



Advocates for women whose lives are affected by chemical dependency

WSCWSAI

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The WSCWSAI is proud to be sponsored in part by the Washington State Department of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (D.A.S.A.).

AWARDS FOR 2000

This marks the fifth year that the Washington State Coalition on Women's Substance Abuse Advisory Board has presented awards to women who have demonstrated a long standing commitment to improving women's services. We believe all women working in this area should be given awards and kudos' for their efforts. These two recipients Greta Kruger and Chris Lair have been very instrumental in enriching services to assist women in accessing treatment.

Chris Lair, who has recently retired from DASA, has worked in the area of child welfare and supported the implementation of funding resources for women with children. Chris has always shown a passion for her work and has remained very focused on these issues. She has been a great advocate and spokesperson for improving the quality of treatment for women and was very instrumental in seeing that childcare was implemented in women's treatment. Chris's career of 28 years was spent in the area of child welfare and she has demonstrated a passion for her work. On a personal level, she graduated from Penn State, and has lived in 7 states and 1 foreign country but claims Washington has been her longest residence of 31 years. In spite of her busy life, Chris has volunteered many hours as an instructor in English as a second language, Hospice services, Bosnian Student Project, Peace Corp volunteer and Olympic Wildlife Rescue. She is now enrolled in her Master Gardner program and is still living a very active life. It was a great pleasure to honor such a multifaceted woman.

Greta Kruger from Residence XII was our other award winner. She claims Idaho as her home state, and being a "city girl!" in a small farm community background. She is a graduate of University of Idaho and worked with elementary school music program in Spokane area. Greta taught piano lessons for 10 years, as well as working for the King County Library system for 16 years. She started volunteering at Residence XII in 1982, was a board member for two years, and then became the director of the Residence XII facility in the Highline Community Hospital for eight years. Greta returned to the Bothell Residence XII in 1994 as the Outreach Manager and has been very active in many facets of women's treatment on all levels. It was great to honor her long commitment and dedication to the women of the state.



*Award winners
Left to Right-Greta Kruger, Chris Lair*

D. Ann Forbes-Alcohol Drug Help Line

An Outsiders view of The Annual Retreat

Several months ago, feeling a little isolated in the field, I called a name and number I found in the back of the "Green Book." A warm and friendly voice at the other end of the line offered to send information on the "Coalition," and invited me to attend the next steering committee meeting. Having no real idea of what to expect, I decided to attend a meeting. There I met the voice at the other end of the line and a number of other women who were welcoming in a reserved way! At this meeting I received several invitations to attend the upcoming Annual Retreat. Once again, having no ideal what to expect, I accepted.

Intrigued, but still mostly in the dark, I joined the ten other women (sorry Ken), at Dumas Bay Retreat Center and discovered the true meaning of "working retreat." From 2:00 pm on January 18 to 3:00 pm on January 19, the steering committee discussed, debated, and made decisions on numerous issues related to the care of substance abusing women in the State of Washington, and those who treat them.

I discovered the Coalition is interested in and involved in research, prevention, treatment, and funding for all women, regardless of age, race, religion, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, or marital status. The Coalition offers its members the opportunity to serve on one or more of four committees including:

- ☞ The **Legislative Committee**, which produced a letter supporting vendor rate increases, to better provide for the needs of clients and counselors, as well as seeking to educate legislators and other policy makers and distribute information on legislative decisions.
- ☞ The **Education Committee**, dedicated to providing education and training for providers across the state on issues such as childhood sexual, physical, and emotional abuse as it relates to substance abuse. Domestic violence, housing, and counselor competency are also among the areas of interest to this committee.



Retreat Participants
Left to Right, Top Row-
Sharon Toquinto, Melissa Laws, Sharon Chambers, Marilyn Bordner, Lorri Cox, Linda Erickson
Front Row-Beth Dannhardt, Jane Kennedy, D. Ann Forbes, Linda Olsen

- ☞ The **Membership Committee** is dedicated to increasing the number of advocates for women's issues in our state with an emphasis on encouraging members to get involved in committee work.
- ☞ And last but not least, is the **Conference Committee**. These are the ladies that make the famed Annual Conference happen. This is the place to be to mix fun with fact!

As if this wasn't enough (remember how many hours were involved in this retreat), members also reviewed By-Laws, elected officers and committee chairs, reviewed contracts, hired a support staff person, previewed a web site, and interacted with invited guest Ken Stark or DASA, a major funder of Coalition activities.

