

FALL/WINTER 2003

# CONNECTIONS

A BIENNIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WASHINGTON COALITION OF SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAMS



## The Cost of Rape

Inside:

WHAT IS DIRTY MONEY?

THE SOCIETAL COST OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

FOR WANT OF A NAIL: A SOCIAL AUTOPSY

PREVENTION AS A COST EFFECTIVE COMPONENT OF A SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEM

# Fall/Winter | 2003

VOLUME IV, NUMBER 1

## Cover

14

What is Dirty Money? 

An Interview with Gayle Stringer, Diane Moyer, Alisa Bierria, Mary Ellen Stone. Is there any such thing as dirty money? This articles includes interviews from various perspectives about the nature of politically appropriate fund raising.

TOBY CREMER

6

The Societal Cost of Sexual Violence.

There is a societal cost to sexual violence. This article explores the tangible and intangible items that make up that cost.

NORA BASHIR

7

Prevention as a Cost Effective Component of a Sexual Violence Service Delivery System.

Prevention strategies are a cost effective strategy to reduce the societal cost of sexual violence

RACHEL STEWART

10

For Want of a Nail: A Social Autopsy

This article seeks to look at the cost of sexual violence from a more personal vantage point using a case study.

LYDIA GUY

# Fall/Winter| 2003 continued

VOLUME IV, NUMBER 1

- 4     **Director's Desk**  
      Lydia Guy
  
- 5     **The Rape Tax: Tangible and Intangible Cost of Sexual Violence**  
      Reprinted from the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*
  
- 12    **Transforming Awareness in Action Across Washington State:**  
      **Sexual Assault Awareness Week 2003**
  
- 13    **WCSAP Legislative Agenda**
  
- 17    **WCSAP Annual Conference 2003**
  
- 18    **What are the Management Implications of a "Cost of Rape: Analysis?"**  
      By Toby Cremer
  
- 19    **Legal Program Update**  
      By Catherine Carroll
  
- 22    **Resource Sharing Project: Regional Meeting Update**  
      By the Resource Sharing Project Partner Coalition
  
- 23    **Washington State Department of Corrections Establishes Community**  
      **Victim Liaisons**
  
- 26    **Education and Technical Assistance Grants to End Violence Against Women with**  
      **Disabilities**  
      By Gayle Stringer

## Director's Desk



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hat is the cost of sexual violence? It is an interesting and complex question. How does one assign a value to human suffering? What is the cost of adjudicating and incarcerating offenders as well as maintaining a sexual assault service delivery system? How much more productive would our society be if it were not impacted by sexual assault. The July 2002 issue of the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* included a study from the University of Michigan designed to answer these questions. This issue of *Connections* was designed as an exploration of the data presented in this study.

The United States Supreme Court has recently defined sexual violence as a “noneconomic” crime. In our society to define something as noneconomic is to de-prioritize it. Something that does not exact a cost does not require an immediate response. WCSAP does not agree that rape is a noneconomic crime. It is our hypothesis that rape has profound negative economic effects and that it is imperative that we develop strategies to eliminate sexual violence. Working to end sexual violence is not only a moral imperative but the most cost effective way of addressing the issue.

As we explored the intersection between sexual violence and economics it also became clear that the rape crisis movement and sexual assault delivery system has had and continues to have a uneasy relationship with money in general. It is hard, in numerous ways, for organizations that began as grassroots to be funded by so many mainstream funding sources.

We hope this issue will inspire you to contemplate these issues further!

LYDIA GUY  
ADVOCACY EDUCATION DIRECTOR

“Working to end sexual violence is not only a moral imperative but the most cost effective way of addressing the issue.”

# The Rape Tax: Tangible and Intangible cost of sexual violence

“If divided equally as a “rape tax,” each Michigander would have paid \$700 in 1996 to cover the cost of sexual violence.”

This study examines the justice system’s decision that sexual violence, particularly rape, is not an economic crime. Using data from the Violence Against Michigan Women Survey, we estimate the financial costs of sexual violence in Michigan, focusing on the tangible and intangible costs of rape, sexual assault, and sex offense homicide. Findings show that in 1996 rape and sexual assault cost Michigan well over \$6.5 billion, most of which came in the form of intangible costs (i.e., lost quality of life). Sex offense homicide cost over \$18 million, 2/3 of which was intangible costs. If divided equally as a “rape tax,” each Michigander would have paid \$700 in 1996 to cover the cost of sexual violence. The implications of the study are that prevention is the best way to reduce the high cost of sexual violence. Furthermore, rape and sexual assault need to be identified as a public health issue in order to raise public awareness about sexual violence. Finally, courts and prosecutors need to think about sexual violence as an economic crime in order to better protect victims and survivors of sexual violence.

ABSTRACT REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM THE JOURNAL OF INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE  
POST, LORI A., ET. AL. 17:7 (2002):773-782.

# The Societal Cost of Sexual Violence

NORA BASHIR  
ADVOCACY EDUCATION COORDINATOR  
WASHINGTON COALITION OF SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAMS

In 2000, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that sexual violence, particularly rape, is a “noneconomic violent” crime<sup>1</sup>. In spite of this it is my opinion that rape imposes real and tangible costs to society. Conducting a secondary data analysis using the 1996 Violence Against Michigan Women Survey (VAMWS), the authors, Lori A Post, Nancy J. Mezey, Christopher Maxell and Wilma Novales Wilbert, estimate the costs of sexual violence in Michigan to be more than \$6.5 billion per year (or approximately \$2,750 per family of four). Most of that amount was in the form of intangible costs, which include psychological pain and suffering and fear of victimization. Estimating the cost to the United States as a nation, they cite Tjaden and Thoennes (1998) who estimate the cost to be \$87,000 per rape or sexual assault incident, for a 1995 total of \$26 billion (based on 1995 Census and NCVS data). They also provide a cost estimate of 1996 national sex-offense homicides based on UCR Supplementary Homicide Reports for a total of \$2,940,000 per incident. The combined total national cost is nearly \$261.25 billion for both categories of sexual violence.



