



# ANNUAL REPORT 2017



**MCEDV.**

The Maine Coalition  
to End Domestic Violence

[WWW.MCEDV.ORG](http://WWW.MCEDV.ORG)

## OUR MEMBERS

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**Hope & Justice Project**  
Aroostook County

**Next Step Domestic  
Violence Project**  
Hancock & Washington Counties

**Partners for Peace**  
Piscataquis & Penobscot Counties

**New Hope for Women**  
Waldo, Knox, Lincoln &  
Sagadahoc Counties

**Family Violence Project**  
Somerset & Kennebec Counties

**Safe Voices**  
Franklin, Oxford &  
Androscoggin Counties

**Immigrant Resource  
Center of Maine**  
Serving immigrant &  
refugee communities

**Family Crisis Services**  
Cumberland County

**Caring Unlimited**  
York County

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## OUR MISSION

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The Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (MCEDV) mobilizes collaborative community action with and on behalf of a statewide network of Domestic Violence Resource Centers to ensure that all people affected by domestic abuse and violence in Maine are restored to safety and that perpetrators are held accountable. MCEDV builds partnerships that promote public policy, education, and systems advocacy to create and encourage a social, political, and economic environment that fosters communities where the diversity, dignity, and contributions of all are respected and celebrated, and domestic abuse and violence no longer exist.

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## OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Daryl Fort, Board President  
Marvin Ellison, Board Treasurer  
Marie Sola, Board Secretary  
Margaret Rotundo  
Emily Cain  
Peg Cruikshank  
Joanne D'Arcangelo

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# EVOLVING AS A COALITION

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Fiscal Year 2017 brought several significant changes to our Coalition.

First, we welcomed Immigrant Resource Center of Maine as our newest member. IRCM is a longtime partner, who provides culturally and linguistically sensitive services to Maine's immigrant and refugee communities, and we are thrilled to now count them as a formal member of MCEDV.

Also in 2017, the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) consolidated the contracts for domestic violence services, signing one omnibus contract with MCEDV, and having the Coalition administer the funds to the eight domestic violence resource centers as sub-recipients.

Accordingly, under this new structure MCEDV transitioned our Board of Directors from a membership Board - comprised of representatives from our member programs - to a community-based Board. We are so grateful to the members of our previous Board for their years of service, and we welcome members of our new Board to the MCEDV family: Daryl Fort, Margaret Rotundo, Marvin Ellison, Emily Cain, Marie Sola, Peg Cruikshank, and Joanne D'Arcangelo.

And finally, in 2017 we were able to grow our staff of five to a staff of seven, increasing our capacity to carry out our mission, including our expanded administrative role and responsibilities in the consolidated contract with DHHS.

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# PROMOTING SURVIVOR-CENTERED PUBLIC POLICY

In the first session of the 128th Maine Legislature, MCEDV focused our advocacy efforts on policies that would provide support for survivors and improve accountability for offenders.

We were successful in helping pass **LD 814, An Act Regarding Court Orders for Completion of a Batterers' Intervention Program in Domestic Violence Cases**, sponsored by Senator Kimberly Rosen. This bill sought to address a significant problem revealed by a 2016 study by the Maine Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse: that despite the fact that Certified Batterer Intervention Programs (CBIPs) are the only intervention designed to address the problem of battering behavior, 7 out of 10 cases in Maine were being sentenced to anger management or individual counseling, instead. With the passage of LD 814 into Public Law 105, judges in Maine must now consider CBIPs as the most appropriate and effective community intervention in cases involving domestic violence. While they are not mandated to sentence offenders to a CBIP, they are required to make findings on the record if they choose an alternate intervention. This represents a tangible step toward a better response to battering behavior.

A related bill, **LD 525, An Act to Enhance Maine's Response to Domestic Violence**, sponsored by Representative Ellie Espling, would provide funding to support training for CBIP service providers and to subsidize participant fees for offenders who cannot afford the program. We believe it essential that all people, regardless of their income, have access to the potential behavior changing benefits of CBIPs. This bill passed but was held over to the second half of the session and is on the Appropriations Committee table, awaiting consideration by the committee. We continue to work towards its enactment.

**LD 524, An Act To Amend the Laws on Domestic Violence**, sponsored by Representative Lois Reckitt, seeks to address repeat violations of protection from abuse orders by elevating the third such violation to a Class C crime, and to appropriately designate the crimes of domestic violence aggravated assaults. We have heard over and over from survivors whose abusers repeatedly violate protection orders with impunity, believing there will be no real consequence for their actions. This bill passed, but due to a modest fiscal note was held over to the second half of the session on the Appropriations Committee table. We continue to work towards its enactment.

