



ANNUAL REPORT FY2018

October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018

Battered Women's Justice Project

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INTO THE FUTURE

During this year, BWJP board and staff set our course for the future through a strategic planning process ably facilitated by Carlo Cuesta and Ann Jin Soo Preston of Creation in Common. After a thoughtful retreat that engaged all board and staff members, we agreed on a new position statement to ground our work: *BWJP transforms the justice system to reflect and respond to the lived experiences of survivors of gender-based violence.*

We reaffirmed our mission to promote systemic change within the civil and criminal justice systems to ensure an effective and just response to victims and perpetrators of intimate partner violence (IPV) and children experiencing this violence. Our goals for the next few years will focus on three areas:

- Decrease disparities in justice system interventions that are due to marginalized status of any kind. We aim to build staff capacity on equity issues and revise our approaches and tools to more effectively integrate an intersectional lens.
- Leverage our program innovations to strengthen our financial sustainability.
- BWJP has opportunities to market products and trainings we've created that have proved valuable to the field. Developing this capacity and diversifying our funding base will support the expansion of our work.
- Transfer organizational expertise to the next generation of leaders.
- Succession planning for senior leadership positions is vital for the organization's growth and stability as BWJP will undergo a leadership transition over this period.

With renewed energy and commitment, we look forward to pursuing these goals. The support and wisdom of our colleagues around the country and the courage of victims we serve inspires us every day!

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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



The Battered Women's Justice Project provides expertise, technical assistance, training, and resources through the following project initiatives and within selected topic areas.

FVPSA Resource Center on Civil & Criminal Justice Responses to Domestic Violence

Each year, in partnership with the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center and the National Center for the Defense of Battered Women, BWJP supports legal policy efforts in states and in Indian Country by sponsoring a meeting of the Coalition Advocates and Attorneys Network (CAAN). The 2018 CAAN meeting was held in Louisville, KY, with 41 participants from 7 Tribal Coalitions and 25 State Coalitions in attendance and addressed several timely issues: racial equity in DV legal policy, the Family Court Enhancement Project, tribal sovereignty, advocacy for battered women defendants, Kentucky Coalition's re-entry program for battered women, and Extreme Risk Protection Orders. Project staff: Kristine Lizdas, Sandi Tibbetts Murphy and Sharonna Lee organize these activities.

FYSB Family & Youth
Services Bureau

**Family Violence Prevention
& Services Program**

Our research partners at the Family Violence Institute of Northern Arizona University created a review and analysis of the available research on racial bias in risk assessment instruments used in the criminal and civil legal systems: *Are IPV Risk Assessment Tools Racially Biased? Some Observations from Research and Practice* by Kathleen Ferraro and Neil Websdale.

BWJP continues efforts to address the unintended consequences of mandatory arrest policies on juvenile girls, especially girls of color. Staff explored new trends, model responses and relevant research on this issue. In September, Denise Gamache and consultant, Connie Sponsler-Garcia, attended a meeting in Chicago to consult on a model law enforcement response to intra-family violence incidents involving adolescents and parents/caregivers that will be piloted in Illinois.

Safer Families, Safer Communities



Safer Families, Safer Communities serves as a national resource center to promote the implementation of existing legislation and effective practices to disarm dangerous domestic violence offenders. The new and improved *Safer Families, Safer*

Communities website, www.preventdvgunviolence.org, was launched this year with upgrades that include interactive resource pages allowing users to search deeper into selected topics.

Project Director David Keck continues to provide trainings at events around the country to promote the implementation of DV-related firearms prohibitions. In June, he was a keynote speaker at the Seattle/King County Gun Summit. While there, Dave visited their Domestic Violence and Firearms Enforcement Unit, a national leader in the development of firearms surrender practices that is comprehensive in breadth, from filing petitions through enforcement at the court level. A report on the Enforcement Unit was prepared for dissemination on our website.

SAFeR

Screen for IPV

Assess the Nature & Context of IPV

Focus on the Effects of IPV

Respond to the Lived Experience of IPV

This year BWJP further developed its innovative SAFeR approach which guides the family court

"The [SAFeR] analysis and resulting judge/GAL tool developed by Loretta and Gaby is the most significant improvement in family law that I have seen in 25 years on the bench!"

- Judge Chris Wickham (Ret.), Olympia, WA

system to produce safer, more workable outcomes for battered parents and children. SAFeR consists of four steps: (1) *screening* for intimate partner violence (IPV); (2) *assessing* the full nature and context of IPV; (3) *focusing* on the *effects* of IPV on parenting, co-parenting and the best interests of the child; and (4) *responding* to the lived experience of IPV in all family court recommendations, decisions, and interventions. It

is relevant to all professionals involved in custody decision-making cases (attorneys, advocates, judges, custody evaluators, guardians *ad litem*, mediators). Project staff, Loretta Frederick and Gabrielle Davis, have created a number of practice guides to operationalize the SAFeR approach: an initial IPV screening guide, an IPV-informed interview protocol, a tool for assessing parenting in the context of IPV, a best interest analysis, case planning guides, IPV assessment guides for mediation and early neutral evaluation, a judicial guide, and a co-parenting assessment guide.

