

# THE CCASA CONNECTION

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

SPRING 2010

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Dear CCASA Members:

As April approaches each year many of us have mixed feelings. April is a sign that spring is near (or here if we're lucky!) and it's a month we set aside to acknowledge the reality of sexual violence in our communities and celebrate the work we do every day to assist survivors and prevent further victimization. It is also a month where these celebratory SAAM events and activities are added to an already overflowing plate. If I'm honest, it is often a time I dread, losing site of its purpose and feeling consumed by my busy schedule and a growing list of "to-do's." This year, I want to shift the focus and challenge each of us to take some time to celebrate SAAM by slowing down. Whether it's for 5 minutes or 5 hours, set aside a short time to breathe, to be conscious of what you have to be grateful for, to recognize the important work you're doing, and to take care of yourself.

"Self-care" is something we hear a lot about in our work and it's often too easy to brush aside as something we'll think about tomorrow or next week or when we have the time. But I recently attended a conference session about this topic that made me sit up and pay more attention. The speaker made a powerful statement: "We cannot end violence unless we cultivate and sustain a quality of presence and work from a place of liberation." Helping others, taking care of everyone else, is what we do. But what about ourselves? If we aren't working from a place of consciousness where we are able to truly be present in our work, how effective can we be? It's worth thinking about. This speaker ended with a quote I'd like to leave you with: *"Don't ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive and then go do that. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive."* —Dr. Howard Thurman.

Happy SAAM, Erin Jemison, Interim ED

## PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION FOR NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

Every day, women, men, and children across America suffer the pain and trauma of sexual assault. From verbal harassment and intimidation to molestation and rape, this crime occurs far too frequently, goes unreported far too often, and leaves long-lasting physical and emotional scars. During National Sexual Assault Awareness Month, we recommit ourselves not only to lifting the veil of secrecy and shame surrounding sexual violence, but also to raising awareness, expanding support for victims, and strengthening our response.

Sexual violence is an affront to our national conscience, one which we cannot ignore. It disproportionately

affects women -- an estimated one in six American women will experience an attempted or completed rape at some point in her life. Too many men and boys are also affected.

These facts are deeply troubling, and yet, sexual violence affects Americans of all ages, backgrounds, and circumstances. Alarming rates of sexual violence occur among young women attending college, and frequently, alcohol or drugs are used to incapacitate the victim. Among people with disabilities, isolation may lead to repeated assaults and an inability to seek and locate help. Native American women are more than twice as

likely to be sexually assaulted compared with the general population. As a Nation, we share the responsibility for protecting each other from sexual assault, supporting victims when it does occur, and bringing perpetrators to justice.

We can lead this charge by confronting and changing insensitive attitudes wherever they persist. Survivors too often suffer in silence because they fear further injury, are unwilling to experience further humiliation, or lack faith in the criminal justice system.

*Continued on page 3...*

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- Spring Regional Meetings are being scheduled for the week of May 24, 2010. We are able to offer mileage reimbursements this year, so we hope to see you there! Stay tuned for more details.
- Has your agency had an experience with clients being unable to pay for a drug-facilitated sex assault test panel? If so, we'd like to hear from you! Watch for info about an upcoming stakeholders' meeting in May regarding this issue.

**PREVENTION IN A RAPE CULTURE:  
THE THEME FOR THIS YEAR’S SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH**

Sexual violence is an ill that has long been embedded in our cultural experience. Rooted in patriarchal norms, perpetuated through childhood socialization and encouraged by media objectification, it is not difficult to see how both girls and boys are vulnerable to the traps of gender inequality.

Traditionally, the work done by advocates and activists in the field of sexual violence has focused on direct intervention, offering support and services to those who have survived or are currently experiencing sexual violence in their lives. However, while serving those already violated is essential to mitigating the harmful consequences of sexual violence, it does little to stop its continuation. The only ‘cure’ for the prevalence of sexual violence in our daily lives is widespread social change. To this end, prevention education and outreach initiatives have become increasingly vital to rape crisis centers and advocacy programs.

Prevention efforts that take place before sexual violence has occurred, or indeed, before there is a specific identifiable risk, are termed **Primary Prevention**.

In teaching about primary prevention, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) uses a four-level socio-ecological model to better understand the wide-spread factors that contribute to the occurrence of sexual violence in our culture. This model considers

the complex interplay between individual, relationship, community, and societal factors (see Table 1). It allows us to address the factors that put people at risk for experiencing or perpetrating violence.

