

Perspectives

The South Dakota Network Against Family Violence and Sexual Assault

Vol. 10, No. 3 DECEMBER 2008 listening, understanding differences, building partnerships

Economy Impacts Rural Victim Services

By Shana Flakus

Executive Director of the Winner Resource Center for Families

Economic downturn, recession, etc., no matter what you call it, we are in the middle of it. For several weeks the media touted that South Dakota was not feeling the full effects of the economic downturn, but for residents in rural South Dakota the effects were felt immediately when gas hit \$4.00 a gallon. The high gas prices started a domino effect followed by a sharp increase in grocery prices, utility rates, heating oil and record stock market losses. Most families can cope with an increase in one area or another, but the enormity of this crisis dramatically strained family finances and, in turn, took a toll on family relationships.

So what does this mean to us? Families with a history of relationship problems are reporting more episodes of domestic violence. Victim's state the frequency and severity of the abuse has increased. Domestic violence shelters and victim's services agencies have seen an increase in victims seeking shelter and assistance this year. We expect the number of victims to continue to rise throughout the year and well into 2009.

In 2008, the U.S. Congress authorized budget cuts to the Victim's of Crime Act (VOCA) fund, a major grant source for shelters and victim services agencies. These are not our tax dollars I am referring to. The VOCA grant is funded by fines paid by convicted criminals and designated to assist crime victims.

This round of budget cuts left our agency and other shelters scrambling to cut their budgets further, seek alternative grant sources, increase their fundraising efforts and tap into their community resources to continue operating for the year. On the other side of the coin, foundations who offer grant awards are not tak-

ing grant requests due to the severity of the losses they have incurred on their fund's investment in the stock market. In essence, we're in crisis mode.

In South Dakota, shelters have minimal staff, provide no or very little employee benefits and have conservative operating budgets. Shelters in the rural areas do not have access to corporate sponsors, foundations, etc. Instead, we rely on faith-based organizations, local businesses and the kindness of community members and organizations for donations. Given the current state of our economy, this has meant a decrease in donations and fundraisers. We continue to seek out alternate grant sources, but for rural agencies, we don't have the statistics or a designated shelter site that grant makers want or require in grant applications.

As of this writing, there is talk of possibly more cuts to the VOCA fund. If that happens, rural shelters will most likely close; shelters in larger areas will struggle to provide services and shelter to more victims without an increase in staff or funding. As a victims' advocate, this is a far worse scenario for the victims.

Our Mission Statement
*Working Together to
Promote
Victim Rights for a
Safer South Dakota*

2009 Legislative Session Preview

The 2009 Legislative Session begins on January 13, 2009 and concludes on March 13, 2009 with Veto Day scheduled for March 30, 2009. The SD Network Legislative agenda is still being worked on as some things were delayed by the election and we continue to work on resolving some issues through other means.

There will be many new faces in the South Dakota Legislature in both the Senate and the House due to retirements/term limits and people switching from both houses. Leadership in the Senate will remain much the same with Majority Leader David Knudson and Ass't Majority Leader Tom Dempster, both from Sioux Falls; Minority Leader Scott Heidepriem from Sioux Falls, Ass't Minority Leader Gary Hanson from Sisseton, and Bob Gray from Pierre serving as President Pro Tempore of the Senate. Leadership in the House is Majority Leader Bob Faehn from Watertown, Ass't Majority Leader Kristi Noem from Castlewood, Minority Leader Bernie Hunhoff from Yankton, Ass't Minority Leader Paul Dennert from Columbia and Speaker Tim Rave from Baltic. Some new faces will assume the whip positions.

For the 2009 Legislative Session, we will propose a task force to look at all the laws on protection orders, stalking orders, etc. These issues come up every year and various laws are scattered throughout the code. There needs to be a codifying and clean-up of these issues into one section of the code so they are more easily understood and can be accessed more readily.

Another bill involves 25-10-38 Report of Domestic Abuse Arrest Forwarded to Prosecutor. This requires a victim to request the report but the issue is that the victim doesn't realize he/she has to request it. We are going to ask that this report be sent automatically.

We need to discuss the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) regulations with the Dept. of Social Services. We believe they may be bringing in some changes and we need to protect the STOP Violence against Women grants.

