

Sexual Violence Prevention E-News

April 11, 2011

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1. April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM)

SAAM Theme: Demand the Change: End Sexual Violence in Minnesota http://www.mncasa.org/prevention_mn
http://www.mncasa.org/prevention_mn.html (link removed)

MNCASA is excited to announce that Governor Mark Dayton is demanding the change by declaring April 2011 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month! April is the month when many communities provide opportunities for individuals to join the movement to demand the change. Join us in the movement to end sexual violence by demanding the change! See below for an event in April 2011 near you! Click here for more information on the 2011 SAAM theme or proclamation signed by Governor Mark Dayton.

For additional information on SAAM, link to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) www.nsvrc.org. Highlights: In an official proclamation, President Obama declared April National Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) in the United States. This year's SAAM theme, "It's time...to get involved" underlines the importance of engaging bystanders, educating your community, and transforming your world. Every person has something to contribute in the effort to end sexual violence. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to share bystander intervention stories, post local events on the National Calendar, discover amazing resources, and have conversations with everyone you know about preventing sexual violence. There have been great additions and updates on the calendar of events so far, and there is still time to post more. Additionally, the NSVRC YouTube Channel offers a unique way to promote SAAM. Please listen to a newly released podcast overview of SAAM in from CDC Director Linda Degutis.

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2. Assuring Access: Meeting the Sexual Health Needs of Homeless Youth, April 14, 2011, Minneapolis, MN

All young people deserve access to quality sexual health information and services. Assuring access looks different, however, when trying to meet the needs of youth on the street. Come hear Bill Smith, Executive Director, National Coalition of STD Directors, Washington, DC, share what's going on in Washington to ensure all young people have access to the information and care they need. Bill will describe policies and practices that either support or hinder access and highlight implications unique to homeless youth. Bill's presentation will be followed by a lively discussion with a panel of Minnesota experts.

Date: Thursday, April 14, 2011

Place: Temple Israel - 324 Emerson Ave. So. Minneapolis 55405

Time: 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

6:00 - Registration and Appetizer Reception

6:45 - Program

8:30 - Dessert Reception

Cost: \$10.00

For questions or to register call: 952-922-7900 or e-mail info@ncjwmppls.org

This event is funded in part by a grant from the Ford Foundation and is sponsored by the National Council of Jewish Women, Minneapolis, in collaboration with a newly formed coalition of providers and advocates. Scholarships are available.

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3. Academy on Violence and Abuse Conference: The Developing Science of Violence and Abuse: Toward a New Understanding, April 14-16, 2011, Minneapolis, MN

Academy on Violence and Abuse Conference: The Developing Science of Violence and Abuse: Toward a New Understanding, April 14-16, 2011, Minneapolis, MN

Speakers include:

Dr. Vincent Felitti of Kaiser Permanente addressing the relationship of Adverse Childhood Experiences to adult health and well being, and Dr. Robert Anda of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention who will talk about the convergence of neurobiology and epidemiology and the importance of Adverse Childhood Experiences to medicine and public health.

Online registration for the conference is available on the AVA website: <http://www.avahealth.org/>

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4. Walk a Mile in Her Shoes, April 16, 2011, Red Wing, MN

Walk a Mile® is a men's march to stop rape, sexual assault, and gender violence. It is a nation wide event that began 10 years ago in Los Angeles and has continued to grow ever since. Walk a Mile in Her Shoes® asks men to literally walk one mile in women's high heeled shoes. It's not easy walking in these shoes, but it's fun and it gets the community to talk about something that's really difficult to talk about: gender relations and sexual violence. Like the saying goes, "You can't really understand another person's experience until you've walked a mile in their shoes."

Time: Saturday, April 16 · 9:30am - 12:00pm

Location: Central Park, Downtown Red Wing, MN

Created By: SARA (formerly, Goodhue Wabasha Sexual Assault Services)

Shoes are provided but please register by April 11th.

