



OCVLC NEWSLETTER



From the Executive Director

BY ROSEMARY BREWER

While summer in Oregon is always welcome, it has also proven to be one of OCVLC's busiest times of the year. Our attorneys have appeared in courts around the state recently on behalf of victims, helping them assert rights and working to keep protective orders in place. We've had attorneys representing victims with privacy and crime victims' compensation issues in Marion County, with stalking orders in Multnomah and Washington Counties, and with restitution issues in Wasco County. Our advocate has continued to be there for victims, providing support and resources as well as providing in-person support during hearings. We continue to have attorneys working at local domestic violence resource centers, including the Gateway Center in Multnomah County and the Family Justice Center in Washington County, and we are happy to be collaborating with the other service providers in those locations. All of us share a common goal – providing essential services to survivors of violence. We are also fortunate to work with many dedicated victim advocates in district attorneys' offices around the state, who provide valuable support to those navigating the criminal justice system, and we've recently conducted several trainings for both system- and community-based advocates regarding victims' rights. Recently, a former client sent us a note to say thanks for the work an OCVLC attorney had done, and it reminded me that the work we do can make such a difference to someone. Our client wrote: "I can't express in words my utmost gratitude that your program exists. As the victim of a horrific crime, I am grateful for programs like yours that exist for victims who sometimes feel like they don't have a voice."

Thank you for your support!

Changes to the Family Abuse Prevention Act Order, Effective January 2024

BY: EMILY LA BRECQUE

January of 2024 will bring a significant change to Family Abuse Prevention Act orders ("FAPA"). Since the Act's inception in 1976, FAPAs have been effective for a period of one year from the date of entry, and renewable in yearly increments. On May 30, 2023, Gov. Kotek signed Senate Bill 816, which amended ORS 107.716, 107.718, and 107.725, increasing the effective period of the FAPA from a single year to two years, and the renewal from a time period of one year to two years.

This increase in duration is not at the discretion of the court, and applies only to FAPAs entered or renewed on or after January 1, 2024. FAPAs entered prior to that date are still valid for only one year, even if the contested hearing date is held after January 1, 2024, however, previously entered FAPAs renewed on or after January 1, 2024 will only need to be renewed every two years from that point on. This statutory change also impacts the duration of renewal when a child protected by an order entered under ORS 107.716 or ORS 107.718 reaches the age of 18, and independently seeks renewal of the order.

Petitioners with FAPAs expiring in January of 2024 should be advised of this change in the law. Common practice is to advise Petitioners to mark their calendar to renew their protective order one month prior to the date of expiration to avoid a lapse of the protective order. Petitioners who are provided with notice about this change in the law will be in a better position to make informed choices about the renewal of their FAPA order.



Parents of Murdered Children (POMC) National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims

The Oregon Crime Victims Law Center will participate in this year's annual public gathering, which commemorates the National Day of Remembrance for POMC friends and family. The event will start at 10am, September 25th, and take place at the POMC Garden, situated in the Mountain View Cemetery in Oregon City. This gathering is open to the entire community, welcoming all those who wish to attend.



POMC National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims

**Monday Sept. 25th at 10 a.m.
Mountain View Cemetery
500 Hilda Street, Oregon City**

Continuing Legal Education with OCVLC

OCVLC is happy to provide Continuing Legal Education on issues related to supporting victims in Oregon. All of our CLE offerings are available at no cost on our website. Follow the links below for our three most recent presentations.



- [Access to Justice - Representing Victims Who Speak Out](#) 2
3
- [Access to Justice for Children](#)
- [Access to Justice for Undocumented Crime Victims](#)

Prevention Education for Oregon Youth: The Sexual Assault Resource Center

BY MICKEY KARNAS

The Sexual Assault Resource Center (SARC) is one of the Oregon Crime Victims Law Center's community partners, serving as a crucial resource for survivors/victims in and around Washington County. For more than four decades, SARC has provided crisis intervention and other support services to individuals impacted by sexual violence. Among these important services is their Sexual Violence Prevention & Education Program. This initiative is dedicated to tackling the root causes of sexual violence by means of educational programs in Washington and Multnomah Counties through a curriculum tailored for high school-aged youth. The curriculum fulfills required Oregon educational components as legislated by both Erin's Law and The Healthy Teen Relationship Act.

We recently had the privilege of speaking with Brooke Welter, SARC's Community Education and Prevention Specialist. She provided us with insights into the program and its plans for this fall. (Edited for clarity and space).

Tell us about your role.

I am the Community Education and Prevention Specialist (previously I was an intern for the past year). With this role, I facilitate and present sexual assault prevention education workshops, trainings, and meetings to students in local high schools, community organizations, and new staff at SARC.

Can you share a little about the background of the program?

For over a decade, SARC's Prevention & Education Program has developed and maintained this research and evidence-based curriculum (Beyond Consent) to prevent sexual violence by shifting attitudes and beliefs that implicitly support sexual violence, towards skills, norms and beliefs that promote healthy relationships and healthy communities. This curriculum is meant for schools and youth-centered community programs serving high school-aged youth, which aim to implement an individual and relationship-level prevention curriculum within their environments to support health education, norms change, and ultimately prevent sexual violence in our communities as part of a broader, comprehensive approach. The program helps youth examine and develop skills in distinguishing unhealthy and healthy norms and to flourish in their relationships and communities. The multi-lesson curriculum promotes healthy relationships and sexuality with a focus on consent, equity, respect, trust, and safety. Participants engage in skill-building activities and media literacy examinations that promote both individual-level knowledge as well as bystander and interpersonal skills within youth social spheres to embed practice-based knowledge for social change. Our work also seeks to confront matters of social justice and provide a platform that empowers youth voices to create change through community engagement, shifting norms, and policy change, all to create a future free from sexual violence. In addition to our curriculum, we provide sexual violence 101 and trauma-informed trainings to community organizations in the Portland area. Some organizations include Lines for Life, Planned Parenthood, and local police stations.

