



The RESOURCE

Newsletter of the National Sexual Violence Resource Center

Fall /Winter 2004

New Civilian/Military Task Force Focuses on Sexual Violence and Harassment in the Military

Delilah Rumburg Selected as Co-chair

By
Susan Lewis, Ph.D.

Over the past few years, a proliferation of reports of sexual harassment and violence in the military, and at military academies, has prompted the creation of various federal initiatives and task forces, some of all-military and some of military/civilian composition, to assess these incidents, examine official procedures and policies, present findings and offer recommendations.

A recent and especially important initiative began in September 2004 when Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld announced the appointment of the *Defense Task Force on Sexual Harassment and Violence at the Military Service Academies*. This 12-member group, comprised of six



Delilah Rumburg, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape

military and six civilian appointees, is co-chaired by Navy Vice Admiral Gerald L. Hoewing and Delilah Rumburg, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape. The National Defense Authorization Act of 2004 mandated the formation of this task force to examine matters relating to sexual harassment and violence at the U.S. Military Academy and the U.S. Naval Academy.

The panel is charged with assessing policies and procedures related to sexual harassment and violence in the military academies and making recommendations (including any recommended changes in law) for measures to improve effectiveness in a wide range of areas. They include: victims' safety programs, offender accountability, effective prevention of sexual harassment and violence, collaboration and coordination, data collection, curricula and training, response, standard guidelines, barriers to the implementation of improvements, and reviewing the findings of previous reviews

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Understanding Crawford v. Washington

By
Catherine A. Carroll, Staff Attorney
Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs

*Crawford v. Washington*¹ is an important U.S. Supreme Court decision because it impacts the way prosecutors may get evidence, (e.g. testimonial statements) admitted into court to assist in the prosecution of criminal defendants. *Crawford* involved a criminal defendant's constitutional right to confront his accusers. Specifically the U.S. Supreme Court addressed the issue of whether a criminal defendant's Sixth Amendment Right, under the U.S. Constitution, to confront his or her accusers, known as the "confrontation clause," was violated when the defendant was not afforded an opportunity to cross-examine the "accuser." The Sixth Amendment guarantees that "[i]n all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right...to be confronted with the witnesses against him."²

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Debbie Rollo Joins the NSVRC Staff as SART Resource Coordinator

The National Sexual Violence Resource Center is pleased to welcome Debbie Rollo, to the NSVRC team. Ms. Rollo brings a wealth of experience and a keen interest in collaboration and information sharing that matches the skills needed for our newly created SART Resource Coordinator position.

In her new role, Ms. Rollo will coordinate the development of a state-of-the-art Sexual Assault Response Team Toolkit, which is funded through a discretionary grant from the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC).

The NSVRC's goal is to design and develop a national "toolkit" to support the replication of Sexual Assault Response Teams across the nation and within the U.S. territories. Its objectives are to provide resources and technical assistance to help communities enhance and expand their current response to sexual violence, not to promote a particular model or protocol or to supercede any state and/or local statute.

This project will be guided by a national advisory committee composed of representatives from various disciplines including, but not limited to, advocacy, forensic nursing, law enforcement, prosecution, public policy and research.

The NSVRC is excited about this opportunity to collaborate with the OVC in providing more comprehensive technical assistance on SART development and sustainability. The NSVRC recognizes that Debbie Rollo's

background and work experience make her an ideal person to oversee the project.

Debbie has worked in the anti-sexual violence movement for 15 years.

Prior to coming to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, Debbie held the position of the Sexual Violence Resource Coordinator with the STOP Violence Against Women Grant's Technical Assistance Project in Washington, DC for approximately five years.

In that position, she provided support to STOP Grant Administrators and

VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) subgrantees in order to enhance and strengthen the criminal justice and community response to victims of sexual violence.

Prior to working at the national level, Debbie worked at a rape crisis agency in Oklahoma, providing advocacy to victims and survivors during forensic exams and on the crisis line. Simultaneously, she also served as a volunteer coordinator and a community educator.

Additionally, Debbie held the position of Victim/Witness Assistant with Oklahoma State District Attorney's Office specializing in child abuse and sexual assault cases.

If you know of resources on Sexual Assault Response Teams that you would like to share, or have questions about this project, please contact Debbie Rollo toll free at: 877-739-3895 ext 110.



Debbie Rollo

The NSVRC invites your comments:

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Using Art to Break Silence

Tillet sisters create art therapy programs for underserved survivors

By

Scheherazade and Salamishah Tillet

In 1997, during my sophomore year at Tufts University, my older sister, Salamishah told me that she was raped as a freshman and then again as a junior. At the time, I responded to her story with silence, struggling to find the words to comfort her. As her sister, I wanted to be her protector, her healer, and her friend. But when I heard the brutality of her story, my throat was filled with an unbearable silence. Each word she uttered only increased my sense of powerlessness, rendering me, like many other family members and loved ones of survivors, haunted by the twin emotions of guilt and rage.