Individual walkers: \$25.00

Team (Up to 10 people): \$150.00

To register please call Katherine at 651.388.9360, ext. 15 or email: sara-agency@hotmail.com

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5. Darkness into Light, Walk for Survivors of Sexual Violence, April 17, 2011, St. Paul, MN

Please join us for a celebration of the human spirit! On April 17, 2011 from 12 – 2 p.m., Sexual Offense Services (SOS) in partnership with Hamline University is holding its 4th annual OUT OF DARKNESS INTO LIGHT, Walk for Survivors of Sexual Violence. This year's theme is WE ARE HUMAN! Our guest speaker is Michelle Garnett McKenzie from The Advocates for Human Rights.

Register by Phone: 651.643.3022 or Email: sexual.offense.services@co.ramsey.mn.us

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6. Shine the Light on the Path to Prevent Sexual Violence Candlelight Walk, April 20, 2011, Eagan, MN

Join us for a candlelight walk in remembrance of victims, in support of survivors, and to light the path to a violence-free community.

Date: Wednesday, April 20, 2011

Time: 8:00 pm

Location: 4345 Nicols Road, Eagan, MN 55122

Please bring a candle and a flashlight for back-up, in case of rain or wind.

Sexual Assault Services Hotline 651.405.1500, serving:

- Recent or past survivors of sexual assault or sexual abuse
- Family members or friends of a victim
- Professionals in contact with a victim

- Individuals concerned about personal safety and sexual assault
- Individuals interested in obtaining more information on sexual assault

Formerly known as Community Action Council, 360 Communities is the innovator of changing lives and strengthening communities to a new degree. www.360Communities.org

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7. MOAPPP's 20th Annual Conference, May 5-6, 2011, Brooklyn Center, MN

This year, MOAPPP celebrates 20 years of bringing inspiring and relevant content to the field of youth-serving professionals at its annual conference. On May 5-6, 2011, speakers, workshops and exhibitors will create an atmosphere that supports you in becoming teen-wise – ready to facilitate young people's journey to adulthood. You'll spend two days learning, connecting with others and renewing your commitment to the young people you serve.

The MOAPPP Conference Planning Committee has confirmed three respected and charismatic keynote speakers:

Michael Resnick, PhD, Healthy Youth Development-Prevention Research Center, U of MN, Division of Adolescent Health and Medicine, Dept. of Pediatrics

Michael Resnick has played an important role throughout MOAPPP's history as Advisory Board member and community partner. In celebration of MOAPPP's 20th anniversary, Dr. Resnick will examine the evolution of MOAPPP along with the broader field of adolescent health, and what this tells us about the enduring challenges ahead.

Jessica Yee, Founder and Executive Director, Native Youth Sexual Health Network, Oneida Reservation, WI and Toronto, Ontario

Jessica Yee, a self-described "multiracial Indigenous hip-hop feminist reproductive justice freedom fighter!" brings energy and urgency to the conversation about how to reduce the high rates of teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections and domestic violence among Indigenous youth.

Lateefah Simon, Executive Director, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, San Francisco, CA

Lateefah Simon is a self-taught practitioner, activist and social analyst who has advocated on behalf of communities of color, youth and women since her teenage years. This session highlights the pressing need to create local and national strategies to support young mothers and proposes ways to harness their voice, self-determination and power to move programs and policy forward.

More than 20 workshops, exhibits, MOAPPP's Annual Awards ceremony and a youth performance round out

this remarkable event. Be sure to save the dates and join us at the Earle Brown Heritage Center in Brooklyn Center, MN.

For more information link to: www.moappp.com

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8. SVPN Meeting/Videoconference/Live Webstream: “Demand the Change, Change of Heart”, May 13, 2011

Sexual Violence Prevention Network
Demand the Change, Change of Heart
Friday, May 13, 2011

This SVPN presentation will provide participants an opportunity to learn more about Demand the Change, Change of Heart.

