

SMART SOURCE



June/July 2007

SEX TRAFFICKING IN MINNESOTA

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*By Dresden Quinn Jones
SVJI Program Coordinator*

Until recently, the issue of human trafficking had been thought of as a “third world” problem; the kind of thing that happens only in countries that are hardest hit by issues of poverty, lack of resources and oppression. But the attention has shifted in the last few years to our own country. Brothels and prostitution rings have been “busted” by federal agents all over the United States, drawing more attention to the issue of foreign-born women and children who have been brought to this country and forced to trade sex for money. Attention has also been focused recently on Native girls and women in Minnesota being lured from reservations and forced into prostitution rings in urban areas. It has also become clear that a woman in a physically and sexually abusive relationship can be manipulated and/or threatened into prostituting for the benefit of her abuser. Many working in the areas of sexual and domestic violence have been aware of this form of modern day slavery for some time now. As more and more attention is focused nationally and internationally on victims of sex trafficking, we must also understand

that there is a multitude of ways in which women and girls can be trafficked for sex.

Sex trafficking is defined as “the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act, in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, coercion or in which the person forced to perform the act is under the age of 18 years of age.” In 2005, Minnesota enacted a ban on sex trafficking which is closely modeled on the federal statute. Our

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All Team Event Slated for July 13

Join your cohorts from SMART teams across the state for a day of networking, training, and socializing.

Training Topic:

Human Trafficking –How One Team Is Shaping a New Response

10 AM—3 PM

Bunker Hills Regional Park

Lunch is provided

Go to www.mncasa.org

for more details

A MEMBER OF



statute includes "sex trafficking" as one definition of "promoting the prostitution of an individual." Minnesota statute 609.321 Subd. 7a. defines sex trafficking as "receiving, recruiting, enticing, harboring, providing, or obtaining by any means an individual to aid in the prostitution of the individual." This is a felony offense, currently ranked as a Severity Level 5 in the Sentencing Guidelines, with sex trafficking of a child under age 18 ranked as a Severity Level 9.

Second only to drug dealing (and tied with the illegal arms industry), human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal industry in the world. It is clearly an extremely lucrative industry for

its perpetrators. While sex trafficking is certainly about the humiliation of women and power and control, it is also about financial gain

Trafficking in Minnesota

Foreign-born women and children are being brought into the United States and forced into prostitution rings and brothels all over the country. In Minneapolis, there are establishments called "saunas" that are sites of prostitution. There are still 4 saunas operating in Minneapolis as of 1999. Most of these establishments are staffed with foreign-born women. Almost all of the patrons are Caucasian men.

While there is not a lot of data regarding the international trafficking of women in Minnesota, there is quite a bit concerning local women in prostitution. With the changing face of Minnesota, more and more immigrant women are being lured into prostitution. Law enforcement reports that many Russian

immigrant women are employed at Minneapolis strip clubs than ever before. Most prostitution rings involving Central and South American immigrant women are run out of private residences. In rural Minnesota, one HIV outreach worker reported that Mexican women are prostituted in migrant farm worker camps. Ads for sex permeate the Twin Cities; it is not unusual to see commercials for "singles chat lines" and dating websites advertised in *City Pages*. It's not surprising that perpetrators of organized prostitution rings use these

venues to get customers. Law enforcement reports that several sex establishments in the Twin Cities are under the control of Italian mafia immigrants, and Vietnamese brothels are controlled by organized crime groups.

More and more is becoming known about the trafficking of Hmong girls by gangs within the community. Hmong girls are reporting being held captive by gang members and being raped repeatedly, sometimes moved from one location to another during their captivity. Many times, the victims in these cases do not report to law enforcement; there are several reasons for this. The Hmong community, while quite large in Minnesota, is still a small community where many families know each other. A victim in this circumstance may be scared that her attackers will retaliate or that the community will find out what happened and she will be humiliated. Like many victims of sexual assault, Hmong girls may experience guilt and blame themselves for what happened; this reaction can be compounded by cultural beliefs that women should abstain from sex until married. There are dedicated professionals in advocacy and law enforcement working within the Hmong community to address these issues and

Women and children are being stolen, beaten and raped repeatedly in our state by perpetrators who are profiting from their abuse.

make it easier for victims to come forward.

Native girls and women in Minnesota are also becoming victims of sex trafficking in growing numbers. Why is this? Many Native residents of Minnesota reside on reservations. Reservations are hard hit by poverty, lack of resources and drug and alcohol addiction, all of which can lead to increased vulnerability. Statistics tell us that one in three Indian women will be raped in their lifetime and anecdotal evidence suggests that girls as young as 12 are being lured (by force, fraud or coercion) into prostitution. These girls are being taken off reservations and brought to urban areas to work as prostitutes. In some cases, they are taken across state lines. There are no numbers to tell us how many or what percentage but Native Americans are coming forward to tell their stories;

we as advocates, law enforcement and other professionals need to listen and act.