The next year, I enrolled in a social documentary photography class at Rutgers University, taught by renowned photographer Steve Hart. Hart required each student to choose a person or event and spend five months photographing the subject. So with this assignment to guide me, I approached Salamishah, and under the auspices of art, she agreed to my photographing and recording her healing process. And it was through this five-month journey, in which I followed her to therapy and meditation, documented her burgeoning anti-rape activism, and watched her negotiate dating and starting new romantic and sexual relationships, that I found my voice. Even though words were missing, I realized that I could use photography to break the codes of silence around Salamishah's rape and ultimately help her and myself heal.

As a senior, I used my photographs and Salamishah's poetry to create the multimedia program "A Story of A Rape Survivor" (SOARS). It was an all-student production comprised of a cast of women of color who were also rape survivors. For three nights, we presented and performed Salamishah's story to a sold-out crowd of men and women, boys and girls, many of whom were rape survivors, or friends and family of survivors, themselves. Based on the positive response to my student production, I realized that art created by and for survivors of trauma could be both educational and entertainingly poignant.

From the very beginning of this project, I realized that I had to address the fact that many victims of color are less likely to seek help from traditional social service agencies, such as the police, domestic violence shelters, and psycho-therapists. Whether it is because of a lack of knowledge of the service providers; cultural stigmas regarding seeking help; fear of being unfairly treated by the judicial system; or culturally-insensitive victim advocates, victims of color are more likely to seek out alternative remedies such as the church, substance addiction programs and hospitals. SOARS addresses these disparities by providing services that are culturally and racially diverse.



Salamishah Tillet, June 1998

SOARS's unique blend of art therapy and social documentary programs provide survivors with non-invasive strategies that facilitate individual and community healing. By offering customized trainings for the local advocate groups, we provide additional support to survivors. Because of our diverse staff, entertaining programming, and partnerships with local social service agencies, we serve as a necessary bridge between established advocacy groups and their underserved communities.

SOARS is now a full-scale violence education and survivor-healing program for university violence prevention campaigns and victim-advocacy groups. SOARS is comprised of a 90-minute theatrical performance, a slide show and photography exhibition, art therapy and social documentary workshops, victim advocacy trainings, and survivor SpeakOut lecture series.

Multimedia Performance: The multimedia performance documents Salamishah's journey from rape victim to survivor. Through photographs, modern and West African dance, spoken-word, music, and oral testimonies, the SOARS multimedia performance features a diverse cast of professional artists and musicians who help to educate the public about the impact and aftermath of sexual assault.

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Understanding Crawford v. Washington

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Prior to the *Crawford* decision, hearsay³ statements could withstand a confrontation clause challenge if the statement bore adequate "indicia of reliability," or "particularized guarantees of trustworthiness."⁴ In short, prior to *Crawford*, if a victim/witness in a criminal proceeding was not available to testify in court and the defense *did not* have a prior opportunity to cross-examine the victim/witness, their testimonial statements could and often would be admissible in court under a specific, firmly rooted exception to the hearsay rule, such as statements for the purpose of medical diagnosis and excited utterances.⁵

The Impact on Sexual Assault Criminal Cases

Generally, *Crawford* only impacts criminal cases when a victim/witness of sexual assault makes testimonial statements and then later is not available to testify in court about those testimonial statements. What constitutes a testimonial statement - given the range of statements a victim of sexual assault may make, how it is made, and to whom, is much of where the impact of *Crawford* is focused.

Although the court declined to fully articulate what exactly constitutes a testimonial statement, they did refer to extrajudicial statement--contained in formalized testimonial materials, such as affidavits, depositions, prior testimony or confessions--as testimonial.⁶ Further the court said that testimonial

statements include those "made under circumstances which would lead an objective witness reasonably to believe that the statement would be available for use at a later trial."⁷

Therefore it is likely that a statement made by a victim/witness of sexual assault to a police officer, child protective services or adult protective services agent, will be considered testimonial. Furthermore, the impact may vary depending on the victim's age. For example, child victims of sexual assault who are not available to testify in court because they are too young and have been found incompetent⁸ may be more adversely impacted by the *Crawford* decision. This is because *Crawford* is about allowing the accused an opportunity to confront their accusers. Thus if the child victim is unavailable to testify and defense counsel did not have an opportunity to question the child, and the statements are not admissible under a firmly rooted exception to the hearsay rule, it may be that the child's statements regarding the sexual abuse will not be admissible.⁹

...every state's prosecution of sexual assault and domestic violence cases, to varying degrees of significance, are impacted by this decision.

Similarly in domestic violence criminal cases where a victim of domestic violence refuses to testify against her batterer, and defense counsel did not have an opportunity to cross-examine the victim, it is unlikely her statements made out of

court about the domestic violence incident, will be admissible against the defendant/batterer. Because it is not uncommon for a victim of sexual assault or domestic violence to be the only witness to the assault, it is more difficult to

(Continued on next page.)

For more on Crawford v. Washington...

"New Strategies for Effective Child Abuse Prosecutions After Crawford"

By
Wendy J. Murphy
in
Child Law Practice
Vol 23 No.8 P 129-133.