Other issues we are looking at involve more of training and education than legislative action. We will keep you updated once we have an opportunity to gather more information and discuss with the various groups as to how to proceed. One such issue involves 25-4-45.5 involving domestic violence when custody issues exist. Another issue is the in 25-10-3 regarding conditional bonds and the no contact part of the bond. We need to clarify this as far as custody contact issue. We also will be working with the Unified Judicial System as we expect they will propose some legislation concerning domestic violence. We will then evaluate the Network position to best advocate for the victims.

Most of the legislative work during the session will center on budget concerns, money for education funding, highway funding, and meeting federal requirements for match dollars for federal programs. The difficult economy will cause the budget problems to take front stage.

Once again a weekly legislative report will be sent to Krista to distribute to all member agencies so you can keep updated on activities. You need to stay involved by contacting/meeting your legislators, scheduling a tour of your agency, and keeping them updated on your needs in your local area. Mark your calendar for Network Board Meeting in Pierre on January 20 and 21, 2009.

Have a blessed and wonderful Holiday Season. Take time to count your blessings and enjoy those around you.



Liz
Krista
Glad

Happy Holidays
from
The Network

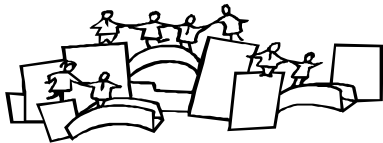
Lora
Holly
Verzella



Domestic Violence Network Madison, SD

Lois Niedert, Chairman

The Domestic Violence Network has been organized in Madison, SD. In August, we were notified that the House of Hope had been sold, and would no longer be offering services. A group of concerned citizens organized to ensure help was available in our community. Since August, we formed a board of directors, had a successful fundraiser, incorporated, and are now in the process of getting our 501c3 status. Although we don't have a house, we have partnered with the Wholeness Center in Flandreau, and are tentatively sharing services. Our goal is to obtain our non-profit status so we can actively write grants and eventually have paid staff and funds to educate and assist those in need .



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!

**Black Hills
Counseling Services
Spearfish**

**Colorado Technical
Institute
Sioux Falls**

**Domestic Violence Network
Madison**

**Family Visitation Center
Sioux Falls**

**We are excited that you are a part of
The Network and look forward to
working and partnering with you.**

Family Violence Project

The Compass Center, Sioux Falls

“Why didn’t you teach me this, when I was in school?” one man asked, after completing the Family Violence Project (FVP) at The Compass Center. He was 40 some years old, and he had experienced more turmoil in his life than the one domestic violence incident which led to his enrolling in FVP. He went on to explain how what he had learned and experienced had positively affected his life, acknowledging the trouble he had had for years, and wishing that he had learned some of these things long ago.

Men often come to The Compass Center thinking of anger management, most with some degree of awareness of needing to learn how to control their anger. But very few of them after completing the program identify that as the primary benefit. Seldom is an act of domestic violence simply an anger problem, but rather it is an intentional use of power designed to exert control over another person. All behavior has an intended outcome. We do things to get something, based on what we want or need; fueled by our thoughts about the way things should be and how people should relate to us. So along with learning how to deal with anger, we try to help men discover the other factors that lead to the use of power and control in their relationships. When people begin to really look at their abusive behavior, their beliefs or thinking that supports that behavior, the expected outcome versus the real effects the abuse has on their partner and others, there is the beginning of self understanding, and an opportunity to relate differently. One man told me his biggest surprise in group was, “Nobody told me what to do, but they helped me learn how to figure it out myself.”

Non-violence is not simply the absence of violent acts. Non-violence is the presence of partnership, fairness, respect, trust and personal accountability. Those are the things that men identify as making the biggest difference in their life. These are the things that men learn about in the Family Violence Project and what they hopefully will carry with them into all their relationships.



First Circuit CASA

Program History

Brenda Schulte, Program Director

First Circuit CASA (FCCASA) began development in September of 2000 with a "Steering Committee" consisting of members from the Davison County Child Protection Team. In November of 2001, the first Director was hired on a part-time basis and in May of 2002, we were assigned our first case. Since that time, FCCASA has grown in the number of cases we are assigned as well as in the public eye. We serve children ranging in age from birth to 18 and represent all races, religions, sexes, and socio-economic classes. The First Circuit CASA program serves 5 counties within the First Judicial Circuit: Aurora, Davison, Douglas, Hanson and McCook which are also the same counties the local Child Protection Services covers.

