



NO MORE

NO MORE in Nebraska

Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition, Editor: Michelle Zinke

4th Quarter 2013

There is no passion to be found playing small - in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living.

-Nelson Mandela

National Study, Homicide Rates Illustrate Intimate Partner Violence Disproportionately Impacts Women

by Lynne Lange, Executive Director

The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey is an extensive and on-going study that is conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The survey collects detailed information on sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence victimization of adult women and men in the United States.

- A key finding of this report is that while 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men have experienced severe physical violence by an intimate partner, **women are disproportionately impacted by sexual violence, intimate partner violence and stalking.**
- Based on the reports of the women *and* men participating in the study, women are over 4 times more likely to be beaten, 6 times more likely to be slammed against something, and 9 times more likely to be hurt by strangling or suffocating.
- While *all* victims impacted by domestic violence need our support and protection, female victims in this study report significantly more serious impacts of abuse by an intimate partner: they are more likely to be fearful (72% of females vs. 18% of males), to be concerned for their safety (62% vs. 16%), to have suffered an injury (42% vs. 14%) and to require medical care (22% vs. 6%).

The fact that women are disproportionately impacted by domestic violence is also visible when examining homicide rates related to domestic violence. According to a 2009 report released by the U.S. Department of Justice, **females represent approximately 70% of victims killed by an intimate partner in recent years.** A woman is far more likely to be killed by her spouse, an intimate acquaintance, or a family member than by a stranger. **According to the Nebraska State Patrol, during the 2012 calendar year in our state, 100% of intimate partner domestic violence homicides were committed by males.**

Nebraska's network of domestic violence and sexual assault programs recognize that men, women and children can be victims of domestic violence. We believe that *all* victims of domestic violence deserve responsive services, protection and support; and that perpetrators should be held accountable. The network of programs provide trauma-informed and culturally-relevant services to *all* victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking - whether these victims are heterosexual, gay, bisexual, or transgender and whether they were victimized as children, youth or adults.

It is the mission of the Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition to enhance safety and justice by changing the beliefs that perpetuate domestic violence and sexual assault. We look forward to continuing our work with law enforcement, the legislature, professionals and others who are committed to reducing domestic violence in Nebraska families and communities. **We will continue to serve all victims until the violence can be stopped.**

In this issue:

Step Up! Speak Out!	2
Protections for LGBT Survivors	3
Nebraska VINE	4
NE CASA Receives Big 10 Funds; Nebraska VINE	5
Program News	6
What's New at the Coalition	7
Mark Your Calendar	8

Evaluating Our Work: The Rape Prevention and Education Grant Program

By Rachel West, Prevention Coordinator



Does our prevention program make a positive difference? Which dating violence curriculum is best for a middle school audience? How can we advocate for more funding for our program, particularly when times are scarce?

Program evaluation can give insight into all of these questions. Evaluation helps us identify and sustain the components of our prevention program that work, and examine and change those that do not work. It bolsters our funding proposals, it opens the doors to schools and other institutions, and it builds credibility within the community. Indeed, program evaluation is a critical piece of our work.

Great! So where do we begin?

The Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition and 19 local domestic violence/sexual assault programs across the state receive funding under the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Rape Prevention and Education (RPE) Grant Program. Over the next five years, the CDC's goals are to increase the proportion of RPE-funded programs that are implementing sexual violence prevention strategies according to effective prevention principles and to improve program evaluation infrastructure and capacity (in other words, to improve our ability to evaluate our work).

Effective Prevention Principles:

Addressing modifiable risk & protective factors for perpetration & victimization
Addressing multiple levels of the social ecology
Emphasizing primary prevention
Having sufficient dosage or intensity
Being culturally relevant
Being developed & implemented with stakeholders
Based on best available evidence

The Coalition has contracted with Schmeckle Research, Inc. to take inventory of the network's existing prevention strategies and evaluation efforts in Year One of the five-year RPE grant project. Based on these findings, Schmeckle Research, Inc. will then work with us – both the Coalition and the 19 RPE-funded programs – to improve our program evaluation infrastructure and capacity over the next five years.

So fast forward five years. Does our prevention program make a positive difference? How can we get our foot in the door to our local school? How can we advocate for more funding for our program? If you weren't quite sure how to answer these questions before, you will be able to answer them with confidence now.