This is a MNCASA prevention initiative designed to mobilize communities and engage broader audiences in actions they can take to make social change. Through previous roundtables and the MN Summit to Prevent Sexual Violence, MNCASA learned the importance of having an answer to the often asked question of “What is the IT? What is it that I/we can do to prevent sexual violence?”

While there is not one simple action nor answer to such questions, people, organizations and communities are able to Demand the Change when they see and hear practices they find offensive or believe feed the demand to treat children, young people and women as sexual objects or commodities that they are entitled to abuse, exploit and violate whether for individual or commercial gain.

Learn about how you can use this campaign and also use the power of stories to focus on solutions and successful action.

Hear more Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) efforts related to this initiative and other tools available to help you advance your prevention efforts.

Presenters:

Cordelia Anderson, M.A., Facilitator, Trainer, Consultant, Sensibilities, Inc.
www.cordeliaanderson.com

Lindsay Gullingsrud, Sexual Violence Prevention Coordinator
Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault
www.mncasa.org

Friday, May 13, 2011, 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Snelling Office Park, 1645 Energy Park Drive, St. Paul, MN

Directions: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/about/sop.html#location>
and videoconference sites around the state (link here for locations:
<https://survey.vovici.com/se.ashx?s=56206EE354A18ECD>)

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED for all locations and for live webstream, link to:
<https://survey.vovici.com/se.ashx?s=56206EE354A18ECD>

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
Friday, April 29, 2011

Questions? Contact doug.palmer@state.mn.us

This is a brown bag/bring your own lunch & beverage event

AGENDA:

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. – Registration and Networking

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Presentation (videoconferenced portion of meeting)

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

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9. Demand Change Project and Victory Concert, May 13-14, 2011, St. Paul, MN

A Groundbreaking 2-day International Anti-Human Trafficking Event
Produced by Breaking Free & MATTOO

The first ever, first annual Demand Change Project is a groundbreaking event for the purpose of educating and engaging men to decrease the demand for commercial sex and unite the women's and men's anti-human trafficking movements, to come together as a united front against the selling of human beings.

The weekend will include an Abolitionist Seminar (where Melissa Farley will be speaking), a VIP launch party with leading national and international abolitionists, panel discussions with survivors and public officials/law enforcement, a men's march/walk at the Capital with MATTOO, a women's marketplace and rally to greet the men on the march, and for the finale – the Breaking Free Benefit Victory Concert with Nicole C. Mullen.

For more information contact Heather Caillier at 612-644-7043

<http://breakingfree.net/>

<http://www.demandchangeproject.org/home.html>

10. An Evening for the Children, May 20, 2011, Brooklyn Park, MN

Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota is holding "An Evening for the Children" with silent and live auctions at the Earle Brown Heritage Center in Brooklyn Park. The evening will include dinner, keynote speaker, musical entertainment with the Nick Haas Trio and "shake your tail feathers" dancing with the Just Friends Big Band. Our goal is to have more than 200 people in attendance and raise more than \$40,000.

Please join us for a fun and fabulous evening.

Friday, May 20, 2011 at 5:30 PM

Earle Brown Heritage Center

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10. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD), June 15, 2011

Mark your calendar for June 15, 2011 and watch for upcoming events from the Minnesota Network on Abuse in Later Life (MNALL) www.mnall.org (link removed) and on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Minnesota-Network-on-Abuse-in-Later-Life-MNALL/189300741113814>

(please become a "fan" of this page and share with others on Facebook)

Additionally:

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Critical Relationships for a Multidisciplinary Toolbox, June 15, 2011, St. Paul, MN

Throughout the world, abuse and neglect of elders and vulnerable adults is largely under-recognized or treated as an unspoken problem. June 15, 2011 is the sixth anniversary of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD). Join us for this free event to foster global recognition of elder and vulnerable adult abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation. Don't forget to wear purple!

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

7:30am – 8:15am Registration

8:15am – 5:00pm Event

Lunch is on your own. Maps of options nearby will be available.

