

Program Evaluation Training Update

■ By Katie Parker

The Crime Victim Services Commission (CVSC) and the Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI) coordinate several one-day workshops on program evaluation each year. These workshops are designed and presented by Dr. Cris Sullivan from the Ecological-Community Psychology Program at Michigan State University. The workshops guide agencies serving victims of crime through the process of designing an evaluation that meets their unique needs. In 2010, a session was added to the advanced trainings on analyzing and reporting collected data and was presented by Mary Zack Thompson from MPHI.

Workshops in 2010 were held in Okemos, Mackinaw City, and Lansing. In response to participant requests, two advanced training workshops were held for participants who had attended the general training session at least twice in previous years. One general training session was offered for all other participants. Attendance continued to be high in 2010 with a combined total of 95 people from VOCA-funded agencies across Michigan attending all three workshops. Training participants indicated that the sessions offered useful information for conducting program evaluations in their own agencies. Participants also expressed their appreciation for Dr. Cris Sullivan's knowledgeable and engaging presentation style. Based on continuous positive remarks, these workshops will again be offered in 2011.

Participants were offered the opportunity to earn continuing education credits in the fields of social work, licensed professional counseling, and nursing for both the advanced and general training sessions.

Continuing education credits will be made available to training participants in 2011 for all workshop sessions. For specific details about the availability of continuing education credits please contact Katie Parker at 517-324-8397 or by e-mail at kparker@mphi.org.

This year, the general training will be held on Thursday, April 28, 2011, at the Okemos Conference Center in Okemos. There will be two advanced training sessions offered this year. The first session will be held Thursday, August 25, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency in Dearborn and the second advanced training will be offered on Friday, September 9, 2011 at the Hagerty Center at Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City. More detailed information about these workshops was mailed to crime victim services agency directors and project contacts. This information is also available on *The Michigan Advocate* website and can be found under the "CVSC Events" tab at: www.michiganadvocate.org.

For more information about the program evaluation training workshops, please contact Mary Zack Thompson from the Michigan Public Health Institute at 517-324-8392 or mthomps@mphi.org.

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