With the recent bust of the prostitution ring in Minneapolis, it becomes more and more clear that sex trafficking is something Minnesotan's need to be concerned with. Women and children are being stolen, beaten and raped repeatedly in our state by perpetrators who are profiting from their abuse. Do the research, read the stories, listen to the victims and know who your local sexual assault and domestic violence service providers are. For more information, visit www.catwinternational.org (The Coalition Against Trafficking in Women), www.miwrc.org (The Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center) or www.mncasa.org.

New Training/Resource Development for Law Enforcement and Medical Providers

MNCSAA and SVJI are pleased to welcome new staff to our midst! Mike Schiltz, Sergeant, Duluth PD, Ret., Deb Horsman, SANE, and Linda Miller, Bloomington PD, Ret. will be joining forces with MNCASA to build and implement a training and resource development project for Minnesota's law enforcement and medical communities over the next 18 months. All three come to MNCASA with a wealth of experience in this field of sexual assault. Mike and Deb will serve as the lead project staff with law enforcement and medical communities respectively. Linda will provide overall coordination for the project. We are very fortunate to have this core of talented specialists willing to share their expertise with Minnesota communities.

Within the next few months, they will be making contacts around the state to identify training/resource needs as well as to identify practitioners who would like to participate in the project in an advisory capacity and/or trainer.

The project promises to bring trainings to all parts of the state at not cost to trainees, to address professionals at many levels of experience in responding to sexual assault, and create web based resources to help practitioners with various aspects of their work.

MNCASA and the SVJI say Good-bye to Kaarin Long, Staff Attorney for the past four years. Kaarin has accepted a position at the Ramsey County Attorneys Office where she will be handling adult criminal prosecutions. The only good news for us is that her skills, her care for victims, and her belief that the criminal justice process can be a resource for sexual assault victims will go with her to her new position. Kaarin built the legal resources program at MNCASA and we will be forever indebted. She leaves her mark on it.

A posting describing the open position is on our website, www.mncasa.org

MNCASA's Policy Year - Advocacy in Action!

Kaarin Long, Staff Attorney

The 2007 Legislative Session ended very positively for MNCASA. We made really valuable connections with legislators and their staff that will continue to serve us well in future years. Almost every provision we put forward went through, and we left the session in a great position to return next year with more ideas!

We need to acknowledge the really great efforts of Representative Michael Paymar, chair of the Public Safety Finance Committee, and Senator Mary Olson, who carried all of our bills in the Senate. Thank you for your commitment to this issue. Our lobby team, Bob Tracy and Peg Olson, are second to none partly because they come from both parties, and partly because they carry an enormous amount of respect and weight at the Capitol. Bob, Peg, and Kaarin did a lot of foot work early in the session, and the pay off was that we had the maximum 35 House, and 10 Senate authors on our bills, assuring their success. Bob, we will buy you a pair of tennis shoes yet for running around during conference committees!

So, check out the legislative update below, and consider joining us **July 23rd at 3:00** for the Legal Resources Team as we plan for next year!

MNCASA's Policy Agenda:

- Expansion of the privilege against testifying for sexual assault advocates: this section modifies 595.02 Subd. 1(k), prohibiting a sexual assault advocate not only from *testifying* (as in current language), but also from *disclosing* any information – which includes written files. This makes it match the professional privilege sections elsewhere in the statute.
- Felony for massage therapist or other bodywork professional who commits criminal sexual conduct during professional service: Since these professionals have similar access to their clients as do medical professionals, this provision adds them to the

list of professionals who commit a felony (rather than gross misdemeanor, as currently) if they have nonconsensual contact/penetration with a client during a session.

- Limitation of the mistake-of-age defense: MN law allows a defendant charged with CSC with a teenager under 16 to claim "mistake of age" – meaning, "I'm not guilty because I thought s/he was over 16." The new provision limits that defense to defendants who are within 10 years of the teen's age – to keep an older, more manipulating adult from avoiding responsibility for sexually exploiting a young teenager.
- A funding increase of about 5% per year over the next two years was obtained for sexual assault victim advocacy programs. This increase goes to every program and will raise their overall budget by 5% regardless of what grants/funding streams comprise their funding. The second year's 5% will be compounded on the total budget including the first year increase.

Other Policy Provisions Supported by MNCASA:

- Compassionate care for sexual assault victims: this new provision requires a medical provider to give information and a prescription if desired to sexual assault victims on contraception and on sexually transmitted infections. Hospitals may no longer avoid providing such resources.
- Solicitation of a minor: it is now unlawful for an adult to use the internet to either solicit a person believed to be a child of 15 or younger for sexual behavior, or discuss with them or view sexually explicit matters. This also prohibits a mistake of age defense, or a defense that law enforcement was involved in the communications.
- Polygraph of sexual assault victim regulated: a law enforcement officer or prosecutor may not ask/require a complainant in a sexual assault case to take a polygraph as a condition of moving forward in the investigation or prosecution, and may not ask at all unless the victim has been provided advocacy first.