Another important study, “Victim Costs and Consequences: A New Look”, explored the costs and consequences of personal crime for Americans. According to this research, rape has the highest annual victim costs of any crime against persons at \$127 billion per year. Rape and sexual assault account for 1.45 (9%) of the 16 million violent crimes and for 1.1 million victims (3.5% of all crime victims). The overall cost of violent crime to Americans is estimated to be \$426 billion. On an individual level, this translates into a \$1,800 per year “crime tax” for each woman, man, child in the U.S.

Sexual assault has profound, long-term effects on its victims. Over one-fourth of the entire annual crime bill is the result of rape, excluding the costs of child sexual abuse. Identifying and quantifying costs and consequences of victimization may be helpful both in characterizing the crime problem and in examining ways to address it. Ignoring the monetary benefits of crime reduction can lead to a misallocation of resources. Tangible, out-of-pocket expenses amount to \$5,100 of the total cost, the bulk of the expenses are for short-term medical care, mental health services, and victims’ lost productivity. However, intangible costs like pain, suffering and lost quality of life is quantified at an estimated cost of \$87,000. The authors stress that previous studies on the cost of crime have largely overlooked intangible costs.

While mental health care makes up 43% of tangible costs, the intangible loss of quality of life and diminished mental health contributes to loss in productivity, which is the second largest tangible cost. The policy implications of the study are: that prevention is the best way to reduce the high cost of sexual violence; that rape and

Continued page 8

# Prevention as a Cost Effective Component of a Sexual Violence Service Delivery System

RACHEL STEWART  
PREVENTION SERVICES COORDINATOR  
WASHINGTON COALITION OF SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAMS

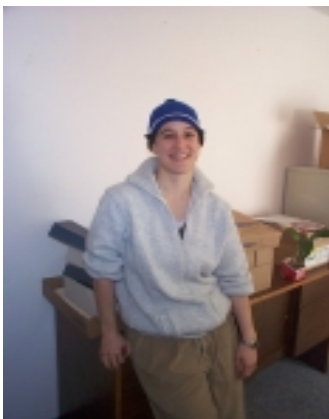
The annual cost of rape in the United States is 127 billion dollars, excluding the cost of child sexual abuse. The financial cost of each rape has been assigned the price tag of \$87,000.<sup>1</sup> This is not to mention the economic purchases and social norms by which individuals contribute to the prevalence of violence in our nation. The financial, emotional and spiritual costs to the lives of survivors of sexual assault are immeasurable. In 2002 the Federal government spent \$45 million on Rape Prevention Education.<sup>2</sup> Prevention is clearly an economically viable alternative as well as a socially responsible reaction to the overwhelming occurrence of sexual violence. Sexual violence prevention means promoting attitudes, behaviors, and social conditions that reduce and ultimately eliminate factors that cause or contribute to sexual violence.<sup>3</sup>

“Prevention is clearly an economically viable alternative as well as a socially responsible reaction to the overwhelming occurrence of sexual violence.”

Infrastructures have been created at great costs to respond to sexual assault. Resources have not traditionally been devoted to the development of systematic prevention efforts. Therefore they are not nearly as sophisticated or widespread. Because of this, survivors may receive services after they have been assaulted but the causes of sexual violence continue almost unopposed.

Prevention is often thought of as carrying a whistle, not going to certain parts of town at certain times of day or taking a self-defense class. These kinds of risk reduction techniques are important components of an overall prevention plan. However, when self-defense and escape routes are promoted as the primary method of prevention, the responsibility to stop an assault is then placed entirely with the potential victim, society unintentionally evades any responsibility.

Social/cultural constructs that support rape culture are outside the responsibility and control of any one individual. They are dependent upon community approval and reinforcement. These social/cultural contributors represent the underlying conditions or causes of sexual violence. Examples of some underlying causes of sexual assault are: violence accepted as a norm, oppression, gender role stereotypes, silence and fear, etc.



Continued page 9

# The Societal Cost of Rape

Continued from page 6

sexual assault need to be identified as a public health issue to raise awareness about sexual violence; and that courts and prosecutors need to understand that sexual violence is an economic crime, to better protect victims and survivors of sexual violence. “Laws and public policy that ignore the economic burden sexual violence places on society at large, as well as on individual survivors, are laws and public policy that misunderstand and underestimate the nature and cost of sexual violence” (p.781).

The recent article “The Rape Tax: Tangible and Intangible Costs of Sexual Violence” is a potentially powerful way to look at crime. It is interesting and important to note that sexual assault, a crime that until several years ago was significantly underestimated and is still seriously underreported and prosecuted, turns out to be not only exceedingly frequent but also expensive. And while all of us lose to violent criminals, we must always remember that it is victims who pay the true price of crime, especially sexual crime, and that the economic costs are far higher than anyone has previously estimated.

