



Community Grant Outcome Report

Name: Promoting a Safe and Healthy Deaf Community

Grantee: Deaf Unity

Contact Name; phone; email: Alice Sykora; (866) 798-4124; alice.sykora@wisconsin.gov

Academic Partner: Leah (Algier) Ederer, MD

Program: Development

Grant Duration: 03-01-2008 to 05-31-2009 (15 months)

Expenditures: \$42,506 (78%)

Use of Funds: Community Needs Assessment and Plan/Health Education and Outreach

► **Description:** Deaf women face increased risk for domestic violence, but are less likely to make use of shelters and other social services. Deaf Unity – a collaboration of deaf and hearing advocates – sought funds to build leadership and capacity in the area of victim services and strengthen alliances with local domestic violence and sexual assault programs. The goal of this was to ensure culturally and linguistically appropriate services are available for deaf victims.

► **Results:** Using grant funds, Deaf Unity held a strategic planning retreat in September 2008. The result of this meeting was the creation of a three-year strategic plan. Deaf Unity convened a 13-member advisory committee to help formulate a vision for the new organization, establish roles, and assign subcommittees to accomplish goals. In May 2008, Deaf Unity hired its first Service Coordinator. This improved the organization's effectiveness, increasing the capacity for Deaf Unity's volunteer team of advocates. Having a full-time person devoted to these issues has enhanced Deaf Unity's reputation and helped build broader awareness throughout the state about the specific needs of deaf victims of abuse.

► **Met Objectives:** Project complete

► **Baseline Progress on State Health Plan Objectives:** This project focused on eliminating health disparities for deaf victims of domestic abuse.

► **Academic Partner Role:** Consultation. Dr. Ederer has now joined the Deaf Unity Advisory Committee, and works with program staff on health issues and awareness.

► **Matched Dollars (cash or in-kind):** \$35,150

► **Dissemination:** None reported

► **Sustained:** The grant funds enabled Deaf Unity to build enough capacity to apply for and receive \$101,645 through the Victims of Crime Act. The advisory committee is working to identify a diverse and stable funding base.