



In Touch

Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition

May/June 2011

One person with passion is better than forty people merely interested.

-E.M. Forster
English novelist, short story writer, and essayist

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

June 15 - World Elder Abuse Awareness Day



World Elder Abuse Awareness Day involves activities to improve recognition of the mistreatment of older adults wherever they live throughout the world, and to highlight the need for appropriate action. It is intended to provide a global relevance concerning abuse and neglect; a relevance that will sustain and move prevention efforts forward throughout the whole year.

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Throughout the world, abuse and neglect of older adults largely remains under recognized, or treated as an unspoken problem. No community or country in the world is immune from this social problem. Abuse and neglect of older adults is a complex and multi-faceted problem. Elder abuse encompasses different types of harm and can occur in domestic, community or institutional settings.

Raising awareness of elder abuse is a challenge. The issue requires complex, multiple and integrated responses from a very wide range of sources at individual, institutional, societal and global levels.

Information condensed from http://www.inpea.net/images/weaad_community_guide_toolkit.pdf

Awareness Efforts in Nebraska

- Adult Protective Services, Unit on Aging, and the Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition have teamed up to implement the following:
- ⌘ “Join Us in the Fight Against Elder Abuse” campaign –is the first national initiative to raise awareness of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation from the National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA). A cornerstone of the campaign is the NCEA Elder Abuse Information Piece, a 15-second elder abuse video featuring actor William Mapother which will be shown June 3 – 16 at cinemas in Omaha and additional locations later in the year.
 - ⌘ A 15-second radio PSA was posted on the DHHS website and send it to 70 radio stations for airing.
 - ⌘ NET (Nebraska Education Telecommunication) will air a 15-second PSA several times a day on the statewide network.
 - ⌘ Governor’s Proclamation will be issued.
 - ⌘ Fact sheets, posters, bookmarks and wallet sized cards were distributed.

Step Up! Speak Out! - Prevention Efforts in Nebraska

Domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking are prevalent in every country, state, and community. Due to this, the need for prevention initiatives continues to grow. The local programs in Nebraska strive to provide forums for community education, awareness, and prevention of violence.

There are three categories within prevention initiatives: primary prevention, risk reduction, and awareness/outreach. **Primary prevention** focuses on changing and addressing the underlying cause of violence. The strategies are population-based, with a goal of eliminating and reducing factors that perpetuate domestic and sexual violence.

Risk reduction focuses on teaching individuals the skills to reduce the risk of being victimized. The strategies are focused on changing individual behaviors that relate to victimization, with the goal of thwarting an attack that is in process or likely to occur.

Awareness and education activities focus on informing the community about domestic and sexual violence and where to access services for survivors. The general public is the primary focus, with the goal of increasing understanding of domestic and sexual violence.

Prevention campaigns should include information from each category in order to have a comprehensive plan. Activities can be linked between categories and utilizing activities from each category can assist in creating sufficient dosages of prevention messages. **However, primary prevention should be the main focus.**

Primary prevention is stopping violence before it occurs. Primary prevention challenges societal, cultural, and gender norms and encourages people, especially youth, to become critical of these norms. It focuses on recognizing and instilling healthy relationship skills.

During the last federal fiscal year (October 2009 through September 2010), the local domestic violence/sexual assault programs conducted a total of 1,879 prevention and educational programs, with a total of 75,118 individuals in attendance.* An additional 780 awareness activities were provided by the local programs.

For more information regarding prevention initiatives in Nebraska, contact Rachel, the Coalition's Prevention Coordinator, at rachelo@ndvsac.org or 402-476-6256.

*There may be duplication in this number if people attended more than one event.

Program Highlight: Hope Crisis Center Reaches High Number of Students

Between January - March 2011, Stephanie, the Prevention Coordinator for the Hope Crisis Center, provided 180 presentations, with a total attendance of 4,461.

Topics included bullying, good touch/bad touch/secret touch; dating violence, and domestic violence.

All of these presentations were to local schools. Hope Crisis Center has presented in 76 schools within their service area, out of 82 schools. This is nearly 93% of the total schools in their service area.

Information from *The Insight*, Vol. 5, Issue 1, the newsletter of the Hope Crisis Center, April 2011; and from communications with Hope Crisis Center staff.

Technology and Safety

By Jim Ingram, Database Systems Coordinator

Tech Safety – Our Personal Broadcast Stations

Have you ever wanted to be a television celebrity or a radio personality? How about the star of your own reality show? If so, you are in luck! Welcome to the 21st century, where we are all stars of our own reality broadcasting group.

