



News Release

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For Immediate Release

PADA Certified as Sexual Assault Service Provider by State Coalition

(Jefferson, WI) People Against Domestic & Sexual Abuse (PADA) of Jefferson County, Inc. was accepted as a member by the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault (WCASA) as a Sexual Assault Service Provider (SASP) for Jefferson County on January 18, 2007.

“Becoming a SASP is a great accomplishment for PADA and will help us better serve victims of sexual assault and the Jefferson County community,” says Lindsay Blumer, executive director of PADA, “We are very excited about this membership and have worked hard to achieve the SASP status through providing the best services we can for our community.”

To become a SASP, PADA had to formally apply to WCASA and meet several standards of providing sexual assault services. The application included questions regarding PADA’s operating philosophy, staff and volunteer competency, community and prevention efforts, and integration of sexual assault services into the organizational mission and operation. A representative from WCASA then came to PADA for a site visit and formal interview. PADA then had to present their application and materials to the WCASA Membership Committee. “PADA’s application to become a SASP was

well-thought out and organized,” said Michelle Watkins, program coordinator for WCASA, “Their commitment to providing quality sexual assault services to victims and their community was apparent. It was not only a logical choice to accept them as a SASP member but we are very excited to have such a great partner.”

In addition to the application to become a SASP, PADA also cited its work in the sexual assault field that is already happening. PADA advocates offer individual counseling regarding sexual assault, presentations on intervention and prevention of sexual assault, working with teens to talk about sexual assault, and collaborating with community organizations to make people aware of sexual assault and how they can help.

PADA also offers the Sexual Assault Advocate Program (SAAP) which makes available PADA advocates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to victims of sexual assault who seek help at Fort Memorial Hospital in Fort Atkinson. PADA advocates work with the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program at the Hospital to ensure that victims are supported and they have access to follow-up services.

“PADA has been providing sexual assault services based on best practices and that are responsive to our community for a few years,” says Blumer, “As these services grow and new partnerships are formed the SASP membership with WCASA will help us ensure that our sexual assault services are of the highest quality.”

As part of PADA’s SASP membership, PADA will receive many benefits from WCASA. “WCASA offers technical assistance to SASP’s to help them provide great services,” says Watkins, “We are able to offer connections to sexual assault providers

across the state, knowledge of new and best practices in the field, and support for the expansion of PADA's sexual assault services in Jefferson County."

PADA is already a member of the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WCADV) and will still provide full domestic abuse services as well as sexual assault services to Jefferson County in both English and Spanish. PADA's mission is to provide advocacy and options to victims of domestic abuse and sexual abuse, educate the community, and utilize coordinated community efforts to end domestic and sexual abuse. Last year PADA took almost 1,000 crisis calls and served over 500 clients. For more information about PADA or the services they provide please contact PADA at 920-674-6748.

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