Prevention Education for Oregon Youth: The Sexual Assault Resource Center

(Continued)

BY MICKEY KARNAS

What is 'primary prevention?'

We focus on primary prevention in all our education and prevention efforts. Primary prevention can be defined as approaches to prevent and stop the perpetration of sexual violence before it even begins. It focuses on changing the root causes of sexual violence and the social norms that allow sexual violence to happen. Primary prevention educates communities on how to create safe spaces instead of victim-blaming approaches that aim to educate communities and individuals on how to survive in harmful spaces. Primary prevention approaches place responsibility on everyone in the community to eradicate the root causes of sexual violence and address multiple risk factors of sexual violence perpetration. While secondary and tertiary prevention is also very important in order to support those who have been impacted, our long-term primary goal is to prevent sexual violence from ever happening in the first place. Another important framework we use in tandem with primary prevention is the socio-ecological model which allows us to examine the multiple levels of influence for sexual violence perpetration and victimization. In order for primary prevention to be truly effective and comprehensive we must address all levels of the socio-ecological model simultaneously. The four levels include individual, relationship, community, and society. At the individual level, we can teach individuals what healthy sexuality & relationships look like and establish norms around mutuality, respect, consent, communication, etc. At the relationship level, we can provide education on how to create supportive and trauma-informed environments, how to have important conversations with our peers about oppression, healthy relationships, etc. At the community level, we can shift harmful norms and create communities that promote healthy norms and don't tolerate sexual violence. Lastly, at the society level, we can advocate for those in positions of power to create laws and policies that aim to eradicate sexual violence and all forms of oppression.

What have been your greatest challenges and rewards working with youth participants?

Some of the greatest rewards of doing youth education are seeing the impact that education can have on school communities specifically and seeing young people get excited and interested in the topics we present. Being able to read feedback about what they learned and the difference it made in their own lives is very rewarding. Being able to present on topics that are very relevant to young people such as the impacts and connections with sexual violence and different types of media including social media and sexually explicit media is also a great reward when working with that population. Some challenges can include not being able to reach some groups of young people because of the restrictions of their schools in terms of access to comprehensive sex education or sexual violence prevention education like our curriculum.

What is your personal favorite part of the work?

My personal favorite part of the work is finding healing through working with survivors of sexual violence and creating curriculum that aims to prevent sexual violence from happening in communities of young people. Our curriculum is something that my high school desperately needed. Training on trauma-informed care can be very powerful and healing. I also take shifts on our 24/7 support line and crisis response and I really enjoy being able to get that one-on-one interaction, provide resources and support to those who need it.

What does the program have in store for this Fall?

This September we are hosting our very first YouthPower workshop series. These workshops are aimed at young people and will build knowledge, strengths, and skills to help them have critical conversations about the root causes of sexual violence and learn how to shift harmful social norms. They are occurring Saturdays in September on the 2nd, 9th, and 16th from 10am-3pm each day at the SARC Office. More information and the link to register can be found on our website here: <https://sarcoregon.org/get-involved>

Case Summaries

BY JACK STAUNTON

Our office was recently contacted by a victim who was fearful for her safety after an incident in which she had been threatened with a weapon. The offender filed for a protection order against the victim in retaliation for the victim filing a police report about the incident. An OCVLC attorney was able to represent the victim at the contested hearing and used video evidence and witness testimony to show that the offender was the aggressor in the situation. The court ultimately dismissed the protection order, and our Victim Advocate made a safety plan with the victim in an effort to prevent any future incidents. The victim expressed gratitude for the support she received throughout the process and said that she felt much more confident after receiving guidance from our office.

OCVLC was contacted by a victim in a decade-old criminal case. The victim, who now lives in a different state, received a summons to appear in court at a material witness proceeding to determine whether they would be required to appear and testify at the out-of-state criminal trial. The victim had significant safety and financial concerns about attending the out-of-state trial. An OCVLC attorney represented the victim at the ORS 136.625 material witness proceeding. At the conclusion of the hearing, the court found that it would be an undue hardship for the victim to be compelled to testify and quashed the summons.

Our victim advocate accompanied an OCVLC attorney and client to a restraining order hearing in Clackamas County. They established a connection with the client, offering emotional support both before and after the hearing. These hearings often induce significant trauma for victims, and the moments of waiting in heightened stress can feel like hours. During these moments, our advocate provided supportive and reassuring conversation and introduced grounding exercises such as deep breathing to alleviate the client's distress. Following the hearing, the client expressed gratitude for the support and services she received from the advocate and attorney.

An OCVLC attorney represented a victim of domestic violence who needed to renew her restraining order for the fifth year in a row. OCVLC had previously represented this victim, so when they were notified by the court that their abuser had requested a hearing to challenge the request to renew the restraining order, the victim contacted OCVLC again. An OCVLC attorney was able to take the case for representation and was able to assist the victim in renewing her restraining order against her abuser. The case involved high lethality factors, and with the help of OCVLC, the victim could seek protection for at least one more year.

An OCVLC attorney recently represented a client in a stalking protective order hearing. The client was fearful for her safety and had been subject to ongoing threats and abuse. The client had previously put on a case and been granted a stalking protective order when the respondent failed to appear at the first hearing, but the hearing was reset after a motion from the respondent. The OCVLC attorney reviewed the recording of the initial hearing and met with the client to help make the second hearing as straightforward as the first hearing. The respondent did appear at the second hearing, and the court ultimately upheld the stalking protective order.