

IDVSA Voice

Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
Spring 2006
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The mission of the Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (IDVSA) is to

advance the knowledge base related to domestic violence and sexual assault in an effort to end interpersonal violence.

IDVSA accomplishes this through supporting research on domestic violence and sexual assault and by providing training, technical assistance, and information dissemination to the practitioner community and the community at large.

The Institute on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault

The University of Texas at Austin
School of Social Work
Center for Social Work Research
1 University Station D3510
Austin, Texas 78712-0358
Phone: 232-3507
Fax: 471-9600

For more information or to join the Institute listserv, please email morgancurtis@mail.utexas.edu

Library Gifted to IDVSA

Dean Barbara White of The School of Social Work at the University of Texas at Austin announces the generous gift of The National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence Library Collection.

Gifted to the UT School of Social Work by the National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence, this library is a practical and comprehensive collection of materials on all aspects of coordinated community response to domestic and sexual violence. With over 9000 cataloged items, including books, articles, reports, manuals, videos and other media, it is one of the largest libraries of its kind in the United States.

Dr. Noël Bridget Busch, of the UT School of Social work and the Director of the Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, with Co-directors Professor Sarah Buel of the UT Law School and Dr. Regina Johnson of the UT School of Nursing, invite individuals and organizations working to end interpersonal violence to utilize these valuable resources.

Nancy Flanakin, the librarian who managed the NCDSV collection before it was gifted to UT, was hired by Dean Barbara White to continue managing the collection as well as the collection of the Diversity Institute. Nancy earned an MLIS

from Louisiana State University in 1993 and has an extensive professional background, including working with the Education and Public Welfare Division of the Congressional Research Service at the Library of Congress, the Reference Department of the East Baton Rouge Parish Library, the Psychiatry Library of the University of Texas at Houston Health Science Center, and Concordia University in Austin.

In addition to helping build the library collection at NCDSV, Nancy also assisted with their website, provided information support for trainings and professional activities, answered information requests from the domestic violence and sexual assault communities, law enforcement, public agencies and individuals around the country who had questions about violence against women.

Postcards announcing the library are being distributed at conferences and events so that individuals all over the nation will know how to access this resource.

Please contact Nancy Flanakin at nflanakin@mail.utexas.edu or at 512/471-7366 for informational requests and assistance.

V-Day UT Austin 2006 a Success by Morgan Curtis

This year, the University of Texas at Austin hosted its fifth annual production of Eve Ensler's award winning play *The Vagina Monologues* in recognition of V-Day, an international movement to end violence against women. The show, co-sponsored by the Gender and Sexuality Center and the Orange Jackets, raised over \$10,000 for SafePlace and the Settlement Home. A portion of the proceeds was also donated to the comfort women, V-Day's spotlight for this season.

The three showings of this year's production reached over 2000 people from the community, thanks in part to having a larger production space for the final two performances. Asha Dane'el, co-director of the Women's Resource Center and one of the shows producers, reports that over 150 students were involved in the production, including students from at least 20 student groups that helped with various events related to the show.



Noël Bridget Busch, PhD
Principal Investigator
School of Social Work
nbusch@mail.utexas.edu



Sarah Buel, JD
Co-Investigator
School of Law
sbuel@mail.law.utexas.edu



Regina Jones Johnson, PhD
Co-Investigator
School of Nursing
rjohnson@mail.utexas.edu

IDVSA Staff



Dorothy Garza
Curricula Developer
dzgarza@mail.utexas.edu



Morgan J Curtis
Graduate Research Assistant
morgancurtis@mail.utexas.edu

Curriculum Infusion Update

by Dorothy Garza

With help from the members of the Curriculum Infusion Workgroup, the Safety Planning Module activity by Shanti Kulkarni, PhD and Noël Bridget Busch, PhD that is included in *Breaking the Silence in Social Work Education*, (Danis, F.S. & Lockhart, L.L., 2004) has been revised and made available for classroom use. New case examples were added for students to use as a practice opportunity in developing a safety plan. One of these case examples is an intake assessment based on the main character from *Black and Blue* by Anna Quindlen. The other two case examples are incident reports compiled by Lupita Lujan, Victim Services Counselor with the Austin Police Department. The facts of the incident reports are drawn from a number of actual family violence incident reports. The case

examples can be modified to address specific practice issues such as working with elder survivors, same-sex intimate partner violence, and child abuse.

