

TOGETHER, WE HAVE THE STRENGTH



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Spring 2016

2015-2016 MCADV

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From the Director's Desk

It is amazing how time flies. This cliché is true in this line of work. The domestic violence movement in Mississippi dates back more than 30 years. We have made many outstanding strides including prevention, education, awareness and systems change. The laws protecting victims stand out as some of the best in the country. This being true, however, our incidents of domestic violence are still alarming and seemingly ever-increasing. Domestic violence, also known as intimate partner violence, is getting national and local attention; but how must we stop its movement? As our movement to continue to raise awareness gains more momentum, how can we stop its momentum and its effect on families?

As a coalition, we are collaborating with various groups and organizations to provide education and awareness. The use of social media and other media forums allows us to spread the word going beyond the normal entities. These are key components of our awareness and outreach efforts. MCADV is going back to the basics. We are conducting

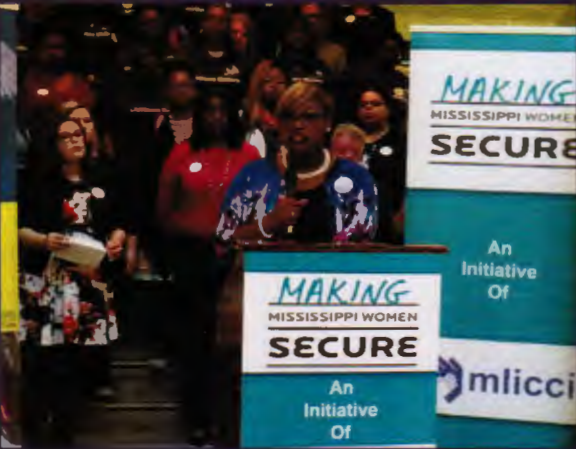
regular trainings and planning a statewide conference. Educating service providers (advocates) with the necessary tools and resources is empowering to say the least. With this empowerment, they assist victims through an evolving process. Enhancing the advocates and service providers' skills will greatly assist survivors of domestic violence to that place of survivorship.

Legislative and system advocacy are other components which play major roles in supporting victims and those impacted by domestic violence. There is still work to be accomplished to get to a violence-free society. We are moving forward with great strides and opportunities for breakthrough. With everyone supporting the efforts of education, awareness and systems change, we can prevent incidents of domestic violence. Always remember...

Together we have the strength.



MS Women's Economic Security Initiative



On Lobby Day, March 3rd, MCADV supported the campaign of Mississippi Women's Economic Security Initiative, launched by the Mississippi Low Income Child Care Initiative.

The campaign generated a policy agenda that included measures for women victims of domestic violence, increases in women's wages, and expanding women's access to financial aid and childcare to support higher education.

Increasing women's economic agency and independence makes for a stronger Mississippi. MCADV Executive Director Wendy Mahoney spoke about helping women to gain independence from abusive partners, specifically through the proposed legislation that would add "an incident of domestic violence" as a 13th ground for divorce.

Women make up half the state but much less than half the legislature. Women in MS make \$0.67 to every male earned \$1. On Lobby Day, Legislators found pies on their desks as a message that women deserve a larger slice of the wage pie.

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month Activities Across MS

Our House, Inc. Greenville, MS

Right: Mayor Charlie Morrow presented Our House staff with a proclamation on behalf of the City of Hollandale; **Below:** Simmons High School participated in #Orange4Love Day!!



Gulf Coast Women's Center for Nonviolence Biloxi, MS

Right: Biloxi PD presented a Community Partnership Award to GCWCFN; **Below:** IP Casino presented a check to GCWCFN for \$40,000!!



Legislative Appreciation Day



By Serena R. Clark, Policy Analyst Consultant

2016 Legislative Session

The 2016 Legislative Session has been full of fireworks from the start! Both chambers had to conduct hearings on election contests for several weeks before the full House and Senate could be seated. This was a first in MS history.

Due to the hearings, the committee makeup was not announced until almost 5 weeks into session. We are in the first year of a new administration and have quite a large number of freshman legislators.