In order to effect lasting change, a comprehensive prevention strategy should, therefore, include a continuum of activities that address multiple levels of the model. These activities should be developmentally appropriate and conducted across the lifespan. This approach is more likely to sustain prevention efforts over time than any single intervention.

**Individual**

There are individual biological and personal history factors that increase the likelihood of becoming a victim or perpetrator of violence. Some of these factors are age, education, income, substance use, or history of abuse. Prevention strategies at this level are often designed to promote attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors that ultimately prevent violence. Specific approaches may include education and life skills training such as programs designed to increase positive body-image among young girls or to challenge attitudes of hypermasculinity and their relationship to sexual violence.

**Relationship**

We as humans are decidedly affected by our close relationships and these may increase the risk of experiencing violence as a victim or perpetrator. A

person's closest social circle—peers, partners and family members—influences their behavior and contributes to their range of experience. Prevention strategies at this level may include mentoring and peer programs designed to reduce conflict, foster problem solving skills, and promote healthy relationship skills. Teaching bystander intervention skills, especially to men, can help support the primary prevention of sexual violence.

**Community**

Community action explores the settings, such as schools, workplaces, and neighborhoods, in which social relationships occur and seeks to identify the characteristics of these settings that are associated with becoming victims or perpetrators of violence. Community prevention strategies are typically designed to impact the climate, processes, and policies in a given system. An example would be youth leading classroom-based conversations and school-wide awareness events to change their school’s climate of tolerance for sexualized bullying. Social norm and social marketing campaigns are often used to foster community climates that promote healthy relationships.

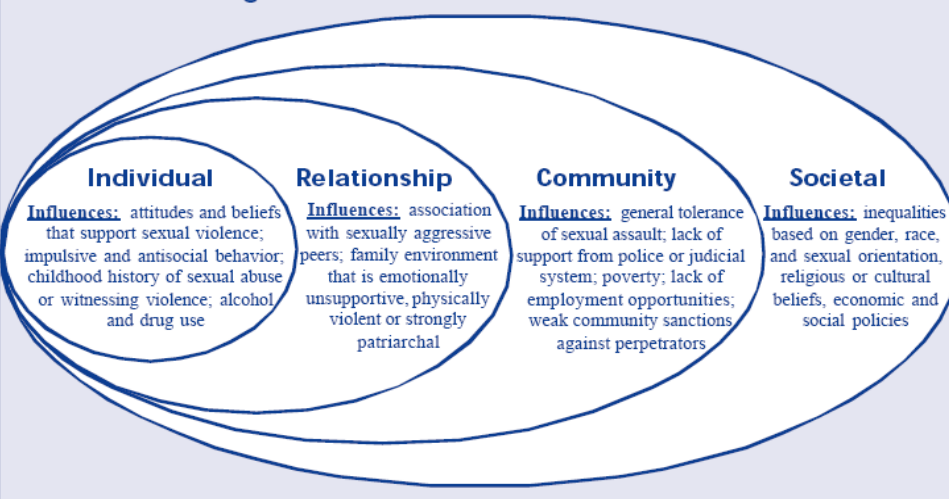
**Societal**

There are broad societal factors that help create a climate in which violence is encouraged or inhibited. These factors include social and cultural norms. Other large societal factors include the health, economic, educational and social policies that help to maintain economic or social inequalities between groups in society. Prevention at this level would include educating legislators about the importance of economic and educational policies that promote the economic status of women and reduce inequalities in employment.

Our culture is entrenched with sexual violence and the task of changing it on so many levels can seem daunting, however, we have seen vast societal change take place even in our recent history. With all of us working together to stop sexual violence and risk of violence ever occurring, we can be the force that brings each one of us closer to safety.

Source: CDC & World Health Organization, 2002

**Table 1. The Ecological Model**



**ACTION ALERT! (TRIGGER WARNING)**

THE FOLLOWING AD APPEARED IN THE *DENVER DAILY NEWS* ON MARCH 22, 2010

She's at work, right?

Teach her to use a gun.

GET YOUR CONCEALED CARRY WEAPONS PERMIT

Gunsmoke instructors are the best in the state and will train you in:

- Basic safety
- Permit application process
- Laws on concealed carry
- Laws on use of deadly force
- Situational shooting and mindset

all for only \$145

900 West 44th Ave., Wheat Ridge  
www.gunsmokeguns.com

protect her. 303-456-4545

No gun needed • Lecture only • No test • Certificate awarded at the end of class

DENVER DAILY NEWS 03/22/2010

\* Special thanks to Elise Hudson for bringing this ad to our attention.

