HIstory of the domestic and sexual violence Movement

1200 Wife beating is common in Europe and is endorsed by the church as the loving husband’s means of correcting his wife’s faults.

1600 Battered women shelters, as we know them today, may not have existed until the nineteenth century, but abused women in Europe knew where to hide to escape their batterers – convents may very well have been the first shelters for women trying to escape from the violence of their homes.

1767 British Common Law allows for a man to chastise his wife with a stick no greater than the length from the last joint to the end of the thumb (the rule of thumb).

1850-1900s Women’s Christian Temperance Union and Women Suffragists protest the brutality of drunken husbands and fight for prohibition; changes occur in divorce laws so that women can divorce for “mental cruelty”.

1871 Alabama and Massachusetts declare wife beating illegal.

1887 Freud publishes his seduction theory: the majority of women with symptoms of hysteria and other forms of mental illness are victims of sexual abuse.

1890 Faced with professional scorn, Freud recants the seduction theory; saying women were not victims of sexual abuse but “fantasized such abuse”. Freud replaces seduction theory with his theory of the “Oedipal complex” and notion of “penis envy”.

1920 Women received the right to vote in the United States with the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

1950-60s Civil rights and anti-war movements challenge the country and lay the foundation for the feminist movement.

1960s The emergence of the Women’s Rights Movement and societal acknowledgement that women hold a secondary position to men in society, in the courts and in the home.

1964 Refuge House, the first battered women’s shelter in the world, opens in London.

1968 The Women’s History Library is established. Because of the lack of services, the Library becomes an emergency refuge for battered women and rape victims.

1970 The *Journal of Marriage and Family* cites family violence for the first time.

1971 The first rape crisis center opens in the United States, founded by the Bay Area Women Against Rape.

1973 The first battered women’s shelter in the United States opens in St. Paul, Minnesota, founded by the Women’s Advocates.

1974 First sexual assault crisis center opens in Virginia in Norfolk

1974 Casa Myrna Vasquez opens a Latina-run battered women’s shelter in Boston, Massachusetts. It later becomes a technical assistance center.

Erin Pizzey, publishes *Scream Quietly or the Neighbors Will Hear* in England, the first book about domestic violence from a battered woman’s perspective.

1976 The National Organization for Women announces a task force to examine the problem of battering.

Del Martin publishes *Battered Wives*, the first American feminist publication showing violence against women is deeply rooted in sexism.

Nebraska becomes the first state to abolish the marital rape exemption.

Pennsylvania establishes the first state coalition against domestic violence and becomes the first state to pass legislation providing for orders of protection for battered women.

Oregon becomes the first state to legislate mandated arrest in domestic violence cases.

1977 Emerge, the first counseling program for men who batter, is founded in Boston, Massachusetts, at the request of women working in shelters.

1977 VA: The first shelter in Virginia opens: the Women’s Resource Center of the New River Valley is located in Radford.

1978 The United States Commission on Civil Rights sponsors the *Consultation on Battered Women: Issues of Public Policy* in Washington, DC. Over 100 nationally represented women come together to organize around the needs of the newly formed battered women’s movement.

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) is formed during the US Commission on Civil Rights hearing. However, feminists did much of the groundwork and careful organizing across the country, specifically, Betsy Warrior and Valle Jones. Incorporation papers for NCADV are filed in Portland, Oregon.

The Lesbian Task Force is founded and officially recognized by NCADV.

White Buffalo Calf Woman’s Society opens the first tribal shelter on the Rosebud Reservation of the Sicangu Lakota Nation in South Dakota.

Laura X begins the work of the National Clearinghouse on Marital Rape by assisting a rape crisis center in Salem, Oregon, with the trial of John Rideout - the first US husband tried for a rape he committed on his wife, Greta, while they were living together. He was acquitted, and then publicly apologized.

1979 The Domestic Violence Prevention and Services Act, which allocates federal money for battered women’s programs, passes in the U.S. Senate.

Over 250 shelters for battered women exist in the United States.

The Battered Woman by Lenore Walker is published.

