



In Touch

Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition

1st Quarter 2012

Courage is the price that life exacts for granting peace with yourself.

-Amelia Earhart

It's Time...To Talk About It National Sexual Assault Awareness Month



The month of April has been designated Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) in the United States. The goal of SAAM is to raise public awareness about sexual violence and to educate communities and individuals on how to prevent sexual violence.

This April, the 2012 Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) campaign centers on promoting healthy sexuality to prevent sexual violence, www.nsvrc.org/saam. There is also a website in Spanish with the SAAM campaign materials, www.nsvrc.org/es/saam.

It is important to note that sexuality can be seen as a broad term, encompassing much more than sexual intercourse. According to Mosby's Medical Dictionary, sexuality can be defined as "1) the sum of the physical, functional, and psychologic attributes that are expressed by one's gender identity and sexual behavior, whether or not related to the sex organs or to procreation; 2) the genital characteristics that distinguish male from female."¹ This definition can include things such as one's self image as it relates to the body, reproductive health, and views about what it means to be male or female.

The National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) has compiled a variety of resources relating to healthy sexuality and sexual assault. These items can be found at www.nsvrc.org/saam. The websites includes fact sheets on several topics (talking to children about healthy sexuality, consent, gender norms, and sexuality in later life); as well as a resource list; a guide for advocates, counselors and educators; and suggested daily posts for social media.

The NSVRC is also hosting a series entitled "Tweet About It! Tuesdays," featuring healthy sexuality twitter live chats every Tuesday in April. Topics of the sessions include: consent & the purity myth, talking with youth about healthy sexuality, changing gender norms & the spectrum of sexuality, sexuality in later life.

¹ Mosby's Medical Dictionary, 8th edition. © 2009, Elsevier.

The majority of this information was modified from materials posted by the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, www.nsvrc.org/saam.

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Step Up! Speak Out! - Prevention Efforts in Nebraska

This has been a busy quarter for prevention activities!

January was National Stalking Awareness Month. In Nebraska, stalking is defined by statute:

Any person who willfully harasses another person or a family or household member of such person with the intent to injure, terrify, threaten, or intimidate commits the offense of stalking.

R.R.S. Neb. § 28-311.03. Stalking. (1998)

Stalking is most generally defined as a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear. Research has shown that 1 in 12 women and 1 in 45 men are stalked annually in the U.S. Most victims know their stalker and 87% of stalkers are men. We tend to hear about “celebrities” who are being stalked, but the vast majority of stalking victims are people just like us. For more information, please visit the Stalking Resource Center at www.ncvc.org/src.

January was also Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Human Trafficking includes, among other things, the transportation of persons by means of coercion for the purposes of exploitation. This includes prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs. Nebraska has an active statewide task force exploring the incidence of trafficking in Nebraska, Nebraskans Against the Trafficking of Humans (NNATH). There is also proposed legislation to address human trafficking in Nebraska, and a new task force has been created in conjunction with the legislative efforts.

More information about human trafficking can be found at www.humantrafficking.org. Additional resources are available at www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking, including free brochures and posters, or by calling the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-373-7888. For more information about the task forces in Nebraska, contact Robert at the Coalition at roberts@ndvsac.org.

February was Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month. Teen dating violence runs across race, gender, and socioeconomic lines. Both males and females are victims, but studies indicate that females ages 16-24 are more vulnerable to intimate partner abuse than any other age group, at a rate almost triple the national average. Prevention efforts in Nebraska include involvement in schools to talk about healthy relationships and respect for others. The Coalition has a website with more information about prevention geared toward tweens and teens. There are also resources for parents and teachers. To learn more, visit at www.stepupspeakout.org. The Coalition also has a curriculum, *Reaching and Teaching Teens to Stop Violence*, that is being used in Nebraska as well as other states.

If you would like more information about prevention efforts in Nebraska, contact the Coalition.

NNATH Sponsors Conference

Nebraskans Against the Trafficking of Humans (NNATH) is sponsoring a conference on May 16-17 in Lincoln.

The conference will include a variety of national speakers as well as local experts on human trafficking. Registration information will be available at the beginning of April.