Contact both the *Denver Daily News* and Gunsmoke to tell them that this ad is deeply disturbing. The *Denver Daily News* decides what advertisements they display in their publication. Ask them to stop running this appalling ad and to practice more discretion in the future. Contact Gunsmoke and ask them to stop using scare tactics and images of violence against women as a method of advertisement.

**Denver Daily News: 303-433-1492**  
[www.thedenverdailynews.com](http://www.thedenverdailynews.com)

**Gunsmoke: 303-456-4545**  
[www.gunsmokeguns.com](http://www.gunsmokeguns.com)

The ad falsely suggests that if the victim had only had a gun and some training, she could have avoided this horrific situation. It also perpetuates the myth that most assaults happen by strangers. Seeing images like this without warning can be deeply traumatic for victims of violence.

**PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION FOR SAAM**

This feeling of isolation, often compounded with suicidal feelings, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder, only exacerbate victims' sense of hopelessness. No one should face this trauma alone, and as families, friends, and mentors, we can empower victims to seek the assistance they need.

At the Federal, State, local, and tribal level, we must work to provide necessary resources to victims of every circumstance, including medical attention, mental health more services, relocation and housing assistance, and advocacy during legal proceedings. Under Vice President Biden's leadership, the 2005 reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act included the Sexual Assault Services Program, the first-ever funding stream dedicated solely to providing direct services to victims of sexual assault. To further combat sexual violence, my 2011 Budget doubles funding for this program. Through the Justice Department and the Centers for Disease Control, we are funding prevention and

awareness campaigns as well as grants for campus services to address sexual assault on college campuses. The Justice Department has also increased funding and resources to combat violence against Native American women.

As we continue to confront this crime, let us reaffirm this month our dedication to take action in our communities and stop abuse before it starts. Together, we can increase awareness about sexual violence, decrease its frequency, punish offenders, help victims, and heal lives.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 2010 as National Sexual Assault Awareness Month. I urge all Americans to reach out to victims, learn more about this crime, and speak out against it.

Bystanders represent a web of people surrounding a progression of inappropriate behaviors, harassment or violence, including those who make a choice to speak up or intervene in some way and those who do not. Bystanders can have a powerful impact on sexual violence prevention.

**Bystander Intervention****Tips:**

- Refuse to join in.
- Ensure that you are in a situation where it is safe to act or intervene.
- Make sure that your actions won't result in violence against someone else.
- Attempt to draw the attention of others nearby to the situation.
- If no one else is around, attempt to distract the potential perpetrator/abuser enough to stop the violence or abuse.
- If you hear disturbing conversation that demeans others or sounds offensive, don't remain silent. Silence is complicity.
- If you are uncomfortable with verbal intervention, even walking away from a group of friends who are instigating harassing behavior or conversation sends a message.
- Discuss the issue of harassment with your friends and family. Talk about why it is inappropriate to treat women that way.
- Intervention doesn't have to result from one person's action. A united front can be a powerful force. Encourage others to act. Recruit help if necessary.

**MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT: SEX ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH EVENTS**

These events include all those submitted to CCASA and are listed alphabetically by location.

**Colorado Springs** ([www.tessacs.org](http://www.tessacs.org) unless otherwise indicated)

**April 1** – Take Back the Night, 7pm, Campus of Colorado College, Worner Student Center

**April 7** – Quiz for a Cause, 8pm, McCabe's Tavern

**April 8** – 4th Infantry Division & Fort Carson ACS and MWR 5K Run, 7:30-9:30am, Fort Carson Iron Horse Park

**April 9-11** – Finding Our Voices Art Show, 5-9pm, Cottonwood Center for the Arts, 427 E. Colorado Ave. ([www.fovcosprings.org](http://www.fovcosprings.org))

**April 11** – National Cheese Fondue Day, visit the Melting Pot and \$10 per pot goes directly to TESSA programs

**April 15** – Take Back the Night, 6pm, Campus of UCCS

**April 17** – Midnight NO means kNOW night at Colorado Springs clubs and pubs, 7pm

**April 18-24** – Crime Victims Rights Week

**April 21** – Denim Day throughout the city In 1999, an Italian Supreme Court decision overturned a 1992 rape conviction because the victim wore tight jeans, reasoning she must have helped her attacker remove them, and therefore could not have been assaulted. *Wear your jeans with a purpose this year.*

