organizations, and businesses that have donated to the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women. Your cash and in-kind donations are very much appreciated by us.

For more information on tax-deductible donations to the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women, please call Deb Foster at (651) 646-6177. Please contact us if we failed to acknowledge you or your gift!

America's Charities	Rita Cox	Laurel Hirt	David Paulson
Church of St. Joseph the Worker	Mercy Das-Sulc	Cathleen Holmes	Carol Pearson
Community Solutions Fund	Donna Davis	Stephane Hubig	Karen Perpich
Ecolab, Inc.	Jill Davis	Benjamin Johnson	Laurie Peters
Greater Minnesota	Michele Dobsinski	Betty Jones	Julie Potvin
Minnesota Lynx/Timberwolves	Susan Doll	Janice Kaster	Michele Pufahl
Rochester Technical College	Janet Dorfman	Peter Kavanaugh	Elaine Randolph
Shakopee Aerie No. 4120	Kathy Dummer	Jean Kirkeby	Sarah Ranzau
Someplace Safe	Beverly Dusso	Sharon Kjellberg	Marne Rasinen
State of Minnesota	Pat Dutton	Adele Klar	Megan Remark
Thomson West	Michelle Edwards	Gloria Knutson	Jolene Riley
Verizon Wireless	Catherine Elefson	Lynn Levitt-Nelvik	Marilyn Rossman
Vicki Anderson	Alison Eudeikis	Linda Loney	Cindy Satre
Lynnette Antony	Michele Falcon	Patricia Maier	Cheryl Seefeldt
Eugene Auge	Jaclyn Falkenstein	Jolynn Martin	Mary Severson
Theresa B	Mary Fellows	Debbie May	Terri Sharpe
Janis Batt	Eleanor Fenton	John McCauley	Laurie Siever
Lynette Becker	LuAnn Finnegan	Amy McClurg	John Simon
Marlene Benedict	Marlene Flanders	Michelle McEnery	Bernice Sisson
Maria Berens	Dawn Flores	Michelle McMiller	Vanessa Sodofsky
Bonnie Beverly	Michael Fons	Elizabeth McWhite	Debbie Taylor
Susan Brassington	Jeff Fonseth	Melinda Menge	Sean Toohey
Barbara Bullis-Olson	Patricia Fritz	Kelly Merriman	Eric Tuck
Randolph Calcote	Susan Gibson	Martin Michael	Brenda Tuma
Gregory Carter	Betty Gilchirst	Thomas Miller	Suzanne Vang
Marie Cassler	Debbie Golaski	Ann Mraz	Beverly Wales
Rumna Chowdury	Nancy Goldsmith	Linda Murphy	Kathryn Walter
Margaret Ciccateri	Rebecca Gulstad	Paula Newman and Mark Scott	Margaret Walz
Anna Clark	Karen Hall	Jane O'Brien	Julie Weeden
Kathleen Confer	Darlene Hanson	Paige O'Keefe	Kimberly Wilcox
	Holly Harms	Kari Olmstead	Pamela Zautner
	Linda Hatfield	Roxanne Olson	Priscilla Zeller
	Michael Higgins		Stacy Ziemba

## Welcome to MCBW's Newest Member Programs!

The Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women is pleased to welcome the member programs that recently have joined the Coalition:

- **Alexandra House, Blaine**
- **Casa de Esperanza, St. Paul**
- **Community Violence Prevention Institute at Metro State University, St. Paul**
- **Family Safety Network, Walker**
- **Hennepin County Medical Center Domestic Violence Intervention Program, Minneapolis**
- **League of Women Voters of Minnesota, St. Paul**
- **Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis**
- **Ruth's House of Hope, Faribault**
- **Sexual Assault Services for Aitkin County, Aitkin**
- **Sheila Wellstone Institute, St. Paul**
- **Tubman Family Alliance, Minneapolis**

If your organization is interested in joining our network of 91 programs statewide, please call Jeanne Barkey at (651) 646-6177 ext. 16 or go to our web site at [www.mcbw.org/membership.htm](http://www.mcbw.org/membership.htm) for more information.

# Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women

PRSR STD  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
St. Paul, MN  
Permit #817

590 Park Street  
Suite 410  
St. Paul, MN 55103  
Phone: (651) 646-6177 or  
(800) 289-6177  
Fax: (651) 646-1527  
Web: [www.mcbw.org](http://www.mcbw.org)



## October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month!

Domestic Violence Awareness Month is a national effort to raise awareness of domestic violence and the terrible toll it takes on our entire society. During October, battered women's programs all over Minnesota will hold events to raise community awareness of and prevent domestic violence. Events will be as diverse as displays of the MCBW Clothesline Project, candlelight vigils, peace walks, educational film screenings, teen prevention events, and trainings for law enforcement and prosecution personnel. For a listing of events going on all over the state, please see our web site at [www.mcbw.org/dvamcalendar.org](http://www.mcbw.org/dvamcalendar.org).

MCBW's theme for 2006 Domestic Violence Awareness Month is "Vote to End Domestic Violence." We are encouraging battered women's programs and community members all over the state to educate voters on domestic violence issues, register women to vote, and to work with battered women so that they can vote safely. Please see page 9 for more information on voting to end domestic violence.

### Help Support Battered Women's Services in Minnesota

I want to help stop violence against women by supporting the mission of MCBW.  
Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution:

\$25     \$50     \$100     \$250     \$500     Other

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please return the completed form with your contribution to:

Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women  
590 Park St., Suite 410, St. Paul, MN 55103

We thank you for your generous support of MCBW!