



Sounds of Survival

Sexual Assault Program of Beltrami, Cass & Hubbard Counties

Trafficking of American Indian Girls and Women in Minnesota

The Sexual Violence Prevention Network (SVPN) chose Bemidji as the location to host their August 2008 quarterly meeting. The topic of trafficking of American Indian women, a problem with a long history that is finally gaining some attention, attracted strong and diverse attendance. With Bemidji's proximity to and strong influence from the Red Lake, Leech Lake and White Earth Reservations, the words of Suzanne Koepplinger (Executive Director of the Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center) and Christine Stark (Writer, Poet, Visual Artist and Activist) really hit home.

A Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs report showed an estimated 15,00—17,000 men, women and children are trafficked into the country each year. However, this estimate does not include domestic trafficking and therefore excludes the number of Native children being lured away from reservations, or runaways trafficked from the Mall of America to Las Vegas. It is expected that the actual numbers of people being trafficked are much, much higher.

Minneapolis/St. Paul serves as one of the nation's 13 worst cities for international trafficking. Russian and South East Asian Gangs have a strong presence in Minnesota. We are a transit hub close to an international border, and we have many areas of poverty (especially on the reservations). These factors help aid "pimps" and "johns" in finding their victims and trafficking them with ease.

Trafficking and prostitution go hand in hand. MN Statute defines Sex Trafficking as "receiving, recruiting, enticing, harboring, providing, or obtaining by any means an individual to aid in the prostitution of the individual". Unfortunately for the victims of trafficking, prostitution is illegal and many victims will end up being arrested. Statistics from 2002 show that only 34% of prostitution arrests made were male customers. That means that the other 66% were the female victims, some of these only children as the average age of entry into prostitution is 12. Of the victims of prostitution arrested in Minneapolis, a disproportional large percentage of them are American Indian women.

The reality of the trafficking problem in Minnesota is still greatly unknown. It is estimated that nearly 70% of sexual assaults against American Indian women go unreported. In order to take the proper steps to help victims of sex trafficking, there needs to be more data collected. Unfortunately the funding is just not available to collect this information in a sensitive and culturally appropriate manner.

So what can you do about it? Advocate for more funding for research of vulnerable populations, raise awareness of the problem, and contact your policy makers.



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SAP holds first COW PIE BINGO with a little help from our friends!

SAP held the first annual Cow Pie Bingo at the Beltrami County Fair. SAP staff, board members, and many others all helped to sell tickets at \$5.00 each. A cow was donated for the cause by Rachel Koch and her son Jake, which was released into the pen at 4:00 pm. We gave the cow 30 minutes to make a pie, but fortunately we only had to wait a minute! The Honorable Judge Shari Schluchter, Sheriff Phil Hodapp and Marc Bloomquist from the DOC served as our line judges. The “pie” fortunately did fall predominately on one square so measuring the volume was not necessary! The lucky square was sold to Maribeth Crowell of Benedict, MN. The grand prize was determined as 15% of our ticket sales. SAP wanted a few more participants to win something so the line judges randomly drew 2 more tickets. Tammy Waldhausen of Bemidji won a \$25 visa gift card, and Barry Mayer of San Ramon, CA won a SAP t-shirt. We want to thank everyone who sold tickets, purchased tickets, advertised the event, our distinguished judges, and the great folks at the Beltrami County Fair. Without any of you the fundraiser would not have been successful. SAP is planning to do Cow Pie Bingo again next year! So watch for it and buy your ticket early!



Someone Special Volunteer Program

The Someone Special Volunteer Program is in its 15th year. The program offers Bemidji area organizations, companies, schools, government and non-profits a way to recognize and show appreciation to the volunteer who significantly contribute to their organization. This years nominations from SAPBCHC were: Beka Majava and Lisa Sandretzkey. Lisa has been our volunteer for 5 years. Lisa is a great asset to our agency. She volunteers on the crisis line, is prepared to go the hospital and regularly meets with people one-on-one. Beka has only been our volunteer for a year, but she has already made a great impact on our agency. She organized the 5k walk/run fundraiser while doing her other volunteer duties and holding down a job as well as going to school.

SAPBCHC would like to thank Lisa and Beka for everything they have contributed and thank all the sponsors of the Someone Special Volunteer Program (Ken K Thompson Jewelry, KB 101, the Bemidji Pioneer, and the United Way) for their help in recognizing our special volunteers. Lisa and Beka were recognized with the Someone Special Volunteer award in July and received the following:

- An engraved personalized plaque from Ken K. Thompson Jewelry
- Recognition on the KB101 “Morning Show” with Todd and Marty
- An Article and picture in the Sunday “Living” section of the Bemidji Pioneer
- Recognition on the United Way of Bemidji Web Site



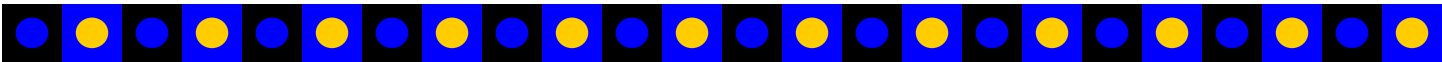
Board member Alicia Wagner at the Dianne Honer Memorial Craft Fair in Walker

Women’s Support Group

The Sexual Assault Program of Beltrami, Cass and Hubbard Counties will be starting a 12 week women’s support group for survivors of sexual violence in September.