APRI
American Prosecutors Research Institute

www.ndaa-apri.org

go to *Newsletter*, select *Update*
then select *volumes 17-5 and 17-6.*

Crawford v. Washington

prosecute these cases if the victims are not available to testify and if defense counsel did not have an opportunity to cross-examine them. This is why some people have suggested that evidence-based prosecution in domestic violence cases may no longer be a viable strategy.¹⁰

The impact of *Crawford* on sexual assault victims; adult and children, will continue to unfold as this case is applied to various fact patterns all over the country. Whether you view the *Crawford* decision as favorable to criminal defendants or as a wake up call for our criminal justice system, across the country, every state's prosecution of sexual assault and domestic violence cases, to varying degrees of significance, are impacted by this decision.

In summary, *Crawford* applies only when all the following elements occur:

- Criminal prosecution
- The case involves "testimonial" evidence made by the victim/witness
- The victim is unavailable to testify in court, and
- The defendant did not have a prior opportunity to cross-examine the victim/witness.

To learn more about how *Crawford* has impacted your state's prosecution of sexual assault cases, please contact your local prosecuting attorney's office or your local defense bar.



Notes

¹ *Crawford v. Washington*, 124 S.Ct.1354, 158 L.Ed. 2d 177, (2004).

² United States Constitution, Sixth Amendment.

³ Hearsay is a statement, other than one made by the declarant while testifying at the trial or hearing, offered as evidence to prove the truth of the matter asserted. Fed. R. Evid. 801(c). Hearsay evidence is testimony in court of a statement made out of court, the statement being offered as an assertion to show the truth of matters asserted therein, and thus resting for its value upon the credibility of the out-of-court asserter. (*Mutyambizi v. State*, 33 Md. App. 55, 363 aA.2d 511, 518).

⁴ *Ohio v. Roberts*, 448 U.S. 56, 66, 100 S.Ct. 2531, (1980).

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ See *Crawford* at 1364.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ A witness may be unqualified - or lack the legal ability in some respect, especially to stand trial or to testify. *Black's Law Dictionary*, Second Pocket Edition, West Group, St. Paul, Minn., 2001.

⁹ Vieth, Victor. Keeping the Balance True: Admitting Child Hearsay in the Wake of *Crawford v. Washington*, NCPA Update Newsletter, Vol.16, No.12, (2004).

¹⁰ Feige, David. Domestic Silence: The Supreme Court Kills Evidence-Based Prosecution, *Jurisprudence*, Friday, March 12, 2004.

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Task Force Focuses on Sexual Violence and Harassment

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and inquiries into sexual harassment and violence in the academies. This last point in part relates to an earlier report, the "Fowler Report" or the Report of the Panel to Review Sexual Misconduct Allegations at the U.S. Air Force Academy, (September 2003).*

As this task force began its 12-month assignment, however, new legislation appeared on the horizon: the 2005 Defense Authorization Bill, which intends to expand the group's life and scope. If enacted, this legislation will extend the work of the task force to encompass the full breadth of the Services. This bill specifies that the group must first complete its original 12-month task before moving on to its newer requirements. The possible extension of panel suggests a positive, efficient use of an experienced military/civilian task force.

The composition of the group carries real promise; in fact, it is a broad, diverse group of distinguished professionals, with varied expertise, that can impact the policies regulating sexual violence in the military academies; the group includes sexual assault advocates, social scientists as well as those familiar with military and educational culture and procedures, to name a few. Delilah Rumburg, Co-chair of the Task Force is one of three members representing sexual assault advocacy; Anita Carpenter, CEO of the Indiana Coalition Against Sexual Assault, also a voice for anti-sexual assault advocacy, comes to the group having served on the earlier panel that reviewed sexual misconduct allegations at the U.S. Air Force Academy, and Diane Stuart, Director of the Office on Violence Against Women comes to the Task Force with years of advocacy experience; in her current national role Stuart has developed invaluable insight into the characteristics of sexual victimization across populations and subcultures.

Delilah Rumburg reports that each member of this Task Force brings commitment, energy and unique insight to the inquiry. Importantly, she notes that part of the group's charge from the Department of Defense is to look to experts and to approach its mission by considering the entire underlying military culture and its relationship to sexual violence. Clearly, sexual assault advocates will play an important role on this Task Force. Rumburg also notes that

with the likelihood of an expanded scope for the panel, its work, findings and recommendations may be especially meaningful in the future, carrying potential implications for advocacy and prevention work in the broader culture.

Anita Carpenter, who served on the earlier panel that reviewed allegations of sexual misconduct in the U.S. Air Force Academy, known as the "Fowler Commission," feels honored to serve again on this new Task Force; she believes it is a good idea to maintain some continuity from one panel to the next.

Commenting on goals of the new task force, Carpenter says, "The DoD has taken a proactive approach to the military and naval academies, which is positive and promising. Based on what I have researched and observed thus far, I have to say that both academies have made violence against women issues a high priority."

...part of the group's charge from the Department of Defense is to look to experts and to approach its mission by considering the entire underlying military culture and its relationship to sexual violence.