We have gotten used to being photographed and filmed at nearly every business we frequent. Security cameras are simply a part of the world we live in. We have grown used to the idea that much of our daily life is digitally recorded. However, many of us do not know how much of our personal information is also being broadcasted, and that we are doing it ourselves. We are going to take a look at some of the ways we are 'sharing' this information. Once we know that we are exposing information, then we can take measures to control who has access to it.

But first, a short history lesson: Back in the early days of computer use (1980's) hackers (evil computer users) would dial a list of phone numbers, hoping a computer with a modem would answer. If a computer answered, they would make a connection with their computer and 'hack' in. Generally they were looking for information, or at least the thrill of 'breaking in' to another system. This random dialing in hopes of finding a computer was called **WARdialing**.

WARdialing has evolved into **WARdriving**. In its simplest form WARdriving consists of evil computer users driving through neighborhoods with a car and a wireless enabled laptop, looking for available connections. There are several software packages readily available on the internet to make this even easier than the default wireless settings in Windows. Once an 'open' wireless connection is found, the WARdriver can either use this connection to steal internet (**Piggybacking**), or hack into the computers that are found inside this network. Stealing internet is not simply a theft of service issue. Often the WARdriver is using this connection to perform other nefarious activities (illegal pornography, virus activity, further hacking) and the Internet Service Provider is logging these activities from your address! These WARdrivers even have devised a way of 'marking' your neighborhood (**WARchalking**) based on the system used by hobos from the 1930's! (history lesson #2)

Once in your home network, there is also the ability to attack your computers. Looking for data for identity theft and using your computers in virus propagation are two of the leading problems with unauthorized use of your computers via this method.

The best way to prevent this if you are using wireless routers is to make sure the security is set on your wireless router. Set the SSID to 'non broadcast' if possible, and use a password. This will not 'broadcast' the network name, and make your system much harder to find. Using a password will keep out all but the most persistent hackers. Generally using a password and not broadcasting your SSID will encourage the hackers to quickly move to a 'softer' target. All too many people purchase a wireless router, plug it in and leave the default security settings. Those settings are easily found by looking for the user manual via Google. Your router owner's manual will include instructions on setting the security for your specific wireless router.

In the next issue, we are going to look at what WARdriving has evolved into ...**WARViewing!**

Public Policy Updates

Nebraska

State senators have passed two important bills related to domestic violence and sexual assault. LB 479 was introduced by Sen. Lathrop of Omaha. The bill does two things. First, it amends Neb. Rev. Stat. 29-4306. Prior to LB 479's passage, this law requires that healthcare providers use a standardized kit to collect forensic evidence related to a sexual assault with the permission of the victim and without separate authorization from law enforcement. LB 479 expands 29-4306 to include the collection of forensic evidence related to a domestic assault. It also states that when the victim is 18 years of age, consent of and notification of the victim's parents or guardian is not required.

LB 479 also creates a new provision within Nebraska law. When the law becomes effective it will allow a physician or mental health professional to conduct a diagnostic examination for physical or mental injuries related to sexual assault or domestic violence without the consent of or notification to the victim's parents or guardian when the victim is 18 years old. The physician or mental health professional will also be allowed to treat the 18 year old victim without involving the parent/guardian.

LB 479 did not contain an emergency clause. The new language will become effective 90 days following the last day of the 2011 session.

Senators also considered and passed LB 665 which was introduced by Sen. Pirsch and it amends Neb. Rev. Stat. 28-311. Prior to LB 665 the law made it a crime to entice a child under the age of fourteen to enter a vehicle. LB 665 expands this language and makes it a crime to "solicit, coax, entice, or lure" a child less than 14 years of age "to enter into any place with the intent to seclude the child from his or her parent" or guardian. The bill defines seclude to mean "to take, remove, hide, secrete, conceal, isolate, or otherwise unlawfully separate." The new provisions of 28-311 also include attempting to do these acts. Anyone convicted of violating this section of law is guilty of a Class IIIA felony, punishable by up to 5 years imprisonment, a \$10,000 fine, or both. LB 665 contained an emergency clause and became effective when it was signed by the governor.

Federal

On December 20, 2010 President Obama signed the CAPTA Reauthorization Act (PL 111-320). This law reauthorizes and amends the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA). In March 2011, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) issued a memo detailing the changes related to distribution and monitoring of funds and programmatic requirements.