Comments from the field demonstrate the value of SAFeR and we look forward to expanding its application around the country. Currently, we are engaged in pilot projects in New Hampshire, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. SAFeR is also incorporated into training curricula for GALs in Washington state, and for mediators and domestic relations staff in Ohio.

"I'm an experienced custody evaluator, have done 1000 over the last 35-40 years. This was one of the most helpful seminars I've ever attended."

- Dr. Alan Ravitz, New York

National Center on Protection Orders and Full Faith & Credit

To better serve Native survivors, NCPOFFC identified experts on Indian Country and domestic violence to serve on its first Tribal Steering Committee, which was convened to discuss issuance and enforcement of tribal protection orders, as well as related topics unique to Indian Country.



NCPOFFC also identified experts on domestic violence in Alaska native communities and in May, hosted a roundtable in Anchorage to define the challenges of and promising practices for Alaska Native Villages regarding issuance and enforcement of protection orders. This information is being used to create a best practice guide and corresponding training materials.

In consultation with the National Sheriff's Association, NCPOFFC created a service checklist for law enforcement that provides key information on best strategies to efficiently serve protection orders, especially out-of-state orders.

Project staff: Millicent Shaw-Phipps, Monica Player and Sarah Henry, field numerous requests for technical assistance about the issuance, service and enforcement of protection orders, and conduct trainings at local and national events around the country.

Improving the Criminal Justice Response



BWJP is the Comprehensive Technical Assistance Provider for this OVW program that funds projects in over 200 jurisdictions. Two large trainings for the grantees were organized by project staff: Sujata Warriar, Stephanie Avalon, Anton Tripolskii, and Marijka Muras: an Advocacy conference titled: *Bridging*

Differences: Advocating for Survivors from Underserved Communities, and a multi-disciplinary conference on *How Do We Know How We're Doing? Assessing the Effectiveness of Your Coordinated Community Response*.

Intensive consultations are ongoing in two communities. In Newark, NJ, staff planned trainings to assist the community in implementing risk assessment protocols in civil and criminal justice practices. Staff are also working with West Palm Beach, FL, to address gender bias and law enforcement.

16 webinars were offered over the year on such topics as: *Case File Review: What do Sexual Assault Cases look like in Our Communities*; *The Results of a 10 year study of the Impact of IPV Primary Aggressor Laws on Single and Dual Arrest*; *Promising Community Practices: The High Risk Team in Bristol County, MA*; *Should She Stay or Should She Go: Helping DV Survivors with Interstate Cases*; *"You Can't Believe a Word She Says!": Credibility Issues for Survivors with Mental Health and Substance Abuse Histories*; and *Assessing; and Responding to Men who Pose High Risk to their Partners*.

Improving Probation's Response to DV Cases



Our probation technical assistance provider, Jim Henderson, organized a national probation conference on *Managing Your Most Dangerous Offenders: Firearms, Stalking and Strangulation Cases*. Experienced probation agents from around the county and other national DV experts explored

the promising practices of local communities working to address these high-risk offenders. This successful event was attended by 131 participants.

Jim continued his intensive training schedule with numerous appearances around the country as well as in-person consultations with local probation offices. He presented at the national conferences of the American Probation and Parole Association, the Alliance for Hope, the Strangulation Institute, and the National Center for Victims of Crime.

Recently, Jim initiated a major project with the state of South Carolina to introduce probation group reporting to all probation offices in the state to improve the supervision of DV offenders.

Military & Veterans Advocacy Program

In response to a request from the Navy Family Advocacy Program, Project Coordinator Brian Clubb, organized webinars on firearms and protection orders for their staff. Brian also presented to hundreds of attendees at several national and state conferences that focused on violence against women, veteran homelessness, legal assistance to military personnel, veterans, and their families, and rehabilitation of veteran offenders.



The publication: *Screening, Assessment, and Intervention Model for Intimate Partner Violence Perpetration and Co-occurring Combat-related Conditions* was completed. Implementation of the guide's recommendations will assist communities to intervene more effectively and prevent further violence in military and veteran families.

BWJP by the Numbers

Webinars: 43

Consultations: 564

TA/Training Staff: 16

Website Views: 316,050

Training Events: 122

Live Participants: 6750

Information/Referral Calls: 840

Website Resource Downloads: 15,539

THANK YOU, DONORS!

