You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean itself does not become dirty.

-Mahatma Gandhi
Greetings from the Chair,

2016 offered opportunities for growth and advocacy. The Board and the staff of the Coalition worked to finalize the details of our latest strategic plan. We were working on goals and action steps as we were finalizing the plan, so I am optimistic that we will complete this plan early, as we did the last.

With the changes we are seeing on the national stage, we have embraced an opportunity to raise our voices and advocate for those whose voices cannot be heard and/or are silenced. My thanks to Lynne and Stephanie for being our “boots on the ground” with this, but also a huge thank you to the entire staff, as they have worked hard to prepare data and research for local and national legislative efforts, as well as testimony and fact sheets to guide decisions being made. We all must work together to ensure that the needs of victims and survivors of sexual and domestic violence are heard and listened to.

I am excited about not only what we have accomplished this past year, but about what is coming this year. 2017 is a year of celebration for the Coalition. Rather than a formal banquet this year, I, on behalf of the Board of Directors, invite you to our 40th Birthday Celebration on September 20, 2017. We will again have a presentation of awards and an opportunity to take some wonderful prizes home through our silent auction. I hope to see you there.

As I turn the duties of the Chair over to our new Board Chair, Keisha Patent, I am proud of the work we have done as a Board and as an organization. I am looking forward to what more we can do to make sexual and domestic violence a distant memory.

Sincerely,

Toni Jensen, Board Chair

Coalition allies and advocates,

The Nebraska Coalition continues to work toward maximizing the efforts outlined in our five year Strategic Plan, with the goal of proactively leading for social change in our state and in our country. We have realized that our voices are more important than ever, as we have had to advocate in order to maintain our current levels of funding. With many resources being threatened, our work is vital, and our passion to further our mission has been reaffirmed.

In January 2016, we were able to hire a full time Public Policy Coordinator, allowing us to create a more robust public policy agenda, and to collaborate with community partners in order to amplify our combined efforts. Work began on several pieces of legislation that will provide increased protections for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. We applaud the efforts of our state Senators who recognize just how important these additional measures are for those whom we serve.

We continue to draw upon the leadership skills and expertise of the Nebraska Coalition staff members to prioritize our training opportunities that are provided across the state. These experiences offer on-going growth for advocates, as well as much needed occasions for networking and support. We have also been fortunate to bring in several national speakers, as our statewide conference attendance increases, and we reach more community professionals.

I would like to share a quote from our partners at the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence that has guided our work this year. “We don’t do this work because it’s easy. We do it because we must.” Thank you to those of you who have joined us in these efforts!

Sincerely,

Lynne Lange, Executive Director
Mission Statement
The Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence enhances safety and justice by changing the societal beliefs that perpetuate sexual and domestic violence.

Vision Statement
We envision a world where sexual and domestic violence are a distant memory and healthy relationships prosper.

Core Values
Accountability
Collaboration
Diversity/Equality
Education
Empowerment/Autonomy
Leadership
Prevention
Safety

Statement of Philosophy
Abuse is a choice and a practice by which persons achieve power, gratification, or financial advancement through the abuse of another person by abrogating that person’s human right to dignity, equality, autonomy, and physical and mental well being. Therefore, we must work to eliminate racism, homophobia, anti-Semitism, classism, and oppression of all traditionally silenced groups. These oppressions are perpetuated by the same systems that profit from violence against women and children and cannot be separated from the overall mission of the Coalition, for the oppression of one is the oppression of all.
There are currently 20 community-based domestic and sexual violence programs in Nebraska.