MCEDV supported **LD 1237, An Act To Require Insurance Coverage for Contraceptive Supplies**, sponsored by Representative Jay McCreight, which became Public Law 190 and expands women's access to contraception in the state of Maine. The bill provided an opportunity for us to educate policy makers about the impacts of reproductive coercion, and the new law offers an important tool for women seeking to manage the impact of abusers' coercive tactics.

# TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE & CAPACITY BUILDING

Core to our mission at MCEDV is providing support and nurturing for our membership in order to grow their capacity to do their work well, and strengthening the ability of our community partners to respond to abuse, as well. Below are some of the highlights of our efforts in 2017.

## **Revising the CAIRET (Comprehensive Advocacy Intervention Response & Ethics Training)**

It had been years since the 40-hour core advocacy training required of all new staff and volunteer advocates had been comprehensively updated. It was high time, and in FY 2017 we embarked on a full-scale revision of the training curriculum, with support from the Atlantic Charitable Trust and the Verizon Hopeline Foundation. The process engaged advocates from throughout the membership, bringing together the best of what we are doing in Maine and what our national technical assistance providers have developed. Members will pilot the new 44-hour curriculum in the winter/spring 2018 training cycle.

## **Focusing on Accountability through Certified Batterers Intervention Programs**

In 2017, we refocused our energies on seeking strategies to address batterers' behaviors. We continue to see it as vital that we make visible the people doing the harm, and that we seek effective strategies that will hold abusive people to account and promote behavior change.

MCEDV has been concentrating on implementing the recommendations of the 2016 report by the Maine Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse (co-authored by MCEDV), which examined how Certified Batterer Intervention Programs (CBIPs) are being used in Maine and across the nation.

In addition to our legislative work, MCEDV participated in the review and revision of the Maine Certified Batterer Intervention Standards and attended the Michigan Conference on Batterer's Intervention, bringing with us a close partner from the Department of Corrections. We also integrated the perspectives of CBIP providers into a series of panel trainings for social workers, which we offered in October with the National Association of Social Workers.

"One respondent said of her husband's participation in BIP, 'It is one time during the week when we both know that he is trying to make our relationship better for us.'"

-From *Pretrial and Post-Conviction Use of Batterer Intervention Programs: Report to Maine's Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice & Public Safety*, 2016

## Hosting Trainings for Domestic Violence Advocates

In 2017, with support from the Maine Department of Health & Human Services, we continued our successful series of Advocacy Days trainings. These two-day events bring together our members and community partners to foster connection and support, to bring new and emerging information to community-based advocates, and to gather perspectives that inform our statewide work.

In FY 2017, we hosted Advocacy Days around the following topics:

- **Focus on the Civil Legal System**

This event brought together civil legal advocates and attorneys, including our partners from Pine Tree Legal Assistance, and covered topics including changes in the protection order statute and what folks need to know when working with court interpreters.

- **Piloting the CAIRET (Comprehensive Advocacy Intervention Response and Ethics Training)**

This advocacy days provided us the chance to pilot the first section of the newly revised core training for all new MCEDV advocates, and to gather essential feedback to inform the curriculum revision. The audience was a mix of experienced and brand new DV resource center advocates.

- **Organizing Our Work for Social Change**

We brought our colleagues from the Idaho Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence to discuss their visionary work to shift understandings of gender-based violence, including their "We Choose All of Us" campaign. The audience was primarily advocates who are focused on prevention and public awareness work.

*"Great work! Thank you. I believe forums like this help advocates/us to actively engage with why we are here and how we can be better at what we do and how we do it. Excellent forums for discussing, learning, information sharing."*

-Advocacy Days Attendee

### Improving our Work with LGBTQ+ Survivors

In 2017, MCEDV joined the Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault's LGBTQ+ Advisory Board. The Board was established by MECASA in 2015 to improve the ways sexual assault support centers reach out and respond to LGBTQ+ survivors.

Today, the Board is a joint venture between the two coalitions, with membership consisting of staff from each coalition office, advocates from both coalitions' membership, and partners from the LGBTQ+ community. MCEDV and MECASA presented on our collaborative model at the 2017 National Center for Victims of Crimes Conference in Portland, Oregon.



## Connecting with Maine-Wabanaki REACH

The Domestic Violence-Child Protective Services Liaison Program worked with Maine-Wabanaki REACH to expand advocates' understanding of the devastating history around Maine's Child Welfare Services and Wabanaki Tribes. We brought REACH to the Maine Child Welfare Advisory Panel to speak, and participated in planning the REACH Ally Convening that happened in Orono in May. Through this collaboration, we have better equipped advocates and child welfare workers to understand the harm that has been done, and the way that history shapes the experiences of native families involved in the system today.

## Responding to Non-Fatal Strangulation

In late 2016, the Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse created a Strangulation Response Work Group, with the goal of building capacity to offer more strangulation intervention and investigation trainings across the state. Trainings are done in multi-disciplinary teams of instructors, who become certified by attending the Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention (TISP) train-the-trainer.