BWJP received an unexpected surprise this year—thanks to Samantha Bee! Chagrined that her show had featured a complimentary interview with New York AG Eric Schneiderman a few months before he was accused by several women of physical assault, she revised the description of her YouTube video and added:



“We're keeping this piece online in the interest of integrity. We encourage you to make a donation to an anti-domestic violence organization like The Battered Women's Justice Project: www.bwjp.org.”

Our sincere thanks to Samantha Bee and all the folks who generously donated to support our work!

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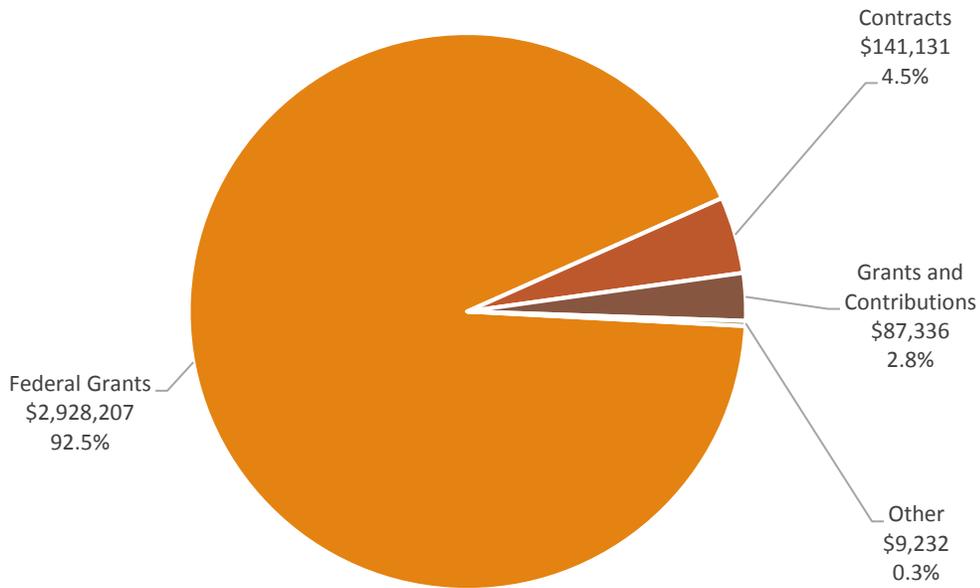
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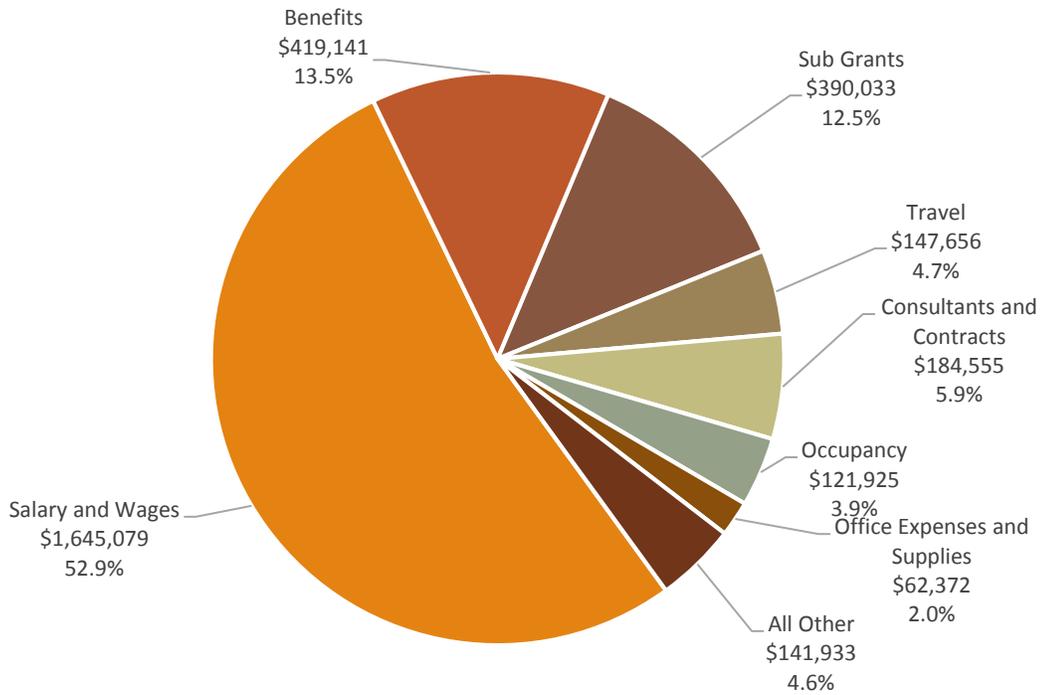
BWJP FINANCIALS

TOTAL REVENUE: \$3,165,906



Total Assets: \$355,916 Total Liabilities: \$216,289

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$3,112,694



BWJP's most recent audited financial statements and IRS Form 990 can be found at www.bwjp.org/about-bwjp/how-you-can-help.html.