On top of the delayed start with committee work, the House and Senate adopted Joint Rules which moved the deadlines up approximately two weeks so they could finish session earlier than the standard 120 days.

The MCADV legislative agenda is faring well! We secured authors in both the House and the Senate to drop bills which add domestic violence as a 13th ground for divorce in MS.

Currently, a domestic violence situation would force someone seeking a divorce to prove “habitual cruel and inhumane treatment.” This is open to wide latitude with chancellors and interpreted in many ways. Senator Latisha Jackson of Cuomo introduced the bill in the House and Senator Sally Doty of Brookhaven introduced the bill in the Senate. The vehicle moving is Senate Bill 2418. We owe thanks to Judiciary A Chairman Sean Tindell for bringing our bill out of committee and to Senator Sally Doty for her outstanding handling of the bill on the Senate floor with a unanimous vote! The bill will now be transferred to the House and assigned to a committee there to begin the process again.

You can watch the House and Senate in action daily at www.legislature.ms.gov and follow bills online. This is also where you can view information on each legislator, the committee structure and daily action taken on bills.



On March 1st, the Coalition held its annual Legislative Appreciation Day at the Mississippi State Capitol. We thanked legislators for their dedication to issues affecting victims of domestic violence.

Pictured above: **Sara Holifield** (DAFS), **Leslie Payne** (Care Lodge), **Senator David Blount**, **Sandra Morrison** (GCWCFN), **Wendy Mahoney**, and **Georgia Grodowitz** (HHFS).

Below: Foreground—**Alicia Washington** (MCADV staff) serving sliders in celebration of Legislative Appreciation Day; Background—**Paula Granger** (MCADV staff) encouraging Capitol visitors to #TakeThePledge to end domestic violence. Find more information on Take the Pledge at www.standupguy.org.



2016 Friends of the Coalition

- * Allstate - The Steven James Agency
- * Allstate - The Angel Garrison Agency
- * Allstate - The Cassandra Williams Agency
- * Beverly Cook
- * Chris Fowler
- * Deborah & Jim Morris
- * Decatur Woman's Progressive Club
- * Dorsey J Barefield
- * Ed & Jennifer Sivak
- * Edwin King
- * Embellished Events and Interiors
- * Entergy
- * H.L. Brinkley
- * Iris Boggan
- * Jackson Free Press
- * Janine Bruton
- * Levette Kelly Johnson
- * MS Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church
- * Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Beta Alpha Chapter
- * Ouida Lia Meruvia
- * Patricia Crosby
- * Ray Adams
- * Robert Harris
- * Sister Therese Jacobs
- * Theresa Smith
- * Think Webstore
- * Verizon Wireless



MCADV Board Retreat

MCADV held a two-day retreat/strategic planning meeting for its Board of Directors. The retreat allowed them to get to know each other beyond shelter work, to conduct business not ordinarily accomplished at meetings, and to forge a vision for the Coalition's trajectory.

Pictured above: Sandy Middleton (Center for Violence Prevention), Leslie Payne (Care Lodge), and Dr. Patricia Davenport (Our House, Inc.) performing a team-building activity to emphasize the importance of a vision and to learn to work together when clear direction is unavailable. Below, left: Sandra Morrison (Gulf Coast Women's Center for Nonviolence), Sara Holifield (Domestic Abuse Family Shelter), and Leslie Payne (Care Lodge). Below, center: Becky, Our House's resident pooch, also attended the retreat. Below, right: Wendy Seals (Angel Wings Outreach Center), Georgia Grodowitz (Haven House Family Shelter), Joyce Tucker (Safe Haven), Debbie Morris, and Pat Flynn.



Become a FRIEND OF THE COALITION

What is a Friend of the Coalition?

An individual, business or organization who supports the mission of MCADV and its efforts to end domestic violence in the state of MS.

- ⇒ Friends will receive a welcome letter, certificate, current domestic violence information and welcome gift.
- ⇒ Friends' names will be listed in the newsletter and website (Contact MCADV to omit public display of name).
- ⇒ Friends will receive current national, state and local information on Domestic Violence issues.
- ⇒ Friends will have access to the MCADV Resource Library.