**April 24** – Crime Victims Rights 5K Run, 9am, East Bear Creek Park

**Denver Metro**

**April 6** – Quiz for a Cause, 8pm, Moe's BBQ in Englewood

**April 15** – “1 in 4 No More” day of events at the Community College of Aurora

**May 3-5** – arRAGEous show at DU, 7-9pm, Driscoll Gallery, entry forms due April 19

**Durango** ([www.durangosaso.org](http://www.durangosaso.org))

**April 2** – Clothesline Project

**April 3** – Take Back the Night

**April 7** – Men, Women, Rape, and Responsibility, 7pm, Durango Public Library



**April 21** – Andrea Smith: Relationship Between Sexual Assault and Oppression, 7pm, Fort Lewis College Nobel Hall 130

**April 22** – Day of Hope and Healing

**April 28** – “Platica,” Community dialogue in Spanish on sexual assault within the Latino Community, 6pm, Tequilas Restaurant, 948 Main Ave.

**Fort Collins** ([www.savacenter.org](http://www.savacenter.org))

**April 2** – Faces Project Reception, 6pm, Poudre River Arts Center

**April 8** – Quiz for a Cause, 6:30pm, Bondi Beach Bar ([www.ccasa.org](http://www.ccasa.org))

**April 10** – Speak Up Benefit for the SAVA Center, 7pm, Cherry Blossom Event Center, Loveland

**April 24** – Clothesline Project, Old Town

**Greeley** ([www.sarcenter.org](http://www.sarcenter.org))

**April 7** – Quiz for a Cause, 8pm, The Rio

**April 17** – Tough Guise free film viewing followed by panel discussion, 6:30pm, Waypoints Community, 719 21<sup>st</sup> St., near UNC on corner of 8<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>

**Loveland** ([www.alternativestoviolence.org](http://www.alternativestoviolence.org))

**April 22** – Open House at Alternatives to Violence office, 3:30-6:30pm, 313 E 4<sup>th</sup> Street, featuring the Clothesline Project

**Our Sister's Keeper Coalition events**

([www.oursisterskeeper.org](http://www.oursisterskeeper.org))

**April 19** – Sexual Assault Candlelight Vigil, 5pm, Ute Mountain Ute Community Center, Towaoc, Co.

**April 21** – Sexual Assault Training, Co-Sponsored by OSK and SASO at the Durango Community Center, Keynote Speaker: Andrea Smith

**April 22** – Sexual Assault Candlelight Vigil, 5pm, Southern Ute Veterans Park, Ignacio, Co.

**Statewide** ([www.ccasa.org](http://www.ccasa.org))

**April 5** – Statewide SAAM Kick-Off Rally at the Capitol, 11am

**April 6** – Quiz for a Cause, 8pm, Moe's BBQ in Englewood

**April 7** – CCASA Webinar: Intersections of Sexual Assault and Human Trafficking, 12pm

**April 15** – CCASA Webinar: Theater as Primary Prevention for Youth, 12pm

**April 22** – CCASA Webinar: Empowerment Through Outdoor Experiential and Peer Education, 12 pm

**April 28** – CCASA Webinar: Civil Lawsuit Options for Sexual Assault Cases, 12pm

WE NEED YOU: A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN ADVOCATE

Are you passionate about your work as an Advocate? Would you like to help educate new advocates and volunteers about this challenging and rewarding field? Now is the chance to tell your story! As you may know, the CCASA Manual Committee has been hard at work revising and updating the "Crisis Line and Advocacy Training Guide." We would like to interview advocates across the state about your experiences. These interviews will be modeled after a series of interviews conducted by The New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault in their "A Day in the Life of a Rape Crisis Advocate" blog contest. (http://www.svfreeenc.org/blog/page/6/)

Colorado is such a diverse state! We would like to conduct phone interviews with an Advocate representing each of these areas:

- A rural/non-urban program
• An urban program
• A dual sexual assault and domestic violence program
• A culturally-specific program
• A campus-based program
• A systems-based program

The interviews may include questions like:

- Why did you become a Sexual Assault Advocate?
• Describe a "typical" day as an Advocate. What is a day like if you are not called? What is the process once you do receive a call? What is it like for you while on-call?
• What are some of the pressing issues that you have become more aware of through your work as an Advocate?
• What is your advice to anyone wanting to become an Advocate?
• Where do you see the Colorado's sexual assault services in 5 years? 10 years?

