

Sexual Violence Prevention E-News

July 11, 2008

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1. Sexual Violence Prevention Network Meeting – Trafficking of American Indian Women and Girls, Bemidji, MN, August 1, 2008

Please come to the next meeting of the: Sexual Violence Prevention Network:

Friday, August 1, 2008, 9:50 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

North Country Regional Hospital, 1300 Anne Street NW, Bemidji, MN 56601 (in the Education Center)

<http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&tab=wl>

<http://www.mapquest.com/maps?city=Bemidji,+&state=MN&address=1300+Anne+Street+NW&zipcode=56601>

Lunch will be provided (no charge)...R.S.V.P. Required (by Wednesday, July 30, 2008)

Contact Amy Kenzie at amy.kenzie@state.mn.us or 651/201-5410

Please note: requests for special accommodations must be made by Tuesday, July 22, 2008.

(Please provide name, telephone number and type of accommodation needed to Amy Kenzie)

Special Topic:

“Trafficking of American Indian Women and Girls”

Presenters:

Suzanne Koeplinger, Executive Director, Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center

Christine Stark, Writer, Poet, Visual Artist and Activist

American Indian females are being disproportionately targeted by traffickers for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation - they are victims of overall sexual violence 3 times as often as other women.

Environmental conditions leading to vulnerability to predators exist on most of America's Indian reservations, and jurisdictional complexities are barriers to reporting and prosecuting sexual assault against American Indian

women. This presentation will offer an overview of the issue of trafficking, what is happening in Minnesota, and a focus on how this issue is impacting American Indian communities.

Agenda:

9:50 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. - Registration

10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. - Welcome, Introductions

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 – Prevention Overview

10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. – Presentation

12:15 p.m. - 12:45 - Lunch and small group discussions

12:45 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. – Prevention Action Activities

1:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. – Resource Sharing, Networking, Wrap up and Evaluations

(Please be sure to bring resources to announce/share)

Anyone interested in or working in the field of sexual violence prevention is WELCOME TO ATTEND.

The SVPN hosts quarterly gatherings to support information sharing, networking and collaboration

Co-hosted by: The Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs

Minnesota Department of Health, Sexual Violence Prevention Program

Special thanks to Cassandra Johnson Blackbird ~~ Executive Director, Sexual Assault Program of Beltrami, Cass and Hubbard Counties ~~ for co-hosting our August program!

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2. Gerald D. Vick Human Trafficking Conference, St. Paul, MN, September 23-24, 2008

The Saint Paul Police Department and the Gerald D. Vick Human Trafficking Task Force in conjunction with the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Minnesota will present a two day conference (September 23-24, 2008) addressing the problem of human trafficking. Domestic and international criminals have made trafficking, smuggling, and sex slavery booming businesses that can reach every community through out our country. Often a hidden crime, this conference will teach attendees how to look beneath the surface to uncover these crimes in hopes of rescuing victims and holding offenders accountable.

This conference will focus on how to recognize the crime of human trafficking in the community and work together to combat the problem. Topics to be covered include:

How to define the crime of human trafficking;

How to identify victims of human trafficking;

What tools and programs are available to help victims of human trafficking;

How to investigate crimes of human trafficking, including the essential use of task forces;
What it takes to prosecute a human trafficking case;
Why community collaboration is essential to address the problem.

The instructors will show why law enforcement and service providers must work together in a victim-centered approach when investigating and combating human trafficking. Attendees will learn how multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional task forces operate and learn from case studies of successful human trafficking investigations.

Keynote speakers include:

Mark Kappelhoff, Section Chief of the Criminal Division, Civil Rights Division, United States Department of Justice

The Honorable Judge John R. Tunheim, United States District Court Judge.

Who should attend: Police chiefs, sheriffs and officers, Tribal police,
Clergy, Federal, State and local prosecutors, Crime victim service providers, Judges,
Medical personnel, Victim advocates, Victim witness coordinators

This conference will be held in downtown St Paul at the St Paul RiverCentre. The \$100.00 registration fee provides lunch and refreshments on both days as well as all course materials and handouts. If you need hotel accommodations, rooms have been blocked under a government discounted rate at a variety of conveniently located hotels. When making reservations, please refer to the "Human Trafficking Conference".

Questions? Call 651-265-6920 or E-mail Meghan Quinn at SPPD-HTconference2008@ci.stpaul.mn.us. Link to: <http://www.stpaul.gov/index.asp?NID=634>

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3. What You Can Do To Prevent Sexual Violence: An Invitation to Join Action Teams

You can take action to prevent sexual violence in Minnesota! Three Action Teams have been formed to begin work on strategies in The Promise of Primary Prevention: A Five-Year Plan To Prevent Sexual Violence and Exploitation in Minnesota. For more information link to the Executive Summary of the plan: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/injury/topic/svp/index.cfm>

To help make a difference, we encourage you to join one or more of the 3 Action Teams:

Data and Research Action Team - This team will identify data sources, compile and organize relevant research, evaluate prevention programs, and share data and research broadly. Co-Facilitators:

