



In Touch

Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition

March/April 2011

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

-Amelia Earhart, pioneer aviator and author

It's time... to get involved

The April 2011 Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) campaign focuses on everyone speaking up to prevent sexual violence in our neighborhoods, communities, workplaces and schools. This national campaign explores common, everyday behaviors and offers individuals viable, responsible ways to intervene. This primary prevention approach helps to create environments where people are safe in their relationships, families, neighborhoods, schools, work places and communities.

This year's SAAM brings together resources and information, thus offering everyone the opportunity to address behaviors before sexual violence occurs. This year's campaign, "It's time ... to get involved," incorporates a bystander approach to sexual violence prevention. A bystander, or witness, is anyone who sees a situation but may or may not know what to do, may think others will act or may be afraid to do something. Research shows that engaging bystanders is a promising way to help prevent the widespread problem of sexual violence in communities.

The SAAM Day of Action (formerly A Day to End Sexual Violence), observed on Tuesday, April 5, 2011, was recognized nationally as a specific day to focus awareness on sexual violence prevention. Through coordinated planning of special events, advocates increased awareness, media attention and national momentum for ending and preventing sexual violence.

The Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition put together resources to help create a successful Sexual Assault Awareness Month campaign. These resources are on the Coalition's website (www.ndvsac.org) and include the following materials.

- ⌘ Fact sheets about sexual assault
- ⌘ The NDVSAC SAAM poster campaign
- ⌘ Suggested events for communities and/or schools
- ⌘ A calendar of events showing SAAM activities across the state
- ⌘ Sample letters to the editor and OpEd articles
- ⌘ Sample community and school proclamations
- ⌘ Sample public service announcements
- ⌘ Tips for parents, healthcare providers, and other care givers
- ⌘ Tips for collaborating with area businesses and men's groups
- ⌘ A list of campus sexual violence resources
- ⌘ Links to national campaigns against sexual violence

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Information from materials of the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, www.nsvrc.org.

Step Up! Speak Out! - Prevention Efforts in Nebraska

By Rachel Olive, Prevention Coordinator

This issue of *In Touch* will mark the fifteenth anniversary of the *Reaching and Teaching Teens to Stop Violence* curriculum. The exciting piece of this anniversary is that we have revamped *Reaching and Teaching Teens*.



Rachel Olive, Prevention Coordinator, describes the three types of prevention and how they relate to *Reaching & Teaching Teens*.

Reaching and Teaching Teens to Stop Violence was originally created in 1996, following the Coalition's participation in a national teen dating violence project and a statewide survey of Nebraska teens. The Coalition has worked to provide a more comprehensive curriculum by bringing *Reaching and Teaching Teens* under the Coalition's *Step Up Speak Out* campaign. We encourage anyone who is using the curriculum to also participate and use the *Step Up Speak Out* website, Facebook, twitter, and other campaign materials.

The integrity of the original curriculum has been kept with a few added components. These components are meant to create a richer and more comprehensive curriculum. One new component is a teacher's packet that meets state educational standards. This allows those who use the curriculum to provide sufficient dosage to their communities by giving the teachers an opportunity to build on the activities that are provided to their classrooms.



Participants at a train-the-trainer session test activities from the curriculum.

Another component that has been updated is evaluations. The necessary evaluative pieces will be provided via survey monkey and on www.ndvsac.org. The Coalition also provided train-the-trainer sessions throughout the state to help familiarize the local domestic violence/sexual assault programs with the updated new curriculum. Each program received a copy of the revised curriculum for use in their area. With this fifteenth anniversary the Coalition looks forward to fifteen more years of reaching and teaching teens to stop violence!

***Reaching and Teaching Teens to Stop Violence* Contents**

Unit 1: Sexual Harassment

Unit 2: Sexual Assault

Unit 3: Dating Violence

Unit 4: Healthy Relationships

Unit 5: Gender Violence

Appendices: Additional lesson plans/teacher's packet, fact sheets, video guides and sample discussion questions, resource list, and a list of the local domestic violence/sexual assault programs.

Ordering *Reaching and Teaching Teens to Stop Violence*

If you or your organization would like to purchase a copy of the revised *Reaching and Teaching Teens* curriculum, please contact the Coalition, 402-476-6256. A printed copy can be purchased for \$75 and an electronic version on a CD can be purchased for \$10. Shipping is included in the price, but Nebraska residents must add sales tax. The Coalition can invoice an organization if needed.