MCEDV provides coordination for the work group. Thanks to a \$5000 grant from the Bingham Program, in FY 17 we were able to send four individuals (a forensic nurse, an assistant district attorney, a law enforcement officer, and an advocate) to attend TISP, expanding training capacity in Central Maine. This team, based out of Bangor, is the first strangulation response team north of Portland, representing a significant expansion of training capacity across the state. The team is already organizing a training in Aroostook County for the spring of 2018.

## Taking Public Awareness to the Next Level

2017 saw the launch of Take Action Maine, a multimedia campaign developed in collaboration with Portland-based Daughters of Change. The campaign promotes concrete actions Mainers can take to help end domestic abuse and violence, and publicizes the availability of supportive services. Since the televised campaign spots began running statewide, calls to our centralized MCEDV helpline number, which routes callers to their local domestic violence resource center, have gone up on average more than 40 percent each month.

In keeping with the campaign, we adopted "Take Action Maine" as the statewide theme for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2017. Mainers from across the state participated in our social media campaign, telling us why they take action to end abuse.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR TAKE ACTION MAINE PARTNERS & SPONSORS:

Daughters of Change  
WGME-TV  
WABI-TV  
WAGM-TV  
First National Bank  
Day's Jewelers  
Hardy, Wolf & Downing



# RESOURCE CENTER NETWORK AT A GLANCE

Maine's domestic violence resource centers (DVRCs) provide a comprehensive range of services for people affected by abuse and violence, including crisis intervention, safety planning, shelter services, support groups, transitional housing, legal advocacy, economic empowerment, and child-centered programs. They are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, via their 24-hour helplines.

## What did it look like in 2017?

- **13,437** people (**12,708** adults and **729** children) used our services.
- There were **39,627** calls made to DVRC helplines.
- **722** people were sheltered, for a total of **31,383** bed-nights. Of those sheltered, **408** were adults and **314** were children.
- **1,963** survivors received assistance from specialized advocates who work within the child welfare system.
- MCEDV legal advocates and attorneys provided more than **14,439** hours of legal advocacy, working with **4,334** people statewide.
- **121** victims of commercial sex trafficking accessed help - including shelter, legal advocacy and case management - through the DVRC network.

## In Just One day in Maine...\*

- **479** people were served by MCEDV's DVRCs.
- **247** survivors found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local DVRCs.
- **232** adults and children received non-residential assistance and services, including individual advocacy, legal advocacy, and children's support groups.
- DVRC advocates responded to **132** helpline calls.

\*National Network to End  
Domestic Violence 2016 Census

## In 2016...\*

- DV assaults represented 45.3% of all assaults reported to law enforcement. Many other assaults were not reported.

\*Maine Dept. of Public Safety  
Most recent available

## Preventing Future Violence

MCEDV resource centers provided prevention education and training programs for schools, employers, health systems, faith communities and others throughout Maine.

- **26,754** young people participated in **1,495** education presentations.
- **17,617** adults participated in **1,159** training/education events.
- **973** local public awareness events were held.

## Community-Driven by and for Mainers

The DVRCs are community-based and governed. Their work would be impossible without the help of volunteers. Last year, **638** volunteers provided **44,339** hours of service - a value of at least **\$665,085**.



# MCEDV'S FY 2017 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

REVENUE & ASSETS	9/30/2017 (Audit in progress)	9/30/2016 (Audited)
Dues	\$12,853	\$11,843
Donations	\$3,024	\$5,694
MaineShare Workplace Giving	\$10,067	\$9,040
Foundation Grants	\$90,000	\$20,000
State & Federal Grants	\$2,802,829	\$1,040,284
Sub-contracts	\$2,902	\$3,300
Interest Income (Nancy Gentile Endowment Fund)	\$5,987	\$10,937
<b>TOTAL REVENUE &amp; ASSETS</b>	<b>\$2,927,661</b>	<b>\$1,101,098</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Prevention & Victim Services	\$370,740	\$310,440
Technical Assistance & Coalition Building	\$158,888	\$133,045
Pass-through to DVRCs	\$2,160,763	\$493,849
Other Sub-Contracted Services/Programs	\$106,469	\$93,576
General & Administrative	\$56,722	\$51,112
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2,853,582</b>	<b>\$1,082,022</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$74,079</b>	<b>\$19,076</b>
<b>Net Assets at Beginning of Year</b>	<b>\$206,544</b>	<b>\$187,468</b>
<b>Net Assets at End of Year</b>	<b>\$280,623</b>	<b>\$206,544</b>
<b>Nancy Gentile Memorial Fund</b>	<b>\$149,893</b>	<b>\$135,812</b>

MCEDV is a proud member of  
**MaineShare**

