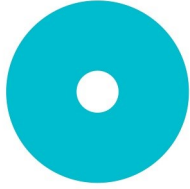




NEBRASKA COALITION

TO END SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



NO MORE
TOGETHER WE CAN END
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT

NO MORE in Nebraska Newsletter

1st Quarter 2017
Editor: Michelle Zinke

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Sexual and Domestic
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Engaging New Voices: Sexual Assault Awareness Month 2017

During Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) survivors and advocates engage the greater community in prevention efforts. We know that one month isn't enough to solve the serious and widespread issue of sexual violence. But the attention April generates is an opportunity to energize and expand prevention efforts. There's no better way to expand the scope of SAAM than by reaching out to a broader audience.

That's why Engaging New Voices is the theme of the 2017 SAAM campaign, created by the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC). Because we can't reach everyone. But we can identify key leaders -- leaders whose influence is necessary in achieving cultural change not just in April, but all year long.

Engaging New Voices

The 2017 NSVRC campaign focuses upon the following groups:

- members of Greek life,
- coaches,
- fathers, and
- faith leaders.

The successes of past SAAM campaigns demonstrate that we're strongest when we raise our voices together. This April, these new audiences will join us, ensuring our reach will be more powerful than ever.

Resources

Resources for the Engaging New Voices campaign will be specific to each audience. They will help these groups identify how to shape the values of those they influence. The resources will empower individuals with clear steps on how to take action immediately. In addition to resources for groups listed above, we'll also have materials for community members and survivors. Ultimately, the goal of all resources will be the same: to put an end to attitudes that support violence. For more information, including information in Spanish, visit <http://www.nsvrc.org/saam>.



Information modified from: National Sexual
Violence Resource Center,
retrieved February 20, 2017 from
[http://www.nsvrc.org/blogs/saam/
announcing-2017-sexual-assault-awareness-
month-theme-engaging-new-voices](http://www.nsvrc.org/blogs/saam/announcing-2017-sexual-assault-awareness-month-theme-engaging-new-voices)

Together We Will Persist

by Rachel West, Prevention Coordinator



My job is to teach people that rape is bad; that we should not hit each other or put each other down. Sometimes, when I really think about my job in these most basic terms, I have to laugh. Who would not think that sexual and domestic violence is bad? Even sex offenders are aware that rape is harmful,¹ and I have heard moderators of batterer intervention groups say that batterers are the first to call each other out on their abusive behavior.

But if all of us believe that sexual and domestic violence is inherently bad, why is it so pervasive in our society? Because society tends to put strict parameters around what behaviors fall into those categories (e.g., rape – usually, sexual harassment – maybe, rape jokes – no.) Add to that misinformation around various contextual factors (e.g., did they know each other?) and mix it with a healthy dose of victim blaming (e.g., was she drinking?) and other harmful social norms, and we have the perfect ingredients for a rape culture in which sexual and domestic violence is completely accepted to some degree.

None of this is any surprise to those of you who work in the movement to end sexual and domestic violence. This is very much our day-to-day reality. But over the past several months, I have been absolutely astounded by the national conversations around sexual violence, which I can only describe as some of the most glaring examples of the rape culture in which we live. Or perhaps I should clarify that I am not necessarily astounded by the examples themselves, but more so by how easily our society (some of my closest friends and family included) dismiss them as ordinary.

Rape Culture Is...

a concept used to describe a setting in which rape is pervasive and normalized due to societal attitudes about gender and sexuality. Check out [25 Every Day Examples of Rape Culture](#).

Need tips on how to speak up with friends, family, and coworkers about everyday bigotry?

Check out [Speak Up: Responding to Everyday Bigotry](#), a helpful guide from the Southern Poverty Law Center.

This tells me that we are nowhere near eliminating sexual and domestic violence. We must continue to educate people, but we must push for more robust and sometimes difficult conversations (with our friends and family too). We must double down on debunking myths about sexual and domestic violence, continue to identify and replace harmful social norms, and chip away at the victim blaming beliefs that pervade society. Most importantly, we must end with a call to action. We must mobilize society to take ownership over the issue and become engaged in actively preventing sexual and domestic violence, because we simply cannot do this alone.



And the truth is, we are not in it alone (despite how it sometimes feels). Over the last few months, we have witnessed millions of people marching in protest of rape culture, to raise awareness about climate change, to resist racism and homophobia, or to promote peace over violence. Some of us may have marched in the same protests, supported marchers from the sidelines,

Continued on page three

Forty and Fabulous: Nebraska Coalition Celebrates Anniversary in 2017

2017 marks the 40th anniversary of the incorporation of the Nebraska Coalition!