WHERE: William Mitchell College of Law, Auditorium (Second Floor) 875 Summit Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55105. Parking is free in the William Mitchell lot and on surrounding streets.

To register link to: <http://survey.dhs.state.mn.us/surveylogin.asp?k=130028321849> (link removed)

Registration will be closed when we reach 250 attendees or on May 15, 2011, whichever occurs first. An email confirmation will be sent after your registration has been processed. If you have any questions or problems with registration, please contact: Jennifer Kirchen (jennifer.kirchen@state.mn.us) or Kevin Hansen (kevin.hansen@state.mn.us).

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11. Summer Institute in Adolescent Health – Rising Above Risk: Promoting Resilience in Changing Times, July 25-27, 2011, St. Paul, MN

Change – the one word that perhaps best epitomizes adolescence. Changing bodies, changing schools, changing friends... but for young people today, unstable social conditions and economic turmoil magnify the typical transitions of adolescence. Tough economic realities have affected many families – creating the need to find new jobs and perhaps to move to new cities or towns, temporary housing, or even homeless shelters. And many of our young people face great risk and vulnerabilities far beyond the norm – those in child welfare and juvenile justice systems, recently immigrated and refugee youth, young people with chronic illness and disability, to name a few. Changing times create demands and challenges for any person of any age but especially for adolescents. So, perhaps now, more than ever, young people need to tap their innate resilience – to have the capacity to bounce back, even from substantial vulnerabilities and risk. They need an array of internal strengths and external supports – core protective factors that help young people beat the odds and rise above risk. What helps young people thrive in these times of change? During the 2011 Summer Institute in Adolescent Health, visit settings that are successfully supporting adolescents in times of change. Talk with young people and their program leaders along with health service providers who have walked the talk of resilience and youth development in creative and surprising ways. Learn strategies for assuring supportive environments, sustaining relationships, and creating seamless services. Gather resources and gain new skills in effectively communicating these ideas to others.

Who Should Attend? All who work with young people – teachers, coaches, and administrators; nurses, physicians, nutritionists, psychologists, social workers, counselors, and youth workers; religious leaders and policy makers.

Location

Minnesota Department of Health, Snelling Office Park
1645 Energy Park Drive, St. Paul, MN 55108
Link to www.health.state.mn.us/about/sop.html for directions.

Questions:

Call Jenna: 612-626-0606 or e-mail at baum0272@umn.edu

For more information link to: http://www.nursing.umn.edu/Adolescent_Nursing/Continuing_Education/home.html
http://www.nursing.umn.edu/Adolescent_Nursing/Continuing_Education/home.html (link removed) -

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12. Free On-Line Violence Prevention Course!

Each year, more than 53,000 people lose their lives to violence. In addition to the tremendous physical and emotional toll, violence has substantial medical and lost productivity costs. In 2000, these totaled more than \$70 billion in the United States. The figure grows when we add criminal justice system costs, social services, and other expenses.

As Dr. Rodney Hammond, Director of CDC's Division of Violence Prevention, says, "Violence isn't something that just happens that you can't do anything about. It can be prevented."

One way CDC is helping the nation prevent violence is a free on-line course that's available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It's called Principles of Prevention. The course—which offers continuing education credits—teaches key concepts of primary prevention, the public health approach, and the social-ecological model. Participants complete interactive exercises to learn to help prevent five types of violence:

- Child abuse and neglect
- Intimate partner violence
- Sexual violence
- Suicide
- Youth violence

The course is designed for those working to stop violence from ever happening. It helps professionals move from the problem to the solution. This course teaches the fundamentals of effective violence prevention methods and incorporates the growing body of research on what works.

The Principles of Prevention course includes:

- Interviews with leading experts in the field
- Dynamic graphics

Interactive exercises

Compelling storytelling that makes the case for violence prevention

The course is available at www.vetoviolence.org/pop. For additional information on Principles of Prevention, contact Jennifer Middlebrooks (jod5@cdc.gov).