1980 Virginians Aligned Against Sexual Assault (VAASA) is incorporated. Note: VADV and VAASA transformed into the Action Alliance in 2004, one state coalition addressing both sexual and domestic violence in VA.

1980 President Ronald Reagan takes office.

The first NCADV National Conference is held in Washington, DC, and attended by more than 600 women from 49 states. The conference gains federal recognition of critical issues facing battered women.

The Third World Caucus is formed at the NCADV Conference in response to racism within the Battered Women’s Movement. It is later renamed as the Women of Color Task Force.

Joanne Schulman’s research shows that marital rape is legal in 44 states, cohabitant rape in 13 states and date rape in 5 states.

1981 Virginians Against Domestic Violence is incorporated. Note: VADV and VAASA transformed into the Action Alliance in 2004, one state coalition addressing both sexual and domestic violence in VA.

1980

1981 Everywoman’s Shelter in Los Angeles, California, is the first shelter for Asian women to open in the United States.

There are nearly 500 battered women’s shelters in the United States.

Major cuts occur in federal funds that were supporting shelters.

VA: The Virginia Welfare Department recommends a $600,000 appropriation to fund spouse abuse services for the 1982-1984 biennium.

VA: Governor Dalton proclaims the first Domestic Violence Awareness Week in Virginia.

VA: As of April 23 Domestic Violence Programs in Virginia offer services to victims of domestic violence.

VA: In September, the first statewide conference for Virginia domestic violence workers is held at Camp Hatcreek near Lynchburg. 70 people attend.

1982 The second NCADV National Conference is held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and questions of race, class and sexual preference forms its central theme. The first Women of Color Institute is featured at this conference.

Susan Schechter publishes *Women & Male Violence: The Visions and Struggles of the Battered Women’s Movement*.

*A Place To Go* airs on *60 Minutes* and describes the work of battered women’s shelters in Austin, Texas. It was reported that more viewers watched this program than any other during this television season.

1982 VA: Senator Rick Boucher introduces legislation to increase the marriage license fee from $3 to $13. The Marriage License Tax Bill passes in both houses, allocating $400,000 for battered women’s programs and child abuse prevention programs.

VA: VADV receives funding from the Marriage License Tax and hires its first staff person.

1983 Over 700 shelters for battered women are in operation across the United States serving 91,000 women and 131,000 children.

1984 VA:The Protective Order is created as a civil option in Virginia. This is the first time battered women have an option other than filing for divorce or making a criminal complaint.

The Duluth Project is formed in Duluth, Minnesota, to develop a coordinated criminal justice response to domestic violence.

The US Attorney General establishes a Task Force on family violence and conducts hearings throughout the country to examine the scope and nature of the problem. The report spurs Congress to pass the Family Violence Prevention Services Act – the first time federal funds are specifically designated for programs serving battered women and their children.

1985 Tracey Thurman versus the City of Torrington, Connecticut, becomes the first case heard in federal court of a woman suing city police for having failed to protect her from her husband’s violence which permanently scarred and partially paralyzed her. She is awarded a 2 million dollar judgment.

1985 The first book about African American women and abuse is published by Evelyn White entitled Chain, *Chain Change: For Black Women Dealing with Physical and Emotional Abuse*.

The US Surgeon General issues a report identifying domestic violence as a major health problem for women.

The American Psychiatric Association replaces “masochistic personality disorder” with “self-defeating personality disorder” in the DSM III.

#### VA: Governor Chuck Robb urges Virginia to adopt a mandatory arrest law.

VA: Governor Robb appropriates an additional $400,000 for direct service programs and statewide initiatives.

1986 Battered women’s shelters house over 310,000 women and children.

1986 VA: The crimes of Marital Rape and Marital Sexual Assault are created. For someone to be charged with Marital Rape the parties must be living separate and apart or there must be a serious physical injury. In order for the crimes to be prosecuted each must be reported with 10 days of its occurrence.

VA: The Family and Children’s Trust Fund is created in order to raise private funds for Spouse Abuse Services and Child Abuse Services.