I retrospect, attending this retreat was a wonderful if exhausting way to find out first hand what the Coalition is about and who the people who make it happen are. They are a dedicated, highly motivated, inspirational group of women, tireless in their efforts to advance the concerns of chemically dependant women. I left the retreat with a strong desire to become a part of something worthwhile, positive, and important. This organization provides an opportunity to add my voice to that of others more experienced and seasoned while providing opportunity for personal and professional connection, inspiration, and growth.

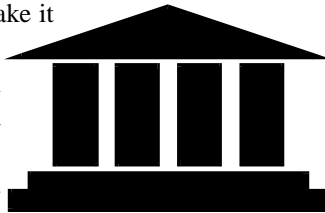
Linda Erickson
Clinical Coordinator Women's Services
Recovery Option NW

Legislative Update

Edits from Children's Home Society, February 23, 2001

The cut-off date for bills to get out of their original committee is Feb. 27th. Bills that have not been voted out of their original committee by February 27th will have no further action in their current form. Executive action e.g., voting on bills is currently taking place in legislative committees.

After bills are voted out of their original committee, those with a fiscal impact will go to the Appropriations (House) or Ways and Means (Senate) committees. Unfortunately, the budget problems facing the state will make it very difficult for bills to make it through these fiscal committees. Therefore, it is critical to contact your legislators and the chairs of the fiscal committees about bills that are important to you!



Drug Affected Babies: SB5416

Sponsored by Senator. Patterson, relates to drug-affected infants. SB5416 requires that pregnant and lactating women be screened by their health care provider for nonprescription use of controlled substances while pregnant, and that newborns be tested by his/her health care provider if the provider reasonably believes the infant is drug affected. Parent(s) of infants who test positive will be referred to CPS. This bill also establishes dependency procedures for the first, second and third or subsequent drug affected babies born. Status at this writing SB5416 is awaiting a vote on the Senate floor. **HB1206**, sponsored by Representative Mary Lou Dickerson, is the House companion to SB5416. HB1206 was not scheduled for a hearing in the Children and Families Committee and therefore is dead.

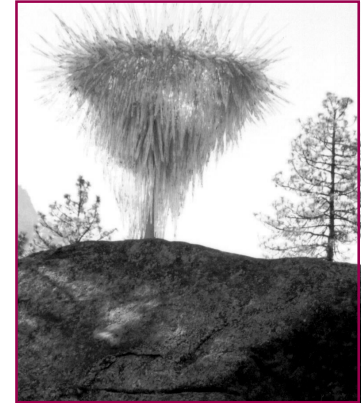
Newborn Safety: SB5236

Sponsored by Senator. Kohl-Welles, decriminalizes the act of transferring a newborn to a qualified person at an appropriate location. For example, if a parent takes a baby, 72 hours old or less, to a designated place within a hospital and "abandons" the newborn, the parent will not be subject to criminal liability. The bill also establishes a task force, directed to make recommendations regarding implementation of the law, including recommendations that identify mechanism to improve the promotion of adoption. **Status:** SB5236 was amended and voted out of the Senate Human Services and Corrections Committee. **HB1170**, sponsored by Representative O'Brien, is the House companion bill to SB5236.

Continued on Page 3

Conference a Success!

The Washington State Coalition on Women's Substance Abuse Issues held its 10th Annual Conference October 6 & 7, 2000 at Sleeping Lady in Leavenworth, Washington. The conference, "Health in Recovery: Linkages that Work" was attended by approximately 142 participants, and focused on the special recovery needs of women. The keynote speaker was Cherlyne Short M.A., M.L.A., M.A.C., and Director of Business Development at Cirque Lodge in Sundance, Utah. The conference offered a variety of workshops, which emphasized health and recovery for women. Among the topics presented were nicotine addiction, depression, exercise and recovery, 12 Step Programs, healthcare issues for chemically dependent women, relaxation and nutrition. Several agencies made financial contributions to support this annual conference. DASA was the major contributor and this support is profoundly appreciated.



One of the many wonders at Sleeping Lady is this beautiful glass fountain sculpture by Chihuly

Karen Christensen was the conference coordinator and has accepted the position for the 2001 conference also. Informal responses to the evaluations indicate participants found the conference exciting, rewarding, and supportive of the special needs of women in recovery. The 11th Annual Conference will again be held at Sleeping Lady October 22-23 2001.

Save the Date

The 11th annual WSCWSAI conference will be held again at Sleeping Lady. This year the conference will be held on October 22-23, 2001. The tentative topic for this year will be *Being Professional: CD Counseling-Art or Science*.