Technology Safety - Phishing and On-Line Scams

By Jim Ingram, Database Systems Coordinator

Recently I have seen an upswing in online phishing and e-mail scams. Very often these are the hardest nefarious activities to identify when online ('*nefarious*' even has an evil sound to it!). These scams don't prey just on those with less 'web experience.' Most all of us at one time or another have nearly fallen prey to these con artists. These scams are becoming more sophisticated, and harder to differentiate from legitimate web contacts. Here are a few of them and what to watch out for.

Phishing is a new term, but these tricks are not new. For years a common scam was the phone call supposedly from the bank to "verify your account, we have seen suspicious activity." Then the 'teller' will ask for enough information to verify you are the account owner. This also happens to be enough information for them to steal your identity, and everything in the bank account. Phishing is the e-mail version of this activity. They are trying to get your personal information, which they will use for their evil deeds. This could include access to your back accounts, identity theft, or even theft of your e-mail account. These phishing contacts appear to come from banks and credit card companies as well as from e-mail providers (hotmail), software vendors, and nearly any other business where information or money is involved.

E-mail scams are not new. The old "**Nigerian**" e-mail scam has been running for years. Generally you are contacted by a "recently deposed financial minister of a small African country," with millions of dollars to "launder," and you get to keep a large portion. Simply provide your bank account info for the transfer. I received one of these last week from a US soldier who discovered hidden barrels of cash and guns in one of Saddam's summer palaces, and needed help moving the loot! A slightly altered version involves having won a large amount of money in a foreign lottery, often without even visiting the country! Once they get your bank account information money does not go in, it simply leaves!

Other things to beware of are the multitude of offers which involve making money with little effort. **Weight loss** scams, **work at home**, and **health products** have all been big sellers in this market. If making big money was as easy as these scam artists claim, why would they share that info with you? They generally are looking for some 'small' amount of money up front, for their money making secret or formula for successes. Buy the time they have your money, you find out that the secret is, "there is no secret ingredient!"
(acknowledgement to Dreamworks' **Kung-Fu Panda**)

E-Bay/Craig's List has a new take on the 'refund' scam. A purchaser buys an item, but pays too much, and asks for a refund of the difference. The scam operates on the principle that it can take several weeks for a counterfeit or bad check to be caught. The scammer has received, and disappeared with your money by that time, leaving the unsuspecting seller holding a fake check and missing money. Do not deal with buys requesting to pay more than the agreed price and requesting a refund. That is a warning sign for a scam.

Investment, Foreclosure, Credit Offers and **Debt Relief** are also areas the scammers are working. As stated before, if the offer seems to be too good to be true, it probably is. Nearly all of the above scams can be caught if you watch out for a few things.

- ▶ Banks, business and other institutions do not send out requests for personal information, account or password verification. They expect you to contact them.
- ▶ If you receive such a request, review the e-mail address. Generally the lower tech scammers return address is odd. Example: support @capitol1.com (NOT @capitolone.com)
- ▶ If you receive such a contact, and you feel that it is valid, the best thing to do is to call the company and check. Don't call the number on the e-mail; instead use a customer support number you find on a billing statement or from a new web search. Don't simply use the number they provide in the e-mail.
- ▶ If the deal looks too good to be true, involves a 'secret,' or any personal information, beware!

Remember the old adage, "you can't cheat an honest person." If someone is offering you an unfair gain or advantage, there is usually a hidden catch. Even the normal looking update request from your bank or local business should be viewed with suspicion. If you have any questions use the telephone and call.

Domestic Violence Counts



On September 15, 2010, 22 out of 22, or 100%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Nebraska participated in the 2010 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.



615 Victims Served in One Day

⌘ 197 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

⌘ 418 adults and children received non-residential assistance and services, including individual counseling, legal advocacy, and children's support groups.



Services Provided

This list shows the percentage of programs that provided the following services on Census Day.

- ⌘ Individual Support or Advocacy—86%
- ⌘ Transportation—68%
- ⌘ Emergency Shelter (including hotels/safe houses)—59%
- ⌘ Children's Support or Advocacy—50%
- ⌘ Court/Legal Accompaniment/ Advocacy—41%
- ⌘ Medical Services/Accompaniment—36%
- ⌘ Rural Outreach—27%
- ⌘ Advocacy/Support to Teen Victims of Dating Violence—18%

79 Unmet Requests for Services

Many programs reported a critical shortage of funds and staff to assist victims in need of services, such as emergency shelter, housing, transportation, childcare, and legal representation. Of these unmet requests, 62 (78%) were from victims seeking emergency shelter or transitional housing.