The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) was first created in 1984. FVPSA provides the primary federal funding stream dedicated to the support of emergency shelter and related assistance for victims of domestic violence and their dependents. FVPSA funds provide the foundation for domestic violence/sexual assault programs across the nation, including in Nebraska.

The Family Violence Prevention and Services Program (FVPSP) of the Administration for Children and Families administers FVPSA formula grants to States, Territories and Tribes, State domestic violence coalitions, and national and special-issue resource centers. For more information, contact Lynne at the Coalition, executivedirector@ndvsac.org or 402-476-6256.

Highlights from Sexual Assault Awareness Month

April was national Sexual Assault Awareness Month. It provided an opportunity to draw attention to year-round efforts to raise awareness about sexual violence and efforts to prevent future sexual assaults. Communities across Nebraska joined in awareness activities and events throughout April.

Events in Nebraska included displays of The Clothesline Project, Take Back the Night rallies/marches on college campuses, Walk a Mile in Her Shoes, 5K walks/runs, parades, candlelight vigils, Denim Days, a baseball game, and more. The local programs distributed hundreds of brochures and teal ribbons. They also presented to schools, churches, community groups, and businesses about how to get involved to end sexual violence; created television/radio/internet public service announcements; and provided informational inserts for prom corsage/boutonniere boxes, informational newsletters, proclamations, and health fair booths.



Photos, clockwise: Heartland Family Service— Domestic Abuse Program staff before a baseball event; Event participant wears a Clothesline Project T-shirt; Hope Crisis Center Staff prepare for their annual walk/run; T-Shirt from a Clothesline Project display; Project Response Staff prepare for an event.



Futures Without Violence



The **Family Violence Prevention Fund** has changed its name to **Futures Without Violence**. Their new address is 100 Montgomery Street, The Presidio, San Francisco, CA 94129-1718. The phone number is 415-678-550 and the new website is www.futureswithoutviolence.org (www.endabuse.org will redirect to the new site).

The mission of the organization remains the same - "Futures Without Violence, formerly Family Violence Prevention Fund, works to prevent and end violence against women and children around the world." The Family Violence Prevention Fund was founded in 1980 and is one of the earliest national organizations formed against domestic and sexual violence. They coordinate a number of educational projects and public policy initiatives. For more information about the new name and services of Futures Without Violence, visit www.futureswithoutviolence.org.

Some information from email communications, Family Violence Prevention Fund, April 25, 2011 and June 1, 2011, and www.futureswithoutviolence.org on May 6, 2011.

What's New at the Coalition?

Staff Changes at the Coalition

Due to budget concerns, as of June 4 the Coalition will no longer have the position of Training and Resource Coordinator. **Michelle Zinke**, who was in that position, will transition into the Sexual Violence Program Coordinator position. She will continue to do some of the tasks from the training & resource position, and other components will be distributed among other Coalition staff.

Amanda Hanner has left the Coalition and is pursuing other opportunities. The Coalition wishes her well with future endeavors.

Coalition Staff Receives Expert Witness Training

Sarah Balcom, Domestic Violence Program Coordinator, recently attended a national training on expert witness testimony, *Establishing Expertise as an Ethical Expert Witness*. The training was sponsored by the National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence and the University of Texas at Austin School of Law. This will allow Sarah the opportunity to enhance services and assistance to survivors in Nebraska court systems.

Expert witnesses are used to provide knowledge about the topic in general, and typically do not testify regarding specifics of an individual situation. They may review a case before the testimony and provide comments based on that information. For example, an expert witness could provide information/knowledge on specifics about domestic violence, sexual violence and stalking, including why it is so difficult for a victim to leave, explaining responses of battered victims, offender behavior, etc. For more information, please contact Sarah at sarahb@ndvsac.org or 402-476-6256.

Program News

Center for Survivors Welcomes New Director

Jonathan Niles is the new Executive Director for the Center for Survivors in Columbus. He joined the staff in 2010 as the Child Advocate. Jonathan has a degree from Hastings College. His past work experience has focused on supporting children and youth, including with anti-child abuse organizations. In a recent newsletter of the Center, Jonathan stated:

“The work we do here is so important and vital to our community. My passion for the abused and neglected fueled and inspired me to apply to become the Executive Director. I believe with the help of the incredible and passionate staff here at the Center, the community of Columbus and the surrounding area, we can continue to make a difference against domestic violence and sexual assault.”