An Ongoing Commitment

As one of a number of federal initiatives, this Task Force must be seen as part of government's ongoing commitment to assess sexual misconduct in the military. In fact, for more than a decade, a series of official initiatives and task forces underscored government's resolve to understand the nature of sexual victimization in the military, and to revamp procedures where necessary. For some onlookers, however, the number and scope of these initiatives caused a bit of confusion and concern about a possible overlapping or duplication of efforts. In fact, many of these efforts and task forces have differing scope and missions. To look at it in another way, the consistent energies of the Department of Defense and Congress in mandating these initiatives over the past decades demonstrates a deep concern and commitment to detailed assessment and meaningful, effective recommendations.

Clearly the Defense Task Force on Sexual Harassment and Violence at the Military Service Academies, (Academies Task Force) follows in the vein of earlier efforts, but because its mission is likely to be extended and expanded, it can be seen as a particularly serious initiative to assess sexual victimization in military settings. However, at about the same time it received a mandate from Congress, another new panel

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Task Force Focuses on Sexual Violence and Harassment

took shape, the Joint Task Force for Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (JTF SAPR). Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Dr. David S. C. Chu announced the selection of Air Force Brig. Gen. K. C. McClain as the commander of this Joint Task Force (JTF). Part of the charge to this group is the implementation of recommendations made by a previous DoD Task Force.** Since the two task forces were established at about the same time, it is useful to clarify the differences and focus of each task force.

The work of the Academies Task Force is guided by their original charge, but as it completes that task it will take on a larger role, its focus and goals become broader as well. The provisions of FY 05 NDAA direct that after this task force completes their Academy report, their name changes and their mission expands to do a complete assessment of DoD's sexual assault program.

The joint task force, (JTF) on the other hand, is an all-military task force and includes the various branches of the armed services. As of October 2004, it stands as the single point of accountability for sexual assault matters in the Department of Defense. Among other things the JTF is charged with crafting and implementing DoD wide policies and programs to prevent sexual assault, enhance support to victims of sexual assault and improve offender accountability.

Brig. Gen. McClain, commander of the JTF, notes that, "At the end of the year, the JTF will stand down as the permanent Office for Sexual Assault Matters stands up." She further explains that "The primary difference between the task forces is that JTF SAPR is charged with implementing comprehensive policy and is the interim step to the permanent office; while the Academies Task Force in its new

mission is to review policies and programs and make recommendations as to how to improve them."

A longer view of the various initiatives by Department of Defense to address sexual victimization in the military demonstrates their ongoing and increasing commitment to the issue. It also suggests that the findings and recommendations of these efforts are being heard and coming together in more effective ways. This is particularly obvious in the development of a permanent office. Finally, the phasing of the Academies Task Force into a broader task force clearly underscores the importance of the group and the resolve of the Department of Defense to address sexual victimization in the military by including varied experts, most particularly sexual assault advocates and those experts who bring insight about the nature and characteristics of sexual victimization.



...after this task force completes their Academy report, their name changes and their mission expands to do a complete assessment of DoD's sexual assault program.

Notes

* In 2003 the government established a multidisciplinary, military/civilian investigation into charges of sexual assault at the Air Force Academy and retaliation against women cadets who reported the assaults. Among the task force members was Tillie Fowler, US Rep from Florida, and Anita Carpenter, CEO of the Indiana Coalition Against Sexual Assault. The investigation yielded two reports, one of which was the Report of the Panel to Review Sexual Misconduct Allegations at the U.S. Air Force Academy, (September 2003).

** In February 2004 Under Secretary Chu established an eight member (military) Department of Defense Care for Victims of Sexual Assault Task Force; in April this task force issued its report with findings and recommendations entitled Task Force Report on Care for Victims of Sexual Assault (April 2004). (This report also offers a Chronology of its Surveys, Reports and Hearings 1988-2004, which illustrates some of its investigations regarding sexual misconduct in the military. See p. 92-96).



Coalition

'Walk In My Shoes' Raises Awareness

From *Moxie*, newsletter of the South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

More than 100 South Carolina women and men marched in downtown Columbia, SC on April 14 to tell the stories of women and children who have been abused. Each carried a pair of shoes with a victim's story tied to it. The destination, led by the South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA), was the South Carolina state capitol where more than 2,000 pairs of shoes had been placed as a grim picture of the number of victims of sexual violence each year in the state.

"There is no more important month than this month," Sexual Assault Awareness Month, said SC Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter to those who gathered at the capitol steps. Rep. Cobb-Hunter is actively involved in CASA Family Services in her hometown of Orangeburg. "I am so moved and I hope you are moved by the more than 2,000 victims who have walked in these shoes," Cobb-Hunter said. In order to truly start correcting the problem, "ask the face in the mirror what have you done. I ask you to head out to all these rape crisis centers in the state and walk a mile in somebody's shoes by working to end violence."

Dr. Tricia Folds-Bennett, of the Charleston-based Darkness to Light, reminded participants that one in four girls and one in six boys will be abused.

"They will be violated by someone they love, someone they trust, so most children will never tell." Awareness, her group hopes, will lead to change by adult perpetrators and changes in policies and procedures.

To all the advocates in the crowd, gang-rape victim Joanna Katz said, "Please don't stop." There is a power in the personal story, she has learned. It can effect change for thousands. Katz has told her story in a documentary aimed at improving the system for victims. Already millions have seen, "Sentencing the Victim" on public television.

