MAINE/NEW HAMPSHIRE
VICTIM ASSISTANCE
ACADEMY

MARCH 21 - 26, 2010
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VISION

TO SERVE A GREATER NUMBER OF VICTIMS IN MAINE AND NEW HAMPSHIRE

MISSION

TO DEVELOP AND OFFER A COMPREHENSIVE ACADEMICALLY-BASED, FOUNDATIONAL LEVEL TRAINING ACADEMY TO BUILD THE CAPACITY OF VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS, VICTIM ADVOCATES, CRIMINAL JUSTICE PERSONNEL AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS WHO WORK WITH VICTIMS OF CRIME.
HISTORY OF THE VICTIM ASSISTANCE ACADEMY

Background

Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont convened in the fall of 2000 to create a tri-state Victim Assistance Consortium to serve the training and professional development needs of the victim communities. Since its inception, the Consortium has worked to offer both introductory and advanced training opportunities to primary and secondary victim assistance providers.

One focus of the Tri-State Victim Assistance Consortium was the development of a basic advocate training program. Vermont received a federal grant and developed their training independently while Maine and New Hampshire agreed to continue working together to jointly present the training. The two-state planning group began meeting in April of 2002 to plan an academy for people who work with victims of crime in Maine and New Hampshire.

In June 2002, the Community Services Center, (CSC), and the Institute for Public Sector Innovation (IPSI) submitted a collaborative grant proposal to the federal Department of Justice, Office of Victims of Crime (OVC), to assist in the creation of a Victim Assistance Academy in Maine. The grant application cited the need for better training in Maine for all professionals who work with victims of crime, including people with diverse professional backgrounds, varying amounts of practical experience and different levels of education and training. The lack of consistency in education and experience often leads to ambiguity and confusion between agencies and at times less than ideal coordination of services for victims. At the time there was no statewide foundation course that provided this training.

Maine’s grant application was one of five nationwide selected for funding by the Office of Victims of Crime (OVC). Maine and New Hampshire decided to continue working together to create the training for victim assistance providers, victim advocates, criminal justice personnel, and other professionals who work with victims. The curriculum is based on the National Victim Assistance Academy (NVAA) model but adapted to be more state specific. The academy provides the impetus for an informal network of professionals, creating more referral and consultation networks.
PURPOSE OF THE ACADEMY

The goal of the Academy is to help Advocates become more skilled in their professions and to create a way for ongoing victim service professional development. The Academy is a comprehensive academically based foundation level training to help build the capacity of victim assistance providers, victim advocates, criminal justice personnel and other professionals who work with victims. While some participants have previous training in their area of specialization, the Academy provides an overview and in-depth understanding of the entire field of victimization, victim rights and victim assistance.

ACADEMY GOALS

- To promote critical thinking and broaden perspectives on victimization and victim response systems.
- To expand and enhance the level of professionalism within the victim service field.
- To provide an opportunity to network with people from other victim services and allied professionals.
- To increase participant knowledge of national, state and local resources.
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"Nobody's stronger, nobody is weaker than someone who came back. There is nothing you can do to such a person because whatever you could do is less than what has already been done to them. We have already paid the price"

≈Elie Wiesel≈