1. DOVES Program, Gering
2. Sandhills Crisis Intervention Program, Ogallala
3. Domestic Abuse/Sexual Assault Service, McCook
4. Rape/Domestic Abuse Program, North Platte
5. Parent-Child Center, Lexington
6. Healing Hearts and Families, Broken Bow
7. The S.A.F.E. Center, Kearney
8. Spouse Abuse/Sexual Assault Crisis Center, Hastings
9. Crisis Center, Grand Island
10. Center for Survivors, Columbus
11. Bright Horizons, Norfolk
12. Haven House, Wayne
13. The Bridge, Fremont
14. Hope Crisis Center, Fairbury
15. Voices of Hope, Lincoln
16. Friendship Home, Lincoln
17. Project Response, Auburn
18. Heartland Family Service - Domestic Abuse Program, Papillion
19. Catholic Charities - The Shelter, Omaha
20. Women’s Center for Advancement, Omaha

They helped me when no else would. They gave me the resources I needed to help keep me and my children safe. They invited me and my children to attend a support group and offered us a place to stay. My children and I have been safe and free from abuse for 4 years. Thank you for all your help and support.

- Survivor from eastern Nebraska

There also are five* tribal domestic violence/sexual assault programs in Nebraska, serving the Ponca, Winnebago, Omaha, and Santee Sioux nations.

(*The Omaha Tribe of Nebraska has two programs serving victims of domestic and sexual violence.)
The network of domestic and sexual violence programs offer a range of services for both adults and children who are victims of domestic and sexual violence. Each program provides the following seven core services. Supplemental services vary in each area.

24 Hour Crisis Line
Confidential support, information, and access to services are available 24 hours a day by calling the program in your area.

Legal Referrals and Assistance with Protection Orders
Programs cannot give legal advice. However, they can provide assistance with obtaining a protection order, emotional support through court proceedings, and referrals to local attorneys.

Emergency Shelter
Providing a safe place to stay is an important service of the programs. Using a combination of shelters, hotels, and other options, programs offer people a place to escape further violence.

Ongoing Support and Information
Individual ongoing support is provided to survivors. Support groups for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault are available in many communities. Some programs offer groups for teens experiencing violence, child witnesses, and educational groups for people who batter.

Transportation
Emergency transportation to shelter is available 24 hours a day. Programs also may provide transportation to court proceedings, medical services, or to other community agencies.

Education and Prevention Programs
Prevention programs are provided for children, youth, and adults on topics such as child sexual abuse, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and healthy relationships. Staff and volunteers are available for presentations to community groups and other organizations.

Medical Advocacy and Referrals
Staff and volunteers are available to accompany survivors to hospital emergency rooms and local medical offices for treatment of injuries or an exam after a domestic or sexual assault.

Nebraska’s coalition of domestic and sexual violence programs provide access to safety and shelter across the state.

To locate the program nearest you, visit www.nebraskacoalition.org.

Other Resources:
1-877-215-0167 - Línea de Crisis en Nebraska (en español)
1-800-799-SAFE (7233) - National Domestic Violence Hotline, www.ndvh.org
1-800-656-HOPE (4673) - Rape, Abuse, Incest National Network, www.rainn.org
1-866-331-9474 - National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline, www.loveisrespect.org
1-844-7NATIVE - StrongHearts Native Helpline (Monday-Friday, 9:00am-5:30pm CST)
The local domestic and sexual violence programs work tirelessly to support victims and survivors and to speak on their behalf when needed. Additionally, programs work to hold perpetrators accountable and implement efforts to prevent domestic and sexual violence. During October 1, 2015 - September 30, 2016, the local domestic and sexual violence programs provided the following services.

**People Served**
- 16,240 people received direct services

**Shelter Services**
- 50,065 shelter beds provided to 987 adults and 1,043 children

**Crisis Line Calls**
- 43,979 calls to the 24 hour crisis lines

**Supportive Counseling and Advocacy**
When reporting statistics, programs had the option of including either the number of contacts or the number of hours. Therefore, the number of contacts does not include the number of hours listed.

- Adults
  - 63,068 service contacts for individual support/advocacy
  - 7,190 contacts for group support/advocacy
- Children/Youth
  - 6,334 contacts made for individual support/advocacy
  - 2,437 contacts made for group support/advocacy
  - 2,966 other contacts were spent providing additional services to children and youth

**Prevention/Educational Programs**
- 3,474 prevention/educational programs were conducted; 56,718 individuals attended*
- An additional 1,943 awareness activities were provided

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### Demographics of People Served*

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*This report includes the statistics provided to the Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence by the local domestic and sexual violence programs. These numbers reflect only the services provided by the programs. They do not include services provided to victims/survivors by other agencies (i.e., police, medical). Therefore, this information should be seen as a conservative estimate. The actual number of victims, survivors, and services provided in Nebraska is likely to be much greater.