After two years of organizing, the Coalition was incorporated on December 28, 1977. Originally named the Nebraska Task Force on Domestic Violence, the Coalition changed its name in 1986 to Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition. This was done to reflect the dual nature of its services and that of the local domestic violence/sexual assault programs in the state.

The Coalition remained a volunteer organization until 1987, when Sarah O'Shea was hired as the first Executive Director. Now led by Lynne Lange, the Nebraska Coalition continues its work to support victims of violence and hold perpetrators accountable. A name change in 2014 reflects the ultimate goal of ending violence: the Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence.

Help Us Celebrate Our Involvement in the Social Change Movements to End Violence!



Early organizers in Nebraska.

Are you in this photo? Know someone who is? Help us put names with faces! Contact Michelle Z with information.

Throughout 2017, the Coalition would like to gather stories and photos about the work that has been done in Nebraska for the past 40 years. Information about both statewide and local efforts are welcomed. If received prior to the annual conference, the information will be highlighted at that event. Information also will be highlighted in Coalition publications and on social media.

For more information, and/or to share information and photos, contact Michelle Zinke at michellez@nebraskacoalition.org or 402-476-6256.

Together We Will Persist continued from page 2



called our representatives to encourage legislative action, began conversations with our families on these very topics, or simply continued to fight against violence in our work. Thanks to our movement building work in the last few years, we now understand that these issues are connected; therefore, we are connected. Our individual efforts – however big or small – create a collective resistance against oppression. No, we are far from alone, and together we will persist.

1. http://csom.org/train/etiology/3/3_1.htm

Skating into Adolescence

by Marla Sohl, Prison Advocacy Coordinator

My family recently tried ice skating at Mahoney State Park. This was an experiment of sorts as we'd never ice skated before. Luckily, my husband was brave enough to get out on the ice with the children, and I took pictures and hollered from outside the rink "are you ok?" more times than I can count as they wobbled, flailed and fell.



Mahoney State Park Ice Rink.

Photo from:

www.facebook.com/notes/nebraska-game-and-parks-commission/ice-skating-at-mahoney-who-needs-the-olympics/321117282297/

After awhile, I saw my 11 year old son was skating around the rink with a girl of similar age. Neither one was very steady on their skates and would fall and help one another up. After a few times around, they were holding hands as they skated. "Well, that's kinda cute!" I thought to myself, and snapped a few pictures. Soon enough, my son said, "Mom, my friend asked if I wanted to go out with her. I said I would, because, well she's pretty nice." Wait. What?! "What's her name?" is the only coherent thought I could muster. "Oh... I don't know. I'll ask!" Soon enough she had a name, and a phone number, and could we give her his, and... what is happening here?! I settled with giving the girl's aunt my number and trying to figure out how this had happened, what was the protocol for this, and was he really prepared for this? Was I?

As the afternoon progressed my son would come over and check in about his first romantic encounter. First, he wanted to introduce his friend to his brothers and dad. Then, he wanted to get a snack. Soon it was, "Mom, I think she thinks I'm like, her boyfriend. I just want to be her friend. It seems like this is really sudden." Great waves of relief rolled over me and my husband and I exchanged mental high-fives. The only problem was my son didn't want to hurt her feelings. I assured him we likely would never see her after today and to just play until it was time to go. After a bit, he was back saying she kept insisting that he was her boyfriend and she kept trying to hold his hand. I'm ashamed to say, I told him we would leave soon and to just go play until it was time to go. A few minutes later he said, "Mom, can we go? Like now?" Then I realized not only had I ignored my son's discomfort with this invasion of his personal boundaries, but I had encouraged him to ignore his own feelings. I've been an advocate for 12 years; someone who is supposed to understand boundaries and empower others to set and honor their own healthy boundaries. Yet here I was, encouraging him to appease another person at the cost of his comfort.

For the past 11 years I have talked to my son about boundaries when it comes to sexual abuse. Not just the stranger danger stuff, but talking about trusted adults, even family members and that he always has the right to say no. Yet I failed to discuss honoring those same feelings of discomfort in other situations. As we begin our trek through the great unknown, referred to by some as adolescence, it will be important to talk through these relationship nuances that on the surface appear benign, even cute. I will encourage him to be reflective and take inventory of his intuition and trust himself when it feels bad or even questionable. And I'll be the bad guy, the strict mom who he can blame to find his way out of difficult situations: "my mom won't let me... (fill in the blank)."