Did you miss the National Sexual Assault Conference last August? The National Sexual Assault Conference offers a number of workshops on prevention. In fact, it offers a prevention track! If you were unable to attend the last conference, or if you attended the conference and can't wait for the next, save the date! ***The National Sexual Assault Conference will be in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on August 20-22, 2014.***

LGBT Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Now Have New Protections

October 1, 2013 was the start date for a ground-breaking new federal law protecting transgender and gender non-conforming people, and FORGE has received funding to help with the implementation process.

Earlier this year Congress passed a non-discrimination addition to the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) when it reauthorized it, explicitly prohibiting VAWA-funded agencies from discriminating against survivors based on gender identity and sexual orientation. At the end of September the Office on Violence Against Women announced a \$350,000, 3-year continuation award to one of FORGE's existing Training and Technical Assistance grants to directly address the implications and implementation of the new legal requirements.

Specifically, FORGE will be conducting a nationwide, baseline assessment of the primary attitudes, values and beliefs held by those working in VAWA-funded agencies. Based on the study findings, FORGE will then develop additional training and advocacy tools specifically aimed at shifting attitudes and beliefs so that they better align with the new legal mandate for all VAWA-funded agencies to serve lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) survivors equally. FORGE will also work intensively with two or three pilot sites to implement comprehensive changes in their systems to better serve transgender, gender non-conforming and LGB survivors and pilot-test the newly developed tools. In year three, FORGE will create and disseminate a toolkit to assist all victim service providers in reducing attitudinal barriers to serving trans and LGB survivors.

FORGE is a national, 19-year-old transgender and SOFFA (Significant Others, Friends, Family and Allies) organization headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Since 2009 they have been funded to provide training and technical assistance to victim service providers nationally on the needs of transgender victims of crime. Since 2011 they have been funded by the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) to specifically provide such training and technical assistance to those who serve victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking, creating an extensive inventory of free online training webinars and publications available at www.forge-forward.org. They are also in their fourth year of providing direct advocacy, referral, and support services to transgender sexual assault survivors through an OVW culturally-specific sexual assault grant.

FORGE is a member of several coalitions that have been on the forefront of passing and now implementing the new non-discrimination law, including the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (www.NCAVP.org). LGBT people who attempt to access services from VAWA-funded agencies after October 1, 2013 who feel they are discriminated against are encouraged to file a complaint with the Department of Justice's Office of Civil Rights (OCR). The OCR webpage offers a complaint form as well as information: www.ojp.usdoj.gov/about/offices/ocr.htm. You can access additional support and services by contacting one of the 49 NCAVP members (located in 26 states).

More information about FORGE and their programs and services is available at www.forge-forward.org or via their Facebook page (facebook.com/FORGE.trans) and Twitter (@FORGEforward). Referrals and technical assistance can be requested by phone (414-559-2123) or email (AskFORGE@forge-forward.org).

NEBRASKA VINE

By Robert Sanford, Legal Director

Nebraska VINE, or officially 'Nebraska VINELink,' is a service available to victims and to the general public that provides information about the incarceration status of an inmate. When used with other tools VINE can help provide a sense of safety not only to victims of crime but also to the general public.

What is VINE? VINE stands for Victim Information & Notification Everyday. The free service allows an individual to track the status of an offender who is either in jail or prison. It uses the telephone or internet to provide information to the subscriber when the custody status of an offender changes. Examples of changes in custody status include an offender's release, transfer and parole hearing. VINE also notifies a subscriber if the offender escapes or dies while in custody.

VINE is one tool that can be used as part of a safety plan.

Jonathon Waunch, Client Relationship Manager from Appriss Inc, recently stopped by the Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition to meet staff and share more information about VINE. About 65 of Nebraska's 71 jails and the Nebraska Department of Corrections currently use VINE to provide information about those in custody. VINE is often not connected with smaller, short-term holding facilities.

It is important to remember that this is just one of many tools that can be used to help create a sense of safety. It is also important to remember that the information is not always up to date and should not be used as the only tool in a safety plan. From time to time there is a disruption in service between a particular facility and VINE which limits the ability of the system to provide updated information. Smaller facilities may have one person responsible for entering data and that person may be sick or on vacation when an inmate is released from custody causing a delay in updates.