1. THE *BRZONKALA* CASE, 2000, *U.S. VS MORRISON ET AL*, 169 F.3D, 820

JOURNAL OF INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE, VOL. 17 NO. 7, JULY 2002: 773-782

MILLER, TED, COHEN, MARK & WIERSEMA, BRIAN. VICTIM COSTS AND CONSEQUENCES: A NEW LOOK. WASHINGTON, D.C.: NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF JUSTICES, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, 1996.

TJADEN, PATRICIA & THOENNES, NANCY. PREVALENCE, INCIDENCE, AND CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: FINDINGS FROM THE NATIONAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN SURVEY (NVAW). WASHINGTON, D.C.: NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE, OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS, US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, 1998.

# Prevention as a Cost Effective...

Continued from page 7

Sexual violence prevention costs us less money as an economy, but more importantly it costs us much less as a community. Prevention is something that begins in our homes and in our families. It begins with conversations and actions that challenge attitudes and beliefs that support violence as a norm in our society. Prevention means being vigilant in our response to comments and occurrences of harassment, bullying, sexism and strict gender roles, misogyny and any other contributor to violence. We can all participate in creating tangible social change that influences the prevalence of sexual violence by how we raise our children, how we engage our friends and neighbors and by the kind of collective action we take to work towards non-violence in our everyday lives.

In the United States someone is sexually assaulted every two minutes.<sup>4</sup> In addition to offering support to survivors, working to prevent such assaults by addressing the causes is also crucial. Because dealing with the aftermath of sexual assault is so costly for our economy and for the quality of life of so many individuals, it is only logical and ethical to equally engage in strategic efforts to prevent sexual violence. Social service agencies provide excellent crisis intervention, but cannot be expected to work effectively without the partnership of other individuals and agencies to change the underlying causes of sexual violence. Responsibility for this must be owned and embraced by the community as a whole.

<sup>1</sup> MILLER, TED, COHEN, MARK AND WIERSEMA, BRIAN. 1996 *VICTIM COSTS & CONSEQUENCES: A NEW LOOK*. WASHINGTON, D.C.: NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE REPORT, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

<sup>2</sup> RAPE PREVENTION AND EDUCATION GRANT ALLOCATION TABLE FY 2002. [HTTP://WWW.CDC.GOV/NCIP/RES-OPPS/RPE-ALLOCATION.HTM](http://www.cdc.gov/ncip/res-opps/rpe-allocation.htm)

<sup>3</sup> COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION TRAINING VIDEO, WASHINGTON STATE SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION RESOURCE CENTER.

<sup>4</sup> RAINN CALCULATION BASED ON 2000 NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMIZATION SURVEY. BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

# For want of a nail: A social autopsy

LYDIA GUY  
ADVOCACY EDUCATION DIRECTOR  
WASHINGTON COALITION OF SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAMS

*“For want of a nail the shoe was lost;  
for want of a shoe the horse was lost;  
and for want of a horse the rider was lost.”*

## Case Study

Michael, an African-American male, was born in 1974. He is bright, likable, personable, high energy, fun loving, easily distracted, hard to focus ... and always in trouble.

As I get to know him, I begin to know his story.

In many ways it is unremarkable story. Michael lives in a single parent household. A male partner of his mother sexually abused him as young child. His mother ended the relationship. Michael no longer has contact with his abuser. His mother sought services. End of story, the outcome is positive, minimal cost to society is incurred.

Early and effective intervention is cost effective.

But that wasn't the end of the story.

Michael began to act out in his teens. He was extremely angry with his mother. Michael attempts to stab his mother with a kitchen knife. Michael spends time in Echo Glen. Michael spends time in a residential “boot camp” facility. Michael is returned to his mother. Michael re-enters society as a fourteen-year old sixth grader in the regular program at a public middle school. End of story, the outcome is positive; cost to society is somewhat increased but manageable.

Intensive intervention is cost effective

But that wasn't the end of the story.

Michael is an attractive young man. He begins to show interest his fellow sixth-graders and they with him. Some of the young girls express a feeling of discomfort with attention from Michael. In addition to be older than they, he also is more “experienced”.

Michael is continually disciplined for sexual harassment and other acting out behaviors in school. Michael is the subject of many “staffings” of the Student Intervention Team (SIT). The composition of the SIT includes school counselors, school psychiatrist, school administrators, community based program staff and a sexual assault services advocate. A behavior

modification plan is developed, Michael completes the school year, and no female students report an escalation in behavior. End of story, the outcome is positive; cost to society is somewhat elevated but further victimization of others was averted.

Long-term intervention utilizing a multidisciplinary approach is cost effective.

But that wasn't the end of the story.

Michael had a growth spurt over the summer. He is now approximately six foot tall and 220 lbs. His appearance is no longer "cute." Michael is transferred to the special education department within the school and placed in the behavior disorder classroom. Michael becomes angrier each day about the restrictiveness of his environment. Michael has an outburst one day and physically assaults another student. Based on his history of sexual harassment as well as proclivity toward violence, Michael is expelled from school. He is classified as a sexually aggressive youth. There are no services available for him, he is no longer a victim... but a perpetrator.

End of story, the outcome is negative; the cost to society is high. Our best strategy will be to focus on remediation and incarceration.

Michael is a young, angry, black man.

The epitome of what our society fears and that which we fear we destroy.

So based on this case-study,

What is the cost of rape?

It is astronomical on a personal and societal level.

What are the causal factors?

They are many.

The primary one being that sexual abuse of a child occurred.

What can be done to prevent it?