I guess my point is, no matter how aware we think we are, real life situations can set us off balance and be difficult to navigate... especially on ice skates.

Hear What I Didn't Say

Domestic Violence Death Fatality Review Team

by Sarah Balcom, Domestic Violence Program Coordinator

In 2016, Nebraska had 16 deaths related to domestic violence; 11 murders and 5 suicides. In a meeting room at the Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence, 11 individuals come together on a regular basis, in an effort to determine what it is the victim needs the communities to know. What could the entities that are represented on the team do in order to improve response to such cases, with the ultimate goal of reducing domestic violence fatalities?

Every month for well over a year, members of the Nebraska Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team have spent a few hours around the table and countless others of their own time, researching, learning, listening, drafting, and analyzing the components surrounding the team. The result of this hard work has led to the development and finalization of data tools, policies and procedures, goals, mission and their philosophy. These individuals come together as equals in efforts to find where the domestic violence victims fell through the cracks, and where we could all have done better in order to have saved a life.

Team members consist of the following professions; Medical, Probation, Parole, Law Enforcement, Attorney, Advocacy, Policy, Batterers Intervention Programs, Health Department and Child Services. The team also has Ad Hoc Members from across the state that they will utilize as the fatality reviews take place.

Losing one life to domestic violence is one too many. The Nebraska DV Fatality Review Team members combine their immense knowledge, experiences, and dedication in an effort to create recommendations for Nebraska's agencies whose paths cross individuals experiencing domestic violence. This team will not turn a blind eye to an issue where so many communities fail to acknowledge what is taking place behind closed doors.

For more information about the Nebraska Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team, contact Sarah Balcom, Domestic Violence Program Coordinator, sarahb@nebraskacoalition.org or 402-476-6256.

Save the Date:

2017 No More Crimes of Power and Control Conference

The No More Crimes of Power and Control Conference will be held September 20-21, 2017. The event will be located at Nebraska Innovation Campus in Lincoln, Nebraska.

The Nebraska Coalition will once again partner with the Nebraska State Patrol to sponsor this conference. The conference will include several national presenters as well as local experts in a variety of topics.

More information, including registration materials, will be available in early summer. If you have questions before then, contact Michelle Zinke, Training and Resource Coordinator, at michellez@nebraskacoalition.org or 402-476-6256.

What's New at the Programs?

Coalition Welcomes New Executive Directors

The Nebraska Coalition is pleased to welcome multiple new Executive Directors to the Nebraska Network of Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Programs. These new leaders bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the programs, and to the network overall. The Nebraska Coalition congratulates each of these new Executive Directors, and looks forward to working with them.

Crisis Center (Grand Island) promoted **Alexis Larson** to be the new Executive Director. Alexis has been with the Crisis Center for fourteen years, and has served as the Assistant Director for the past twelve years. Prior to that, Alexis was the CPS liaison for the program and focused on the overlap between domestic violence and child abuse/neglect.

Haven House (Wayne) has hired **Amy Munderloh** as their new Executive Director. Prior to joining Haven House, Amy worked with the Northeast Nebraska Community Action Partnership. In that capacity she worked with several local domestic violence/sexual assault programs, including Haven House. Amy also worked for NeighborWorks Northeast Nebraska.

Project Response (Auburn) has hired **Ashley Robertson** as their new Executive Director. Ashley originally began as an intern with Project Response in 2014, and then served as the sexual assault advocate and as the community educator before taking a job at Peru State College. Ashley has a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Peru State College.

What's New at the Coalition?

Southeast Community College Student Completes Internships



The Nebraska Coalition would like to acknowledge **Meg Damme**, a 2016 intern from Southeast Community College. During 2016 Meg chose to have not just one but two internships with the Nebraska Coalition.

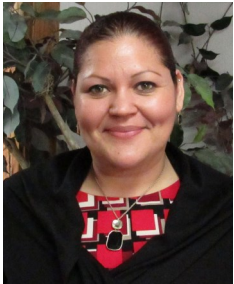
Her first internship was during the spring quarter and the second was in the winter quarter. Meg worked closely with several staff members, and provided over 210 hours of volunteer service. She has continued to volunteer with Marla Sohl, Prison Advocacy Coordinator, since her last internship ended.

"One of the things I have appreciated most about the Coalition is the culture of learning," states Meg. "I've been fortunate to work on a variety of projects, which really helped me gain a deeper understanding of domestic and sexual violence."