**Some survivors may have identified as more than one ethnicity.

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*There may be some duplication in the numbers. A person may have attended several events offered by local domestic and sexual violence programs.
The Coalition provided the following direct services between January - December 2016 (the Coalition’s fiscal year) through the Immigrant Victims Relief Project, the Prison Advocacy Project, and the Civil Justice Project.

The Immigrant Victims Relief Project is a joint project between the Coalition and the Center for Legal Immigration Assistance (CLIA). The project allows attorneys and Bureau of Immigration Appeals (BIA) accredited staff to provide legal assistance to victims/survivors with Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) self-petitions, U visas, T visas, and related filings before the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

- Coalition and CLIA staff provided legal assistance to:
  - 109 victims/survivors of violence as primary petitioners; and
  - 66 other qualifying family members (qualifying family members include parents, spouses, children under the age of 21, or siblings under the age of 18).

- This project also funds the Linea de Crisis, a 24-hour hotline for Spanish speaking victims/survivors of domestic and sexual violence.
  - Hotline staff took 52 calls from victims/survivors and other individual people needing assistance in Spanish.

The Prison Advocacy Project is conducted in conjunction with the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. The focus is direct services to victims of sexual assault in detention facilities, including a statewide hotline. The Prison Advocacy Coordinator also provides trainings and technical assistance to other organizations.

During 2016, the Prison Advocacy Coordinator and contract staff provided these services:
- 28 victims/survivors received direct services through 157 contacts via email, confidential mail, and in person meetings;
- Hotline staff responded to 50 calls from victims/survivors; and
- Provided trainings to 240 Nebraska Department of Correctional Services personnel, 130 victim advocates, and 100 multi-disciplinary professionals.

The Civil Justice Project provides legal services to victims and survivors. Common legal issues addressed include domestic abuse protection orders, custody proceedings, and divorce proceedings. Through this project:
- 104 referrals were made in which a conflict check was completed.
  - 50 individuals either did not complete an intake or received very limited assistance, such as informing them of a pending court date.
- The remaining individuals received the following services:
  - 13 were assisted with victims’ rights issues;
  - 33 were assisted with protection orders;
  - 19 were assisted with family law issues (i.e., divorce, custody, visitation); and
  - 33 received limited scope assistance, including administrative proceedings for Title IX cases.
Training, Education, and Technical Assistance to the Network**
- Responded to 4,882 telephone/email requests for information
- Conducted 20 on-site visits, including seven peer reviews
- Provided 35 network specific trainings, totaling 136 hours attended by 398 people

Training, Education, and Technical Assistance to Other Agencies**
- Responded to 1,454 telephone/email requests for information
- Provided 117 trainings in multidisciplinary forums, totaling 432.25 hours and attended by 3,176 people, including:
  - 60 regional or statewide trainings/webinars in Nebraska, including *No More in Nebraska* conference co-sponsored by the Coalition
  - Five training in other states/national forums
- Convened and/or attended 277 meetings on collaborative initiatives and enhancing services
- Conducted three in-person reviews of batterer intervention programs

Publications and Resources
- Shared information and resources through 6,323 mailings to the network of programs and 2,656 mailings to other agencies
- Distributed three issues of the *No More in Nebraska* newsletter
- Distributed 65,880 copies of brochures and other materials

Public Awareness
- Attended six events sponsored by local organizations (not including events where Coalition staff provided presentations)
- Maintained two Facebook pages, two websites, and a Twitter account (includes the Coalition’s general social media and social media specific to the Step Up Speak Out campaign)
- Provided three information booths and three media interviews

Public Policy
- Convened and/or attended 11 meetings with elected officials
- Testified at hearings on proposed legislation
- Provided analysis of proposed legislation and direct lobbying efforts

Staff Development and Training
- Attended a combined total of 191 state and national teleconferences, webinars, meetings, and trainings to keep current about emerging issues