Real and true primary prevention of sexual violence.

“Social Autopsy Definition:  
The analysis of a case study or specific incident in order to determine the failings of a given social system: the primary goal of the social autopsy being to discover the causal factors, determine the damage and prevent it from occurring again.”

# Transforming Awareness into Action Across Washington State: **Sexual Assault Awareness into Action Week 2003**

**S**exual assault awareness week is April 7 - 14, 2003.

Join us as we call attention to sexual assault! Make Sexual Assault Awareness Week a time to find out more about the problem of sexual assault and the programs fighting it! You can help stop sexual assault. Be a volunteer at your area rape crisis center. Now is the time to act.

Contact Nora Bashir at (360) 754-7583 for more information.

Thanks ICASA!

Illinois Coalition  
Against Sexual Assault  
has graciously allowed  
WCSAP to adapt the  
materials from their Real  
Men Don't Rape cam-  
paign for this year's  
Sexual Assault Awareness  
Week Campaign





## Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs 2003 Legislative Agenda

1

- **FUNDING** — Support efforts to maintain statewide sexual assault funding
- **CRIME LAB** — Support initiatives to increase state and federal funding to the state crime lab to facilitate the processing of forensic evidence collected during sexual assault exams
- **LEGAL FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS** — Support legislation which enforces and streamlines collection of legal financial obligations to victims
- **MANDATORY REPORTING for CLERGY** — Support legislation which mandates reporting of clergy

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- **TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS** — support proposals to improve services to victims of trafficking
  - **SEXUAL ASSAULT/ DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS' LEASE** — Allowing for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence to break their leases, if necessary, to preserve their safety and well-being
  - **VOYEURISM** — Support legislation that would change the definition of voyeurism to include invasive electronic images captured in public places, such as “*up-skirt cams*”
  - **RAPE III MARITAL EXEPTION** — Support legislation to eliminate the marital exception to the Rape III statute
  - **COMMUNICATION WITH A MINOR FOR IMMORAL PURPOSES** — statute would be amended to add the phrase “believed to be a minor” The bill would allow law enforcement to arrest and prosecute offenders who prey on someone they believed to be a child, but in fact turned out to be a police officer posing as a child.

3

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- **UNDERSERVED VICTIMS OF CRIME TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS** — support proposals to improve services to underserved victims of crime
  - **CORPUS DELECTI** — Support legislation that allows for the admission of un-coerced confessions into court, without corroborating evidence “solely consistent with guilt”

WASHINGTON COALITION OF SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAMS

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360.754.7583 - [www.wcsap.org](http://www.wcsap.org)

# Annual Conference

**Washington Coalition of  
Sexual Assault Programs  
Annual Conference  
2003**

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*Infusing new voices into the  
sexual violence movement*

**Dates:** May 20 -22, 2003

**Location:** WestCoast  
Olympia Hotel, Olympia, WA

**Keynote Speaker:** Loretta Ross

The Founder and Executive Director of the Atlanta-based Center for Human Rights Education, a training and resource center for grassroots activists which uses human rights criteria to address social injustices in the United States. She is an expert on human rights, women's issues, diversity, hate groups and bias crimes. Ross was the First African American woman to direct a rape crisis in the 1970s and is presently writing a book on reproductive rights entitled *Black Abortion*.

## SILENT AUCTION

The WCSAP silent auction will be held during the annual conference, May 20-22, 2003. It's a fun opportunity to buy unique items that are donated by your colleagues throughout the state, while at the same time supporting the important lobbying efforts of WCSAP.

Your donation to the auction is essential! Please remember that as all proceeds go towards lobbying efforts, donations are not tax deductible. Please consider making a donation!

Donations can be brought to the conference or mailed to:

WCSAP Auction Committee

2415 Pacific Ave SE

Olympia, WA 98501

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT RACHELLE WHITE AT [SARIS@U.WASHINGTON.EDU](mailto:SARIS@U.WASHINGTON.EDU) OR 206-685-4357

# What are the Management Implications of a “Cost of Rape” Analysis?

BY TOBY CREMER  
AGENCY OPERATIONS COORDINATOR  
WASHINGTON COALITION OF SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAMS

As a manager, practical concerns of running an organization day-to-day can seem quite removed from philosophical discussions. This issue’s topic, the cost of rape, provides a great example of how a concept can impact virtually every level of our organizations.

The idea that every act of rape has economic consequences for individuals, families, communities and society, can be both incorporated into our programmatic activities and in our work with people outside the movement.

Below is a list of the areas that could be impacted:

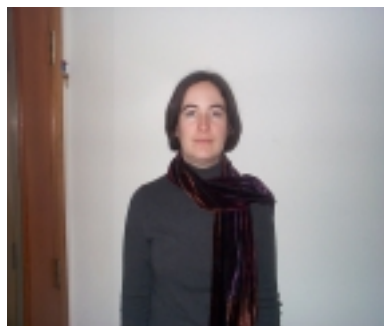
The economic cost of rape to society is a compelling argument to policymakers. When presented with the cost of one act of rape in medical and mental health consequences to survivors (and secondary victims), lost productivity, and criminal investigation, trial and incarceration, policymakers will likely want to find ways to reduce these costs. It our job to then frame solutions by discussing support services, prevention and holistic policy.

Whether a reporter contacts you, or you reach out to the media, incorporating the cost of rape in communications with the media can really draw their interest. Particularly citing statistics and research findings (see the other articles in this issue) will be helpful. Be sure to provide cites as well as the information. Use this information when talking to reporters and in press releases, op-ed’s and letters to the editor.