In order to truly start correcting the problem, "ask the face in the mirror what have you done..."

Although she was gang-raped by five men who are now serving time, each offender had a different parole hearing date which meant she and her family had to make a trip from Charleston to Columbia and relive the horror of the experience 14 times in six years. "Prisoners have more rights than the victims," she said.

"That's a lot of shoes!" Katz said when she approached the podium. "It's both amazing and sad." When she left the podium, she was applauded as she took off her shoes and placed them with the other shoes representing victims. SCCADVASA Sexual Assault Coordinator Erica Westmoreland told the group, every time you write a letter to the editor, every time you stop a sexual joke, every time you spread the word, you are breaking the silence about sexual assault. Executive Director Vicki Bourus said of those sexual attackers apprehended, only 30% are arrested, and of those, 21% are never sentenced.

Brett Carney and Amy Coccia provided music and the Rev. Robin Griffeth gave the invocation.

At the end of the program, several dozen participants accepted Bourus' challenge to join her in calling out their representatives to talk to them about the gun bill which was about to come to a vote.



Shoes placed at the state capitol building in Columbia, SC.

Spotlight



Minnesota Native American Girls Retreat

By Eileen Hudon
Anishinabe White Earth
Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition

The Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition (MIWSAC) held their first Annual Girls Retreat on October 21 through 23, 2004. The young women provided the direction and leadership for the retreat. The following quote expresses the sentiment of our coalition in planning the dialogue with young Native women in Minnesota.

"I am Laguna, woman of the lake, daughter of the dawn, sunrise, kurena. I can see the light making the world anew. It is the nature of my blood and heritage to do this. There is surely cause to weep, to grieve, but greater than ugliness, the endurance of tribal beauty is our reason to sing, to greet the coming day and the restored life and hope it brings."

(Paula Gunn Allen, 1992)

It was truly significant that seventeen young women ages, 6 to 17, came to help us in our efforts to create sexual assault public awareness materials. The adults, eight MIWSAC members, two volunteer chaperones, and two volunteer cooks, also MIWSAC members, were there to provide guidance, support, and encouragement. The retreat held at Eagle Lake Camp in Brainerd, Minnesota has been one of the most rewarding experiences since our inception just over two years ago! Six thousand dollars, the proceeds from two performances by an all Native cast of the Vagina Monologues play in Minneapolis and at the Leech Lake Reservation in Spring 2004, enabled us to begin this work.

Our grandmothers didn't have the resources we have today, and in their honor we came together to raise awareness about the violence perpetrated against Native women and children. A fire burned in the fireplace throughout the day, and music played

In studies of sexual victimization among American Indian women, rates have ranges from 12 percent to 49 percent. These high rates are part of the legacy of racism and oppression perpetrated against American Indians, and of the loss of traditional family and cultural practices through forced institutional childrearing in boarding schools and through other attacks on native culture.

(Duran et. al.1998, Hamby, 2000)

when we were working in small groups and in the evening as we tied the quilt and told stories. A Lakota grandma and her daughter sang traditional lullabies to the babies as we worked on the quilt late into the night. Refreshments were always set out and available to nourish us. Sage, a healing and purification medicine, was there for smudging to begin each day and whenever else we needed it. A spirit dish was set out before each meal and each offered tobacco for the spirit plate.

The young women were very creative and productive. Most activities occurred in either small groups or teams of two or three. With a comfortable environment and good food they were able to produce the materials that now will be a gift to our people! In the three days we were together the young women created a quilt, a rap song for a radio PSA, posters, skits, and conducted video interviews with one another. The quilt, each square reflecting messages about ending violence against Native women and girls will be unveiled at the February Women's Action Day held at the Minnesota

State Capitol. The "rap song" will be developed as a radio PSA to be aired during April, National Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The posters cover the walls of the MIWSAC office.

Native American Girls Retreat, Brainerd, MN October 2004.



The young women created their own skits about violence against young Native girls and women using Native puppets and animal puppet's. They developed a PowerPoint presentation of their interview questionnaire and conducted the interviews with one another. We are in the process of editing the footage and have yet to decide its use.

We plan on holding a Young Girls Retreat as an annual event and look forward to their expanding role with MIWSAC. In our recent past Native women were held sacred, today we look to that legacy as we reclaim the sovereignty of Native women. For more information, contact the Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition at 612-722-2666.



Director's Viewpoint

By
Karen Baker, MSW



Karen Baker

As we usher in a new year, the NSVRC is also entering a new phase of development and is enjoying a growth spurt. We were very pleased to learn in August that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) awarded us an additional five-year funding agreement to focus primarily on prevention initiatives. We are especially appreciative of the outpouring of your thoughtful letters of support which demonstrated a broad base of support for the first comprehensive national resource center devoted entirely to sexual violence issues. We are honored to work with all of our partners across the country to strengthen and coordinate our collective efforts to prevent all forms of sexual violence.