The module has been made available to the School of Social Work clinical faculty and will be added to the IDVSA website. The Curriculum Infusion workgroup will continue its efforts in developing a topic infusion module for faculty across campus, and creating sample statistics problems addressing domestic violence and sexual assault issues. If you are interested in more information or would like to participate in the Curriculum Infusion workgroup, contact Dorothy Garza by email at dzgarza@mail.utexas.edu or by telephone at (512) 232-3507.

National Domestic Violence Hotline Turns 10

by Morgan Curtis

The National Domestic Violence Hotline celebrated its 10th Anniversary by announcing the new hotline technology that will allow them to serve more clients and to serve them more quickly. The software, developed by Catapult Systems, includes a feature to search by radius for shelters and emergency transportation, a mapping feature, and a conference call feature to

directly connect callers to services in their area. The NDVH has served over 1.5 million victims since its inception and will be able to decrease the number of unanswered calls thanks to this new computer technology. Senator Joseph Biden (D-DE), co-author of the Violence Against Women Act, and Congressman Lloyd Doggett (D-TX) were in attendance for the unveiling of the new software.

Join the IDVSA Team at the SafePlace Walk for Safe Families and Safe Streets

The 19th Annual SafePlace Walk for Safe Families and Safe Streets is will be held Saturday April 22nd at Waterloo Park in Austin. The walk begins at noon, but there will be other events from 10:00AM-2:00PM. To join the IDVSA team, visit the walk website (www.safeplacewalk.org) and register under the team named "IDVSA".

IDVSA to Explore Prison Issues

by Morgan Curtis

Beginning in February, the IDVSA convened a special committee to explore issues related to battered women in prison. Sarah Buel, IDVSA Co-Investigator will be heading this initiative. Potential goals for the group include conducting a needs assessment for battered women in the legal system, involving UT students and faculty in programs that serve incarcerated survivors, examining current initiatives in

Texas prisons and jails, identifying needed programming for prisons and jails, and collaborating with other agencies to host a conference in order to help raise awareness and increase involvement in the movement.

Anyone who wishes to be involved in this subcommittee should contact Sarah Buel (sbuel@mail.law.utexas.edu).

Affiliate Showcase: Migrant Clinician's Network



Above:
Presidio Advocates Ramon Benavides and Armando Acosta present information on DV to men in their community.

This issue's Affiliate Showcase features Erin Daley of Migrant Clinician's Network.

In general, what kind of work does MCN do?

MCN's goal is to improve health care of migrants and other mobile poor populations by providing support, technical assistance, and professional development services to clinicians working in migrant health. Our headquarters is here in Austin, but we have staff in five states around the country and provide resources and technical assistance on a variety of health topics to clinicians nationwide.

What population does MCN work with?

MCN serves clinicians working with migrant workers. We define migrant as any individual who is required to be absent from a permanent place of residence for the purpose of seeking employment. Migrant farmworkers are predominantly Hispanic and most earn annual incomes below the poverty level, with half earning below \$7,500 per year. This population tends to be very isolated, many times lacking access to a telephone or transportation. Also, they may face language barriers and economic constraints as well as concerns about immigration/citizenship status.

What work do you do specifically related to interpersonal violence?

In the area of domestic violence, we have two current projects:

1. *Familias con Voz*: DV Prevention Advocates at the Texas-Mexico border provide community education presentations in an effort to improve

Below:
Eagle Pass Teen Advocate Marisol Cárdenas presents information on dating violence to her peers.



awareness about this issue in the community and improve knowledge of available resources.

2. *SV/IPV Prevention Project*: MCN is designing an intervention aimed at preventing sexual and intimate partner violence by working with Hispanic migrant men.

Our past projects have included some of the following:

- **Print & Audio Campaign**: We developed posters, Public Service Announcements, a video and a photonovella related to DV in the migrant population.
- **Research**: MCN conducted two different research projects to determine the prevalence of DV in the migrant population.
- **Education for Clinicians**: MCN has conducted numerous training sessions and developed materials to educate clinicians on screening for DV in the migrant population.
- **Education for Migrant Workers**: MCN DV advocates facilitated a series of workshops for migrant workers relating to having healthy relationships and preventing violence.

For the *Familias con Voz* project, how are the community advocates recruited and trained?

Each fall/winter we schedule one 3-day training in Eagle Pass and one 3-day training in Presidio to train new and returning advocates. We find new advocates mainly through word of mouth. Some current advocates attended a presentation in previous years and decided they wanted to get involved. Others are friends/acquaintances of other advocates who get invited to participate when we are looking for new advocates for the next year. Additionally, sometimes we do more formal recruitment in the community in which the site leaders send information to parents in their children's schools or set up a table at the flea market to give out information and look for new potential advocates.

continued on next page



Left: Erin Daley conducts a training for adult male and female DV Prevention Advocates in Presidio, Texas.