Protocol Site Updates

ISANTI COUNTY SAIC

Brenda Skogman, Site Coordinator

Isanti County just completed an all-team training with members of the SAIC team as well as new members of the agencies. It went well and are now looking at completing one some time next year with all law enforcement as an update to the initial training. We are currently getting ready for the fair which is in July and we will have a booth displayed there as well as members of the team staffing that booth. We continue to evaluate and contact victims regarding their experiences with the process. We currently have had an explosion of sexual assaults in the area but seem to be handling the numbers well. We continue to have monthly team meetings as well as systems consultation at each meeting.



WINONA COUNTY SAIC

Adria Sherwood, Site Coordinator

The Winona County SAIC is currently in a transition period. We have recently had several members join our team. They include a new site coordinator, a new advocate, a new prosecutor, and an additional investigator. We are currently reviewing the 8-step process as well as the foundations of the response protocol for Minnesota. The team is also working on making our systems consultation more beneficial. We are trying to use the systems consultation to strengthen the use of the protocol by all agencies, by incorporating both positive and negative feedback. We have also been discussing alternate forms of training law enforcement, including the possibility of using an online training module. On April 25th, the Winona County SAIC partnered with the Winona County Attorney's Office, the Women's Resource Center and the SVJI to provide a domestic violence and sexual assault training for law enforcement, prosecutors, and advocates, among others. It was a great success with 52 people attending, and we have received mostly positive feedback from the surveys.



OLMSTED COUNTY SAIC

Joann Holt Angerman

The Olmsted County SAIC has been working fervently to finish our most recent set of Guidelines and send them to the printer before the end of the fiscal year. As Olmsted County has had Guidelines in place since 2001, it has been interesting to see how the review process has lead to rich discussions of how the process can still be improved for sexual assault victim/survivors.

When Olmsted County undertook the 8-Step Cycle a second time, it decided to include Guidelines for adolescent sexual assault victims. One of the initial goals was to clarify the confusion regarding the legal obligations for mandatory reporters. This has proven to be more difficult than originally anticipated as there have been differing interpretations of the statutes among SAIC agencies. Despite these difficulties along the way, the SAIC and its focus on collaboration has proven invaluable in working through these differences.

With an eye to the next steps in the process, the team completed a half-day Monitoring and Evaluation workshop in January with the SVJI staff. The group decided to focus its M&E efforts on the content and effectiveness of training for agency personnel.



RAMSEY COUNTY SAPT

Nicole Albaugh, Site Coordinator

The Ramsey County Sexual Assault Protocol Team is in the process of making its third revision to the protocol book. The team will be setting up a timeline for discipline-specific revisions at the August meeting. One of Partners for Violence Prevention's interns finished making some follow-up phone calls for the monitoring survey, which asked team members about their knowledge and current use of the protocol. The results of the survey will be compiled and available at the August meeting and should help guide the team in their training endeavors.

Continued on next page

Site Updates, Cont.

Finally, the team is looking forward to working with Partners for Violence Prevention (PVP) and Project Pathfinder/Stop It Now! MN on a prevention-focused project that that is being funded by a grant from MNCASA. The project will focus on young (ages 18 - 25 years) male potential perpetrators of sexual violence. The goal is to begin to gather information on young men's perceptions, attitudes, and knowledge about sexual violence, issues of consent and other pertinent topics. Eventually, the group will develop a social prevention message that will be test piloted with young men to see if their perceptions or attitudes may be impacted.



Rice County SMART

Melanie Matson, Site Coordinator

The Rice County SMART is excited to announce that we are in the final stages of writing our protocol. We have completed writing a protocol with sections for advocacy, colleges, law enforcement, medical care, probation and prosecution. The SMART has been reviewing the entire protocol throughout the past few months. During June and July, the team is seeking input from a community advisory panel and ex-officio members. The SMART is working on a community event in September to raise awareness of the protocol and a training subcommittee is beginning to develop the SMART protocol-based training.



Carver County SAIC

Tara Keehr, Site Coordinator

The Carver team is working on completing the second go-around of the Community Needs Assessment. Much of the work is done and we are working to pull all the information together. When the CNA is completed it will be published on disc and a public celebration will be held.

We will be reviewing our first protocol in the near future in preparation for the work on the new one. We're considering several different methods of writing the protocol.

There are several newer members on our team, including several SANE nurses, a representative from Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services and another prosecutor.