The support group is free and confidential and will be held in Cass County.

Please Call 444-9522 or 1-800-708-2727 for time, date and location. Deadline to register is August 25th.



Minnesota Men's Action Network

Many men in our community have asked what more they can do to help stop violence against women. The Minnesota Men's Action Network (MNMN), is beginning to organize men in communities around the state to work proactively to stop violence against women. MNMAN believes there is a powerful message sent when a man who is not in a position of authority confronts another man about their violent language and/or behavior. MNMAN'S plan of action has 4 components they hope to achieve:

1. Organize a diverse network of 500 MN men who will initiate local and statewide action to prevent sexual and domestic violence.
2. Work with identified communities to develop local sexual/domestic violence prevention activities.
3. Offer presentations, training, and organizational work shops throughout the state.
4. Develop web based information, resource links, and statewide networking opportunities.

For more info and to sign up go to: www.menaspeacemakers.org/prgrams/



It's County Fair Season in Minnesota!



Sexual Assault Program and Headwaters Intervention Center partnered on an informational booth at the Hubbard County fair. SAP offered door prizes and gave away a \$25 Visa gift card and four SAP T-shirts. Thanks to everyone at HIC, Alicia Wagner, and SAP staff who staffed the booth! In addition to Cow Pie Bingo, SAP again partnered with Community Resource Connections' informational booth at the Beltrami County Fair.

SAP says Good-bye to two staff people in July

The Sexual Assault Program bid a fond farewell to two valuable staff persons in July. The Community Outreach Coordinator position suffered great loss as Jolene Engleking decided to further her education. We were happy to accept Esther Connor to the position. A very short time later, Esther resigned from the position due to family medical issues. We wish Jolene all the luck in the world with her schooling, and we are thinking of Esther and her quest for health.

B-SMART CORNER

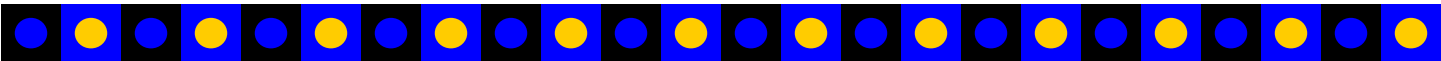
The B-SMART has undergone some major changes the past few months! We have a new site coordinator, Kate Hadrava, who is leading the team into the protocol writing step of our 8 step process. With the help of MNCASA and Sexual Violence Justice Institute, the B-SMART underwent a detailed training on how to write a victim centered protocol on June 19th. With the completed Community Needs Assessment report and this training the team feels we are ready to begin writing! We have decided that the agencies on the team who already have a sexual violence protocol in place will take turns presenting it to the team. At this point we are able to suggest changes that are needed to make it truly victim centered, and at the same time the B-SMART members are being trained on what the other agencies responsibilities are in a sexual assault case. Next the protocol will be given to the editing team who will make the final changes and make sure that all the protocols are written in the same format. When all the agencies have presented their protocol, the end product should be one easy to follow protocol for all agencies to use as a guideline on how to best support the victim when working a sexual assault case.



Sexual Assault Program of Beltrami, Cass & Hubbard Counties

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Mark Your Calendar

September 2008

- **Saturday, September 6th** ~Women's Expo, John Glas Fieldhouse- BSU
- **Saturday, September 17th** ~United Way Chili Cook-off, Paul Bunyan Mall
- **Thursday & Friday, September 18th & 19th** ~ MNCASA Annual meeting: Influencing Community and Policy; Organizing as Leaders, Otsego, MN
- **Tuesday & Wednesday, September 23rd & 24th** ~ 2008 Human Trafficking Conference, River Center St. Paul, MN

November 2008

- Sexual Assault Program Annual Meeting, location and date TBA

April 2009 ~SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

- **Thursday & Friday, April 2 & 3** ~ Breaking the Silence Conference, AIRC on the BSU Campus

WISH LIST

- ◆ White & colored copy paper
 - ◆ AAA & AA batteries
- ◆ Postage stamps (.42, .18, & .80)
 - ◆ Kleenex & Paper Towels
 - ◆ "Courage to Heal" books & workbooks
- ◆ Kitchen-sized garbage bags
 - ◆ White Noise Machine
 - ◆ Paper folding machine
- ◆ "Gifts" that we may give to volunteers & as door prizes
 - ◆ Manila File folders
- ◆ Ink Cartridges (HP 15, 17, 93, 96, 97, 98, Q6000, Q6001A, Q6002A, Q6003A)
- ◆ Journals (bound, blank) for client use
 - ◆ Vacuum Cleaner