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13. Supreme Court ruling in Ramsey County case may limit consensual sex claims in rape cases. Justices strike ban on victim-behavior testimony in trials

St. Paul Pioneer Press Article: Supreme Court ruling in Ramsey County case may limit consensual sex claims in rape cases. Justices strike ban on victim-behavior testimony in trials

By Richard Chin

Updated: 03/24/2011 11:22:23 PM CDT

A ruling by the Minnesota Supreme Court in a Ramsey County case may make it easier to convict defendants accused of rape who argue that the sex was consensual.

The high court said, in a ruling issued Thursday, that courts may consider testimony from expert witnesses on the typical behavior of sexual assault victims, which could include delayed reporting of the offense, lack of physical injuries and submissive conduct.

The court said similar expert testimony is allowed in cases involving battered women syndrome and sexual assaults against children and adolescents.

But only Minnesota and Pennsylvania have prohibited expert witnesses on "counterintuitive behaviors" of adult victims of sexual assault, the court said.

Thursday's ruling centered on a previous 1982 state Supreme Court decision that has been largely applied by district courts as "a blanket prohibition against the admission of expert testimony on typical rape-victim behaviors in adult criminal sexual conduct cases."

The court said, an overall ban on expert testimony on rape victim behavior is incorrect. The 1982 ruling does prohibit expert testimony on an untested concept called "rape trauma syndrome," according to the court.

But according to the court, "rape myths and counterintuitive rape-victim behaviors" have been studied by social scientists and can be presented at a trial by expert witnesses, provided that district judges find that the witnesses are qualified experts and the testimony would be helpful to the jury.

Writing for the five-justice majority, Justice Christopher Dietzen said research "demonstrates that many jurors may wrongly believe that most sexual-assault victims will forcefully resist their assailant, suffer severe physical injuries - including vaginal injuries - and immediately report the attack. But social science contradicts these misconceptions about how victims actually respond to sexual assault."

Thursday's ruling was the result of an appeal by the Ramsey County attorney's office involving a man named Nathan Obeta, who was convicted of first- and second-degree criminal sexual conduct in a 2007 incident in St. Paul. Obeta argued that the incident involved consensual sex.

The Minnesota Court of Appeals reversed the conviction, partly because the district court allowed expert testimony on typical rape victim behavior.

When Ramsey County prosecutors sought to retry Obeta, they again attempted to introduce expert testimony on rape myths and rape-victim behaviors. But the trial judge disallowed the testimony.

So the county attorney's office appealed the decision to the state Supreme Court.

Renee Bergeron, Obeta's lawyer for the appeal, said she believes prosecutors were looking for a test case to challenge the prohibition on expert testimony on rape-victim behaviors. Bergeron argued against the expert testimony, saying it didn't have a critical impact on the Obeta case and testimony about delayed reporting and lack of injury of rape victims didn't apply to the Obeta case.

Two justices, David Stras and Alan Page, dissented from the majority ruling that the expert testimony could be considered.

In his dissent, Stras said exclusion of the expert testimony would not have had a critical impact on the prosecution of Obeta, so the Supreme Court should not have ruled on it.

Ramsey County Attorney John Choi called the ruling "a very significant decision" that could affect how prosecutors and juries consider rape cases.

"It helps us educate the jury appropriately," he said.

Choi said his office would proceed with the retrial of Obeta.

Obeta was booked into the Ramsey County Jail on Thursday in a different case. St. Paul police arrested him on suspicion of two counts of possession of a controlled substance and a sex offender registration violation.

Mara Gottfried contributed to this report.

http://www.mncourts.gov/Documents/0/Public/Clerks_Office/OPA101349-0324.pdf

14. Minnesota Author, Christine Stark

"Momma's Song," written by Christine Stark, is an epic poem about a child who witnesses her father murder her mother with connections to the murder of indigenous women throughout the centuries. It is now available as part of a CD/manga project which includes SHE-WOLF ASSASSIN AT ARMAGEDDON!, a martial arts/manga-opera by Fred Ho and Ruth Margraff. Illustrations by Mac McGill; music by Fred Ho.