Beltrami/Clearwater SMART

Candace Ophus, Site Coordinator

Big changes are happening in the north regions of Minnesota! First, the team as a whole has decided to take on a more regional, rather than county, focus for the communities we are developing protocol for. What started a year ago as a non-funded Beltrami County collaborative has since grown to



include Beltrami & Clearwater Counties, as well as Red Lake Nation and Leech Lake Reservation, all operating under a newly awarded VAWA STOP grant that was received in January 2007. This collaboration involves thirty agency representatives and these agencies have shown a high level of dedication to this important work. We have also chose a mission statement to reflect our communities, which is: "To implement and sustain a compassionate, victim-centered response to sexual violence that is inclusive of all communities, and promotes victims' definitions of healing, justice, and accountability." There is also a possibility we will be changing our team name to reflect all the communities we serve. We will keep you updated!



Goodhue County SMART

Tilton Davis, Site Coordinator

The Goodhue County SMART came into existence in April, 2007. About twenty-five Advocacy, Corrections, Law Enforcement, Legal, and Medical profes-

Continued on next page

Site Updates, Cont.

sionals met in Red Wing for their SVJI training. As coordinator, and after our three day training, I took the opportunity to visit each member's office for a tour, a chat about their work, and to discover their expectations of the SMART. I learned that this team is starting with a strong commitment to improving services to victims of sexual assault, and think they can work well together.



One group dynamic is worth sharing. At our first meeting in May, IES, VES and CNA committees formed. Lake City Medical Center nurses and a representative from PFLAG joined. However, at this meeting the Team learned that Lake City Medical Center, a Mayo Health System facility, planned to train two nurses in a SANE program offered in Rochester. At present, a SANE program does not exist in Goodhue County. Within two days, Red Wing Medical Center, a Fairview Health System facility, was searching for training information. This was certainly an unexpected but a welcomed event. Although still in its beginnings, such competitive spirit probably mobilized these two health systems to develop new local programs faster than if the Team would have sensitively suggested it was a good idea.



Itasca County SAIC

Amanda Ysen, Site Coordinator

The Itasca County Sexual Assault Interagency Council would like to thank all who have believed in us and the work we are doing. Here we are five years into our work and one year in as a fully-fledged site and are looking forward to what is ahead. Over the past year we revised our victim experience survey process and our payment policy for sexual assault exams, as well as provided a training related to Internet Dangers to professionals working in Itasca County. In May we held a year end retreat/celebration and have begun to gear up for this next years activities. Because Itasca County is the 3rd largest county our greatest barrier is literally space. Our team plans to hold several team meetings in outlying areas of the county over the next year, focusing on hospitals and law enforcement agencies. In the coming year we will focus on revising protocols and providing multidisciplinary training to emergency room staff and law enforcement.

Southern St. Louis County SMART

This SMART, housed in Program to Aid Victims of Sexual Assault (PAVSA) in Duluth is working on starting a SANE program, administered by PAVSA and serving the area hospitals. This will be the first of its kind in Minnesota. Private foundation funding is allowing this project to move forward and fulfill one of this SMART's greatest identified needs. This SMART is also experiencing a turnover in site coordination. They reluctantly said good-bye to Brook Holmberg, the site coordinator for two years. Some team members attended the SANE-SART conference in Tampa last May.

Throughout the year, and with direction of the SVJI staff, site coordinators have aided one another in the valuable and challenging work of supporting a multidisciplinary team as it works toward victim centered, interagency protocols reflecting the best practices in responding to incidents of sexual assault. During the year, the site coordinators have:

- Met in quarterly meetings to share experiences, successes, stories;
- Enjoyed the annual day long retreat to focus their gaze on particular aspects of this work;
- Exchanged strategies, comments, and materials on their own web based communication network;
- Traded thoughts in email, phone conversations, and technical assistance connections with one another and with SVJI staff.

While we at the SVJI pride ourselves in the quality of our training and technical assistance, we cannot ignore the value of the information that is shared site coordinator to site coordinator! Keep up the good work!



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SAVE THE DATE

July 13: 10 AM – 3 PM *All Team Event* – exclusively for all funded SMART’s – Bunker Hills Regional Park, Anoka County - a presentation on trafficking and networking opportunities for teams

July 23: *Legal Resources Team Meeting* 3:00 PM—4:30 PM MNCASA offices – Discussion of policy ideas and other directions for MNCASA

July 26-27: *Legal Advocacy Training: The Criminal Justice Process for Sexual Assault Advocates* Northern Service Center, West St Paul; \$10 member programs, \$30 non-members. Go to www.mncasa.org for more information

September 27- 28: *MNCASA Annual Meeting* – Sheraton Hotel, Bloomington, MN - including keynote speakers on moving from grassroots advocacy into “the system,” and on the normalization of sexual harm. The 9 different breakouts may provide useful information and food for thought to any professional working on the subject of sexual violence in the criminal justice system, or in other professions outside advocacy.