Name, Title	Business	Group
<hr/>		
Address	City, State ZIP	
<hr/>		
Phone	Fax	Email
<hr/>		
Signature		
<hr/>		

Complete this form and mail, along with payment to MCADV, P.O. Box 4703, Jackson, MS 39296

Annual Fees

Individual \$50

Business/ Group \$100

Fees from

"Friends of the Coalition" will be used for emergency assistance to member program shelters based on the availability of funds, support for the operations of the Coalition not covered under grant funds or other needs that arise not supported by grant funds.

1-800-898-3234

www.mcadv.org

Our Healthy Relationship Message went around the state! MCADV Training and Technical Assistance Coordinator traveled around the state, spreading awareness about Teen Dating Violence and Healthy Relationships!



During Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, the Coalition's Training and Technical Assistance Coordinator **Paula Granger** talked about dating violence to students from all over the state, from Rankin County to the Delta and lots of places in between.

Paula helped these teens to identify the characteristics of a healthy relationship, deal breakers and non-negotiables, introduced the cycle of abuse, gave examples of domestic violence in pop culture, and offered pointers on how to end an unhealthy relationship.

The overwhelming response to Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month has spilled over into March and April where Paula will continue to raise awareness across the state.



Pictured on the Left: Paula Granger, MCADV's Training and Technical Assistance Coordinator, set up a booth at Hinds Community College in Raymond to give students information about teen dating violence and to pass out promotional items.

Spotlight on **Tori Jones**

Gulf Coast Women's Center for Nonviolence • Counselor



What is your favorite movie? *The Notebook*, duh!

Most famous person you ever met? N*SYNC ;)

What would you do if you won the lottery? Pay off student loans!

Where did you go to school? University of North Georgia

Your biggest achievement? Masters of Clinical Mental Health Counseling

What motivates you? My daughter. I want her to be proud of me.

Your best beauty secret? Keratin! Calms my *crazy* hair!

What can you simply not resist? Warm, gooey brownies.

What do you most like to do to unwind? Sing loudly in the car.

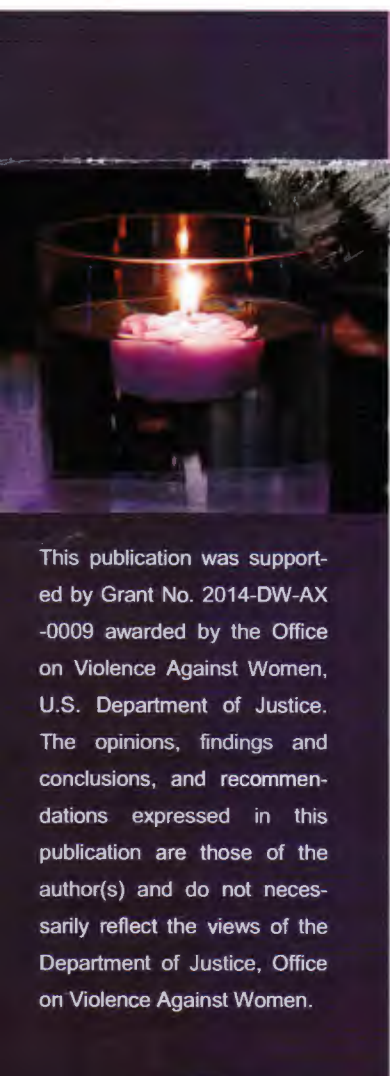


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SAVE THE DATE!!

**MCADV, in collaboration with
MS Coalition Against Sexual Assault and local domestic violence
programs, presents**

**Advocate Toolbox
MS Statewide Domestic Violence
Conference**

**Hilton Jackson
July 27, 2016
8:30 am—4:30 pm**



For more information, call MCADV at 1-800-898-3234. Or visit the website at www.mcadv.org.



www.facebook.com/MSCoalitionAgainstDomesticViolence



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