With certain audiences, the economic impacts of rape on individuals, your community and society may be compelling. Consider including the analysis in your grant proposals to foundations and government sources. The impacts on individuals may be a useful argument with individual donors. Also, incorporating the cost of rape into your annual report, agency brochure or other promotional materials can draw more people and organizations into supporting the work.

Managers may want to work with staff to revise curricula to include an economic analysis of rape. This could affect both the in-house training curriculum and presentations to the community during Sexual Assault Awareness Week/Month and throughout the year.

Managers may want to work with staff to revise curricula to include an economic analysis of rape. This could affect both the in-house training curriculum and presentations to the community during Sexual Assault Awareness Week/Month and throughout the year.



# Legal Program Update

CATHERINE CARROLL  
STAFF ATTORNEY  
WASHINGTON COALITION OF SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAMS

The project has been designed primarily to provide training for lawyers representing victims of sexual assault, prosecutors or legal advocates. Additionally, the project has focused on creating meaningful resource materials for attorneys, advocates and survivors of sexual assault. In collaboration with the Northwest Women's Law Center and the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, the coalition has worked to increase the capacity of civil attorneys, sexual assault prosecutors and legal advocates to more effectively meet the legal needs of sexual assault survivors. In relation to the goals outlined in the grant, the respective project objectives are as follows:

The project supports three main statewide training events, each lasting two days. The Civil Legal Training presented in collaboration with the Northwest Women's Law Center focuses on legal aspects of sexual assault within and outside the family. It offers 15 CLE credits to attorneys and will be held in Tacoma, Washington on January 23–24, 2003. Seventeen presenters will focus on 14 topics, including: Prevalence of Sexual Assault and the Need for Legal Services; Sensitivity in Representing Sexual Assault Survivors; Cultural Awareness: Barriers within the Legal System; Immigration Issues: VAWA & Issue Spotting with SA victims; Civil Legal Remedies; Sexual Assault Tort Litigation in Washington; Resources for Your Client: Address Confidentiality Program, Confidential Identity Change & Crime Victims Compensation; Ethics in Representing Sexual Assault Survivors; Intersection with Criminal Law: No Contact Orders; Restitution, Child Custody, Relocation, When a Child Results from Rape: Termination of Parental Rights and Other Options; Protection Orders, Restraining Orders, Anti-Harassment Orders; Tribal Orders, Full Faith & Credit, and Other Jurisdictional Issues; and

Childhood Sexual Abuse Litigation. There are 60 attendees currently confirmed including approximately 40 attorneys.

The Criminal Legal Training is presented in collaboration with the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys and also offers 15 CLE credits. It is intended for sexual assault prosecutors, U.S. attorneys, J.A.G.s and law enforcement. It will cover the following ten topics: Systems Barriers to SA Survivors; Reluctant and Recanting Victims; Interviewing Child Victims; Direct Examination of Victims and Dealing with Expert Testimony; Jury Selection, Ethics in Witness Interviewing and Understanding Rape Shield Statutes; Working with Law Enforcement; DNA evidence – Charging against DNA to Stop Tolling the Statute of Limitations; Sex Crimes; and Sentencing Options. It will be held in SeaTac, Washington on March 24–25, 2003. We anticipate approximately 100 attendees. There are nine presenters, including nationally recognized specialists in sexual assault prosecution.

The Legal Advocate Training will highlight family law issues, skill building activities with beginner and advanced tracks and will also include presentations on the following topics: Juvenile law; Tribal law; Immigration issues and VAWA petitioning; Cultural Awareness: Barriers within the Legal System; and Resources for Your Client: Address Confidentiality Program, Confidential Identity Change & Crime Victims Compensation. It will be held in Wenatchee, Washington on April 17–18, 2003. We anticipate that 60 advocates will attend.

The project supports the production of a Legal Advocate Resource Guide, Civil Resource Guide, Criminal Resource Guide, each with two updates, and a *Know Your Rights Pamphlet* for Survivors.

*continued next page*

# Legal Program Update

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The Civil Legal and the Legal Advocate Resource Guides will be submitted to VAWO by the end of January 2003 for approval and distribution. The Criminal Guide will be submitted for approval in early March of 2003. Once approval is obtained, each Resource Guide will be distributed to training participants and other interested parties such as law school libraries and statewide legal service providers. Updates to each Resource Guide will be distributed in June of 2003 and October of 2003.

The *Know Your Rights* pamphlet will be drafted specifically for sexual assault survivors. This pamphlet will be produced in Spanish and English, distributed statewide and available in September of 2003. We have also created a Pro Bono referral database. Victims can contact WCSAP and be referred to an attorney in their community who may potentially assist them at a reduced legal fee or for free. Currently there are approximately 100 attorneys entered into the database. By the end of the grant cycle it is anticipated that potential pro bono attorneys from all 39 counties in the state of Washington will be identified and entered into the database.

The Legal Services Program has responded to over fifty technical assistance requests to date. These calls, emails and in-person meetings cover a wide range of legal issues that arise in both the criminal and civil legal systems. The program has received calls on topics such as: what a defense attorney can and cannot do in an interview with a sexual assault survivor, how to maintain the confidentiality of rape victim when the advocate is subpoenaed and how best to advocate for survivors in family court when judges do not believe a victim as been raped.

