



March 19, 2010

Dear Rape Crisis Centers, Domestic Violence Agencies and allied groups:

Sexual violence and domestic violence are pervasive problems in California that harm individuals, families and communities and cause enormous physical, mental, social and financial loss. Both forms of violence co-occur in relationships and families and share common risk and protective factors. While there are important distinctions between sexual violence and domestic violence, efforts to prevent both forms of violence against women have mutual long-term outcomes, a sizable shared constituency of organizations implementing prevention strategies, and extensive common ground in primary prevention practice.

There is a long-standing history of collaboration between the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), the state government entity leading efforts to prevent both forms of violence, and the two state coalitions addressing these issues, the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA) and the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence (CPEDV). Over the past year, all three agencies have worked closely together to complete thoughtful strategic planning processes involving broad stakeholder input that resulted in the following:

- CDPH's *Rape Prevention and Education (RPE) Program Strategic Plan for Building State and Local Capacity to End Sexual Violence: 2010-2013*: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/injviosaf/Pages/SexualViolencePrevention.aspx>
- CALCASA's *2010 Prevention Training Plan*: <http://calcasa.org/2010-California-prevention-trainings/>; and,
- CPEDV's *Advancing Domestic Violence Prevention in California: CPEDV's Plan for Prevention Advocacy, Leadership and Capacity-building 2009-2013*: www.cpedv.org

Upon completing these planning processes, the three agencies identified shared strategic directions and opportunities to advance common interests through coordinated or collaborative efforts. As a result, numerous activities and resources will be available to all CDPH Rape Prevention and Education Program-funded rape crisis centers, CALCASA member programs, and CPEDV member programs, as well as allied groups.

CDPH, CALCASA, and CPEDV are committed to providing state leadership and coordination necessary for ensuring the efficient use of resources and achieving the greatest possible impact in the prevention of sexual violence and domestic violence. We will continue to work diligently to achieve even greater coordination and alignment, and hope that this documentation of efforts offers clarity, utility, and inspiration to our collective constituencies.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Stacy Alamo Mixson in black ink.

Stacy Alamo Mixson, M.P.H.
Chief, Violence Prevention Unit
CDPH

Handwritten signature of Ellen Yin-Wycoff in red ink.

Ellen Yin-Wycoff
Interim Executive Director
CALCASA

Handwritten signature of Tara Shabazz in black ink.

Tara Shabazz
Executive Director
CPEDV

Strategic Directions for Ending Violence Against Women in California: 2010-2013

CDPH, CALCASA and CPEDV have each developed program-specific strategic plans and identified priorities to build state and local capacity for sexual violence (SV) and domestic violence (DV) prevention. The shared strategic directions among the three agencies are to:

- Strengthen and maintain core competencies among prevention practitioners;
- Strengthen organizational capacity for primary prevention;
- Increase engagement and leadership of youth and marginalized communities in prevention work with local organizations;
- Increase, diversify, and maintain resources for prevention programs.
- Advance systems changes that support prevention;
- Strengthen state-level planning, coordination, and policy development; and,
- Increase the use of data, evaluation, research, and “lessons learned” to strengthen prevention efforts.

(Please refer to each organization’s planning document for more information about the distinct outcomes and activities within these shared strategic directions.)

As represented in the graphic below, efforts to advance shared strategic directions will complement other work to promote the mutual goal of healthy relationships for individuals and communities throughout the state, including the vital efforts of local organizations and the capacity-building efforts of other state and national partners.