Programs were unable to provide services for many reasons:

- ⌘ 32% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- ⌘ 23% reported not enough specialized services.
- ⌘ 14% reported not enough staff.
- ⌘ 14% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- ⌘ 5% reported limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

“A survivor's child was kidnapped by his father. He's threatened to take their child before and told her she'd never see him again. Law enforcement couldn't do anything because he is the child's father and there is no official custody in place yet. We've connected her with legal aid, but she's worried that he's taken their child and fled to Mexico.”

77% of Programs Reported Higher Demand for Services

As communities continue to experience job loss and decreased community resources, 77% of programs reported a rise in demand for services, while at the same time 55% of programs reported a decrease in funding.

Source: National Network to End Domestic Violence, 2010 Domestic Violence Counts: A 24-Hour Census of Domestic Violence Shelters and Services, http://nnedv.org/docs/Census/DVCounts2010/DVCounts10_StateSummary_AllStates_Color.pdf

Program News

YWCA - Omaha Transitions to Women's Center for Advancement

WOMEN'S CENTER for ADVANCEMENT

Impacting Women. Transforming Families.

www.wcaomha.org

402-345-6555

On April 1 the YWCA-Omaha Board of Directors transitioned the agency from an affiliate of the national YWCA to a fully independent, local agency with a new name - **Women's Center for Advancement (WCA)**.

"The YWCA Board of Directors spent much of the past several years looking seriously at how we can best serve our local community, and, along with that, what role our national YWCA affiliation plays. With the full support of our community stakeholders including the United Way, corporate supporters, private donors and long time patrons, we finally determined that our local organization would be more effective operating as an independent agency, focused on local needs and solutions," said, Sandy Parker, new Women's Center for Advancement Board Chair. "The board voted unanimously last spring to begin taking the steps toward that end, and the process is now complete."

"To better reflect our local mission of *helping women and their families build lives of strength, growth and self-sufficiency*, we have adopted a new, vibrant and more inclusive identity. Our new agency now fully reflects the broad spectrum of programs and services offered with the goal of helping our clients from all walks of life and in various stages of transition and growth, advance toward personal, social and economic success," Parker said.

"Currently, the agency is best known for its crisis and safety net services," Parker said. The **Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault (DVSA)** program provides a full range of services for victims including a 24-hour hotline, advocacy, counseling and legal services for safety and healing to clients in their time of greatest need. "Our DVSA program will continue to grow with the Women's Center for Advancement just as it has for the last 25 years," Parker said.

Parker said, "The WCA has also placed a greater emphasis on our **Education and Prevention Services** for youth as well as adult men and women."

The revitalized and expanded **Transitions** economic and career advancement program provides tools and resources for clients to shape their future following a separation, divorce, death of a loved one, or as they enter or return to the workforce.

"The new **Bridges to Opportunity** program," Parker said, "takes a multi-agency, individualized approach to assist our clients in their efforts to remove the barriers to self-sufficiency, and the upcoming **Connections** program will provide avenues for women from all walks of life to connect with other women through enrichment classes, special events and mentoring."

"As the agency evolves, the Women's Center for Advancement will continue to develop and expand programs that help women and their families live safely, and grow confidently," Parker said.

Excerpted from a press release provided by the WCA, April 4, 2011.

Program News

SASA Crisis Center Welcomes New Director

Jolynn Segelke is the new Executive Director for the SASA Crisis Center (Hastings). Jolynn has a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and Sociology. Prior to joining SASA, she worked for Head Start and Child Development Program in Hastings for eight years, where mentoring and coaching staff were part of her duties. Jolynn also worked for the Hastings Regional Center for six years. Welcome, Jolynn!

Local Communities Receive Grants for Campus Outreach

The Women's Center for Advancement in Omaha (formerly the YWCA) and the University of Nebraska - Kearney recently received grant funding for outreach to campus communities regarding domestic and sexual violence.

The Women's Center for Advancement has partnered with Alegent Health and Catholic Health Initiatives. An advocate is currently stationed at University of Nebraska - Omaha, and may expand services to Creighton University and other campuses. This project will focus on advocacy, outreach and prevention of intimate partner violence and sexual assault.

The University of Nebraska - Kearney also received a grant to address campus violence against women. Although other schools received grants, UNK is the first university to receive this grant from the Office on Violence Against Women. The UNK project includes 14 partner agencies, including The SAFE Center. Project components include mental health services, sexual assault response team, an investigator at UNK and multi-cultural representation.