Anyone can register with VINE. Judges, prosecutors, law enforcement and witnesses often register to receive VINE notifications in addition to victims and victim advocates. If an individual wants to register for VINE notifications, registration can be completed online using the following steps:

1. Go to www.vinelink.com
2. Click on the state where the person is in custody
3. Click on "Search & Register"
4. Enter either the Offender ID number of the offender's first and last name (partial names will work)
5. Click "Search"

You will then see a list of those individuals matching the information provided. After clicking on the name you will have the option to register for telephone or email notifications. Telephone notifications require a four-digit pin number that you must remember in order to confirm that you have received future notifications.

Once registered an individual will receive notifications when updates are provided by the facility where the inmate is incarcerated. Unfortunately Nebraska jails and the Department of Correction do not use one identification number per inmate. When an inmate is transferred from one county to

continued on page 5

Nebraska CASA Association Awarded Big Ten Funds

The Nebraska CASA Association is the beneficiary of the \$188,344 designated by Chancellor Harvey Perlman from the Big 10. As part of its penalty in 2012, Penn State was required to donate its share of Bowl proceeds from the postseason ban, back to the Big 10. All of the other Big 10 schools decided which statewide children's charity would be the recipient of the Funds.

"Our program is so grateful to Chancellor Perlman for this opportunity to grow our services," states Executive Director, Corrie Kielty. "We have begun using these funds to meet our goal of having a CASA volunteer for every child in Nebraska by 2020."

Nebraska CASA programs recruit, screen, train and support volunteers who are assigned by Judges to children in the court system as victims of abuse or neglect. These volunteers are the voice of children. They investigate and speak for the best interest of the child. Twenty-two programs are currently serving 36 counties. Programs have been growing steadily for several years, but still only serving one-half of the children who need a CASA Volunteer.

"We now have the base funding to really move forward with growth in Nebraska," Kielty said. "The infrastructure we can build with these funds is tremendous and will help so many children."

For more information about the Nebraska CASA Association and its member programs, call 402-477-2788 or visit www.nebraskacasa.org

VINE Nebraska *continued*

another county or from a county jail to the Department of Corrections the inmate receives a new identification number. VINELink is tied to that identification number rather than to the inmate's name. This means that those wanting notification will need to register again in order to continue to receive updates about that inmate. Registrants will also need to re-register if their telephone number or email address changes.

Appriss now offers an app for both Apple and Android devices. VINEmobile provides notifications through your smartphone or tablet device.

Appriss offers an online training to learn more about VINELink. These trainings are held on the last Tuesday of each month. Contact Robert or Michelle Z. at the Coalition for more information about upcoming VINELink trainings.

VINELink users must "re-register by searching for the offender at the new agency" when an inmate is transferred from one county jail to another or to the State's prison system in order to continue receiving notifications.

The Coalition partners with the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice in an effort to ensure the public is aware of VINELink. Resources such as brochures, tear-off pads, posters and pens provide easy reference to VINELink contact information. These resources are available in English and some are also available in Spanish and Vietnamese. To order these and other materials from the Coalition, go to www.ndvsac.org and click on the Resources tab to find a Request Form or contact Lili (lilio@ndvsac.org) or Michelle Z. (michellez@ndvsac.org).

Program News

Rural VAWA Grants to Programs

Two local domestic violence/sexual assault programs have received grant awards through the Rural Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking funding stream. DOVES in Gering received a continuation grant and the SASA Crisis Center received a new grant.

Rural funds are administered by the Office on Violence Against Women, Department of Justice. Due to the focus on rural areas, these grants are a great resource for organizations in Nebraska. Some communities in Nebraska do not qualify, as they are defined as urban or suburban by the Department of Justice. However, the majority of Nebraska qualifies for this competitive funding source.

The Bridge: Violence Ends. Empowerment Begins



www.bridgefromviolence.com

The Crisis Center in Fremont has changed its name to The Bridge. The change was official on October 30, 2013. The new name was chosen to more accurately reflect the range of services provided to the individuals it serves. The Bridge serves Dodge, Burt, Washington, Cuming and Saunders counties.

“Our organization has been around since 1981,” said Suzanne Smith, Executive Director, “and until a few years ago, we focused mostly on providing crisis intervention services. But research has shown that prevention and early intervention efforts are effective in reducing domestic violence and abusive behavior, so we’ve expanded our services to provide more prevention programming.”