WCSAP is collaborating with Columbia Legal Services (the statewide legal service provider for low-income people), the Washington Coalition of Crime Victim Advocates, the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Office of Crime Victims Advocacy, the Northwest Women's Law Center, the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, and a number of rape crisis centers, including the YWCA of Clark County Sexual Assault Program, the King County Sexual Assault Response Center, Providence Sexual Assault Center, the Sexual Assault Center of Pierce County, New Hope, Family Support Center, and the Sexual Assault & Family Trauma Resource Center. WCSAP invited all rape crisis centers in the state to participate in a Legal Advisory Group. The above agencies responded and worked to help draft the table of contents for the Resource Guides and brainstorm about training topics for the various trainings.

The legal program, with the help of its grant partners and the Legal Advisory Group has focused on assessing the legal needs of sexual assault survivors statewide. This has been accomplished by conducting surveys with community-based advocates, responding to technical assistance inquires, meeting with stakeholders and developing relationships with legal service providers. By seeking input, inviting participation, facilitating attendance at meeting and attending meetings, conferences and trainings we have enhanced statewide collaboration and information sharing among sexual assault programs, legal service providers and attorneys.

## WCSAP STAFF

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Evelyn Larsen, Training & Events Coordinator

Bonnie Ruddell, Bookkeeper

Gayle Stringer, Prevention Services Director

Rachel Stewart, Prevention Services Coordinator

Ryan Warner, Prevention Services Coordinator

Shanette Green, Prevention Services Program Assistant

Lydia Guy, Advocacy Education Director

Nora Bashir, Advocacy Education Coordinator

Tara Cardinal, Library Assistant

Catherine A. Carroll, Staff Attorney

Sherina James, Legal Services Coordinator

# Resource Sharing Project

Regional Meeting Update

BY THE RESOURCE SHARING PROJECT PARTNER COALITIONS

## National Sexual Assault Coalition Resource Sharing Project

The Sexual Assault Coalition Resource Sharing Project works to help coalitions access the resources they need in order to continue to develop.

The project is designed to provide technical assistance, support, and the facilitation of peer-driven resources for statewide sexual assault coalitions. The Resource Sharing Project recognizes the needs of all coalitions, especially those designated as new and emerging, regarding issues of organizational growth, professional development, and policy development.

The Central West region convened a regional meeting on August 21 – 23<sup>rd</sup> in Denver Colorado. Evaluations of that meeting as well as the agenda are enclosed. The meeting was absolutely amazing. The theme was “Coalition Show and Tell.” This was done in an effort to highlight the great work going on in the region, rather than bring in outside experts. This gave coalitions in the region an opportunity to shine, as well as promote some of the core principles and goals of the Resource Sharing Project as a whole. Every state except for Texas was represented. Two coalitions attended for South Dakota and Oklahoma, which sent someone from the State coalition as well as the new Native American Domestic Violence Coalition.

The regional meeting started with a day and a half of training with the Dismantling Racism Project. This training went really well and was extremely helpful for all. It provided a primer for coalitions on dismantling racism, but the trainers also provided concrete steps with small group time to discuss how coalitions can structure offices, programming and infrastructure to become Anti-Racist Organizations, which is the ideal. The trainers were sensitive, honest and allowed participants to speak from their hearts.

The Southeastern Regional Meeting was held November 6-8 in Miami, Florida. 19 staff from ten states participated. Presentations were given on child forensic exams and SART development in North Carolina. The Dismantling Racism Training was given.

WCSAP held a regional meeting in Portland, OR for the western region. Guam attended, as did states in the region except Idaho. The meeting was three days in length and provided training by the Dismantling Racism Project, a presentation and workgroups led by SCESA: the Women of Color Leadership Project, a training on outcome based evaluation, roundtable discussion and updates from each state and Guam. The 21 participants rated the meeting highly overall.

# Washington State Department of Corrections Establishes Community Victim Liaisons

With the strong support of crime victim advocates from around the state, the Washington Department of Corrections (DOC) has created a new classification of employees called Community Victim Liaisons. They are part of the Department's Victim/Witness Unit, but are stationed in field offices throughout the state. One of these new staff members has been assigned to each of DOC's five regions to:

- 1) serve as a bridge between DOC and crime victims and victim advocates;
- 2) increase understanding of victim needs and concerns within DOC;
- 3) build working partnerships between DOC and victim advocates to increase victim and community safety and offender accountability.

As crime victims and victim advocates have worked over the past thirty years for a criminal justice system that is more responsive to the needs of victims, the primary focus has been on the "front end" of the system. Victims' rights and advocacy services have given greatest attention to the ways in which victims are involved in, and affected by, the investigation and prosecution of cases. Victims' rights to be informed, to be present, and to be heard in criminal justice proceedings and decisions are commonly viewed as applicable mainly to what occurs in the system up to and including the sentencing proceeding.

After sentencing, the offender is turned over to corrections authorities for incarceration, supervision, or both, and the people who have been the victim's contacts in the system are no longer involved in the case. Though both system-based and community-based victim advocates may still be available to help obtain information and address problems, they are dealing, at least in felony cases, with a more

distant, unfamiliar part of the system, and may have more difficulty connecting with key corrections decision makers than they did with local law enforcement officers and prosecuting attorneys.

One of the core functions of the Community Victim Liaisons will be to develop working relationships with the criminal justice and victim advocacy agencies within each of their regions so that when questions, needs, or concerns arise during the "corrections" phase of the criminal justice process, victims and their advocates will know how to find answers.