In addition to our primary CDC funding, the NSVRC also received several additional grants allowing us to strengthen our outreach and resource identification efforts. Some of our major new projects include funding from the Office for Victims of Crime to develop a Sexual Assault Response Team Toolkit; and a grant from the Office on Violence Against Women to provide additional technical assistance to US Territories. In 2005, the NSVRC is able to devote a full time staff position to sexual assault awareness month and related prevention activities. We are also pleased to renew our subcontract with the VAWnet project; we are currently planning some exciting collaborative ventures with VAWnet and CALCASA's new Prevention Connection project; we are also continuing our emergency contraceptive initiative with MergerWatch.

This year the NSVRC plans to strengthen ongoing collaborative relationships, build new partnerships, hire additional staff, and coordinate large-scale prevention initiatives. We know that our ultimate success in preventing sexual violence requires significant coordination and a lot of hard work by many. Our NSVRC New Year's Resolutions for 2005 towards this goal include:

- Continue to provide excellent customized technical assistance and shorten our response time to requests.
- Expand upon our sexual assault awareness month efforts including developing additional resources and distributing packets earlier in the year.
- Continue issuing two substantive newsletters annually, adding articles featuring prevention initiatives and public health strategies.
- Involve the healthcare community in our efforts to address and prevent sexual violence.
- Identify promising prevention programs and initiatives.
- Coordinate national efforts to prevent sexual violence; including joint planning with other technical assistance providers.
- Work with national, state, territory, tribal and local programs to develop resources and prevention messages for all communities, especially those who have traditionally been underserved.
- Sponsor national meetings and conferences to bring advocates together for planning, coordinating and networking opportunities.

Please let us know how we can support your efforts to address and prevent sexual violence in 2005.

Focus on Prevention

CALCASA Launches *Prevention Connection*

By
Ellen Yin-Wycoff

The California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA) is pleased to announce the launch of a new national project. Through funding from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Prevention Connection - the Violence Against Women Prevention Partnership* will begin in January 2005.

Prevention Connection features an online publicly accessible listserv and multi-disciplinary, online discussion forums to build the capacity of local, state, national, and tribal agencies and organizations to develop, implement, and evaluate effective prevention of violence against women initiatives. Through the use of technology, participants can discuss and receive expert knowledge on emerging issues and comprehensive approaches to preventing domestic violence and sexual assault.

Prevention Connection was designed to increase the dialogue between all individuals and organizations working to prevent violence against women.

From grassroots advocates to public health practitioners, interested persons and organizations can join the listserv and the bi-monthly, online discussion forums.

We are at a critical juncture in our work and must continue to share best practices and resources. These guided, online discussions will feature the latest trends and research including:

- Public health and population-based approaches to prevent violence against women
- Ecological models to prevent violence against women
- Comprehensive solutions to violence against women
- Underlying risk factors for violence against women
- Changing community norms and engaging men and entire communities in the prevention of violence against women

- Multidisciplinary efforts and building community strengths to prevent violence against women
- Changing organizational practice approaches to prevent violence against women
- Local policy development as a tool in the prevention of violence against women

Prevention Connection partners include the California Department of Health Services - EPIC (DHS - EPIC), the Prevention Institute, Communities Against Violence Network (CAVNET), the National Electronic Network on Violence Against Women (VAWnet), and the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC). We encourage interested organizations and individuals to utilize *Prevention Connection* as a way to further enhance their prevention programming while interacting with experts from the public health and anti-violence against women fields.

For more information, contact David Lee, *Prevention Connection* Manager at 916-446-2520 (voice) or 916-446-8802 (TTY) or email him at david@calcasa.org.



Using Art to Break Silence

(Continued from page 3)

In addition to the performance, we designed a workshop series specifically for victim rights advocates, rape crisis centers, and sexual assault state coalitions:

I Love My Body: Sexual Assault, Body Image, and Healing: In this workshop, we use the concepts of SOARS to lead a phototherapy and/or a dance therapy workshop on recovering from sexual assault and building affirming body images.

Healing The Light Within: Coping with Vicarious Trauma: This workshop is specifically designed to help heal the people who work with trauma survivors. We focus on lessening the effects of vicarious trauma and developing healthy coping mechanisms.



Photograph entitled "Fragile," from the SOARS Multimedia Performance, features dancer, Rachel Walker, 2000.

Secondary Victims: Friends, Family Members, and Partners of Survivors: This art therapy workshop, inspired by the experiences of sisters Scheherazade Tillet and Salamishah Tillet creating SOARS, is designed to help partners, family members, friends deal with the anger, guilt, and hurt they may feel.

Sepia Tones: Race, Culture and Sexual Violence: In this workshop we explore how the intersections of violence, race, gender, class, and sexuality impact the healing process.

College Leaders: Working with Students to End Campus Violence.

We have designed this workshop specifically to support and provide additional resources to college anti-violence

organizations. We help students devise their own trainings, recruitment strategies, community outreach and campus education programs.

Moving Outside In: Men in the Movement:

We have designed this workshop to specifically increase the visibility of men and boys who would like to become more involved in or create their own sexual violence prevention programs. This program has several components: to heighten awareness of how race, gender, and sexuality determine how we respond to sexual assault allegations; to help advocates and students develop male volunteer recruitment programs; and to provide specific tools that address male sexual assault victimization and recovery.