If you would like to be a part of making this conference a reality you may join or participate in the Conference committee. For more information call the conference committee chair- Jane Kennedy. She is available at King county TASC (206) 720-0234 ext. 111 or e-mail her at jane.tasc@accessone.com.

Last conference several people expressed an interest in arriving a day earlier. This can be arranged through the conference coordinator-Karen Christensen. You may call her directly at (206) 784-0924 or e-mail your questions to karensea@earthlink.net

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Join Us!

Membership in the Coalition will add your voice to those of many others in this state who are advocating on behalf of women whose lives are affected by chemical dependency.

Coalition membership can open new networking and educational opportunities with others concerned about chemical dependency treatment for women.

The Coalition sponsors an annual conference and regional meetings to share local state and national information.

Our monthly Steering Committee meetings are open to all members and are held on the first Friday of the month. They are held at Residence XII, 12029 113th Avenue NE, Kirkland.

Please fill out and return the membership form along with your membership fee... *Please join us today!*

Individual Name _____

or

Agency Name _____

Agency Representative(s) _____

Address (including City and Zip) _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

I/we support the philosophy and mission of the Coalition and wish to become regular members.

Type of Membership:

Agency (\$100⁰⁰/yr.)

Save on two registrations to the 2002 conference with a paid 2002 agency membership & receive a link to your agency on the webpage-Link address _____

Individual (\$20⁰⁰/yr.)

Save on your registration to the 2002 conference with a paid 2002 individual membership

Please make checks payable to: Washington State Coalition on Women's Substance Abuse Issues (WSCWSAI) P.O. Box 907, Yakima, WA 98907.

Be a Part of a Positive Statewide Support System

Strength Comes in Numbers!

Increased Dues Mean Increased Benefit

The coalition has recently raised the dues for an agency member. This increase takes effect for the 2001-2002 membership year. Our membership years run from June to June so this change will effect those renewing or first purchasing a membership after June 2001. The individual membership has been left as is.

The agency membership includes two representatives from that agency. Both representatives will receive a discount to the annual conference. With the addition of the webpage the increased due allow agency members to place a link to their site on the Coalition webpage.

The increase in dues will help the coalition to be a more effective group. It will help pay for part time office support and supplies for more lobbying efforts for women's issues.

Thank you for your understanding and support. Your comments are welcome. Please send them to :

WSCWSAI
Membership Committee
P.O. Box 907
Yakima, WA 98907

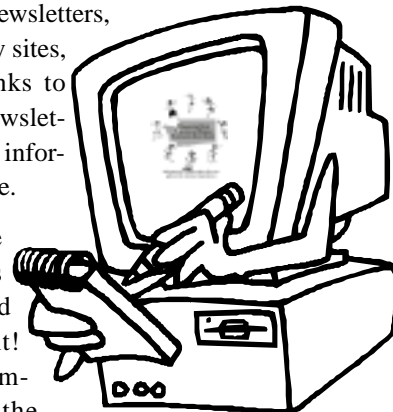
WSCWSAI Website

Your website is here!

Start up your web browser and go to www.WSCWSAI.org. Now bookmark this site. You will want to visit here often to discover what is new with the coalition and women's issues.

Currently the site includes: Who we are, What we are, membership information, She's got all kinds of trouble, the steering committee, and a contacts page.. In the future we will be adding such items as; newsletters, links to member agency sites, member requested links to pertinent sites, past newsletter stories, conference information, and much more.

The website will be what the members want. So take a look and tell us what you want! Please send your comments via e-mail to the webmaster on the comments page. We look forward to hearing from you soon.



Legislative Update

Continued from Page 3

HB1170 did not come up for a vote in the House Children and Families Committee and therefore is dead.

Educational Opportunities for WorkFirst Participants: SB5201

Sponsored by Senator Kohl-Welles, creates the HELP (higher education for lifelong progress) program and allows families eligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) to receive up to two years of post secondary education without an additional work requirement. The HELP program provides eligible families enrolled in an institution of higher education in WA State with assistance that includes: TANF cash grants, medical assistance, child care, food stamps, and tuition assistance. **Status:** The bill was heard in the Ways and Means Committee on Feb. 21. **Action needed:** Contact your Senator if on the Ways and Means Committee and ask that s/he support SB5201. Ask your Senator to ask Sen. Brown to pass the bill out of Ways and Means. **HB1372**, sponsored by Representative Kenney, is the House companion to SB5201. **Status:** HB1372 did not come up for a vote in the House Children and Families Committee and therefore is dead.

