

Here are the questions we didn't get to on Monday and the answers:

1) Does the VAWA address murder of women, as well? It seems in recent years, the number of abduction, rapes and murders of women has increased by strangers and acquaintances, as well as by partners and spouses. Also, I wanted to mention a book I have heard of but not read called "Is Rape a Crime? A Memoir, an Investigation and a Manifesto," by Micehell Bowdler.

Debbie: VAWA addresses murder by the work they do helping get the law passed that a person arrested for domestic violence must surrender their firearms and cannot buy or possess firearms or ammunition until they have been cleared of charges as fire arms are the leading cause of death to women in domestic violence incidents. They also helped fund the agencies that worked towards getting strangulation classified as a felony instead of a misdemeanor which happened in July of 2017.

2) Will you be working with the new woman's winter shelter in Salida?

Debbie: We would work with anyone in the women's shelter if they ask for help from our agency if they are from a DV situation that has placed them in the shelter. We can also put up material for people there to read. The women's shelter is also a family shelter so we would be careful of the communication we have with anyone there as we would want to stay confidential for clients.

Kelly: Due to confidential nature of our work, we will not be partnering with the shelter in any way. However, as Debbie mentioned, we will work with client's regardless of how they come to us. The only requirement being that, their need must be related to a personal domestic and/or sexual violence experience, if they have no DV/SV experience then we can provide them with other appropriate resources in our community.

3) Have you thought about involving the RV parks that have "stored" vehicles to see if the owners would allow those to be used as safe houses temporarily?

Kelly: Regarding the RV Parks, we currently have partnerships with a few of our local motels and have been able to utilize these for safe emergency shelter. The biggest issue that we are facing related to housing is the overall lack of affordable long term housing options. Utilizing RV's that are more seasonal could be a potential option for transitional housing, at this time we are focusing our efforts on the transitional units we currently have available and looking at creative solutions to the lack of affordable long term housing options in Chaffee County.

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