The success of SOARS inspired Salamishah and me to create, A Long Walk Home, Inc. (ALWH), a non-profit organization that uses art to document, educate and end violence committed against underserved women and children. We have developed a unique model of violence prevention advocacy that integrates art therapy, social documentary, multimedia, and diversity, to facilitate healing and to address the specific cultural and emotional needs of underserved survivors of violence. Essentially, we use art therapy and social documentary programs to break down barriers that prevent survivors of violence from seeking help.

We have now applied these principles toward public education of sexual violence in three new projects, entitled, Initiations, Snapshots, and Exhale. These projects incorporate sculpture, photography, poetry and oral testimony in various mediums, such as multimedia shows and exhibitions, that help victims of violence and those struggling to cope with HIV/AIDS. These programs can be used in schools and have a particular emphasis on issues of race and sexuality.

As the executive director and a trained clinical therapist, I (Scheherazade) am committed to helping individuals and communities heal from trauma. My goal is not to replace existing social service agencies such as rape crisis centers, but rather to use art to bridge the gap between underserved survivors and traditional resources.

When I (Scheherazade) began photographing Salamishah in 1998, I would never have guessed the impact that her sexual

(Continued on next page)

Article on Sexual Violence Being Developed for JAMA

By

Jacqui C. Williams,

New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault

assault and subsequent recovery process would have on my life. I, not only created SOARS, founded A Long Walk Home, and obtained a Masters in Art Therapy, but gained my voice



SOARS performers after performance at Dartmouth College in 2002.

as both an artist and an activist. Even more importantly, SOARS has increased the visibility of survivors of color in the sexual assault prevention movement, reminding those who feel forgotten that they are, as Salamishah narrates in the SOARS performance, "Still human. Still sane. Still innocent."

For more information on "A Story of A Rape Survivor" (SOARS): visit website at www.alongwalkhome.org, or call 1-877-571-1751 (toll free).



Biographies

Scheherazade Tillet is the co-founder of *A Long Walk Home, Inc.*, and photographer of SOARS. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Child Development and Studio Arts from Tufts University and her Masters in Art Therapy degree from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Scheherazade is currently an art therapist at the YWCA Chicago Rape Crisis Center and freelance photographer in Chicago.

Salamishah Tillet is the co-founder of *A Long Walk Home, Inc.*, and writer of SOARS. She received her Bachelor of Arts in English and African-American Studies from the University of Pennsylvania, her Masters of the Art of Teaching from Brown University, and is a doctoral candidate in American Studies at Harvard University.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) have begun collaborating on a new initiative to raise awareness of sexual violence within the healthcare communities. Entitled **Practicing Prevention: Healthcare and Sexual Violence** This five-year initiative will encourage healthcare professionals to become a positive part raising awareness and ultimately, of preventing sexual violence. The initiative is based on a recognition of the crucial role of healthcare workers in interfacing with public across the life span.

As part of the initiative, an article is being created for submission to *JAMA, Journal of American Medical Association*, to help health providers better understand the overall nature of sexual violence, the need for enhanced prevention screening measures as well as health related sequelae when sexual violence has occurred.

Before the advent of specially trained sexual assault examiners and sexual assault response teams, emergency department staff were tasked to do health assessments, collect evidence and treat acute injuries. Primary providers, mental health providers, dentists, chiropractors and other health providers were not brought into the loop to receive education on the frequency of sexual violence and some specific needs of sexual assault survivors.

The article will be designed to redress this situation and provide much need information; it will include a literature review, possible screening tools to check a patient's history for sexual victimization, recommendations for improved services in providing optimal care for all survivors of sexual assault (past and present) such as making referrals to local resources and prevention measures that can reduce the risk of victimization\or victimizing.

Jenifer Markowitz, ND, RNC, WHNP (see page 15) and I will be authoring the article with assistance from John Nelson, MD, MPH, FACOG, FACPM, President of the American Medical Association (AMA). Our hope is that the article will appear in this April's issue of *JAMA*, to coincide Sexual Assault Awareness Month.



SAAM 2005

SAAM Efforts Focus on Prevention, Respectful Relationships and Begin a Healthcare Initiative

The NSVRC has incorporated a new focus for SAAM 2005. It brings together important elements of a more effective, positive approach to raising awareness and promoting prevention of sexual violence.

With our recent grant award from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the NSVRC renewed and increased its commitment to prevention. The NSVRC plans to direct more of its efforts toward prevention including in planning Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) campaigns. Raising awareness of sexual violence can play a significant role in our ability to prevent it. Additionally some research suggests that promoting positive social norms about respectful behaviors may be an important factor in preventing sexual violence. So in an effort to impact social norms, the NSVRC has as the principle emphasis for its 2005 SAAM campaign: building healthy, respectful relationships!

Incorporating the slogan of the past few years, the NSVRC continues with the imperative "Decide to End Sexual Violence" but now adds, "Build healthy respectful relationships". Together these imperatives offer a positive approach and concrete recognition of the value of respectful relationships.