For more information about the conference, contact Christon at the Nebraska State Patrol, christon.mactaggart@nebraska.gov.

Domestic Violence Counts



On September 15, 2011, 89 percent of identified domestic violence programs in the United States participated in the 2011 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The results were published in the NNEDV report: *Domestic Violence Counts 2011: A 24-hour census of domestic violence shelters and services*. The findings were released February 27, 2012.

For the sixth consecutive year, NNEDV conducted the one-day, unduplicated count of adults and children seeking domestic violence services in the U.S., documenting the number of individuals who sought services, the types of services requested, the number of service requests that went unmet because of lack of resources, and the issues and barriers that domestic violence programs are facing as they strive to provide services to victims of domestic violence.

Nebraska Domestic Violence Counts

One hundred percent (100%) of local domestic violence/sexual assault programs participated in the 2011 Domestic Violence Counts Survey. In that one day, Nebraska programs reported:

- ▶ 228 victims found refuge in emergency shelters of transitional housing provided by the programs; and
- ▶ 267 adults and children received non-residential services, such as individual counseling, legal advocacy, and children's support groups.

However, there were 129 unmet requests for services. The majority of these unmet requests were for housing (81). The primary barrier to meeting this need is a lack of funding for needed programs and services.

Information from National Network to End Domestic Violence, <http://nnedv.org/resources/census/2011-report.html>

National Summary

Each year, NNEDV conducts a 24-hour survey of local domestic violence programs. In addition to the number of victims served, more than 26,000 individuals attended nearly 1,400 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs in just one day.

The full National Domestic Violence Counts 2011 report is available online at <http://www.nnedv.org/census>.

Global Data Count 2011

Also released in February was the Global Census Counts. This report, distributed at the World Conference of Women's Shelters, includes information from 2,636 participating shelters and 25 shelter networks from 36 countries. It contains information about 56,308 women who sought refuge and requested support for themselves and their 39,130 children.

This report is compiled and distributed by the Global Network of Women's Shelters. The purpose of the Global Count is to highlight the prevalence of violence against women around the world. However, it is important to note that the census does not include a complete view of all shelters and services around the world.

For more information about Global Count, contact the Coalition or visit the website of the Global Network of Women's Shelters at <http://www.gnws.org/en/>

Information from Global Data Count 2011, Global Network of Women's Shelters.

Resource for U.S. Citizens Overseas



The Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center works with abused Americans and their children in foreign countries to provide domestic violence and child abuse advocacy, resources and tools so that they can navigate the complicated jurisdictional, legal and social international landscapes, to be able to live their lives free of abuse either in the foreign country or back in the United States. This is achieved via an international toll free crisis line, 866-USWOMEN, accessible from 175 countries, serving a population estimated at 5.25 million American civilians overseas.

The Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center can be reached internationally toll-free from 175 countries. To contact the toll-free crisis line from overseas, first dial your AT&T USADirect access number and at the prompt, enter the phone number: 866-USWOMEN (879-6636). The center serves abused Americans, mostly women and children, in both civilian and military populations overseas.

According to the US State Department estimate in 2010, 5.25 million American civilians live in foreign countries. If these Americans were in one state, it would be the 17th largest state in the US. The US Department of Defense states there are approximately 500,000 military personnel and their families overseas. The priority of the Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center is to reach as widely and deeply as possible into these American communities and raise awareness of the services offered to battered American women and children to help them realize that they have alternatives to living a life of violence and help them break the cycle.

The Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center receives funds from multiple foundations & corporations overseas and within the USA. This support has enabled them to help abused American women and children in countries around the world. In addition to providing domestic violence advocacy, safety planning and case management, they assist victims with relocation, emergency funds for housing and childcare, and funds for payment of legal fees.

Information from www.866uswomen.org

2012 National Crime Victims' Rights Week



The 2012 National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) Resource Guide is available online. It contains everything you need to host and promote NCVRW in your community, including posters, camera-ready artwork, Web ads, and a Spanish version.

NCVRW will be observed April 22-28, 2012; "Extending the Vision: Reaching Every Victim" is the theme.

This resource guide is compiled as a joint project of the Office on Victims of Crime, U.S. Department of Justice and the National Center for Victims of Crime.

