

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. Three versions of the workshop have been offered in past years for different types of VOCA grantees – a general training suitable for all agencies, a session developed specifically for agencies serving children, and a session for agencies serving small or rural populations.

Workshops in 2009 were held in Lansing, Holland, and Traverse City. Attendance continued to be high in 2009 with a combined total of 113 people attending all three workshops. Training participants indicated that the sessions offer useful information for conducting program evaluations in their own agencies. Participants also expressed their appreciation for Dr. Sullivan's knowledgeable and engaging presentation style. Based on continuous positive remarks, these workshops will be offered again in 2010.

In response to participant feedback, an advanced training is being developed and two sessions will be offered in 2010. Each advanced training will be limited to a maximum of 25 participants and only those who have attended a general training session at least twice in previous years will be eligible to attend. In addition, applications to provide

continuing education credits for professionals in the fields of social work, counseling, and nursing have been submitted. More information about these credits will be available to training attendees as the application process progresses. 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 Friday, May 14, 2010, at the Okemos Conference Center in Okemos. The newly developed advanced training will be held Thursday, August 5, 2010 at the Henry Center in Lansing and a second advanced training will be offered on Friday, September 24, 2010 at the Best Western Dockside in Mackinaw City. More detailed information about these workshops was mailed to agency directors and project contacts and also will be available on The Michigan Advocate website at: www.michiganadvocate.org.

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

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