Tammy Burden, former director of the Center for Survivors, recently resigned so that she could work in Africa with various orphanages and international aid organizations, including the Heal the Children Foundation and the Tanzanian Children's Fund. The Coalition wishes her the best with this new adventure.

What's New at the Coalition?

New Resources at the Coalition

The Battle for Whiteclay, *Mark Vasina, 2008*

This DVD follows Indian activists through the streets of Whiteclay to the halls of Nebraska's State Capitol in their campaign to end alcohol sales in the place Nebraska newspapers have dubbed 'Skid Row on the Prairie.' The film documents a little-known social disaster in which families are torn apart and advocates for the Indian way of life confront state and local authorities.

Boys and Men Healing: The Oprah Show

Two DVDs of segments from The Oprah Show; focused on male sexual assault survivors speaking about their experiences.

Boys and Men Healing from Child Sexual Abuse, *Big Voice Pictures*

This documentary focuses on the sexual abuse of boys, the impact on individuals, families, and society, and the importance of male survivors healing and speaking out to end child sexual abuse. It features non-offending male survivors. Whether it was shame, intimacy problems, post-traumatic stress, substance abuse, or rage that led to violence, the effects plagued their lives. Yet, each man chose the arduous task of healing, giving them a voice to reclaim their lives through counseling, support groups, and speaking out while taking action toward prevention for others.

Circle of Hope: A Guide for Conducting Psychoeducational Support Groups, *Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs, 2006*

This manual is a basic guide, written with beginner facilitators in mind. It offers practical guidance and recommendations for both the facilitation and design of psycho-educational support groups. This manual has been divided into three sections. The first section outlines theoretical frameworks and guidelines specific to psycho-educational support groups, such as definitions and characteristics of these groups, as well as some effective facilitator fundamentals. The second section offers some practical applications on how to set up groups, pitfalls and solutions, and other recommendations. The third section is an appendix with samples of helpful tools .

Partner Abuse: New Directions in Research, Intervention, and Policy, *Springer Publishing Company, 2010*

This resource focuses on addressing that physical and emotional abuse in relationships is a major public health and social problem. Its purpose is to advance knowledge, practice and policies through a commitment to rigorous, objective research and evidence-based solutions.

Update from the DVCC

Sue Michalski, Interim Executive Director of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council in Omaha, has resigned. Sue will be starting her own consulting business, with a focus on training and providing expert witness testimony.

Sue served for many years as a member of the Board of Directors for the Coalition. She has also partnered with the Coalition on numerous projects, including the current Abuse in Later Life project coordinated by the Nebraska Attorney General's Office. The Coalition wishes her the best with this exciting new project.

Nebraska Domestic Violence
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Mark Your Calendar

Upcoming Events in Nebraska

June

- 7-8 *Peer Review - Haven House*, Wayne, NDVSAC, 402-476-6256
- 8-10 *Duluth Training*, Lincoln, Family Violence Council, 402-489-9292
- 9-10 *Director's Days*, Lincoln, NDVSAC, 402-476-6256
- 11 *NDVSAC Board of Directors Meeting*, Lincoln, NDVSAC, 402-476-6256
- 16 *Working with Media and Framing Messages*, Grand Island, NDVSAC, 402-476-6256
- 23 *SENTROC Training: Immigration and working with Latino Communities (SE Nebraska DV/SA Programs)*, Lincoln, Family Violence Council, 402-489-9292
- 28 *Regional Training: How Violence Impacts Survivors Later in Life & Working with Adult Survivors of Childhood Abuse*, North Platte, NDVSAC, 402-476-6256
- 29 *Regional Training: How Violence Impacts Survivors Later in Life & Working with Adult Survivors of Childhood Abuse*, Grand Island, NDVSAC, 402-476-6256

July

- 7 *Program Sharing Day: Teen Dating Violence*, Grand Island, NDVSAC, 402-476-6256
- 12-14 *Midwest Primary Prevention Conference*, Kansas City, contact NDVSAC for more information, 402-476-6256 or rachelo@ndvsac.org
- 19-20 *Training Institute: Legal Advocacy*, Grand Island, NDVSAC, 402-476-6256
- 21 *Consortium*, Grand Island, NDVSAC, 402-476-6256
- 29 *Cultural Outreach*, North Platte, NDVSAC, 402-476-6256