Transportation for Recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families: SB5031

Sponsored by Senator Franklin, establishes a program that will “accept donated vehicles and provide them to qualified adults receiving temporary assistance for needy families.” The WA State Institute for Public Policy will perform a study of the program (aka Wheels for Work), including at the minimum a cost benefit analysis. **Status:** SB5031 was amended and passed out of the Senate Human Services and Corrections Committee.

Conflicts of Interest in the Placement of Children in Out-of-Home Care: SB5049

Sponsored by Senator Kohl-Welles, states that “no child may be placed or remain in out-of-home care under this chapter or chapter 13.34 RCW when there is a conflict of interest on the part of any adult residing in the home in which the child is to be or has been placed.” The bill goes on to delineate when a conflict of interest exists and provides for the secretary of DSHS to take immediate action if he/she has reasonable cause to believe that an employee has violated the conflict of interest provisions. **Status:** The bill is awaiting a vote by the Senate.

Negligent Treatment or Maltreatment: HB1344

Sponsored by Representative Dickerson, amends the statutory definition of negligent treatment or maltreatment to read:

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Washington State Coalition on Women’s Substance Abuse Issues is to advocate for women whose lives are affected by chemical dependency.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

Addiction is a primary, progressive, and, if left untreated, fatal disease. The origins of addiction in women and their treatment needs are unique. These needs arise in large part from women’s cultural and class experiences, and from their diversity of age, ethnicity, and sexual orientation.

Research, prevention, treatment, funding, and state policies must begin to honor and reflect the effects of these unique experiences.

“the failure of a parent or guardian, or other person having custody and control of a child, to exercise a minimum degree of care in supplying the child with adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical treatment, or supervision, though financially able to do so or though offered financial or other reasonable means to do so, which results in a child whose physical, mental, or emotional condition has been impaired or is in imminent danger or becoming impaired.” **Status:** HB1344 was voted out of the House Children and Families Committee.

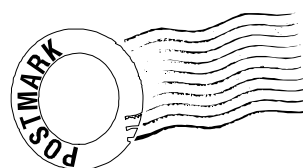
Child Care: SB5221 and SB5322

Sponsored by Sen. Kohl-Welles, address the ability to access information about child care providers, including information about complaints, licensing violations, and enforcement actions. **Status:** The bills are awaiting a hearing in Ways and Means.

Lorri Cox-DASA

Our Address has Changed

The coalition has a new mailing address. The new address is P.O. Box 907, Yakima, WA 98907. Any mail that was sent to



our old address should be automatically forwarded for now. In the future please send items to the new address. Thank you.

Committee Members

Co-Chairs

Marilyn Bordner ❖ *New Horizon Care Centers*

Sharon Toquinto ❖ *Public Health-Seattle and King County*

Treasurer

Beth Dannhardt ❖ *Triumph Treatment Services*

Secretary

Linda Olsen ❖ *Eastside Domestic Violence Program*

Steering Committee

Patti Bland ❖ *New Beginnings*

Sharon Chambers ❖ *Residence XII*

Linda Erickson ❖ *Recovery Options NW*

D. Ann Forbes ❖ *Alcohol/Drug Help Line*

Jane Kennedy ❖ *TASC of King County*

Melissa Laws ❖ *Prosperity & Together Care*

Barbara Myers ❖ *Sundown M. Ranch*

Joleen Smith ❖ *Eastside Domestic Violence Program*

Of Counsel
Nalani Askov

DASA Liaison
Lorri Cox ❖ *DASA*

Conference Coordinator
Karen E. Christensen

Newsletter Publisher
Amy Gostovich ❖ (509) 961-4489

WHO WE ARE

The Coalition is a feminist, non-profit association of individuals and organizations concerned about women's chemical dependency issues. Members include local and state government agencies who work with disabled people, health care providers, domestic violence providers, chemical dependency treatment providers, therapists, researchers, attorneys, and others concerned with public policy issues affecting chemical dependency treatment for women.

WHAT WE DO

The purpose of the Coalition is to advocate for improved, expanded, more accessible and relevant chemical dependency treatment services for women. To achieve its mission, the Coalition:

- ☉ Educates legislators and other policy-makers about the needs of chemically dependent women.
- ☉ Monitors legislation and proposes policy changes to improve treatment services for women.
- ☉ Provides education and training through conferences.
- ☉ Provides networking opportunities for professionals working in the chemical dependency field and other fields affected by the issues of substance abuse.



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**Washington State Coalition on
Women's Substance Abuse Issues**
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