

# NYSCASA

## New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault

### 2009 Legislative Action Agenda

#### Funding

**\$5 million dollars** is required for Rape Crisis services to be seen as key community resources along with other prevention education and emergency services. To continue providing these quality, as well as much-needed services, Rape Crisis Programs, the New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault and the New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault must receive an increase in the NYS Budget from the \$1,584,000 it has been since 2005.

**\$1 million** would allow the Sexual Assault Examiner programs, operating in less than half of the State's hospitals, to continue and encourage development of additional Forensic Examiner programs. In 2000, Sexual Assault Examiner programs were recognized for the valuable service they provide however no stable state funding has ever been allocated to develop or maintain them. We call upon the Legislature to create a budget line to ensure these victim-centered, specialized health care services are available for any victim of sexual violence within a one hour distance.

**\$150,000** is needed to fund the State Victim Assistance Academies and Advanced Institutes that provide foundational education and skill building to those who work with victims of crime. In 2003, NYSCASA received federal funding to create and implement a State Victim Assistance Academy for professionals in multiple disciplines working with victims of crime. Three annual academies were held at Buffalo State College and an Advanced Institute at Sage College in Albany to receive reviews from participants.

#### Improving the response

##### 1. A471

Sponsor: John

Summary : Add S2805-t, Pub Health L; amd S631, Exec L Establishes the sexual assault nurse examiner and sexual assault forensic examiner grant program to award grants to provide statewide access to services provided by sexual assault nurse examiners and sexual assault forensic examiners to victims of sexual assault.

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### 2. A9915 (2008 #)

Sponsor: Jafee

Summary: Financial Assistance for PEP, Requires financial assistance from the crime victims board for post-exposure prophylaxis treatment for victims of sexual assault. Requires financial assistance from the crime victims board for post-exposure prophylaxis treatment for victims of sexual assault.

*(This is a bill from 2008 that we will continue to advocate for, NYSCASA has been working with the Crime Victims Board and will have the sponsor reintroduce the legislation for the 2009 session.)*

### 3. A938

Sponsor: DelMonte

Summary: Requires a minimum of fifteen hours of training and instruction for all police officers and attorneys employed in the district attorney's office with respect to crimes involving sexual assault; establishes the office of court administration shall provide training for judges and justices at the New York State Judicial Institute with respect to crimes involving sexual assault

### 4. A755

Sponsor: Paulin

Summary: Prohibits an employer or licensing agency, because of the actual or perceived status of an individual as a victim of domestic violence or stalking, to refuse to hire or employ or to bar or to discharge from employment an individual or to discriminate against such individual in compensation or in terms, conditions or privileges of employment.

## Prevention

### 5. A384

Sponsor: John

Summary: Provides that all public schools shall include as a part of health education instruction concerning the prevention and reporting of sexual abuse and assault.

Memo: minimal fiscal implications

\*Additional bills of interest to follow