* Nicole Matthews nlmatthews@quest.net

* Jennifer O'Brien jennifer.obrien@state.mn.us

(Staffed by: Laura Hutton laura.hutton@state.mn.us, Mark Kinde mark.kinde@state.mn.us)

Framing and Messaging Action Team - This team will develop sexual violence prevention messages and healthy sexuality messages for selected audiences throughout the state. Co-Facilitators:

* Dave Mathews dmathews@mndap.org

* Vacant

(Staffed by: Evelyn Anderson evelyn.anderson@state.mn.us, Amy Kenzie amy.kenzie@state.mn.us)

Policy and Legislation Action Team - This team will recommend legislation and organizational policies and practices to effect change. Co-Facilitators:

* Chuck Derry gvi@frontiernet.net

* Donna Dunn donna@mncasa.org

* Grit Youngquist grit.youngquist@co.ramsey.mn.us

(Staffed by: Lindsay Gullingsrud lindsay@mncasa.org, Patty Wetterling patty.wetterling@state.mn.us

For more information contact amy.kenzie@state.mn.us or see the attached team descriptions!

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4. One of these things is not like the other; one of these things is not the same – Op Ed piece submitted to the Minneapolis Star Tribune

In response to the article: Twin Cities area ready to show naughty side By GAIL ROSENBLUM, Star Tribune, July 8, 2008

(link to: <http://www.startribune.com/lifestyle/family/24040174.html?page=1&c=y>)

Sex toys and smoke shops may be considered “naughty” by some, but buying people for sex must stop here. In the Variety section of Tuesday’s (July 8th) Star Tribune, Gail Rosenbaum kicked off a series of features dubbed “both quirky and practical” on “how the Republican National Convention will affect daily life in the Twin Cities”. However, the reality for victims of prostitution and sex trafficking is hardly quirky or practical.

Prostitution and sex trafficking is a significant problem in Minnesota. It has been estimated that 8,000 to 12,000 people are involved in prostitution in Minnesota every day. New research indicates that the average age of entry is getting younger with the current average age being 12.

Think about that for a moment—twelve years old – 6th grade.

Children coerced into prostitution and sex trafficking stay “in the life” well into adulthood, which exacts a heavy toll on victims and is far from a victim-less crime. Mortality rates for women who have been involved in prostitution are 200 times higher than women of similar age and race who have not been coerced into prostitution. Prostitution causes many health problems including higher rates than the general population of cancer (particularly cervical); chronic disease, pelvic inflammatory disease; traumatic brain injury and more. It

is clear that the cost of prostitution and sex trafficking is high for its victims.

In Minnesota and Colorado, where the Democratic Convention will be held, purchasing people for sex is a crime and therefore “john’s” (purchasers) must be held accountable. Much like former New York Governor Elliot Spitzer, men arrested for soliciting a prostituted person or child are often in marriages or steady relationships, and a smaller percentage of those show significant psychopathology when tested. “john’s” aren’t just being ‘naughty’ --they are committing a crime.

Ms. Rosenbaum is correct when she says, “bad behavior is bipartisan”, that is precisely why a grassroots collaboration of survivors, state government, non profit agencies, and community activists who are committed to ending sexual exploitation, have come together in Minnesota and Colorado to raise awareness about the realities of prostitution and sex trafficking. Our goal is to help ensure safety for victims while holding perpetrators accountable and to challenge national, state, and local policy leaders to join us in preventing prostitution and sex trafficking.

For more information on the Action Network to End Sexual Exploitation in Minnesota go to www.mcbw.org/anesem

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5. New resource from NSVRC – Sexual Violence in Disasters: A Planning Guide for Prevention and Response

Sexual Violence in Disasters: A Planning Guide for Prevention and Response, written by Alisa Klein, offers readers important information about sexual violence and disasters that will help communities to understand the connection and develop better disaster responses. It presents a range of recommendations from suggesting small changes to developing comprehensive plans, making preparations, and coordinating far-reaching policy change. The guide is arranged according to phases of a disaster, and the color-coded phases offer a multitude of things to consider. The ‘Getting Started’ work sheets in the back have been designed to facilitate the process of disaster planning. Link to:

http://www.nsvrc.org/_cms/fileUpload/Projects/NSVRCPUB_SV_Disaster_web.pdf

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6. Calendar

August 1, 2008, Sexual Violence Prevention Network (SVPN). Trafficking of American Indian Women and Girls, Bemidji, MN. For more information link to: www.health.state.mn.us/injury/topic/svp

September 23-24, 2008, Gerald D. Vick Human Trafficking Conference, St. Paul, MN. For more information call 651-265-6920 or E-mail Meghan Quinn at SPPD-HTconference2008@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

November 7, 2008, Sexual Violence Prevention Network (SVPN). For more information link to:
www.health.state.mn.us/injury/topic/svp

November 16-19, 2008, Annual National Meeting on Alcohol and Other Drug and Violence Prevention in Higher Education, St. Paul, MN. Link to: <http://www.higheredcenter.org/natl/2008/abstracts/>

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