1987 The first Domestic Violence Awareness Month is held in October.

The *Power and Control Wheel* is published by Ellen Pence in Duluth, Minnesota.

With funds from the Johnson & Johnson Corporation and a national fundraising effort called Shelter Aid, the NCADV establishes the first national toll-free domestic violence hotline.

Naming the Violence by Kerry Lobel, the first book about battering among lesbian couples, is published.

VA: The creation of criminal penalties for violation of certain aspects of a Protective Order is established.

1988 Due to a commitment against apartheid, the NCADV returns the funding to Johnson & Johnson who maintained investments in South Africa. The operation of the national hotline is then transferred to the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic Violence while other funding was sought.

1989 There are 1,200 battered women’s programs in the United States that shelter over 300,000 women and children.

“Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome” is applied to battered women by several experts on victims of trauma.

The first tribal mandatory arrest law is passed by the Sicangu Lakota on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota.

Colorado becomes the first state to legislate treatment as a consequence for a domestic violence offense.

US Attorney General C. Everett Koop warns that violence is the number one public health risk to adult women in the United States.

1990 $200,000 in state funding for Sexual Assault Crisis Centers obtained.

1990 The Clothesline Project is created when the Cape Cod Women’s Agenda hangs 31 shirts on a clothesline on the town green in Hyannis, Massachusetts, to expose forms of violence that women face: rape, battering, incest, child sexual abuse, lesbian bashing and murder.

VA: Attorney General Mary Sue Terry creates a Task Force on Domestic Violence.

1991 Lt. Governor Don Beyer formed the Virginia Commission on the Reduction of Sexual Assault.. The commission spent three years holding hearings and developing legislative reforms to address concerns about Virginia’s sexual assault statutes. Some of the changes included: a Constitutional amendment to extend the statute of limitations for sexual crimes against children and the creation of the sex offender registry.

Over 500 women march on the state capitol in St. Paul, Minnesota, carrying 27 red, life-size female silhouettes created by the Silent Witness Initiative to represent the number of women who died the previous year in Minnesota as a result of domestic violence.

#### VA: A new criminal misdemeanor offense is created for assault and battery upon certain family and household members. A third or subsequent offense is a class 6 felony. Warrantless arrests are also authorized for the above crime.

VA: Expanded authority is given to issue emergency protective orders by request of law enforcement officers.

1992 The national toll-free domestic violence hotline is forced to disconnect because of insufficient funding.

VA: Virginia becomes the second state in the nation to criminalize stalking. Stalking is categorized as a Class 2 misdemeanor.

VA: Authority for magistrates is expanded to issue emergency protective orders.

1993 Violence against women is included as a human rights violation by the United Nations at its International Conference on Human Rights in Vienna.

The World Bank recognizes battering as a significant economic problem in terms of health costs.

Funding from the US Department of Health and Human Services leads to the creation of the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, the Battered Women’s Justice Project, the Health Resource Center on Domestic Violence, and the Resource Center on Domestic Violence: Child Protection and Custody.

VA:Second increase in the marriage license surcharge from $10 to $20 in order to provide funding for shelters and to establish a 24-hour toll free hotline for the state.

1993 VA: The Statewide Family Violence Hotline begins operation.

1994 The US Congress passes the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) as part of the federal Crime Bill. VAWA funds services for victims of domestic violence and rape, and provides training to increase police and court officials’ sensitivity to domestic violence. $1.6 billion was authorized for the years 1994-2000.

In conjunction with Ms. Magazine for Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the NCADV creates the *Remember My Name Project*, a national registry of domestic violence deaths.

OJ Simpson is arrested and tried for the murders of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman in Los Angeles, California. Although he is acquitted of criminal charges, Simpson is later sued in a civil suit for wrongful death and found liable.

VA: Calls to the Virginia Family Violence Hotline nearly double within a week of O.J. Simpson’s arrest.

VA: Stalking legislation is strengthened by modifying the definition and requiring that upon conviction a protective order be issued to prohibit contact between the parties.