Information from email correspondence with Alegent Health (January 26, 2011) and KOLN/KGIN website, www.1011now.com/home/headlines/UNK_Only_University_to_Receive_Grant_to_Combat_Violence_114617694.html (posted January 25, 2011).

Just Rural! E-Newsletter

The National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) has created a new, free publication specifically for people working in rural communities. The Just Rural! electronic newsletter will have information on NSVRC rural projects, technical assistance opportunities, new resource materials, information and links for funding opportunities, and upcoming events/trainings.

To receive the newsletter, use this link <http://www.nsvrc.org/projects/free-just-rural-electronic-newsletter> or visit www.nsvrc.org and click on projects and then on rural.

For more information, email resources@nsvrc.org.

Information from email correspondence from the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, March 10, 2011.

What's New at the Coalition?

Coalition Staff Receives Award



Leticia Bonifas

Leticia (Tish) Bonifas, Latina Outreach Coordinator, recently received an award from Center for Survivors in Columbus. The "Above and Beyond Award" was given to Tish due to her assistance in serving immigrant women of violence and others from diverse backgrounds.

Wanda from the Center for Survivors states "The Center for Survivors is grateful for your support and assistance this last year. We could not have been as effective in our mission without your partnerships with us, and this has been duly noted." Tish was honored at the annual meeting and volunteer appreciation dinner on March 31. The event was also in celebration of the Center's 20th anniversary.

Coalition Staff Receives SANE Training



Christine Carberry

Christine (Chris) Carberry recently attend a training to become a SANE. SANE signifies Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner. These medical professionals provide the exam to victims of sexual assault and prepare the evidence collection kit for law enforcement. These nurses also participate in local Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs), provide training, and more.

This training enhances Chris' ability to provide technical assistance and training to local domestic violence/sexual assault programs and other organizations.

Board of Directors Update

The Board of Directors of the Coalition is pleased to announce two new Board members, **Shelby Jones-Schellpeper** and **Jamie Snyder**.



Shelby will serve as a program representative member at large. She is the Executive Director of the Sandhills Crisis Intervention Program (SCIP) in Ogallala. Shelby has been with the program for approximately five years. SCIP serves six counties in western Nebraska and is in its 25th year of providing services and support to victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Welcome, Shelby!



Jamie will serve as a community representative. Jamie was the Executive Director of the Center for Survivors (Columbus) for eighteen years, and a therapist for many years prior to that position. She served as the Interim Director of the Coalition for nearly a year. Currently, Jamie teaches at a community college and is involved with Habitat for Humanity. Welcome, Jamie!

For more information about the Coalition's Board of Directors, contact Lynne at ExecutiveDirector@ndvsac.org or 402-476-6256.

Nebraska Domestic Violence
Sexual Assault Coalition
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NDVSAC is a proud member agency of the Community Services Fund. Learn more at: www.communityservicesfund.org

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Hilary Wasserburger, Gering

Mark Your Calendar

Upcoming Events in Nebraska

April

- 5-6 Peer Review – DOVES**, Gering, NDVSAC, 402-476-6256
- 6-8 7th Annual Training Conference: Nebraska Coalition for Victims of Crime**, Omaha, 402-661-3700, Kim.Roewert@usdoj.gov
- 14 Consortium Meeting - Domestic Violence Focus**, Grand Island, NDVSAC, 402-476-6256
- 15 Expert Witness & Custody Cases (LAPTOP Attorney Training)**, North Platte, NDVSAC, 402-476-6256
- 19 Providing Crisis Advocacy to Survivors of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, & Stalking**, Grand Island, NDVSAC, 402-476-6256
- 29 Expert Witness & Custody Cases (LAPTOP Attorney Training)**, Omaha, NDVSAC, 402-476-6256

May

- 5 Providing Sexual Assault Services**, Grand Island, NDVSAC, 402-476-6256
- 12-13 A Collaborative Victim – Centered Response to Abuse in Later Life**, Kearney, NE Attorney General's Office, 402-471-3833
- 16-17 Bridges Out of Poverty: Strategies for Professionals Working with Families Living in Poverty with Young Children**, Kearney, Early Development Network, 402-471-9329
- 17 Program Sharing Day: Creating a Strong Volunteer Program**, Grand Island, NDVSAC, 402-476-6256
- 27 Cultural Outreach Day**, Grand Island, NDVSAC, 308-324-6256