*These statistics reflect January - December 2016, which is the Coalition’s fiscal year.
**There may be some duplication in these numbers. A person may have attended more than one event. The Coalition has removed duplication where possible.
Awareness of traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) is becoming more common, especially as it relates to sports injuries and concussions. However, there is a link between traumatic brain injury and domestic violence that is less well-known. Studies have estimated blows to the head or face occur in 50% to 90% of assaults.\textsuperscript{1,2}

A traumatic brain injury is caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or a penetrating head injury.\textsuperscript{3} It also can be caused by a lack of oxygen to the brain, such as that which occurs during strangulation.

During 2016, Coalition staff provided support and capacity building assistance to the Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska. Focusing on brain injury, trauma, and domestic violence, the project consisted of training and a screening tool.

Five domestic and sexual violence programs participated in the project: Friendship Home (Lincoln), The Bridge (Fremont), Center for Survivors (Columbus), Rape/Domestic Abuse Program (North Platte), and Women's Center for Advancement (Omaha). One program participated just in the training portion of the project and not the screening with survivors.

Ninety-three screenings were conducted during the project from four of the domestic and sexual violence programs. Sixty percent (60.2\%) of the people screened positive for brain injury through strangulation or a hit to the head.\* The majority of these respondents experienced problems due to the abuse, such as headaches, anxiety/depression, insomnia, dizziness, and difficulty with concentration and focus. However, less than half (45.3\%) reported going to a medical provider for treatment.

This project is the first step in improving awareness and response to survivors of domestic and sexual violence who have experienced a traumatic brain injury. For more information about this project, please visit www.biane.org.

\*Please note the respondents were screened positive but this is not a formal diagnosis.


\textit{I hadn't thought a lot about the connection between domestic violence and brain injury. This was very valuable.}

\textit{Very interesting! We've only worked with a few people and diagnosed TBI but now understand how many of our clients are probably being affected.}

-Comments from participants in the training on brain injury and domestic violence
On September 28, the Board of Directors of the Coalition hosted the 3rd annual awards ceremony and fundraiser. Held during the two day “No More Crimes of Power and Control Conference,” this year’s theme was “Beach Retreat.” It was sponsored in part by local businesses and corporations.

During the event, several people were honored with awards in recognition of their dedication to supporting people who are survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

- Ella Herrarte-Monterosso (Parent-Child Center, Lexington): Domestic Violence Advocate of the Year;
- Tabitha McCloud (The DOVES Program, Gering): Sexual Assault Advocate of the Year;
- Lisa Peden (The DOVES Program, Gering): Prevention Advocate of the Year; and
- Captain Paul Schwarz (Lexington Police Department, Lexington): Community Partner of the Year.

A new award was given this year, the Above and Beyond Award. This award was given to two people for their work to support strong local programs. Recipients included:

- Phyllis Heidzig (Project Response, Auburn) and;
- Donna Goad (Domestic Abuse/Sexual Assault Services, McCook).
Overview of Funding

The following is a 2016 summary of funding for the Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence. The fiscal year is a calendar year (January - December).

**U.S. Department of Justice - Violence Against Women Act:** $436,993
- Grants to State Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Coalitions: $221,941
- Rural Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking Grant: $215,052

**Nebraska Crime Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice - U.S. Department of Justice:** $424,230
- Sexual Assault Services Program: $244,023
- Prison Rape Elimination Act - JAG: $55,611
- Victims of Crime Act (VOCA): $124,596

**Nebraska Health and Human Services:** $387,240
- Rape Prevention and Education: $229,670
- Nebraska Health and Human Services: $71,925
- Preventive Health and Health Services: $85,645

**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - Family Violence Prevention and Services Act:** $229,392
- The Allstate Foundation: $76,132
  - Moving Forward Grant: $75,610
  - Donations: $522

**Training Support:** $23,270

**Program Membership Dues:** $17,723

**Lozier Foundation:** $12,000

**In Kind Donations:** $10,241

**Fundraising Events:** $6,048

**Community Services Fund:** $4,246

**Individual and Organizational Donors:** $4,810

**Woods Charitable Fund:** $2,721

**Interest:** $586

**Total:** $1,661,115
Donations of all amounts are vital in order to sustain the work of the Coalition. Without this ongoing assistance, the Coalition would be unable to provide capacity building services and resources. The following list includes donors during the 2016 calendar year, including donors for our annual silent auction and banquet. If a name has been inadvertently omitted from these lists, please contact the Coalition. The Coalition is grateful for the generous support from donors. The Coalition also thanks the anonymous donors for their support!