Meg is working on an associate's degree in human services. She is employed as the Program Coordinator at Fresh Start in Lincoln, which is a transitional shelter for homeless women. Many of the women in the transitional shelter are victims of domestic and sexual violence and other forms of trauma. Fresh Start works closely with local domestic violence/sexual assault programs, substance abuse treatment centers, and others in the community to assist women in accomplishing their self-sufficiency goals.

What's New at the Coalition?

New Staff at the Coalition



The Nebraska Coalition is excited to announce a new staff member, **Claudia Fullerton!**

Claudia is our new Bilingual Legal Advocate, and began in December 2016. Prior to joining the Coalition Claudia worked as a legal assistant at a local law firm, and has experience with immigration cases. Claudia is also a trained facilitator for Batterer's Intervention Programs, and has a degree in Criminal Justice from Southeast Community College.

Claudia works closely with Carly, Immigration Project Attorney, and the local domestic violence sexual assault programs to address the needs of undocumented survivors of domestic and sexual violence. She provides interpretation and translation services. Claudia is currently in the process of becoming accredited by the Board of Immigration Appeals/Department of Justice, which will allow her to provide additional services as needed.

Claudia is passionate about justice, equality and immigration.

Claudia can be reached at claudiaf@nebraskacoalition.org or 402-476-6256.

Board of Directors Updates

The Nebraska Coalition welcomed a new member to the Board of Directors.

Tashiara Wilson (Omaha) joined the Board of Directors in January. Tashiara is the founder of House of Psalm, a newly created organization based in north Omaha. House of Psalm will provide shelter and support for survivors of domestic violence. Tashiara also brings knowledge in the areas of fundraising, youth services, and education to the Board. She shares a strong passion for advocacy.

At the February meeting, the Board of Directors elected new officers. The Executive Committee for 2017 is:

- Keisha Patent, Chair, Lincoln
- Annie Walworth, Vice-Chair, Bennington
- Jay Rose, Treasurer, Lincoln
- Kelsie Myers, Secretary, Norfolk
- Jennifer Kirkpatrick, Parliamentarian, Lincoln

The Nebraska Coalition thanks the 2016 Executive Committee for their service: Toni Jensen (Chair), Hilary Wasserburger (Vice-Chair), Jay Rose (Treasurer), Kelsie Meyers (Secretary), and Keisha Patent (Parliamentarian).

The Board of Directors is planning a reception and awards program again this September, in conjunction with the annual conference. The event will be held Wednesday, September 20 in Lincoln. More details to come!



Nebraska Coalition to End
Sexual and Domestic Violence
245 S. 84th St, Ste 200
Lincoln, NE 68510
www.nebraskacoalition.org



**Community
Services Fund
of Nebraska**

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

Coalition Board of Directors

Keisha Patent, Chair, Lincoln
Annie Walworth, Vice-Chair, Bennington
Jay Rose, Treasurer, Lincoln
Kelsie Myers, Secretary, Norfolk
Jennifer Kirkpatrick, Parliamentarian, Lincoln

Monica Bartling-Shambaugh, Scottsbluff
Mary Lou Steinkruger, Lincoln
Dawn Conley, Papillion
Heather Duhachek-Chase, Omaha
Toni Jensen, Lincoln
Suellen Koepke, Broken Bow
Hilary Wasserburger, Gering
Tashiara Wilson, Omaha

Mark Your Calendar

February 2017

28 - March 2 Fundamentals of Advocacy Part II, Lincoln, Nebraska Coalition, 402-476-6256

March 2017

7-9 Economic Justice Summit, Detroit, National Network to End Domestic Violence, 202-543-5566
20 Nebraska Advocacy Day, Lincoln, Nebraska Coalition, 402-476-6256
23 Protection Orders: Considerations for Advocates, Central NE location, Nebraska Coalition,
402-476-6256
29-30 Directors' Day, Hastings, Nebraska Coalition, 402-476-6256

April 2017

7-9 Supporting Survivors Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing; Omaha; Heartland Deaf Abuse Advocacy
Services, Nebraska Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Nebraska Coalition;
402-476-6256
13 Supporting Survivors With Mental Health and/or Chemical Dependency Concerns, Location TBD,
Nebraska Coalition, 402-476-6256
19 Webinar: Survivor Based Advocacy, YOUR DESK, Nebraska Coalition, 402-476-6256
26-27 Nebraska Crime Victims' Rights Conference, Omaha, Nebraska Coalition for Victims of Crime