



NEBRASKA COALITION

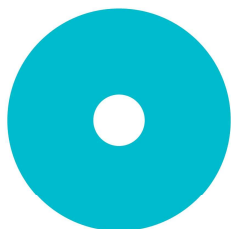
TO END SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

NO MORE in Nebraska Newsletter

Editor: Michelle Zinke

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A publication of the
Nebraska Coalition to
End Sexual and
Domestic Violence



NO MORE

TOGETHER WE CAN END
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT

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Addressing Sexual Violence in Detention: The Prison Rape Elimination Act

By Michelle Miller, Sexual Violence Program Coordinator and
Marla Sohl, Prison Advocacy Coordinator

Sexual assault is a violation of a most intimate and devastating nature. The trauma related to an assault remains with the victim for the rest of their lives, affecting individuals' risk for mental and physical health problems, health-risk behaviors, and social and relational problems. Sexual violence has long lasting consequences, not just for those victimized, but also for the communities and systems with which victims interact.

At the core of the anti-sexual violence movement is the belief that no one deserves to be sexually assaulted, regardless of the victim's traits or circumstance or the setting in which the violence occurs, including when the victim is incarcerated. Incarcerated victims, particularly those victimized while incarcerated, have traditionally had little access to transparent, effective, and/or confidential reporting methods and have often gone without receiving advocacy, medical, or mental health services that address the sexual victimization. Recognizing the importance of reaching all victims, community advocates across the nation are collaborating with correctional services to ensure that victims have access to safe and confidential advocacy services.

According to a study done by the Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, in 2011-2012, an estimated 4 percent of adult state and federal prison inmates, 3.2 percent of adult jail inmates,¹ and 10% of adjudicated youth in state juvenile facilities and state contract facilities² reported experiencing one or more incidents of sexual victimization in the preceding 12 months or since admission to the facility. Victims were typically non-violent with clear traits of vulnerability. As is the case with all forms of sexual violence, the motivation behind sexual violence perpetration in correctional settings is power and control. Additionally, as is true in other settings, perpetrators in correctional facilities target individuals they perceive to be vulnerable. While any inmate can become a victim of sexual violence, marginalized and special needs populations, such as those who are young, those with mental illness, those who have physical limitations, those who identified as gay, lesbian or transgender, and those who are gender non-conforming, are the most vulnerable. Perpetrators also target inmates who they feel confident won't speak out or won't be believed if they do.

Historically our culture has regarded the issue of sexual assault within confinement as little more than a joke. However, the implications for the victim

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Sexual Violence in Detention *continued*

and the community are no joking matter. The majority of prisoners will eventually re-enter communities. Those who have experienced assault during incarceration will experience complications related to this trauma. Unidentified or ignored trauma often festers and creates further complications for the survivor. Re-entry into the community is a difficult transition for anyone coming from the prison population; re-entry with unattended trauma increases the likelihood of failure dramatically. Often times, these survivors will find maladaptive ways to cope with the resonating effects of the trauma, often alcohol/drug use, which can increase their likelihood of criminal behavior and future incarceration.

The Prison Rape Elimination Act

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), passed in 2003, was the nation's first civil law addressing sexual violence in detention. Based on recognition that sexual violence is a crime and human rights violation, even in detention, the law mandated research into "the incidence and effects of prison rape in Federal, State, and local institutions" and called for the provision of "information, resources, recommendations and funding" to address the problem. The law also required the development of national standards regarding the prevention and response to prison rape (Prison Rape Elimination Act, 2003). A draft of the standards was published in June 2009 and was turned over to the Department of Justice for final rule and went into effect in August 2012.

PREA standards are intended to guide correctional facilities in their efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual violence within the facility.

PREA Implementation

Under the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), states and territories are required to demonstrate an intention to comply with the law or face a penalty. Fiscal Year 2014 was the first year that states and territories could have five percent of certain department grant funds withheld if they failed to certify compliance or sign an assurance that they would commit those funds to efforts that would bring them into compliance in future years. After initially choosing not to certify Nebraska's compliance with the PREA Standards, then-governor Dave Heineman reevaluated the issue and provided a signed assurance in late 2014. The state will use the five percent of department grant funds to create a confidential hotline for incarcerated survivors and to fund a Prison Advocacy Coordinator position at the Nebraska Coalition. This position will be responsible for coordinating the hotline, providing advocacy services, facilitating cross-training for corrections personnel and community advocates, and acting as a liaison between correctional institutions and community sexual assault/domestic violence programs.

For more information on the National PREA Standards as well as what assistance is available to states, visit www.prearesourcecenter.org or contact Marla, Prison Advocacy Coordinator with the Coalition, 402-476-6256 or marlas@nebraskacoalition.org.