Information from www.ncvc.org/ncvc/AGP.Net/Components/documentViewer/Download.aspxnz?DocumentID=49124

Program News

Nebraska Advocates Attend World Conference of Women's Shelters

The second World Conference of Women's Shelters was held February 27-March 1 in National Harbor, MD. Hosted by the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) and the Global Network of Women's Shelters, the conference included keynote speakers and workshop sessions with speakers from around the world.

Nearly 1,500 advocates attended the conference, representing 84 countries. Fourteen people from Nebraska attended, from 4 local domestic violence/sexual assault programs (Bright Horizons, DOVES, Friendship Home, and Voices of Hope), 1 local transitional shelter (Fresh Start Home), and the Coalition. Julie H from the Friendship Home also presented a workshop, focusing on using a strengths based approach to working with survivors.

Plenary sessions included a variety of distinguished guests, including Her Royal Highness Mary, Crown Princess of Denmark; former U.S. President Bill Clinton (pictured top right); Lynn Rosenthal, White House Advisor on Violence Against Women (pictured middle right); actress Reese Witherspoon (pictured bottom right); and actor Victor Rivas Rivers. Ms. Witherspoon is the Avon Global Ambassador & Honorary Chairman of the Avon Foundation for Women, including their campaign against domestic violence, and Mr. Rivers is a spokesperson for NNEDV.



Photo to the left

Back row: Robert Sanford (NDVSAC), Julie H, Adele, Sarah Balcom (NDVSAC), Lacey K, Sonya S, Michelle Zinke (NDVSAC); Front row: Diane W, Nancy H, Tracey, Fanny, Monica. Not pictured: Jane C and Amy E.

Crisis Center Capital Campaign for New Building



A capital campaign is currently underway for a new building for the Crisis Center in Fremont. The Crisis Center is committed to developing a permanent and convenient place where women and children who have experienced domestic violence or sexual assault can seek services, support and advocacy.

The concept plan for the building includes two sections – one that will serve as a Victim/Survivor Center for client services and one that will be the Community Education/Resource Center. This portion of the building will be used to host educational programs and the women's and children's support groups.

The campaign is currently in the "silent phase" of the "Lighting the Way" Campaign as staff and the Board of Directors work to raise \$1 million for the construction/furnishing of the new building and establishment of an endowment to maintain the facility. Once at least half of the funds have been raised, a ground breaking ceremony will be scheduled.

Program News Continued

DOVES Selected for National Sexual Assault Project



SADI Recipients

1. Gila River Indian Community, Sacaton, AZ
2. Shelter, Inc., Alpena, MI
3. DOVES, Gering, NE
4. New York Asian Women's Center, Inc., New York, NY
5. Family Violence and Rape Crisis Services, Pittsboro, NC
6. SafePlace, Olympia, WA

DOVES, the domestic violence/sexual assault program based in Gering, was selected as one of six sites in the U.S. for a Sexual Assault Demonstration Initiative (SADI).

The Sexual Assault Demonstration Initiative (SADI) is the first large-scale project to address the challenges that dual/multi-service programs face in reaching sexual assault survivors by dedicating resources, support, and replicable tools tailored specifically to the needs of those programs.

The SADI will develop a range of innovative outreach tools, service models, and agency structures to discover best practices and needed action in reaching more sexual assault survivors with comprehensive quality care. The selected sites will receive funding and assistance to:

- Increase outreach to those populations most likely experiencing sexual assault in their communities but not currently accessing services
- Develop models of service provision that prioritize the needs of sexual assault survivors beyond immediate crisis responses currently offered
- Assess and document the efficacy of those steps in increasing the numbers and types of sexual assault survivors who access those newly enhanced services.

Project partners on the national level include the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, the National Sexual Assault Coalition Resource Sharing Project, and the Office on Violence Against Women (U.S. Dept of Justice).

Information from the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, www.nsvrc.org/SADI

Family Justice Center Opens in North Platte

Services working to support victims of domestic and sexual violence in the North Platte area have come together to create a family justice center style response. The family justice center is a multi-disciplinary format where many agencies are co-located, minimizing the amount of time a survivor needs to contact various agencies.