FCCASA seeks to promote and protect the best interests of abused and neglected children involved in court proceedings through the efforts of trained volunteers, who are advocating that the children be placed in a safe, nurturing, and permanent environment in which to thrive. The driving force and the sole purpose of our program is the imminent safety and welfare of the abused and neglected children involved in the court system. FCCASA regularly recruits, screens, and trains community volunteers who are then appointed by Circuit Court Judges to represent a child. The advocate, who thoroughly researches and monitors his case, represents the child's wishes and desires in the courtroom through a detailed report given directly to the judge.

CASA volunteers help conserve valuable resources by assisting court appointed attorneys with their duties, thereby reducing the cost to the tax payers. Even more importantly, it has been documented that children who have a CASA volunteer advocate spend less time in the foster care system than those who do not have representation by a CASA advocate. Without the help of a CASA representative, some of the victims may not move out of foster care or detrimental environments, creating a cycle of dependence on the social care system. Our ultimate goal would be that we are able to advocate on behalf of 100% of the abused and neglected children in our jurisdiction. However, due to a shortage of CASA volunteer advocates, many children are currently without representation in the court system.

If your heart is leading you to become a CASA advocate, please contact the SD CASA Association at 605-692-2277 or visit the SD CASA web site at: sdcasa.org for information on a CASA program near you.

Domestic Violence does not stay at home. It follows victims to work.

This is how domestic violence affects business:

- ◆ **1 in 5 employed adults are victims of domestic violence**
- ◆ **Nearly \$6 billion in healthcare expenses and lost productivity every year**
- ◆ **8 million paid work days lost annually**

Reported by *SafeWork*, at safehorizon.org

JANUARY 2009 IS STALKING AWARENESS MONTH

**The following website has great
resources to help educate your community about
the dangers of stalking.**

<http://stalkingawarenessmonth.org>

Sexual Assault Awareness Month April 2009



**Prevent Sexual Violence
in our Workplaces**



**Wednesday, April 8, 2009
Is SAAM Day of Actions**

Begin planning your local events now!

Family Visitation Center

Aaron Wimmer, Director - Sioux Falls, SD

For over eight years the Family Visitation Center (FVC) has been providing children in the Sioux Falls area the opportunity to visit with non-custodial significant adults in their lives at a safe, supervised, child-focused environment. FVC offers children the opportunity to strengthen, continue, or establish relationships with the removed family members. The children we serve have been in home environments with issues such as domestic violence, child abuse, substance abuse, ongoing custody/divorce disagreements, threats of abduction, or other adult issues.

Families are referred to FVC through the Court System, Child Protection Services, Department of Corrections, and other agencies, as well as self-referrals. Services include: full-direct supervision, full-video supervision, intermittent supervision, supervised telephone conversations, and assisted exchanges or connections. FVC also provides transportation services for children in the custody of Child Protection services to and from necessary visitations and to other appointments.

We are moving!!

The Family Visitation Center will be moving to 311 E. 14th St. in early February 2009. Look for more information from FVC in January.

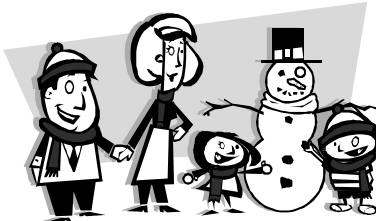
When We Help:

- ◆ When... a victim of domestic violence needs a place for the children to visit, that ensures no contact between the victim and offender
- ◆ When... parents use children to control a former partner
- ◆ When... drug or alcohol is involved
- ◆ When... there has been inconsistency in allowing or exercising visitation
- ◆ When... families are in the process of custody and visitation litigation
- ◆ When... families need a safe and neutral setting for visits or exchanges
- ◆ When... families need support to establish or re-establish relationships
- ◆ When... children are placed in foster care

From July 2007 to June 2008, FVC provided a total of 7,176 hours of service to 429 adults and 446 children. With the total hours of services provided almost tripling since FY 2005 the Family Visitation Center continues to work collaboratively with community, state, and federal resources to ensure services are available to all those in need.

FVC collaborates statewide with the other eight visitation centers in South Dakota and is a member of the Supervised Visitation Network (SVN). SVN is “a multi-national non-profit membership organization that is literally a network of agencies and individuals who are interested in assuring that children can have safe, conflict-free access to parents with whom they do not reside.” For information regarding the Supervised Visitation Network visit www.svnworld.org.

Hours of Operation	
Monday thru Friday	8:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Saturday	9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Sunday	1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.



The Network membership has grown to include a variety of agencies, each doing their part in making South Dakota a safer place to live. Thank you to all of the agencies who submitted articles for this issue sharing about the services they provide. We look forward to hearing from more of our members in future issues!