1. Beck, A., Berzofsky, M., Caspar, R., Krebs, C. (2013). Sexual victimization in prisons and jails reported by inmates, 2011-12. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

2. Beck, A., Cantor, D. (2013). Sexual victimization in juvenile facilities reported by youth, 2012. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

What's New at the Coalition?

Coalition Welcomes New Staff

Marla Sohl recently began as the Prison Advocacy Coordinator for the Nebraska Coalition. This new position will serve as a liaison between the network of local domestic violence/sexual assault programs and the Department of Corrections to help our state come into compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act. Marla also will provide cross training, implement and supervise a PREA statewide crisis line and other related tasks.

Prior to accepting this position, Marla worked at Voices of Hope in Lincoln for ten years, serving as the Sexual Assault Services Coordinator. Marla previously worked at the Coalition from 2004-2006, before joining the staff at Voices of Hope. The Nebraska Coalition is excited to have Marla as part of the staff once again!



Marla, pictured with an award given to her by Voices of Hope.

What's New at the Programs

Awards and Accolades

In Nebraska we are blessed with many talented, dedicated professionals working to end domestic and sexual violence. Several of these people and organizations have been honored recently.

Heather Duhacek, a member of the Board of Directors of the Nebraska Coalition, received an award from the Domestic Violence Council at their annual banquet on May 1.

Nebraska State Patrol Investigator **Monica Bartling** was named the "Woman of the Year" by the Panhandle Business and Professional Association. Lieutenant Bartling serves on the Board of Directors of the Nebraska Coalition and is a 27 year veteran of the Nebraska State Patrol.

The Panhandle Business and Professional Association also honored the **DOVES Program** in Gering, naming them the Employer of the Year for businesses with less than 30 employees.

Linda Olson, Executive Director of Bright Horizons in Norfolk was awarded the 2015 Dr. Richard Raymond Public Health Champion Award by the North Central District Health Department. Linda began working with Bright Horizons in 1997 as a volunteer and, after serving in several staff positions, began as Executive Director in 2006.

The Association of Nonprofit Executives (ANPE) in Lincoln awarded **Marcee Metzger**, Executive Director of Voices of Hope, the 2014 ANPE Nonprofit Executive of the Year Award. Marcee has been a volunteer or employee with Voices of Hope for 39 years.

Voices of Hope in Lincoln is celebrating their 40th anniversary! A banquet was held April 23 to recognize this milestone.

Sources: <http://kneb.com/uncategorized/monica-bartling-named-bpws-woman-of-the-year;>
www.brighthorizonsne.org/2015/03/executive-director-receives-award; and

http://journalstar.com/niche/neighborhood-extra/news/marcee-metzger-named-anpe-nonprofit-executive-of-year/article_96e80250-003f-5a99-8b7a-3e3c582ebb71.html



Nebraska Coalition to End
Sexual and Domestic Violence
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**Community
Services Fund
of Nebraska**

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

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Mark Your Calendar

June 2015

- 10 Mental Health, Chemical Dependency and Domestic and Sexual Violence, Lincoln, Nebraska Coalition, 402-476-6256
- 23 Legal Advocacy Regional Meeting, Western NE location TBA, Nebraska Coalition, 402-476-6256
- 24 Webinar: Supporting Survivors Who are Deaf or Heard of Hearing, YOUR DESK, Nebraska Coalition, 402-476-6256
- 25 Legal Advocacy Regional Meeting, Eastern NE location TBA, Nebraska Coalition, 402-476-6256

July 2015

- 7 Legal Advocacy Regional Meeting, Western NE location TBA, Nebraska Coalition, 402-476-6256
- 9 Legal Advocacy Regional Meeting, Eastern NE location TBA, Nebraska Coalition, 402-476-6256
- 10 Batterer Intervention Program Sharing Day, Grand Island, Family Violence Council, 402-489-9292
- 15 Webinar: Boundaries and Ethics, YOUR DESK, Nebraska Coalition, 402-476-6256
- 16-17 Directors Days, Ogallala, Nebraska Coalition, 402-476-6256
- 23 Building and Sustaining Strong Leaders, Grand Island, Nebraska Coalition, 402-476-6256
- 28 Working with Campuses/Colleges, Lincoln, Nebraska Coalition, 402-476-6256
- 29 Prevention Summit: Using Technology to Create Change, Lincoln, Nebraska Coalition, 402-476-6256

August 2015

- 10-14 Nebraska Victim Assistance Academy, Omaha, 402-280-3062, www.nebraskanevaa.org
- 19 Webinar: Supporting Survivors Who Are Transgender, YOUR DESK, Nebraska Coalition, 402-476-6256
- 20 Economic Advocacy and Financial Empowerment, North Platte, Nebraska Coalition, 402-476-6256
- 25 Providing Children's Services, Grand Island, Nebraska Coalition, 402-476-6256