In November 2001 the Department hired Steve Eckstrom to work with Victim/Witness Program Manager Bill Stutz to complete the process of designing the positions, conduct the recruitment and hiring process, and oversee the initial training and orientation of those hired for the Community Victim Liaison positions. Mr. Eckstrom is a long-time victim advocate with previous experience as Advocacy Services Program Manager for the state Office of Crime Victims Advocacy and as Director of the Victim/Witness Assistance Unit of the Snohomish County Prosecutor's Office. Mr. Stutz, who has managed the victim/witness notification program at DOC since 1987, has worked throughout his tenure in that position to make program services more accessible and responsive to the victims and witnesses it serves.

After consultation with both victim advocates and DOC staff in the development of the job description, recruitment for the positions was opened in the spring of 2002. Application reviews and interviews were conducted during the summer, and in August positions were offered to four experienced, well-qualified crime victim advocates

Among the highest priority responsibilities of the Community Victim Liaisons will be the coordination of intensive, multidisciplinary safety planning processes, called “victim wraparounds,” in certain high-risk cases. These cases are those in which an offender has either recently threatened the victim or another person, has shown signs of fixation on the victim or another person, or continues to pursue a relationship with a past victim without that person’s consent.

Jeri Costa will serve the Northwest Region, and will work out of the Community Justice Center/Regional Office in Everett. Though Jeri is well known for her leadership in the criminal justice arena as a member for the past eight years of the Washington State Legislature, she has been a leader in the victim advocacy field for many years preceding her tenure in office. She comes to the position with both a broad policy perspective and with practical experience in the delivery of services to crime victims. She can be reached in her office at (425) 513-5169.

Darby Stewart will serve the Northeast Region, working out of the Broadway Office in Spokane. Darby has most recently served as Program Director of the Sexual Assault and Family Trauma Response Center administered in Spokane by Lutheran Community Services Northwest. She has worked closely with the Department for a number of years as a member of the Spokane Sex Offender Management Team and the Community Offender Accountability Team. Her office telephone number is (509) 323-5304.

Tammy Wolf will serve the Southeast Region, and be stationed at the Pasco Field Office.

Tammy has provided advocacy and support services to victims of a wide range of crime types in her position with the Victim/Witness Assistance Unit of the Benton County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office. She has taken a leadership role in developing collaborative responses to the needs of crime victims in the Tri-Cities area. Her office telephone number is (509) 545-2414.

Nancy Hawley will serve the West Central Region, and will be situated in the Community Justice Center/Regional Office in Tacoma. Nancy comes to the Department from Providence Sexual Assault Center in Everett, where she has most recently been serving as Advocate/Grant Coordinator. Nancy has worked closely with the Department as an active member of the Community Sex Offender Management Team in Snohomish County. Her office telephone number is (253) 680-2761.

Steve Eckstrom will continue to provide coordination of the work of the Community Victim Liaisons while also providing direct services in the Southwest Region. He will be stationed at the Department’s Olympia headquarters. His telephone number there is (360) 586-3575.

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# What's going on at WCSAP: Participation in Work Groups & Committees on

- Washington State Crime Victims Compensation Advisory Committee** – this committee focuses on policy and fiscal issues for Washington State's Crime Victim's Compensation Program.
- DOC Housing for High-Risk Offenders** - This group called the "partnership for Community Safety" has been meeting to discuss transient level III sex offender and Dangerously Mentally Ill Offenders (DIMO).
- STOP Technical Assistance Advisory Group** – Provide ongoing consultation and technical assistance to the STOP TA project, a project of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence.
- National Sexual Violence Resource Center Steering Committee** - This committee provides ongoing consultation and direction to the Center. As chair of the technical assistance sub committee, work focuses on improving technical assistance topics and strategies.
- Washington State Law and Justice Advisory Council** - This Governor-appointed council position attempts to promote collaboration between local and state-level criminal justice entities.
- Department of Corrections Victim's Council** - As Co-Chair of the council, the work focuses on collaboration between specific programming in the Washington State Department of Corrections, and a variety of victim's organizations in the state.
- Special Commitment Center Advisory Committee** - This advisory council was formed to advise on the components of the treatment program, as well as advise regarding the development of Less Restrictive Alternative housing for residents of the program who are facing imminent release.
- Washington Coalition of Crime Victim Advocates** - As a board member of this organization, work focuses on collaborative efforts between victim-serving organizations in Washington State.
- Department of Health Strategic Planning Committee** - This workgroup was held to discuss a statewide assessment of Violence Against Women issues required by the Department of Health and Human Services.
- Time for Trial Task Force** - The Washington State Supreme Court created a task force to address the issue of violations of Washington's "Speedy Trial Rule" which has resulted in the failed prosecution of a number of defendants in the state.
- Restorative Justice Work Group** - Hosted by the Department of Corrections, this workgroup focused on the application of restorative principles and victims of violent crime.
- Underserved Crime Victim's Taskforce** - Commissioned by the State Legislature, this working group focused on the development of state infrastructure for underserved victims of crime.
- Sex Offender Notification Model Policy** - Convened by the Washington State Patrol, this workgroup focused on revising the current notification policies in the state. This document is due to publish in March 2003.
- Trafficking Taskforce** - Commissioned by the State Legislature, this workgroup focused on building a state infrastructure for victims of trafficking.
- Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration Advisory Committee** - This committee is an overall advisory committee that comments on JRA policy and procedures.
- Sexual Assault Forensic Exam National Standards Workgroup** - Convened by the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, this meeting focused on the development national standards for sexual assault forensic exams.
- Special Commitment Center Public Relations Focus Group** - Advised on a public communication strategy regarding the development of Lesser Restrictive Alternative Housing for the Department of Social and Health Services.
- DOC Victim Empathy Curriculum** - Worked with a sub-group of offender education providers to edit the state's current victim empathy curriculum. Final version due to be complete by June 2003.
- Washington State Sexual Assault Services Advisory Committee** - A state taskforce of sexual assault service providers and consultants who provide advise to the Office of Crime Victims Advocacy regarding their activities.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THESE ACTIVITIES OR WORKING GROUPS, PLEASE CONTACT SUZANNE!