Your interview will then be published in the new and improved 2010 statewide Crisis Line and Advocacy Training Guide! If you are interested in participating in an interview, please contact Karen Moldovan at 303-861-7033 ext. 803 or advocacy@ccasa.org. Thanks so much for your consideration. Our hope is that these interviews will give new advocates a better sense of the critical work you do every day!

CCASA would like to say a special thanks to John Dicker at Geeks Who Drink for his help in organizing SAAM "Quiz for a Cause" trivia events in collaboration with SAAM! This year,



there were events in Boulder, Colorado Springs, Greeley, Fort Collins, Grand Junction, and Denver. These events are a perfect combination of fundraising, community outreach, and a great time for staff, volunteers, and supporters to have fun outside of the office! If your agency is interested in participating in a trivia event, contact Karen at advocacy@ccasa.org.

DO YOU USE CCASA'S HANDBOOK FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT: "TOWARD HEALING AND JUSTICE?"

While we receive feedback that this is a great resource for advocates and survivors, some of the information has changed and we are in the midst of updating the handbook. We would love to hear from you regarding what you like about it, what you don't like, what information may not be accurate for your agency, and any other feedback you have. Please send any comments, suggestions, or changes to Karen at advocacy@ccasa.org or give us a call at 303-861-7033. Thanks!

And if you're not using it, you get 50 free copies as part of your CCASA membership! Let us know if you'd like to check it out.

CCASA Staff would like to say a huge thank-you to our SAAM planning committee who put so much time and work into SAAM events and activities, and especially for making the April 5th Capitol Kick-Off Rally go off without a hitch! Lauren Croucher, COVA Sarah Sowter, RAAP Kristine Ives, RAAP Carol Morris, U.S. Attorney's Office Devon Puerto, OKP Steve Hughes, RAAP Renee Popp, RAAP

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

As you hopefully know, **Senate Bill 66 passed through both the House and Senate and is on its way to the Governor to be signed into law!** Thank you to our lobbyist, **Annemarie Jensen**, for all of your time and dedication to CCASA and this issue. You can access the bill with all final amendments included at <http://www.leg.state.co.us>. Go to Senate Bills and click on 66. The final act states that mandatory reporters are not required to make a report on an adult survivor of child abuse unless they have “reasonable cause to know or suspect that the perpetrator has subjected any other child currently under 18 to abuse or neglect or to circumstances or conditions that would likely result in abuse or neglect, or the perpetrator is currently in a position of trust with regard to any child currently under 18 years of age.”

While we feel that this does clarify the previously ambiguous requirements for advocates, we understand that there may still be confusion about the changes. **Be sure to attend May regional meetings for a complete training on this law** and all 2010 legislative changes that affect sexual assault survivors and service providers! Watch your email for final dates, times, and locations for these meetings at the end of May.

## CCASA COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Do you want to be more involved in your CCASA membership? Our committees directly guide the work that we do. Please contribute your time to one of these important groups!

- ◆ **Public Policy Committee:** Next meeting is Tuesday, April 27, at 11:30am.
- ◆ **Sexual Assault Advocacy & Crisis Line Guide Committee:** Next meeting is April 30, 2010 at 12pm.
- ◆ **Public Outreach Committee:** NEW! This committee will be coming together in May to begin planning a statewide media campaign. Contact Karen at [advocacy@ccasa.org](mailto:advocacy@ccasa.org) if you are interested in learning more!

All meetings are held at the CCASA office at 1120 Lincoln St., Suite 900, in Denver. You may also call in to each meeting. Contact Karen at [advocacy@ccasa.org](mailto:advocacy@ccasa.org) for conference calling information.

Thank you to the **Public Policy Committee** for your countless hours and work on behalf of SB 66!

- Jennifer Eyl, Esq., Committee Chair
- Maureen Daberkow, Vice Chair
- John Clune, Victim Justice
- Michelle Spradling, SAIC
- Sarah Sowter, RAAP
- Judy Graff, Paralegal Resource Ctr.
- Deon Cobasky, Fort Carson
- Anne Guarnera, WINGS Foundation
- Amy Miller, CCADV
- Kristine Ives, RAAP

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