South Dakota's Slave Trade

Advocates, police say young women from the Midwest coerced into prostitution rings.

Matthew Gruchow, © Copyright 2008 Argus Leader

This is an excerpt from the original article published on 12/7/08

Lured by promises of money and affection that evaporate into threats of violence and death, South Dakota women and girls are being trapped in an illicit sex network of degradation and modern slavery. They are secreted across shadowy regional sex trafficking routes that trade in pornography and prostitution. They are imprisoned in an industry driven by coercion, deceit and violence. Those who escape and find freedom are often penniless, drug addicted and alone when they do.

Human trafficking has been an invisible trade here for years, with an untold number of victims, say national and regional experts and a South Dakota criminal investigator. And, they add, it might be worse.

As neighboring states work to define and quantify the extent of the problem, experts say it is underreported and unstudied here, and the true extent of the sex trade in South Dakota remains largely unknown. It also is an act against which South Dakota has no specific law. "It's time to do something about it," said Susan Omanson, a Sioux Falls pastor and the director of an organization that helps trafficking victims here and abroad. "We're not even aware of the depth or scope of it yet." Within South Dakota, Omanson said she has had victims tell her of underage prostitution, prostitution among circuits of hunting lodges and gentlemen's clubs and a host of other sexual exploitation. "They just get into this downward spiral, and they can't get out," she said.

Recruiting, Victims in S.D.

South Dakota is both a destination and recruitment point for sex trafficking, according to victims' advocates and law enforcement officials. This year alone, the Division of Criminal Investigation has seen three cases of girls who were sexually trafficked here by men, according to Kendall Light, commander of the DCI Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. "We're having more of it being localized. We're finding a lot more local victims," Light said.

Government reports from Minnesota, where the problem is studied annually, shed additional light on the illicit commerce of females in South Dakota, where state data on the issue is nonexistent. Since 2006, a Minnesota state agency has surveyed law enforcement, medical personnel and others about trafficking and prepared reports for the Minnesota Legislature, said Danette Buskovich, director of the Statistical Analysis Center Office of Justice Programs.

Those reports have uncovered evidence of South Dakota victims. The state is mentioned along with other popular destinations and recruitment cities such as Las Vegas and Chicago, Buskovich said. "We've had every trafficking pattern that you can think of," she said. The definition of human trafficking varies between the federal government

and the states, but most frequently involves coercion, deceit, and violence, and often with the transport of the victims among various locations.

Because South Dakota has no state law against trafficking, interstate cases are prosecuted federally elsewhere, and cases originating here can be treated as prostitution or other crimes. Since 2001, when Light's task force was formed, the state has averaged two or three cases a year where South Dakota and out-of-state girls have been exploited through sex trafficking, Light said.

But those who study human trafficking in the Midwest are convinced the problem runs far deeper.

Hunting season's dirty secret

Marissa said she was not alone in the circuit of strip clubs, but rather, one of a group of women expected to dance nude for money and even prostitute themselves. "He had other girls from other states, and they would just go from place to place," she said.

Dancing almost immediately turned into a demand for Marissa to trade sex for money. She was sent into a motel room with her first waiting client but refused to have sex with the man, she said. She escaped out of a window. But alone and with no money or refuge, she returned to her pimp and ended up on a circuit that included strip clubs in Dallas, west of Gregory in south-central South Dakota, and the region. She made the rounds of hunting lodges and clubs flush with hunting season travelers.

"You started dancing there, and then the guys knew what to expect and they would want to do things to you and take you into the private rooms," Marissa said. "It was pretty much anything goes." While other girls prostituted out of the private rooms of certain strip clubs, Marissa said she was able to refuse every advance but one. In that case, for one client, it was not sex she traded for money, but time and private dances, she said. She also managed over time to hide enough money from her pimp to buy a car and escape.

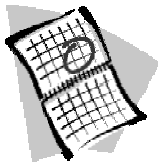
But Marissa repeated the cycle of dancing and freedom one more time before breaking free for good. Though she remains on probation on drug charges, Marissa said she now is clean and trying to establish herself in a new job and a new life for herself and her two sons.

You can access the full article through the following link, which is also available on our website home page:

<http://www.argusleader.com/article/20081207/NEWS/812070329&referrer=FRONTPAGECAROUSEL>

We especially thank the Argus Leader for their permission to reprint a portion of this article and allowing access to the full article.