The Crisis Center (now The Bridge) has developed programming to work with youth about bullying, healthy/unhealthy relationships, internet/texting safety, sexual respect, conflict resolution and dangers of social media.

“The staff continues to work with individuals and provide crisis intervention – helping them look at options and resources, and to support and help them through their crisis – but we’re doing so much more that we felt it was time for a name change that truly captures the work that we are doing,” said Rick Spalding, Board President. “The symbolism of ‘The Bridge’ fits with our mission and vision to move forward, over obstacles, to assist and empower. The Bridge: where violence ends and empowerment begins.”

The SAFE Center Celebrates 35 Years!



The S.A.F.E. Center in Kearney recently celebrated the organization’s 35th anniversary! This milestone was recognized during October at a Domestic Violence Awareness Month event. Earlier this year The S.A.F.E. Center unveiled a new logo to reflect their vision for the future.

The S.A.F.E. Center provides services to victims and survivors in the following counties: Buffalo, Franklin, Harlan, Kearney and Phelps. They also provide a variety of community education and prevention activities.

What's New at the Coalition?

Coalition Receives Rural VAWA Grant

The Coalition was recently awarded a Rural Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking grant. This is a three year grant that will began in 2014.

The grant will focus on providing services to immigrant survivors of domestic and sexual violence as well as other needs related to diverse populations. The Coalition will have an attorney and a part time legal assistant focused on assisting with immigration relief petitions and related matters. An existing staff member, Carly Beusch, will move into the attorney position under this grant.

The grant includes a collaboration with the Center for Legal Immigration Assistance. Funds are included for a part-time position at CLIA. The grant also includes funds for translation of materials and collaboration with other organizations to provide trainings.

For more information about the Rural grant, contact Lynne (402-476-6256 or executivedirector@ndvsac.org) or Robert (402-476-6256 or roberts@ndvsac.org).

Charity Cheer for Community Services Fund



This December the Community Services Fund is hosting two events to raise "Charity Cheer" for the winter holiday season. The Community Services Fund is a workplace giving campaign that supports nearly 50 non-profit organizations, including the Coalition.

Charity Cheer is an opportunity to make a donation to a non-profit organization that is a member of Community Services Fund. The events described below are both held in Lincoln at the Capitol Humane Society, Pieloch Adoption Center, 6500 S. 70th St., Lincoln. **Donations can also be made online through January 2 at csfcharitycheer.org.** Donations can be made in honor of someone else, making it a perfect holiday gift!

Charity Cheer
Friday, December 13, 2013
4-7pm

This event has a Happy Hour theme, with cocktails and shopping.

Charity Cheer
Saturday, December 14
10am-12pm

The theme for this event is Cocoa & Cookies, and will include a children's craft activity.

Coalition Staff Presents at State Conference

Michelle Miller, Sexual Violence Program Coordinator, was selected to present two workshop sessions at the 15th Annual Ending Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence conference in Lexington, KY. This conference is sponsored by the Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs and the Kentucky Domestic Violence and will be held December 11-13.

Michelle's sessions will include "Creating a Trauma-Informed Response to Domestic and Sexual Violence" and "Women's Substance Use and Interpersonal Violence." Congratulations, Michelle!



Nebraska Domestic Violence
Sexual Assault Coalition
245 S. 84th St, Ste 200
Lincoln, NE 68510
www.ndvsac.org



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

Coalition Board of Directors

Christon MacTaggart, Chair, Papillion
Hilary Wasserburger, Vice-Chair, Gering
Bob Moyer, Treasurer, Lincoln
Andrea Rodriguez, Secretary, Norfolk
Suellen Koepke, Parliamentarian, Broken Bow

Dawn Conley, Papillion
Heather Duhachek, Omaha
Kelsie Myers, Norfolk
Linda Olson, O'Neill
Keisha Patent, Lincoln
Jay Rose, Lincoln

Mark Your Calendar

December

- 5 *Supporting Adult Survivors of Childhood Abuse*, Kearney, Coalition, 402-476-6256
- 11 *Webinar Wednesday: Vicarious Trauma and Self-Care*, YOUR DESK, Coalition, 402-476-6256
- 18 *Webinar Wednesday: Topic To Be Decided*, YOUR DESK, Coalition, 402-476-6256

Look for the 2014 Coalition Calendar of Events, coming in January!