VA: Removal of the 10 day reporting limitation for spousal rape, forcible sodomy, or sexual assault object penetration in addition to marital sexual assault.

VA: The Commission on Family Violence Prevention is created. VADV joins forces with the Commission. This public/private partnership brings increased attention to the problem of domestic violence and within five years initiates sweeping changes in the Commonwealth, including Fatality Review Protocol and the 1997 Family Violence Prevention Act.

VA: The Coalition for the Treatment of Abusive Behaviors (C-TAB) is formed.

VA: Legislation is passed making the purchase or transportation of a firearm by a person subject to a protective order a class 1 misdemeanor

1995 The US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Community Services, Administration for Children and Families awards a grant to the Texas Council on Family Violence to re-establish a toll-free national domestic violence hotline.

Robert Goben becomes the first person to be prosecuted for possession of a firearm in violation of a domestic violence protection order under the Violence Against Women Act in Lemmon, South Dakota.

Christopher Bailey becomes the first person convicted of a felony under the Violence Against Women Act in crossing state lines (West Virginia and Kentucky) to assault his wife, Sonya Bailey.

VA: Amendment added to the stalking legislation to require notice of release of the offender. However the victim is required to inform the Dept. of Corrections or the sheriff or the regional jail coordinator of the current address and phone number of the person who is to receive this notice.

VA: The requirement of law enforcement officers investigating a complaint of assault of a family of household member to make available a copy of the report to the victim.

VA: The addition of mediators to the list of those individuals required to report suspected child abuse or neglect to the Department of Social Services.

1996 The Domestic Violence Offender Gun Ban is passed by Congress to extend the federal prohibition on firearms possession by criminals to include individuals convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence and child abuse crimes.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline is opened by the Texas Council on Family Violence and is further funded under the Violence Against Women Act. The Hotline responds to nearly 9,000 calls during the first month of operation.

VA: Virginians Against Domestic Violence (VADV) establishes the Training Institute. (Committee first met in 1995). First Training for Trainers is offered.

VA: The STOP Violence Against Women federal grant program begins to establish new service throughout Virginia designed to enhance the apprehension, prosecution and adjudication of perpetrators of violence against women.

VA: The Virginia Commission on Family Violence Prevention develops and passes a package of landmark legislation: The Family Violence Arrest Bill.

VA: The purpose of the Protective Order is clarified in the Virginia Code; language describing Protective Orders as vehicles for “reconciling” couples is removed and clear language making Protective Orders a tool for protecting family members from abuse is adopted.

1997 Virginia Sexual Assault Hotline added to existing Family Violence Hotline to create a toll-free statewide hotline.

1997 The NCADV National Directory lists over 1,800 domestic violence programs.

Sacred Circle, the National Resource Center to End Violence Against Native Women, was established to provide technical assistance, policy development, training institutes and resource information regarding domestic violence and sexual assault to develop coordinated agency response in American Indian and Alaska Native tribal communities.

1997 The National Latino Alliance for the Elimination of Domestic Violence was formed at the National Symposium on *La Violencia Domestica: An Emerging Dialogue Among Latinos* in Washington, DC.

An anti-stalking law signed by US President Bill Clinton makes interstate stalking and harassment a federal offense whether or not the victim had obtained a protection or restraining order.

VA: Members of VADV adopt standard language and criteria for service delivery as part of a Certification Process for Domestic Violence Programs.

VA: Legislation passes authorizing magistrates and courts to issue protective orders when a warrant has been issued for stalking.

VA: The Commission on Family Violence Prevention begins to study the issue of Batterer’s Intervention.

VA: VADV joins with Virginians Aligned Against Sexual Assault to add sexual assault services to the statewide hotline, making it the Virginia Family Violence and Sexual Assault Hotline.

VA: Temporary Aid to Needy Families replaces aid to families with dependent children statewide as the final steps are taken in reforming Virginia’s Welfare System.

VA: The Family Violence laws are implemented on July 1.