What projects are you working on with the CDC grant?

This is a three year project to plan, design, implement and evaluate a program model aimed at the primary prevention of sexual and intimate partner violence in the Hispanic migrant community through outreach to males. MCN will rely on the advice of an expert Leadership Consortium as well as an experienced Advisory Committee to accomplish this task. The first year of this project has been focused on gathering data and planning. MCN has surveyed existing literature on protective and risk factors predictive of sexual and intimate partner violence perpetration among Hispanic migrant men and is developing an inventory of existing prevention programs. This summer, MCN will conduct community surveys in five migrant communities around the United States to collect baseline data on Knowledge, Attitudes, Beliefs and Behaviors (KABB) related to the prevention of sexual and intimate partner violence. MCN will use the data from this survey to develop and implement a culturally competent program model for working with Hispanic migrant men to prevent sexual and intimate partner violence.

What successes have you experienced in this work? What challenges?

Specifically in our current project *Familias con Voz*, we have been very successful in recruiting adult women and teenagers to present domestic violence and dating violence prevention information to their peers in the community. We have also found improved levels of knowledge in community members after attending a community education presentation. Since 2002, Advocates have conducted over 250 presentations reaching over 3,500 people and they consistently receive positive written and verbal feedback on the work they do.

The advocates and site leaders routinely share stories of the positive effects of their work. Many times women approach them after a presentation to ask for more information to help a friend or family member. Also, sometimes a survivor herself will approach them to thank them for the work that they're doing and tell them how important it is because she has already lived through it and didn't know about the support available to her at the time. Still other times, someone who is still in a violent situation has attended a presentation and become informed about her options and made the decision to leave her abuser partially as a result of the information provided to her in the presentation and the support offered by the advocates.



Left:
Eagle Pass Teen Advocates Cassandra Gaona, Marisol Cárdenas and Dariela González receive their certificates after completing a DV advocate training.

Although we have also been successful in recruiting men to do this work in Presidio, we have experienced many challenges in finding interested and available men to do the work in Eagle Pass. In working with migrant workers to prevent DV, we have also come across the following challenges:

- Because it is a sensitive topic, there is sometimes resistance to discussing domestic violence. Also, advocates have to be very careful when inviting people to a presentation. Because of the sensitivity of the subject, it is important to make sure people understand that they are invited to the presentation to learn, not because anyone thinks they have perpetrated violence or been a victim of violence.
- Some advocates are criticized by their peers, who interpret this work as just causing trouble in the community or provoking divorce.
- Staying in contact with our advocates throughout the year is also a challenge for MCN because many migrate north and many others spend significant amounts of time across the border in Mexico, where they are harder to reach.
- Funding is also a challenge because we provide the advocates stipends for their work, but often we do not have enough funds to allow advocates to do as many presentations as they would like.

Have you identified any research needs in planning your programs?

There is very little data on the migrant population as a whole. The data we have is data on the farm worker population, which is only one subset of the migrant population. However, the data we have on the farm worker population is also very limited with respect to the areas of domestic violence and sexual assault. For our current project, we are interested in identifying potential risk and protective factors among migrant males for perpetration of sexual or intimate partner violence and have found no research directly addressing this.



Left:
Presidio Site Leader Cynthia Rodriguez presents information on DV to her peers.

For more information on MCN:
www.migrantclinician.org
(512) 327-2017

APRIL SPEAKER SERIES

SafePlace, Williamson County Crisis Center and the IDVSA proudly present

2006 Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month Speaker Series

Safe Online Dating

Date: April 6
 Presenter: Celeste Moyers, Safe Online Dating Alliance
 Location: United Way Building, Round Rock
 101 E. Old Settlers Blvd., Ste. 160

Sex Trafficking

Date: April 13
 Presenter: Morgan Curtis, Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA)
 Location: Ruiz Library (across from SafePlace)
 1600 Grove Blvd

Legal Rights of Sexual Assault Victims

Date: April 20
 Presenter: Bronwyn Blake, Women's Advocacy Project
 Location: Ruiz Library (across from SafePlace)
 1600 Grove Blvd

Working with Addicted Survivors of Trauma

Date: April 27
 Presenter: Wende Hilsenrod, TAASA
 Location: TAASA/TMPA Training Room
 6200 La Calma

*all presentations are from 12-1PM and are free and open to the public

To RSVP, please contact Aimee Edwards
 (aedwards@austin-safeplace.org).