Also, for bringing this issue to the public eye.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
Upcoming training opportunities:

Network Membership Meeting
January 20 & 21, 2009—Pierre

Law Enforcement Training Team
January 21, 2009—Brookings

SD Department of Social Services
Domestic Violence Institute
September 22 & 23, 2009
Sioux Falls, SD

THE 2008-2009 NETWORK AGENCY MEMBERS

ARTEMIS HOUSE—SPEARFISH
605-642-7825 OR
1-800-999-2348

ARTEMIS HOUSE—
LEAD SATELLITE OFFICE
605-584-3560 OR
1-800-999-2348

BC STOP DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE—MARTIN
605-685-6517

BLACK HILLS COUNSELING
SERVICES—SPEARFISH
605-722-8090

BROOKINGS DOMESTIC
ABUSE SHELTER
605-692-7233

CATHOLIC FAMILY
SERVICES—SIOUX FALLS
605-988-3775

CHILDREN'S INN—
SIOUX FALLS
605-338-0116

COLORADO TECHNICAL
INSTITUTE—SIOUX FALLS
605-361-0200

COMMUNITIES AGAINST
VIOLENCE AND ABUSE—LEMMON
605-374-5823

COMPASS CENTER—
SIOUX FALLS
605-339-0116

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
NETWORK—MADISON
605-256-6866

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SAFE
OPTIONS SERVICES—VERMILLION
605-624-5311

EAST-CENTRAL CASA—BROOKINGS
605-697-6106

FAMILY CRISIS CENTER—REDFIELD
605-472-3097

FAMILY VISITATION CENTER—
SIOUX FALLS
605-322-4095

FIRST CIRCUIT CASA
PROGRAM—MITCHELL
605-996-1212

GOODWILL INDUSTRIES—
SIOUX FALLS
605-731-1931

GREGORY COUNTY
SHELTER—BURKE
605-775-2220

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES
OF SOUTH DAKOTA
605-357-0131

MISSOURI SHORES
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
CENTER—PIERRE
605-224-0256

MISSOURI VALLEY CRISIS
CENTER—CHAMBERLAIN
605-234-5155

605-996-6622

PRESBYTERY OR SOUTH DAKOTA
SOCIAL WITNESS AND ACTION
COMMITTEE—MARTIN
605-685-1153

SAFE HARBOR—ABERDEEN
605-226-1212 OR
1-888-290-2935

THE WHOLENESS CENTER—
FLANDREAU
605-997-3535

U-SAFETY PROGRAM
UNIVERSITY OF SIOUX FALLS
605-331-6613

VOA-DAKOTAS—
SIOUX FALLS
605-271-8150

WATERTOWN RESOURCE
CENTER
605-886-4300

WINNER RESOURCE CENTER
FOR FAMILIES
605-842-2736

WORKING AGAINST
VIOLENCE, INC—
RAPID CITY
605-341-3292

YANKTON WOMEN'S / CHILDREN'S
CENTER
605-665-4811

YWCA FAMILY VIOLENCE
PROGRAM—HURON
605-352-4952

A complete listing of
satellite offices can be found on our
website
www.sdnafvsa.com
under *Advocacy Resources*

MITCHELL AREA SAFEHOUSE

The Network Leadership

PresidentPaula Clary
Vice President.....
Tanya Draper-Douthit
SecretaryShana Flakus
TreasurerCarol Riggen
Ex-Officia.....Shirelle Stadel
Executive Director
Krista Heeren-Graber
Financial Director
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Rural Outreach Coordinator
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Legal Grant Coordinator
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Grants Manager.....
Gladys Hall
Project Administrator.....
Holly Moritz
Administrative Assistant.....
Jackie Goosen
President of Advisory
Board.....Joseph Holt

**The South Dakota Network Against
Family Violence and Sexual Assault**
P. O. Box 90453
Sioux Falls, SD 57109



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Sioux Falls, SD
Permit No. 7745

1-800-430-SAFE

SD Domestic Violence Hotline

***The Network
Information***

Sioux Falls Office

605-731-0041

Office fax

605-977-4742

Toll free

1-800-670-3989

Website

www.sdnafvsa.com

MEMBERSHIP REPLY FORM

Please complete this form and return with your check to:
SDNAFV&SA, PO Box 90453, Sioux Falls, SD 57109
Phone 605-731-0041

Individual membership: \$35

Agency membership: \$175

Name _____

Organization (if applicable) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail address _____

I do not wish to join at this time, but I would like to support
SDNAFV&SA with the enclosed donation \$ _____