One Door – One Stop (ODOS) is open every Friday in North Platte. The project is lead by the Community Domestic Violence Intervention Project (CDVIP), the local coordinated community response team. Organizations that have been involved include the Rape/Domestic Abuse Program, Bridge of Hope Child Advocacy Center, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Nebraska Legal Aid, Lincoln County Attorney's Office, Lincoln County Victim Witness Unit, Region II Human Services, District 11 Probation, and law enforcement. Services include advocacy, safety planning, child care, counseling, legal assistance, providing information about public benefits, and working with law enforcement.

Information from www.familyjusticecenter.org/Details/One-Door-One-Stop-Center.html and www.northplattebulletin.com/index.asp?show=news&action=readStory&storyID=22555&pageID=3§ionID=3

What's New at the Coalition?

Coalition Moves to New Office

On April 3, the Coalition will relocate to office space in the Cherry Hills area of Lincoln, near 84th and O Streets. This space will better meet the needs of the Coalition, as well as be a financial savings.

The new offices will include a training room, free parking, and space for additional staff if funding becomes available. All phone numbers and email addresses will remain the same.

The Coalition's phone and email will be switched on April 2 and 3. No glitches are anticipated, but the staff will not have access to email most of those days. Please be patient during the move as there may be some delays. The Coalition was assured that the down time for the Spanish Crisis Line will be minimal.

Our new address (physical AND mailing):
Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition (NDVSAC)
245 South 84th Street, Suite 200
Lincoln, NE 68510
402-476-6256 (phone)
402-476-6806 (fax)

Coalition Receives Grants from Foundations

The Coalition has been awarded grants from three local foundations: Woods Charitable Fund (\$30,000), Cooper Foundation (\$10,000), and the Lozier Foundation (\$15,000).

The Woods grant will be used to for expenses related to the Linea de Crisis (Hotline in Spanish), translation costs related to assisting immigrant victims of violence, and other related costs. The grants from Lozier and Cooper will be used for a statewide database to ensure accurate reporting and tracking of the people served by the local domestic violence/sexual assault programs across the state.

The Coalition is grateful for the support of these foundations, as well as and all of the funders and individual donors that support the work of the organization.

New and Updated Publications

The 2010-2011 Annual Report will be distributed soon. This report includes statistics and information about the services of the Coalition as well as the network of local domestic violence/sexual assault programs. Everyone who receives the *In Touch* newsletter should receive a printed copy in the mail. Electronic copies can be obtained by emailing Michelle at michellez@ndvsac.org.

The booklet *Sexual Assault: Information for survivors, family, and friends* has been updated! It is currently at the printer but should be done in time for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. A special thank you to the advocates across the state who provided thoughtful feedback in order to ensure that the booklet remains relevant and helpful. To request copies of the booklet, contact Michelle at michellez@ndvsac.org.

Nebraska Domestic Violence
Sexual Assault Coalition
245 South 84th Street, Suite 200
Lincoln, NE 68510
www.ndvsac.org

Please Note Our New Address!



NDVSAC is a proud member agency of the
Community Services Fund. Learn more at:
www.communityservicesfund.org

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Jamie Snyder, Columbus
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Mark Your Calendar

Upcoming Events

April 2012

- 20 Legal Advocacy: An Overview, Grand Island, NDVSAC, 402-476-6256
- 4-5 Developing Culturally Competent Community Response Teams: Learning from the Underserved and Un-Served Populations, Omaha, Nebraska Crime Commission and Nebraska Urban Indian Center
- 11-13 Nebraska Crime Victim's Rights Conference, Omaha, US Attorney's Office, 800-889-9124 or kim.roewert@usdoj.gov

May 2012

- 9-11 Answering Crisis Calls Training (Pilot Training by National DV Hotline)
TBA (possibly Lincoln or Omaha)
- 16-17 Human Trafficking, Lincoln, NE Network Against the Trafficking of Humans, 402-476-6256
- 21 Program Sharing & Training Day: Providing Shelter Services, Grand Island, 402-476-6256

June 2012

- 1 Legal Advocacy: Family Court, Lincoln, NDVSAC, 402-476-6256
- 14 Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention, Grand Island, NDVSAC, 402-476-6256