Morgan Curtis Nominated for Livingston Award by Dorothy Garza

In recognition of her commitment to the mission of IDVSA through her exemplary work efforts, Noel Busch and Dorothy Garza have nominated Morgan Curtis for the William S. Livingston Outstanding Graduate Student Academic Employee Award. Each year the UT Graduate Student Assembly solicits nominations for outstanding graduate student academic employees. Noel and Dorothy felt that Morgan was an excellent candidate for this award. They highlighted her various accomplishments with IDVSA including creating a new professional format to the newsletter, creating a campus wide network with other student organizations committed to ending interpersonal violence and establishing IDVSA's presence at campus events such as "SAFE Week" and "Take Back the Night." Awards will be announced in April. Regardless of their decision, both Noel and Dorothy acknowledge Morgan as an outstanding graduate student employee and more specifically as an essential member of the IDVSA team.

Take Back the Night at UT

by Tanya Robertson

Sexual Assault survivors and allies will have a chance to 'Break the Silence' at Take Back the Night 2006. Take Back the Night is an annual rally to raise awareness about sexual assault and provide a safe, community environment for sexual assault survivors to share their stories. This rally is held in conjunction with the Orange Jackets' "Week of Women" and Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The rally will be a night of empowerment, strength and unity to show the world that the UT-Austin community will no longer be silent about one of Texas' darkest and deeply destructive social epidemics.

Take Back the Night will include music and entertainment from Facundo's Night Out, a resource fair with local and state nonprofits, student speakers, slam poetry performances, and a keynote address. Texas Representative Donna Howard will speak at the event about resources available to survivors of sexual assault based on her background as a nurse. The rally will conclude with a Survivor Speak-Out, which is a rare opportunity for survivors of sexual assault to publicly share their stories. By creating an open space for survivors to share their experiences, supporters and community members help to tear away the veil of silence surrounding sexual assault in our community.

Welcome David Michael Garza

IDVSA Curricula Developer, Dorothy Garza, and her family welcomed their newest member, David Michael Garza, on New Year's Eve. Dorothy says the whole family is in love with him and that he is a very good baby. Following his mother's maternity leave, David has spent some of his days in our office and is a budding anti-violence activist. Congratulations Garza Family!

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL

IDVSA Brown Bag/PhD Colloquia

Wednesday, April 5, 12:00 Noon
 rm 2.132, UT School of Social Work
 Holly Bell, Ph.D. and Shanti Kulkarni, Ph.D.
*Assessing the Service Needs of Survivors of
 Intimate Partner Violence*

Voices Against Violence Performance

Wednesday, April 5, 6:00PM
 Utopia Theatre, UT School of Social Work

National Day to End Sexual Violence

Thursday, April 6

Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month

Speaker Series

(See Box on Previous Page)

Take Back the Night 2006

Friday, April 21, 6:30PM-12:30AM
 Gregory Plaza, UT Campus

19th Annual SafePlace Walk for Safe Families and Safe Streets

Saturday, April 22, 10:00AM-2:00 PM
 Waterloo Park

MAY

IDVSA Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, May 2, 12:30PM-2:00PM
 Dean's Conference Room, School of Social Work
**Guest Speaker: Isidora Sanchez of PAPA will
 speak about VAWA 2005.**

The activities of the Institute on Domestic
 Violence and Sexual Assault are made
 possible through funding by:

The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health

The RGK Foundation

The Shield-Ayers Foundation

**Dean Barbara White,
 The University of Texas at Austin
 School of Social Work**

IDVSA Committees

Curriculum Infusion

Contact Dorothy Garza
 Next meeting: April 20th
 2:00 PM, UT School of Social Work

Prison Issues

Contact Sarah Buel
 Next meeting: April 4, UT Law School

Fundraising

Contact Noël Busch
 Next Meeting: TBD

Student

Contact Rachel Brown
 cordray79@hotmail.com
 Next Meeting: TBD

Thank You to Student Volunteers

Since January, **Rachel Brown**, a first-semester graduate student in the School of Social Work, has been volunteering with the IDVSA. Rachel has been connecting with students in the SSW and across campus as well as assisting with events. Thanks also to **Sabina Peerbhai**, Social Work graduate student, for helping with the V-Day Resource Fair.

New Updates to the IDVSA Website

- ☆ Safety Planning Module
- ☆ Spring Calendar of Events
- ☆ IDVSA Voice

Check it out at
www.utexas.edu/research/cswr/idvsa