This year, we also encourage nationwide involvement in awareness activities on April 5, 2005, as "A Day to End Sexual Violence." Of course we hope that awareness activities will occur throughout the month of April, but we particularly encourage activities for April 5th. By having many activities and events occurring on the same day, we know that these efforts will have more national impact.

In January, we will be sending out our annual SAAM packet to assist rape crisis centers, coalitions, agencies and allied organizations. The packet will include ideas for planning events in April to promote awareness and prevention and some of them provide a particular focus on positive

relationships. The packet will also include information on promotional items, and a Compact Disc with poster art.

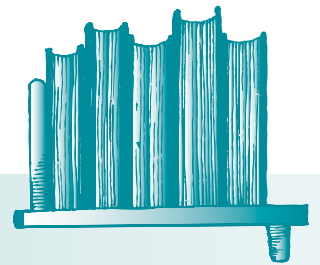
Another very special aspect of raising awareness beginning in 2005 involves an adjunct and complimentary initiative that focuses on the healthcare community. This initiative, entitled, *Practicing Prevention: Healthcare and Sexual Violence*, is a joint effort of the CDC and the NSVRC, and is informed by a prestigious task force of leaders from a variety of healthcare settings. Its goal is to increase the awareness and involvement of health care professionals in recognizing and preventing sexual violence. It is premised on the fact that healthcare professionals have a vital and ongoing relationship to the community, which could assist in preventing sexual violence.

The campaign will focus on the important position and role of healthcare professionals. The NSVRC's SAAM packet will include a notice of this initiative and a fact sheet with particularly relevant facts about sexual violence for healthcare professionals.

The NSVRC recognizes that the *Practicing Prevention* initiative is mutually reinforcing with its overall national SAAM campaign focusing on sexual violence prevention. Because raising awareness of sexual violence presents many challenges and is an ongoing aspect of our work, we are particularly pleased to partner with the CDC on this important initiative to reach and involve those working in healthcare fields.

Your SAAM packet will be arriving soon; be sure to review the event ideas and available products. As always, we encourage you to place your SAAM 2005 events on the SAAM calendar on our website: www.nsvrc.org, and send us your feedback after April.





NSVRC Advisory Council Member Receives Award

Jenifer Markowitz was honored in Chicago IL on October 23, 2004 with the *Distinguished Fellow Award* for her work in advancing the forensic nursing practice. The International Association of Forensic Nurses (IFAN) honored Dr. Markowitz with this award at their recent annual conference.



Dr. Jenifer Markowitz

Markowitz, ND, RNC, WHNP and founder of the DOVE Program (Developing Options for Violent Emergencies) at the Summa Health System in Akron, OH is also author of the *Color Atlas of Domestic Violence* and member of the Advisory Council of the NSVRC. She completed her women's health nurse practitioner certification and clinical doctorate at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. Dr. Markowitz is an Assistant Professor of Nursing at the Bolton School of Nursing, Case Western Reserve University.

The NSVRC staff extends its warm congratulations to Dr. Markowitz on this wonderful award!



From the Book Shelf

Sexualized Violence against Women and Children A Psychology and Law Perspective

Edited by B.J. Cling

This volume examines how some of the more recently identified "psychological syndromes" associated with sexual wrongs perpetrated against women and children, such as rape trauma syndrome, have served as legal causes of action to help and protect victims of sexualized violence. It examines the underlying assumption that the field of psychology and law intersect and interact. A recent review reported that "everyone involved in treating clients who have been physically or sexually abused, or in working with them when litigation occurs, should have a copy of this book on their desk." This book is published by The Guilford Press; www.guilford.com. Price: \$ 38.00.

Not for Sale: Feminists Resisting Prostitution and Pornography

Edited by Christine Stark and Rebecca Whisnant

This collection of essays brings together research, testimony and theory by more than thirty writers and activists from different countries and generations. It connects feminist perspectives of the sex industry with other critiques of racism, poverty, militarism and corporate capitalism. It contributes to ongoing debates of the subject and brings sexual exploitation of women and children into sharper focus. Catharine MacKinnon says "this book collects the least compromised writing on a most crucial problem of our time -- even the bottom line issue of all time." Anyone interested in the considerable impact and normalization of prostitution and pornography in our lives will want to read this book. This book is published by Spinifex Press Pty Ltd, Australia; www.spinifexpress.com.au. Price: \$ 24.95.



The NSVRC maintains a list of "From the Bookshelf" entries on its website: www.nsvrc.org. From the home page, click on *Library*, then under the *Lists* menu select *Special Titles*, and then click on *The Resource - From the Bookshelf*.

SAVE THE DATE!

**National Sexual Assault Conference:
A National Conference on Sexual Violence
Prevention and Intervention**

(formerly the Mid-Atlantic Sexual Assault Conference)

Jointly sponsored by
National Sexual Violence Resource Center • Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape

September 26 – 30, 2005

Sheraton Station Square • Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**Institute for People of Color
Working to End Sexual Violence**

September 26-27, 2005

For more information visit: www.nsvrc.org

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This newsletter is available in large print, text only format on our website: www.nsvrc.org

NSVRC

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A Project of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape

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