# Education and Technical Assistance Grants to End Violence Against Women with Disabilities

GAYLE STRINGER  
PREVENTION SERVICES DIRECTOR  
WASHINGTON COALITION OF SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAMS

This partnership project represents one of the largest and broadest initiatives to bring together the sexual assault and disabilities community in the history of the state of Washington. Each partner, both state and private, in the project communicated a profound excitement and commitment to the discussions, products, events, and collaboration this initiative represents.

In 1997 Washington State adopted a “Community Development approach to the prevention of sexual violence. Simply stated this approach looks at both the conditions that affect individuals and groups and the capability of individuals and organizations to work together to create better conditions.<sup>1</sup> In terms of sexual violence, the community development model directs organizations and individuals who are interested in ending sexual violence to depend on the wisdom and the direction of the communities they are attempting to serve. This project takes this advise to heart, and places the voice and experiences of women with disabilities as the central guide to the project.

In addition to being an innovative prevention strategy, this approach has also had successful applications as a statewide planning strategy. One of the most essential, an elemental ways of ensuring that solutions and intervention proposals are appropriate for a targeted community is to utilize that communities inherent expertise to guide the process. This proposal is, first and foremost, is informed by individuals with disabilities, and the agencies that serve them. When this expert input is added to the skills and history of the sexual assault coalition, this strategy effectively creates new partnerships that better serve the needs of

victims of sexual violence in that community.

The following are proposed elements of the project and the progress to date:

**Community Voices Group:** *WCSAP will convene a group of experts from the disabilities community to discuss the needs of disabled victims of sexual violence. This group will meet over the first nine months of the project to help shape discussion, identify barriers to access, promote strategy and identify needed resources.*

- The **Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs (WCSAP)**, founded in 1978, is an association of 41 community sexual assault programs that serve every jurisdiction in Washington State. WCSAP has been a leader locally and nationally on behalf of victims of sexual violence. Staffed by 13 exceptional individuals, WCSAP’s organizational design is focused on the provision of technical assistance and resource materials. Known for its collaborative projects, WCSAP has conducted many multidisciplinary projects that bring together the expertise of communities, criminal justice systems, policy makers, health care providers, and activists. WCSAP, and its Board of Directors, recognize that collaboration and community leadership are essential components of any initiative. WCSAP has an established history of administering projects that both community driven, and broad in scope.
- The **ARC of Washington** is one of the state’s largest organizations that work on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities. The ARC has agreed to

participate in the Community Voices discussion group as well as recommend resources and strategy to inform the development materials, training, technical assistance and coalition building between the sexual assault community and the disabilities community.

- **Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy** is one of the nation's first agencies dedicated to working with abuse survivors in the Deaf Community. ADWAS has agreed to participate in the Community Voices discussion group as well as recommend resources and strategy to inform the development materials, training, technical assistance and coalition building between the sexual assault community and the disabilities community.
- **Washington Protection and Advocacy System** is the state designated advocacy organization that advocates on behalf of individuals with disabilities. This private organization provides information and referral, training, publications, targeted legal representation, abuse and neglect intervention and policy initiatives. WPAS has agreed to participate in the Community Voices discussion group as well as recommend resources and strategy to inform the development materials, training, technical assistance and coalition building between the sexual assault community and the disabilities community.
- **Washington Coalition of Individuals with Disabilities** is a statewide organization dedicated to promoting the independence, dignity, and self-sufficiency of the disabled. WCID has agreed to participate in the Community Voices discussion group as well as recommend resources and strategy to inform the development materials, training,

technical assistance and coalition building between the sexual assault community and the disabilities community.

- **Tacoma Area Coalition of Individuals with Disabilities** is an advocacy coalition that represents individuals who are deaf, blind, have multiple sclerosis and physical disabilities in Tacoma Washington. TACID has agreed to participate in the Community Voices discussion group as well as recommend resources and strategy to inform the development materials, training, technical assistance and coalition building between the sexual assault community and the disabilities community.
- **Communities Against Rape and Abuse** is a sexual assault advocacy program based in Seattle, Washington that uses a community development approach to preventing and intervening in issues of sexual violence. Lauded for its visionary community based work with disabled individuals, CARA to participate in the Community Voices discussion group as well as recommend resources and strategy to inform the development materials, training, technical assistance and coalition building between the sexual assault community and the disabilities community.

**The Office of Crime Victim's Advocacy** is the agency in state government that is responsible for overseeing the majority of funding that sexual assault programs receive in Washington State. Additionally, OCVA is a state government voice on behalf of victims and victim's issues. OCVA has agreed to provide input, distribute materials and announce trainings to their network of agencies and individuals who work on behalf of crime victims

<sup>1</sup> Lofquist, William A, *The Technology of Development: a Framework for Transforming Community Cultures*, 1996

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