For more information link to www.christinestark.com

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15. Funding Opportunities

The latest VAWnet funding alert – 3/31/11, Volume 6, Issue 8 - is available on-line:

http://www.vawnet.org/Assoc_Files_VAWnet/FundingAlert-V6N8.pdf

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16. Calendar

Note...For additional events (to attend or promote) link to the MN Center Against Violence and Abuse (MINCAVA) electronic clearinghouse (a great resource for MN events, articles, and more!) For another excellent resource, link to the Advocates for Human Rights Calendar

* 2011 International Conference on Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence and Stalking, April 11-13, 2011, Chicago, IL. For more information link to: <http://www.evawintl.org/conferencedetail.aspx?confid=9>

* 15th Annual Minnesota Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (MnATSA) Conference, April 13-15, 2011, Brooklyn Park, MN. For information link to www.mnatsa.org

* Assuring Access: Meeting the Sexual Health Needs of Homeless Youth, April 14, 2011, Minneapolis, MN. For more information call 952-922-7900 or e-mail info@ncjwmpls.org

* Academy on Violence and Abuse Conference: The Developing Science of Violence and Abuse: Toward a New Understanding, April 14-16, 2011, Minneapolis, MN. For more information link to: <http://www.avahealth.org/>

* Walk a Mile in Her Shoes, April 16, 2011, Red Wing, MN. For More information call 651-388-9360, ext. 15

or e-mail sara-agency@hotmail.com

* Darkness into Light, Walk for Survivors of Sexual Violence, April 17, 2011, St. Paul, MN. For more information call 651.643.3022 or Email: sexual.offense.services@co.ramsey.mn.us

* Shine the Light on the Path to Prevent Sexual Violence Candlelight Walk, April 20, 2011, Eagan, MN. For more information link to www.360Communities.org

* 9th Annual Feast of Giving for Children to support the Family Enhancement Center, April 30, 2011, Minneapolis, MN. For more information contact the Family Enhancement Center, 612.827.3028.

* MOAPPP's 20th Annual Conference, May 5-6, 2011, Brooklyn Center, MN. For more information link to: www.moappp.com

* Sexual Violence Prevention Network (SVPN) Meeting/Videoconference/Live Webstream: "Demand the Change, Change of Heart", May 13, 2011, St. Paul, MN. For information contact: Amy Kenzie

* Demand Change Project and Victory Concert, May 13-14, 2011, St. Paul, MN. For more information contact Heather Caillier at 612-644-7043. <http://breakingfree.net/> <http://www.demandchangeproject.org/home.html>

* An Evening for the Children, May 20, 2011, Brooklyn Park, MN. For more information link to: http://www.pcammn.org/temp_01.php?PK=71 (link removed)

* Annual OJP Conference on Crime and Victimization, May 25-27, 2011, Brainerd, MN. Link to Annual OJP Conference on Crime and Victimization, May 25-27, 2011, Brainerd, MN

* World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD), June 15, 2011. For information link to: www.mnall.org , <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Minnesota-Network-on-Abuse-in-Later-Life-MNALL/189300741113814> , and <http://survey.dhs.state.mn.us/surveylogin.asp?k=130028321849> (link removed)

* Summer Institute in Adolescent Health – Rising Above Risk: Promoting Resilience in Changing Times, July 25-27, 2011, St. Paul, MN. For more information link to:

http://www.nursing.umn.edu/Adolescent_Nursing/Continuing_Education/home.html (link removed)

Mark your calendar for 2011 SVPN meetings:

May 13, 2011, Sexual Violence Prevention Network (SVPN). For information contact: Amy Kenzie

August 12, 2011, Sexual Violence Prevention Network (SVPN). For information contact: Amy Kenzie

November 4, 2011, Sexual Violence Prevention Network (SVPN). For information contact: Amy Kenzie

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www.health.state.mn.us/injury/topic/svp

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