The Coalition also thanks the donors through the Allstate Giving Campaign and the Community Services Fund that did not wish to be recognized publicly.

*The Community Services Fund donors reflect the 2015 campaign.

The Nebraska Coalition is a proud member agency of Community Services Fund. Learn more at: www.CommunityServicesFund.org.
2016 Board of Directors
Toni Jensen, Chair, Lincoln
Hilary Wasserburger, Vice-Chair, Gering
Jay Rose, Treasurer, Lincoln
Kelsie Meyers, Secretary, Norfolk
Keisha Patent, Parliamentarian, Lincoln
Monica Bartling-Shambaugh, Scottsbluff
Mary Lou Burns, Lincoln
Dawn Conley, Papillion
Heather Duhachek-Chase, Omaha
Jennifer Kirkpatrick, Lincoln
Suellen Koepke, Broken Bow
Annie Walworth, Omaha

2016 Coalition Staff
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Sarah Balcom, Domestic Violence Program Coordinator
Carly Beusch, Project Attorney
Claudia Fullerton, Bilingual Legal Advocate
Sara Houston, VOCA Project Attorney
Stephanie Huddle, Public Policy Coordinator
David James, Fiscal Manager
Ashley Jameson, Bilingual Administrative Coordinator and Legal Assistant
Michelle Miller, Sexual Violence Program Coordinator
Celina Olivo, Bilingual Legal Advocate
Robert Sanford, Legal Director
Marla Sohl, Prison Advocacy Coordinator
Rachel West, Prevention Coordinator
Michelle Zinke, Training and Resource Coordinator

Network Membership
Bright Horizons, Norfolk
Catholic Charities - The Shelter, Omaha
Center for Survivors, Columbus
The Bridge, Fremont
Crisis Center, Inc., Grand Island
Domestic Abuse/Sexual Assault Services, McCook
DOVES Program, Gering
Friendship Home, Lincoln
Haven House, Wayne
Healing Hearts and Families, Broken Bow
Heartland Family Service - Domestic Abuse Program, Papillion
Hope Crisis Center, Fairbury
Parent-Child Center, Lexington
Project Response, Auburn
Rape/Domestic Abuse Program, North Platte
Sandhills Crisis Intervention Program, Ogallala
SAFE Center, Kearney
SASA Crisis Center, Hastings
Voices of Hope, Lincoln
Women’s Center for Advancement, Omaha

Organization Membership
Nebraska Wesleyan University, Lincoln
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, Norfolk
The Coalition envisions a world where domestic and sexual violence are a distant memory and healthy relationships prosper.

Help us fulfill our mission!

Financial support for local programs and the Coalition comes from many sources: federal and state funding, private foundations, and individual donors. As we prepare for 2017 and beyond, it is likely that funding from state and federal sources may change. Because of this, support from private foundations and individual donors will become even more crucial.

For more information about how to support efforts to end domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking, contact the Coalition at 402-476-6256 or your local domestic and sexual violence program.

www.nebraskacoalition.org

On the bright side I do see so much good being done by our advocates across the state. I always think of them as the angels who so many times guide victims from the darkness to light, giving them hope for the future.

What would we do without our advocates who deserve so much thanks but are often forgotten about?

-comment from a Criminal Bureau Investigator in Nebraska
Nebraska’s coalition of domestic and sexual violence programs provide access to safety and shelter across the state.

To locate the program nearest you, visit www.nebraskacoalition.org.

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StrongHearts Native Helpline
(Monday-Friday, 9:00am-5:30pm CST)
www.strongheartshelpline.org

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