1998 The NCADV celebrates its 20-year anniversary at the eighth National Conference in Denver, Colorado.

All of the exemptions from rape prosecution for husbands, cohabitants and dates have been repealed.

Grants through the Violence Against Women Act totaling $53.8 million was announced by the US Department of Justice for 90 jurisdictions to help investigate and prosecute domestic violence cases.

Violence Against Women Act II (VAWA) is introduced in Congress.

VA: Legislation is introduced to make homicide of a victim with a Protective Order in place a capital offense. The legislation does not pass. VADV takes a position on the death penalty.

VA: Stalking becomes a Class 1 misdemeanor.

VA: VADV’s media watch reports that 110 Virginians lose their lives during this year as a result of family violence.

VA: C-TAB and VADV forge a partnership to develop standards for Batterer Intervention Programs.

1999 The NCADV National Directory lists about 2,000 shelters and domestic violence programs across the US, including Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

VA: The definition of family abuse is expanded to include threats of violence.

VA: The Commission on Family Violence Prevention holds its last meeting in September.

2000 The Violence Against Women Act of 2000 is passed reauthorizing funding for training and services for battered women and their children and creating new programs. $3.3 billion was authorized for the years 2000-2005.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline receives nearly 10,000 calls each month from those experiencing domestic violence and from their families and friends across the United States. The Hotline continues to give crisis intervention, referrals, information and support in many languages.

VA: Standards for Batterer Intervention Programs are finalized in April.

VA: The VADV Training Institute holds its first training ever specifically for Batterer Intervention Program staff. Trainers from Men Stopping Violence in Atlanta facilitate the training.

2000 Virginia abolishes the marital rape exemption, which states that a spouse may be charged with rape only if the parties are living separately or there is physical injury.

2000 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) allows foreign nationals to escape abusive relationships with US citizens or Legal Permanent Residents upon whom their own legal status depends without fear of automatic deportation

2001 VA: First year of implementation of certification process for Virginia Batterer Intervention Programs.

# VA: VADV Training Institute holds its first 3-day training for Batterer Intervention Providers. Trainers from Emerge in Boston facilitate two days of the training.

2004 VA: VADV and VAASA transform into one organization to become Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance.

2005 Virginia abolishes the marital sexual assault exemption, which states that a spouse may be charged with forcible sodomy or object sexual penetration only if the parties are living separately or there is physical injury.

2005 The U Visa is established through VAWA to permit certain non-citizens who have suffered substantial abuse to remain in the United States as long as they cooperate with police in the investigation and prosecution of the crime.

2005 Federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) reauthorized, and includes new federal funding program for Sexual Assault Crisis Centers

2006 Governor Tim Kaine establishes a Commission on Sexual Assault

2006 Virginia Anti-Violence Project receives state funding for the first time. VAVP addresses intimate partner and sexual violence in the LGBTQ community.

2008 Legislation is passed that provides that sexual assault victims will not be responsible for the payment of Physical Evidence Recovery Kits (PERKs) and clarifies that victims of sexual assault will not be required to participate in the criminal justice system or cooperate with law enforcement to be provided a PERK exam, reimbursement for the exam, or both.

2009 Legislation is passed requiring Commonwealth Attorneys to coordinate the establishment of a multidisciplinary response to criminal sexual assault through holding one meeting annually, at least.

2009 Vice President Biden, the author of the landmark Violence Against Women Act, announced the appointment of Lynn Rosenthal as the new White House Advisor on Violence Against Women. This is a newly created position at the White House, dedicated specifically to advising the President and Vice President on domestic violence and sexual assault issues.

2010 Protective Order summits are held in an effort to support new legislation to make Protective Orders more accessible to victims of dating violence and sexual assault without a warrant

2011 Protective Orders are expanded to include ALL people who have been subjected to an act or threat of violence that results in bodily injury or places one in reasonable fear of death, sexual assault or bodily injury (not just people who are “family or household members” or when a warrant has been issued for stalking or other acts of violence).

Sources: National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

David Adams, Emerge, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance