

2010

Stopping the Stigma

Changing Public Perceptions of Sexual Assault in Rural Communities

*A special information packet
produced by*



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CALIFORNIA COALITION
AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT

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Preface

Stopping the Stigma: Changing Public Perceptions of Sexual Assault in Rural Communities is part of a series of information packets produced by the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA). These information packets were first published in 2001, but have been recently updated to reflect changes that have occurred in the sexual assault intervention and prevention field and in our general society.

CALCASA is a statewide association, based in Sacramento, CA, that provides leadership, vision, and resources to rape crisis centers, individuals, and other entities committed to ending sexual violence. Founded in 1980, CALCASA is the only statewide organization in California whose sole purpose is to promote advocacy, training, public policy and technical assistance on the issue of sexual assault and rape. For more information, please visit CALCASA's website at www.calcasa.org or call (916) 446-2520 or email at info@calcasa.org.

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Introduction

This information packet is designed to assist rape crisis centers in rural or remote areas in gaining support from their respective communities with the goal of creating partnerships to meet the needs of survivors and end sexual violence. Many rural communities are geographically isolated or cover a large area; thus, outreach in places where people come together is a key component of this packet. Outreach targets will focus on the following: schools, faith communities, local businesses, and community groups.

Rural areas are commonly recognized as any non-metro or urban areas, with an urban area defined as an area with 2,700 people per square mile.¹ This is a broad definition due to the fact that many federal agencies use different definitions of rural. In the United States, 94% of our landmass is considered rural open space², and 80% of the landmass in the state of California is considered rural open space.³ Of California's 58 counties, 44 are rural counties, and approximately 13% of California's population, or 5.1 million people, reside in rural areas.⁴

This packet specifically addresses challenges that rural rape crisis centers often face, such as a lack of client anonymity, decreased access to health care, weather and geographical isolation, and limited resources. Along with these challenges, rural rape crisis centers also have unique assets, such as close-knit communities where rape crisis centers have more access to community leaders or where communities are more accountable to its residents.

Staff and volunteers at rural rape crisis centers know that the ideas and perceptions of the general public about sexual assault are often far from the reality. The persistence of such myths among the public can deter rural communities from perceiving sexual violence as a community issue - one that the entire community must support.

Strategies for accessing powerful components of communities are provided, as well as ways to tailor the message of sexual violence in these various settings. Resources are included to assist rural centers to build upon these ideas and develop approaches that work best for them. Since research on rural issues is very limited, many of the strategies included in this packet were collected from rape crisis centers in California and other states.

Although this packet was created with rural centers in mind, urban centers may find it helpful in reaching isolated or underserved areas in their community, such as unincorporated areas, migrant farmworkers, Native Americans, and Southeast Asians.

Of course, changing public perceptions of sexual assault is not simple or easy. This packet is written knowing that the solutions to sexual violence are complicated and time consuming; the ideas in this packet are meant to energize and support current efforts of staff and volunteers at rural centers. Finally, this packet is part of an ongoing effort by CALCASA to meet the needs of rural rape crisis centers; it aims to inspire further research and collaboration on this issue.

¹ US Census Bureau (www.factfinder.census.gov)

² US Census Bureau (www.factfinder.census.gov)

³ California State Rural Health Association (www.csrha.org/factsheet.html)

⁴ California State Rural Health Association (www.csrha.org/factsheet.html)

Challenges and Assets in Rural Communities

Rural communities present many challenges and assets to rape crisis centers. Each challenge can also be viewed as an asset - it might just take some creative work by advocates serving rural communities. This section will review common challenges such as: Isolation, Societal Attitudes, Limited Resources, the Not in My Town perception, Confidentiality; and Growing Diversity.

Isolation

Many residents of rural communities are isolated from neighbors, local services, businesses, and healthcare. They may lack personal transportation, and the lack of public transportation further increases their isolation. Victims of sexual violence may struggle to find support systems within their proximity, or may be unaware of services available at local rape crisis centers.

According to the California State Rural Health Association, 75% of rural residents are 1 to 259 miles from a hospital, with an average distance of 14 miles, and 90% are 1 to 283 miles from a hospital, with an average distance of 25 miles.⁵ This requires residents in rural communities to travel great distances for medical care, particularly emergency medical care. It is common among rural communities to have fewer doctors, clinics, dentists, etc.

Many survivors of sexual assault often seek solitude after the assault, and many others isolate themselves from family and friends in the initial stages of healing. Living in a rural community presents the option for these survivors to have time to heal on their own terms.

Social Attitudes

Every community has a diverse set of morals, values and beliefs. There are both conservative and liberal social attitudes about sexual violence in rural, urban and suburban communities. Rural rape crisis centers often describe the power structure of their communities as a “good old boys’ network,” where a group of men in decision-making positions that promote and recruit other men who share their same agenda. In some rural communities, for example, community members and leaders may not consider sexual harassment, statutory rape, and marital rape to be crimes.

This network may exist because power in rural communities is consolidated into fewer positions. The town council, city hall, school board and other civic organizations are generally small. Sheriff’s Departments, for example, serve unincorporated areas and many rural communities. Since Sheriffs are elected public officials, they are required to be sensitive to public opinion, which is often influenced by the good old boys’ network. When only a handful of people are very powerful and set the agenda for the entire community, rape crisis centers may struggle to be heard and have their work valued as a community priority. Word travels fast in a rural community, and a negative comment made by an advocate can spread like wild fire, making it difficult for a rape crisis center to gain credibility with the entire community.

However, a small power network in rural communities can also be an asset. With only a handful of people in power and fewer resources, rural communities are interdependent. Since rural areas have a smaller network of people with power, there is more pressure for these leaders to be accountable to their communities. These strong values of cooperation and sensitivity can create greater community accountability and responsibility. If leaders in a rural community become more invested in supporting survivors and ending sexual violence, they can be powerful allies to rape crisis centers.

⁵ California State Rural Health Association (www.csrha.org/factsheet.html)

Limited Resources

a) Financial Resources/Funding for Rape Crisis Centers

Many rural communities receive less funding than urban areas from government resources because they have smaller populations and yet, cover large, diverse, geographical areas. There are typically fewer private foundations, thus making fundraising a challenge for rural non-profits.

In rural communities, the average household income tends to be less than average household incomes in urban areas. 17.6% of residents in rural communities live below the federal poverty line, compared to 16.8% of residents in urban areas.⁶ There are also fewer industries to provide jobs and generally less commerce, which forces people living in rural communities to find employment outside of the area. All of these factors mean that rural communities tend to have fewer economic resources among their governments, residents, and communities.

With limited resources, it is challenging to engage in the kind of education and outreach necessary to change public opinion about sexual violence. Community leaders and agencies may be unwilling to dedicate funds to new initiatives or programs; they may feel that their resources are already committed to priority areas such as police and fire, education, and health programs. Rural rape crisis centers are often very resourceful by showing the connections between sexual violence and issues of education, health, and public safety. This has proven to be beneficial in gathering support for their agencies.

b) Staffing

Rural communities have smaller hiring pools for advocates, medical care providers, law enforcement officers, attorneys, etc. Small town police departments may only have a handful of sworn officers, and may even utilize community volunteers to supplement or go without 24-hour coverage. In addition, law enforcement agencies, fire departments, and medical services must cover large geographic areas. When a crisis occurs, neighbors must often rely on each other for assistance.

c) Dual Sexual Violence/Domestic Violence Service Agencies

It is common for many rural communities to pool resources and create a dual sexual assault/domestic violence agency. Rural rape crisis centers often struggle with the limited funding for their services and by combining their services with a domestic violence agency, they are able to leverage and combine their resources in terms of staffing, volunteers, 24-hour hotline coverage, administration, etc. However, these dual centers often struggle with maintaining visibility and the identity of their sexual assault programming, since the dedicated staffing for their rape crisis program is typically proportionately smaller than it is for their domestic violence services. Leadership at dual centers also require the skills and capabilities to manage both the sexual assault and domestic violence services to effectively provide the complexity of quality services to both sexual assault and domestic violence survivors.

Partnering or combining rape crisis centers with domestic violence agencies presents the opportunity to do more with less. Cross training of advocates allows them to provide much needed support services to survivors of both domestic violence and sexual assault.

d) Fewer Social Services Agencies

In rural areas, there are fewer non-profits or social services providers, causing rape crisis centers to provide more comprehensive services to survivors that may be out of their range of services. These services could include mental health counseling, after school programs, drug and alcohol treatment, emergency assistance or intensive case management. Survivors may

⁶ California State Rural Health Association (www.csrha.org/factsheet.html)

turn to their advocate for all means of support because there are no other services available to help them. This type of comprehensive approach to providing services can help to change public perceptions of sexual assault by connecting it to other societal issues or needs that may resonate with their community..

e) Smaller Volunteer Base

Rape crisis centers in rural areas may find it more difficult to recruit quality volunteers, who are not only willing to dedicate their free time, but also go through the long, time-intensive training required by the organization. A volunteer training session in an urban area may routinely train 20 - 30 volunteers at one time, while a training program in a rural community may have less than 10 volunteers. A smaller volunteer base means the core group of volunteers has to cover more shifts; but, typically rural programs respond to a smaller number of sexual assaults as compared to most urban areas.

Volunteers are a huge asset to all rape crisis centers, especially for rural centers. Though staff of the organization may live close to the main center location, volunteers should be sprinkled throughout the service area to ensure accessibility to survivors throughout their large service area. This will help decrease the overall response time for services such as SART accompaniment services. Rape crisis centers should be using volunteers to supplement their resources and increase their capacity to meet the needs of survivors in rural areas.

“Not in My Town Attitude”

Many residents of rural communities believe that their town is substantially safer than an urban community; often people move to rural areas for the very reason that they hope their families will be safe from violence. However, sexual violence still occurs in rural areas, and research has shown that rural communities actually have higher rates of sexual assault than urban areas, though urban areas have higher percentages of rapes that are reported.⁷ Most likely, reporting in rural communities is much lower due the fact that everyone knows everyone.

Many people still hold the belief that rape is typically committed by a stranger. Because this rarely happens in a rural community, it is easy for a rural community to think sexual assault doesn't happen in their community. Since many people in rural communities know each other, it is difficult for anyone to believe that friends, family, and acquaintances commit sexual assault. Admitting that sexual violence occurs in their community may mean admitting that their town is not safe and that their friends and neighbors are capable of committing a violent crime. As rural communities are close-knit, they can become polarized over a reported sexual assault, especially when the alleged perpetrator is someone they know. Entire communities can become divided over the “guilt” and “innocence” of the alleged perpetrator. This creates a personal kind of resistance to recognizing sexual violence as an issue that must be addressed and can make it very difficult for rape crisis centers to challenge rape myths and transform community leaders into allies.

This “attitude” can also be an asset in rural communities. Because residents are personally invested in the safety of their community, they may come together more quickly and effectively once they acknowledge that sexual violence actually occurs in their community. They may be quicker to respond to the needs of a survivor, and hold offenders accountable.

⁷Lewis, S. Sexual Assault in Rural Communities. Harrisburg, PA: VAWNET A Project of the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence/Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence. September 2003.
http://new.vawnet.org/category/Main_Doc.php?docid=419

Lack of Anonymity and Confidentiality

Rural areas are often small towns where people know each other well. When there are only a handful of stores, service agencies, schools, or churches, it is difficult to remain a stranger. Indeed, residents of rural communities often know a great deal about each other's family histories, personal problems, and activities.

Anonymity in rural areas can be almost nonexistent. Some communities are so small that people utilizing rape crisis center services are recognized walking out of the center or even by their cars parked outside. Additionally, retaliation or intimidation can easily occur, because perpetrators and their families in rural communities know where the survivor lives.

This lack of anonymity can create major challenges for survivors. Survivors may be unwilling to disclose or seek help for their sexual assault from rape crisis centers because they may personally know the staff at the center. A survivor may be afraid to report to law enforcement because the police chief may be her father's (or the perpetrator's) best friend, or she may not want to go to the local hospital because her mom works the night shift.

The way members of the community feel about each other can greatly affect their feelings about a survivor. For example, if members of a small community disagree with the lifestyle of one of its residents, and that individual is sexually assaulted by someone well-known and respected in the community, they may automatically choose the side of the offender, and never give the survivor a chance to be believed.

It is very important for rape crisis centers in rural communities to establish trust with individual survivors and to build a reputation and credibility for confidentiality. These steps are necessary to counteract the lack of anonymity in rural areas, and ensure the safety and privacy of survivors.

The closeness of a rural community is also a strength for centers. People in power in the community are often accessible to rape crisis center staff. The school board supervisor may use the same mechanic, or the pastor of the local church may buy groceries at the same store as staff at a rape crisis center. In a close-knit community (as many rural areas are), having daily interactions and positive personal relationships with powerful community members can lead to the development of a real commitment in the community to act on the issue of sexual assault.

Growing Diversity

Rural communities, though small in population, are often very diverse. This diversity can be a challenge for rural rape crisis centers that have limited staff and resources. There may be only a handful of staff members available to learn about these diverse communities and provide outreach. The task of becoming culturally competent and making rape crisis center services accessible is nonetheless necessary to serve rural communities and should become a priority as this diversity will continue to increase in coming years.

Several rural communities are home to California Native American rancherias and reservations. In fact, California has over 100 federally recognized tribes. Building partnerships in these communities may be hindered by a history of discrimination and abuse by government agencies and programs. This history of discrimination and abuse may make it difficult to build trust with the Native American community because they may be suspicious of the motivations and promises of non-Native organizations. Rape crisis centers are challenged to learn and understand this history and specific cultural context of each community when working with Native Americans.

A new challenge for rural communities is the increasing diversity of immigrant, migrant, and refugee populations. These families bring their own traditions, values, and strengths in addressing sexual assault. However, working with the Latina/o migrant farmworker population can be challenging, as the community tends to be transitory. Farmworkers may not have permanent residences for long periods of time, or have access to community services. There are often fewer established gathering places for the farmworker community where rape crisis centers can provide community awareness or information about their services.

During the past thirty-five years, there has been a major influx of Southeast Asian immigrant and refugee families settling within California. Many of these families have chosen to settle in rural parts of California as the landscape and climates are quite similar to their native homeland. For example, many Hmong families have chosen to settle within Fresno County, which is now home to the second largest Hmong population within the U.S.⁸ There is also a large Lu-Mien population within Shasta County and many Cambodian and Lao families settling in the San Joaquin Valley.

As with each newcomer population, they bring their own history, culture, and beliefs, which quite often clash with the existing dominant culture. In order to effectively access these communities, advocates need to acknowledge and understand the challenges these populations face. Advocates should seek to better understand the community's structure, values, faith, leadership, language, and resources. This can be done through going out into the community, cultivating and building collaborative relationships and trust with them, as well as through community outreach and education.

Although challenging, these new communities offer an excellent opportunity to provide outreach and to develop accessible and culturally competent sexual assault support services. Rural communities with growing diversity have an advantage in collaborating with new immigrant communities because they are small and have a greater chance to interact with newcomers. With limited businesses, community agencies, and service providers, residents of rural communities typically have a lot of interaction. Gaining awareness and building partnerships with leaders within these communities will enrich the staff and services of a rural rape crisis center and improve the safety and health of rural communities.

Strategies in Rural Communities

Find a Champion

A key strategy for rape crisis centers is to find a champion in the community. This person should be considered a leader among community members and professionals. A few good options are the District Attorney, Police Chief or Sheriff, or City Council person. For example, in one community, the District Attorney is very supportive of sexual and domestic violence, making them a priority in her county. Because of this, advocacy groups have been highly successfully at establishing required training for law enforcement and prosecutors in the county, as well as developing protocols to standardize the response to victims of violence.

Another option for a champion may be the school principal. This individual will allow educators into their schools, and promote the benefit to parents, coaches, and other schools. Other options may be a well-known Executive Director of another non-profit in the community or a leader in the faith community. This individual may help programs increase their visibility, provide office space, and provide referrals to the organization.

⁸ California Department of Finance – Demographic Research Unit – www.dof.ca.gov/HTML/DEMOGRAP/druhpar.htm

The key to finding a champion is going out into the community and determining key people to get to know. Perhaps multiple leaders will be supportive and help with the overall mission of the rape crisis center, or maybe leaders will specialize in certain areas such as helping with volunteer recruitment, fundraising, or promoting community education programs. It is important to tailor your message to show each leader how the work ties into their role – don't just use a blanket outreach pitch for everyone.

Collaborate with another Non-Profit Organization

Rape crisis centers may find it beneficial to collaborate with domestic violence organizations. The two organizations may collaborate to increase their capacity to provide more services to victims, or they may come together to become a stronger force within the community. They may turn to each other to identify leaders or champions within the community. If the community already has an existing Coordinated Community Response (CCR) team, it might be the best use of everyone's time to incorporate sexual assault into the existing team, rather than create a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) which requires everyone involved to attend two separate meetings.

Another option for collaboration may be with another local non-profit. For example, if there is an agency that provides shelter or emergency services, it might be a good option for a rape crisis center to seek them out. The two agencies can provide cross-training, and share ideas for volunteer recruitment and fundraising.

Outreach Sites

Many counties in California cover large areas. If the rape crisis center maintains one central office, it would be beneficial to designate outreach space throughout the remainder of the county to increase their visibility and show commitment to reaching all parts of the county. Options for office space might be a church, school, mental health center, clinic or hospital, or other local non-profits. Staff can determine the appropriate amount of time at each site; it might be as short as three hours per week to offer individual support services to local residents, or as much as 2 - 3 days per week.

In picking outreach space, the center should identify key places where people gather, the dynamics of the community, and where survivors would feel most comfortable. For example, if you designate a church, you should know that people may not feel comfortable coming to that space because it presents a conflict within their value system. If you designate a clinic or mental health center, people may not feel comfortable parking their car outside. Survey the community; find out where people are most likely to access services.

Include Everyone

In a rural county, there are towns and cities that range in size. It is very easy, and understandable, for rape crisis centers to focus their energies on the larger towns and cities to get the most results. In a rural community, centers need to involve everyone in their work, especially the small towns. When trying to create change in the community, you must bring everyone to the table and treat everyone equally, regardless of the size of their population. When people are left out, feelings get hurt and that creates a divide within the county. Programs will have to use creative strategies to bring everyone to the table; smaller cities are less able to come to meetings and trainings because they have fewer staff and resources.

Use the Value System of the Community

Sexual assault is not within our core value system. People recognize sexual assault is a horrific crime, and many are fearful when it happens in their own backyard. Rape crisis centers can use this to their advantage - they have a message to stop the very crime that people feel so strongly about. This does not mean rape crisis centers should create fear in the community, but they can tailor their message to increase empathy for the critical need for their services. A successful fundraising strategy is to share the number of victims who received hospital advocacy, or other services, in one year.

Cultural Competency/Relevance

Centers should develop cultural competency to ensure that their message is accessible and appropriate by contacting members of the community and learning about their traditions, values, and culture. It is important to consider that literacy rates in many diverse communities may be low and that simply translating your materials into another language may not be appropriate, since many languages may not have equivalent terms for sexual assault. Adopting culturally appropriate and inclusive materials that rely on images and non-written communication will help reach different communities. It is also important to include images of people from diverse communities in brochures, flyers, and announcements.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) presents a fantastic opportunity for rape crisis centers to go out into the community and “market” their programs and services. This provides a reason for local bars to hang posters in their restrooms, grocery stores to put flyers in the bags, and store fronts to hang posters. Of course, rape crisis centers should not only conduct outreach during this month, but it is a good place to start.

Outreach

The most important step Rape Crisis Centers can take in any community, in particular rural communities is outreach. Centers simply cannot wait for people to come to them for help-they must go out into the community. Staff and volunteers need to talk to everyone, pinpoint places where people gather such as schools, places of worship, local businesses, and community groups or organizations. It might be helpful to designate one person to conduct most of the outreach, which creates a “face” of the organization in the community. It must be stressed to all staff and volunteers that when they are in the community, there are four main components to their outreach. Those components are: (1) increase awareness of services available; (2) promote education and awareness programs; (3) recruit quality volunteers to increase program capacity; and (4) fundraising or donor cultivation. The next section will review key entities for outreach: Schools, Faith Community, Businesses, and Community Groups or Organizations.

Outreach with Schools

Accessing Schools

Schools are a central part of any community and offer an excellent opportunity for educating young people about sexual violence. In rural communities, activities for youth may be much different than in urban areas. There may not be a large enough number of young people to fund a Boys and Girls Club or community center, create an after-school program, or fund extracurricular activities and classes. Schools play a particularly prominent role in the development of young people in rural communities because other extracurricular activities may not exist.

As rural schools are concerned about their lack of funds, many rural rape crisis centers have been successful in gaining access to the schools by highlighting that they do not charge for these services.

While some rape crisis centers have unlimited access to classrooms at various educational levels, other programs struggle in gaining approval from local school officials to provide rape prevention education. As with many public institutions, schools tend to have a hierarchy of power and control over what curriculum is taught to students. Some rural rape crisis centers have found it to be effective to start at the top with school boards, supervisors, and administrators when trying to gain access to schools. However, other rural rape crisis centers have been successful in directly contacting individual teachers or counselors to gain access to the schools.

Starting with the teachers or counselors ensures that educators have their buy-in from the very beginning. Often, teachers are told what to teach in their classrooms, and they may not fully support decisions made by those in power. Talk with individual teachers about what you would like to present, and if they can't get support within the school, take it to the next step. Identify key administrative staff, school board members, and concerned parents.

Talk with decision makers about the impact of awareness and prevention education. Show them the curriculum to increase their comfort level with the topic, and use compelling statistics to show the need in the community. National statistics are not nearly as compelling as local data showing the prevalence of sexual assault. Buy-in from decision makers is also important as teachers and counselors are accountable to their administrators and school board. Make sure to show the importance of educating both the male and female students; present this as a community issue, not an issue just for young girls.

Teachers, administrators, and parents may be concerned about the content of presentations. In order to mediate and clarify any challenges that arise, be flexible and help them to feel part of the agenda. For example, discussing the sexual content of the presentation with administrators and determining together whether or not to obtain parental permission beforehand can lessen potential complaints about rape prevention education presentations.

Another suggestion is hosting a "parent workshop" at the local school so parents can view what their children will experience in their classroom. The "parent workshop" can help rape crisis centers strengthen their relationships with the school and parents by relieving parental concerns about the content of the rape prevention program. This workshop may also create access to a survivor who was previously unaware of where to go for help and support.

Accessing schools takes time and requires the approval of a school hierarchy at several different levels. Transforming the issue of sexual violence from one which schools may hesitate to address, into one which schools are eager to address, will be aided by sharing the broad

applications of rape prevention education in protecting young people from all types of violence. Using this approach to rape prevention education will help change the public perception of sexual violence as an issue which affects few people, into one that demonstrates how all violence is related and how rape prevention education can make young people safer.

A Kaiser Family Foundation report found that 97% of parents surveyed want their children to be offered information about preventing sexual assault as part of sex education. However, only 59% of students polled received this information.⁹ Most schools strive to address the needs and concerns of parents. School boards may be more responsive to rape prevention educators if they know that parents want sexual assault prevention education taught to their children. Take the Kaiser Report to school board meetings to share with them.

The challenge for rural rape crisis centers is to make their message appealing to parents, school board members, administrators, and teachers while maintaining the integrity of their message. Focusing on prevention strategies like awareness, assertiveness, personal safety, healthy relationships, and respectful communication may help to bridge the gaps.

Strategies to use in Schools

a) Meet Existing Needs

Some programs have successfully accessed schools by first addressing topics the schools have requested, such as abduction prevention, sexual harassment, and personal safety. Once rape prevention educators are in the school, it may then be easier to introduce other topics of rape prevention education, like gender inequality, systematic sexism, and the root causes of sexual violence.

b) Combine Efforts

Another approach to accessing schools is to connect sexual violence to other issues that schools are concerned about such as bullying. Bullying is a particular concern as students across the country have died by suicide as a result of bullying by peers. Teachers and counselors are often unsure how to manage bullying, and how to help students who are targeted.

A strategy to connect sexual violence and bullying may be starting with sexual harassment. Bullying is defined as “the intentional infliction of, or attempt to inflict injury or humiliation on, another.”¹⁰ Bullying generally involves a stronger student harassing a weaker student and is a day-to-day pattern of abuse. Therefore, sexual harassment is a form of bullying.¹¹ Youth are sexually harassed on a daily basis while in school, whether boys are harassing girls, girls are harassing boys, girls are harassing girls, or boys are harassing boys. Educators should incorporate all forms of sexual harassment into the curriculum, particularly harassment of LGBT individuals.

Rape prevention educators are uniquely situated to address these issues because they have been talking about the prevention of sexual violence for many years. Most have a standard curriculum that they use to highlight sexual assault awareness, assertiveness, and personal safety, among other violence related issues. Depending on the curriculum being used, it may or

⁹ Kaiser Family Foundation, Sex Education in America: A View From Inside the Nation's Classrooms, survey report based in a series of national surveys of public secondary school student and their parents. September 26, 2000.

¹⁰ Hoover, JH and Oliver, R. “The Bullying Prevention Handbook: A Guide for Principals, Teachers, and Counselors”. National Education Service, Bloomington, IN, 1996, p. 4.

¹¹ Fried, SE, and Fried, P. “Bullies and Victims: Helping Your Child Survive the Schoolyard Battlefield.” M. Evans and Company, Inc. NY, NY. 1996.

may not need to be adjusted to address school violence and bullying, but the way in which it is presented to board members and administrators might benefit from a different approach. Connecting rape prevention education to the reduction of all violence in schools can help rape crisis centers gain access to students and continue to play an important role in violence prevention efforts. It is important to let school administrators know that bullying includes sexual harassment and that the rape prevention curriculum will address these issues.

A study of 342 high school students in a Midwestern town found that 87% of girls and 79% of boys report experiencing peer sexual harassment, whereas 77% of girls and 72% of boys report sexually harassing their peers during the school year. Girls experience the more overt forms of sexual harassment more frequently than boys, and boys perpetrate sexual harassing behaviors more often than girls. Girls were more likely than boys to be pressured for a date, called sexually offensive names, cornered sexually, and pressured to do something sexual.¹²

Benefit of Working with Schools

Schools present the best opportunity to reach young people for awareness and outreach efforts. This effort may take time and effort to gather support, but the benefits outweigh the struggles. Youth education is the most effective means for prevention of sexual assault, and a strong partnership with local schools provides a solid foundation.

¹² Fineran, Susan and Bennett, Larry. "Gender and Power Issues of Peer Sexual Harassment Among Teenagers," Journal of Interpersonal Violence, Volume 14, Number 6, June 1999: 626-641.

Outreach with the Faith Community

Accessing the Faith Community

Churches, synagogues, mosques and other centers of worship play important roles in most communities. These are the places where people socialize and reinforce their notions of right and wrong. They are places where people find solace and hope, and where many people find solutions to problems in their lives.

Places of worship gather different members of a community and often are a place where activism and charity occurs. They are places where young people find guidance and where older members of a community are cared for. Many places of worship are active in trying to meet the needs of their community and address important issues that are taking place. Thus, rape crisis centers may find places of worship to be a strong base of support and assistance. Working with the faith community can also help to end the silence surrounding sexual assault in a community. Leaders in the faith community can play a valuable role in bringing about action to address the issue of sexual violence in a community.

Places of worship are an excellent opportunity to access underserved populations in a rural community, as they are places where diverse groups of people gather. Many new immigrant groups attend a particular place of worship, such as a mosque, temple, or church where rape crisis center staff can tailor their outreach message to the unique group. Especially for new or migrant populations, places of worship may be one of the few community gathering places available for rape prevention education.

Southeast Asian individuals may utilize an eclectic approach in terms of faith and spirituality. Once immigrated and settled in the United States, many Southeast Asians began practicing or joining different Christian denominations; sometimes as result of the influence from their church-sponsored resettlement organizations. These practices may be in addition to their traditional faith and spirituality, such as Buddhism, ancestor worship, and/or animism (i.e., belief system that spirits inhabit everything in the world). They may not be tied to one type of religion or faith practices but practice several at once.

In many places of worship, there is typically one person in charge of leading the group. Whether a pastor, priest, reverend, rabbi, imam, or shaman, these leaders may be a good place to start when accessing the faith community. In many cases, they are powerful allies because they influence the issues their congregation will address, both during worship services and in the community.

Because individual leaders of places of worship tend to be influential, rape crisis centers could feel “locked out” of religious organizations if these leaders are strongly opposed to talking about sexual violence. In this case, it may be necessary to work with other leaders in the faith community. Many places of worship have boards, deacons, councils or other organizational structures. Working through these other structures may allow rape crisis centers to gain support; it may even “turn around” the formal leader of the organization. Contact the local place of worship and find out what kind of organizational structure they have and whether the community is welcome to give input.

If neither of these strategies is successful, talk with others connected to the place of worship. Try starting with the administrative support. Find out if any of the staff or volunteers go to that particular place of worship, or know someone who does. These types of connects can be a powerful way to get introduced to the leader if other attempts have proven unsuccessful.

Many communities also have interfaith councils where leaders from different denominations gather to discuss issues. They generally meet under a broad mission to support all places of worship in their communities. These may be receptive meetings for rape crisis centers to attend, as interfaith councils tend to work for the best interests of the entire community and are less concerned with individual beliefs.

Attending services, events, groups or setting up special meetings are excellent ways to access places of worship. Rape crisis centers can use these opportunities to present workshops on personal safety, sexual assault awareness, or information about their services and support groups. Many faith-based organizations print newsletters to inform people about their activities where rape crisis centers can advertise their services and groups. Ask if the place of worship would consider placing an ad for volunteers in their weekly bulletin. Most faith communities are relatively open to newcomers that may be interested in reaching out to their congregation. Once rape crisis centers have gained access to the faith community, they must decide what kind of message they will share about sexual violence and their services.

Strategies to Use in Faith Communities

a) Address Differences

Places of worship are often where people go in times of crisis. Undoubtedly, most leaders have worked with survivors of sexual assault and abuse. This means that leaders may be sensitive to the issue of sexual violence and eager to partner with rape crisis centers to end sexual violence in their communities. Yet there are often many challenges that arise when rape crisis centers try to partner with the faith community. The faith community may be tentative to partner with centers, because they don't fully understand their mission or their work. Have an honest conversation about what is provided, and the importance of those services. Leaders may also feel threatened by outsiders from rape crisis centers, feeling they are already providing the support survivors are seeking.

Value conflicts may also present a challenge. For example, a Catholic church may be concerned that a local rape crisis center promotes abortion practices. Advocates and educators should be very clear that their focus is to support the varying needs of the survivor, not promote the services of an outside agency.

Another issue that often comes up when talking about sexual violence and places of worship is whether clergy should be considered mandated reporters of child abuse or not. It may be a good idea to ask about organizational policies on this issue. Remember, this issue tends to be divisive, so it is important to address this issue in a non-judgmental way. Rape crisis centers can offer training on mandated reporting to leaders in the faith community.

Addressing such issues and developing common ground will help to build a partnership and overcome differences. Rape crisis centers can share information about their programs and services while learning how to better meet the needs of the faith community.

b) Tailor the Message

The faith community is very diverse and it may be difficult to approach every place of worship with the same message. Indeed, many places of worship serve specific populations such as migrant farmworkers, Native Americans, and new immigrants. This aspect of building partnerships with places of worship, perhaps more so than any other, will require sensitivity, flexibility and exploration by rape crisis center staff. Each place of worship may require a slightly different approach or focus that rape crisis centers will have to develop over time.

Meeting with members of a place of worship before presenting any action plan is necessary in order to understand the unique dynamics of each organization. Learning about the culture, language, history, and traditions of their members is also a necessary step. Developing professional relationships with a member or a small group within the place of worship can help gain access and credibility. Discussing how each place of worship deals with issues of sexual violence will help rape crisis centers better meet the needs of their community and understand how to work best with particular places of worship.

c) Work Together to Promote Healing and Recovery

Historically, the faith community has sometimes had an uneasy relationship with rape crisis centers. Issues of women's rights in many religious organizations can be tense and politically charged. On occasion, the issue of forgiveness of perpetrators has put individual survivors and the rape crisis centers that support them at odds with the faith community. There have been many cases of clergy abuse, where worship leaders have sexually abused members of their organization.

Initially, it may be helpful to approach the faith community in a way which emphasizes similarities and ideas shared between rape crisis centers and the faith community. Developing a message that is non-threatening but that also provides a role for places of worship is important. It may be helpful to access a subgroup of the place of worship, such as a women's group/class or children's class by giving an awareness presentation. Once an initial partnership is built, it is possible to address any areas where rape crisis center and faith community philosophies differ.

An approach rape crisis centers can use with leaders in the faith community is to work together to support the recovery and healing of survivors. Places of worship and rape crisis centers share a common goal of healing and recovery. Educating and informing clergy about sexual violence and rape crisis center services will help to bring sexual assault to the forefront of issues addressed by the faith community.

d) Share the Impact of Sexual Violence

Sharing with religious leaders the impact sexual violence can have on survivors may help initiate a conversation about their role in the healing process. In one study, women who reported child sexual abuse were five times more likely to be diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) than non-victims.¹³ Another study found that the chances that a woman will develop PTSD after being raped are between 50% and 95%.¹⁴ Other long-term effects associated with sexual abuse and assault includes: depression, suicide ideation, nightmares, flashbacks, substance abuse, as well as many other physical health effects.

Approach leaders by explaining the symptoms of PTSD and how they may affect a survivor in their congregation. It is likely that they will want to respond to the spiritual needs of survivors in their congregation with the assistance of rape crisis centers. This can also motivate the faith community to get involved in prevention efforts to end sexual violence in their community. Such efforts and events can be announced during services. Fundraisers or other community events can also be planned once a partnership exists between the faith community and rape crisis centers.

¹³ Yuan, N.P., Koss, M.P., & Stone, M.. The Psychological Consequences of Sexual Trauma. March 2006. Harrisburg, PA: VAWnet, a project of the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence/Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

¹⁴ Population Information Program. Population Reports: Ending Violence Against Women. 2000. Population Information Program, Center for Communications Programs. Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and Center for Healthcare Gender Equity.

e) Promote Community and Professional Education Opportunities

Religious leaders can also be allies in promoting opportunities to increase awareness in the community on issues related to sexual assault. Talking about what a typical presentation covers may be a good way to begin the dialogue. Share with clergy specifically what presentations teach about healthy relationships, communication, gender roles, and mutual respect. Working closely with clergy or religious leaders to develop a presentation about how to recognize unhealthy relationships, how to communicate honestly, and how to build healthy relationships will send a strong message to the community about the importance of recognizing and ending sexual violence.

Benefit of Working with the Faith Community

Places of worship often play a pivotal role in communities by articulating family values, supporting survivors of sexual assault, and in motivating people to address problems in their communities. Accessing the faith community may take some flexibility and persistence. Shaping the issue of sexual violence as one that creates partnerships and collaborations with clergy or religious leaders will require creativity and enthusiasm. The rewards, however, of these efforts will be many; improving support for survivors and rape crisis centers, reaching new audiences with rape prevention education, challenging myths about sexual violence, and ultimately allowing the public to see the issue of sexual violence as a community problem in which they can get involved.

Outreach with Local Businesses

Accessing Businesses

Local businesses are another source of where people gather, and present a good opportunity for rape crisis centers to conduct outreach. Educating local business owners about sexual violence and rape crisis center services is an important step in broadening community support for the work of rape crisis centers, and can lead to the creation of partnerships with influential community members that will help rape crisis centers better reach their community.

Rape crisis centers typically turn to local businesses for donations of goods and services or meeting spaces, assistance with special projects or fundraisers, and promotional opportunities. Local businesses can also provide opportunities to connect with employees, to increase their awareness of sexual assault and its impact on their ability to do their job. Accessing businesses may seem overwhelming, as there are small and large businesses to choose from. Many towns have a Chamber of Commerce, Elk's Clubs, Lion's Clubs, Soroptimists, Rotary Clubs, Kiwanis, or other professional organizations where business owners get information and assistance. They have regular meetings of members and provide a large audience of business owners where rape crisis centers can talk about their services. Local Chambers of Commerce may be a source of information for rape crisis centers in developing a list of potential businesses to access.

Approaching specific businesses, which have a particular connection to issues of sexual assault, is also an important strategy for accessing businesses. Bars and restaurants are key places due to the high incidence of alcohol facilitated and drug facilitated sexual assault. Reach out to these establishments, particularly around sexual assault awareness month to increase awareness and decrease victimization.

Local media providers can be powerful allies in a rural community. Many towns have local newspapers, cable channels, and radio stations, which share community news and events. Finding pro-bono or donated space from local media to advertise special events or information about sexual violence will reach a wide audience. Some centers utilize local cable access channels or newspapers to advertise their fundraising events. Having media sources as allies will help rape crisis centers bring their message to the community in a positive manner. Businesses also tend to serve the target audience of community awareness efforts. Members of the community, who may not come into the rape crisis center for services or attend rape crisis center events, may be reached through their grocery store, travel agent, mechanic, dry cleaner, hair stylist, or hardware store. Seek places where young people gather as well.

Specific populations may use particular businesses, for example; there may be a doctor who serves the Southeast Asian community or a grocer from whom migrant farmworkers buy familiar foods. Participating in annual events such as Hmong celebrations or Lunar New Year celebrations in the Southeast Asian community may be a good way to build relationships and gain access to community leaders. Enlisting the help of businesses can reach new and diverse members of the community with valuable information about sexual violence and how to prevent it.

In general, any business might be impacted by sexual violence, thus they have a vested interest in working with rape crisis centers. According to a report from the Centers for Disease Control, rape victims lose an estimated 1.1 million days of activity per year.¹⁵ This impacts their productivity, which ultimately impacts the bottom line. Meeting with business owners and outlining the ways in which sexual violence may affect their business will create access for rape

¹⁵ Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Cost Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States. Atlanta, GA, March 2003.

crisis centers to resources and leaders in their community. Present at an employee training about the services offered at the rape crisis center and about ways to prevent sexual violence and harassment. It is equally important to talk about the ways in which survivors may be affected by an assault, Post Traumatic Stress Disorders symptoms and how that could affect not only the health of the individual, but the productivity of an employee as well.

While accessing businesses may be challenging, planning and perseverance can ensure that rape crisis centers will ultimately have the opportunity to speak to business owners in their community about sexual violence. Once access is gained to the business community, it is very important that rape crisis centers find an approach to sexual violence, which makes business owners care about the issue and want to support their work.

Strategies to Use with Local Businesses

a) Costs of Sexual Violence

When speaking to businesses about sexual violence, it is helpful to connect the issue of sexual assault to the cost to their business. Share both local and national statistics about the cost of sexual violence, as well as the cost of Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) exams. Include pay for nurses, advocates, and police officers. The challenge with this approach is to describe the financial costs of sexual violence while still communicating the human trauma of sexual violence to individuals.

The mean medical care cost for rape among victims who actually receive treatment is \$2,084 per victimization.¹⁶

The mean mental health care cost among victims who actually receives treatment is \$978.¹⁷

The estimated total health care cost of intimate partner violence, including rape, is nearly 4.1 billion per year.¹⁸

Speak with SART nurses about how much time they spend on an average exam and what this might cost. Find out how much advocacy services cost per participant, make sure to include the cost of training volunteers to respond to the hospital.

Most business owners who provide insurance for their employees or pay for sick time would see that sexual assault is costing their businesses a great deal. Letting business people know that sexual violence may not only be affecting members of their community personally, but also affecting their bottom line may encourage them to support the work of rape crisis centers. Sharing the costs of sexual violence is simply another way to approach the issue of sexual assault, and show community members that they are affected by this violence.

b) Improving Safety in the Workplace

Another approach is to talk about ways in which community education can improve overall safety in the workplace by improving communication and healthy interactions between employees. Share the basics of a rape prevention education presentation with business owners and propose training for employees focusing on prevention of sexual harassment and workplace violence.

¹⁶ Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Cost of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States. Atlanta, GA, March 2003.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

Many businesses now utilize trainings to improve employee relations and customer service. Rape crisis centers would be excellent providers of human relations training on gender and sexual violence issues. Providing businesses with models of healthy communication and respectful interactions would be invaluable in preventing sexual violence in the workplace and accessing different segments of the community.

c) Working with Local Bars and Restaurants

Some rape crisis centers have started working with local bars and restaurants, as a means to increase awareness of their services for their patrons. Rape crisis centers can post flyers in their restrooms or community boards, have a display table during SAAM, and also offer free training on drug facilitated sexual assault. Educators can involve local law enforcement to present on the criminal aspects of sexual violence, including methods perpetrators may use to intoxicate their victims. Educators can provide tips on recognizing alcohol facilitated rape and drug facilitated sexual assault.

Benefit of Working with Businesses

Relating the issue of sexual assault to the business community can be quite challenging. Statistics about the financial costs of sexual violence can help the public to see that we are all affected by rape and sexual assault, whether directly or indirectly. Explaining how sexual violence affects an entire community, not just an individual, can lead to a commitment on the part of business owners to address the issue of sexual violence in a new and meaningful way.

Outreach with the Community

Accessing the Community

a) Local Government

Concentrating on local governmental bodies like the city council, county board of supervisors, county health department or other county agencies can be a good outreach strategy. City councils and county boards of supervisors have public meetings where residents can express opinions on policy issues and help set the agenda for the community.

Rape crisis centers can utilize such meetings to bring the issue of sexual violence to a prominent position in their community. It may be a good idea to call ahead and secure a place on the meeting agenda for city council or supervisor meetings to ensure that there will be time for public hearings. When speaking at such meetings, it is important to be prepared because time allotted to speak is very limited. At such meetings, rape crisis centers may want to propose a city or countywide proclamation that pledges to end sexual violence in their community, recognize sexual assault awareness month, or support the work of Sexual Assault Response Teams and SART partners.

b) County Departments

Many county departments are involved in sexual violence issues. Because particular programs vary from county to county, it is necessary for rape crisis centers to research the programs and departments, which are involved in the prevention and intervention of sexual assault and other violence prevention initiatives. The public health department is usually involved in violence prevention efforts, access to healthcare, and improving the health of the community in general. Health and human service agencies are also involved in efforts to ensure the welfare of their county's residents in a variety of ways. Law enforcement, Child and Adult Protective Services, and county Mental Health Departments all address sexual violence. Some rape crisis centers are already in contact with the county agencies, which address sexual violence; however, it is a good idea to meet with particular departments and programs specifically to talk about new initiatives to end sexual violence and how best to collaborate on these initiatives.

Begin with leaders in the particular county departments or programs which pertain to sexual violence, such as the mental health, health and human services, public health, and violence prevention departments. Rape crisis center staff may already attend meetings that county officials attend, but it is often beneficial to schedule an outreach meeting to talk more in depth about services available to their consumers, as well as promote professional education programs to improve their work with survivors of sexual assault.

c) Other Social Service Providers

Other non-profits, boards, and committees may be more easily accessible. Many rape crisis centers already have reciprocal relationships with social service agencies and committees in their county. Scheduling an appointment with the executive director, director, or committee chair may be the best way to access other non-profit agencies. Rape crisis centers that are not connected to domestic violence shelters should collaborate with one another. It is also useful to develop coordinating councils to gain organizational buy-in.

Rape crisis centers should access agencies which serve particular communities. Migrant farmworkers often have health agencies, which deal specifically with issues facing that population, such as unsafe work environments and lack of health insurance. Many unions also

work directly with migrant farmworkers to improve pay, working conditions, and overall quality of life. Find the agencies that already serve the farmworker community and collaborate with them.

d) Native American Tribes

If your center does not have an existing relationship with the Native American tribe/tribes in your service area, you should first research their local history, culture, and politics or political system. A good first step is to set-up a meeting with the tribal chairperson to introduce yourself and your agency. Many tribes have a community health representative or worker, an Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) worker, and/or a drug and alcohol counselor who are important linkages to community members. In addition, connecting with the nearest Indian Health Services Agency is important because these agencies are a primary service provider for Native Americans and their health issues. Finally, there are some Native American specific sexual assault and domestic violence programs throughout California. They typically provide services to a number of tribes in their service area. These agencies are great to partner with and can help programs tailor their messages to each tribe's unique culture and community.

Once rape crisis centers have accessed these agencies, they may need to adjust their approach in such a way that community agencies feel motivated to make sexual violence a priority. Collaboration is important for several reasons; it provides comprehensive services to survivors, limits the drain on the resources of individual agencies, and combines the human capital necessary to solve complex social problems. The following ideas for different approaches will provide some strategies for building partnerships.

Strategies to Use in the Community

a) Connecting to Other Community Initiatives

Most communities have limited financial and human resources and rural communities in particular may have fewer of these resources. There may be resistance to making sexual violence a community priority because there are already many issues to address.

A good strategy to approach this reaction is to connect the issue of sexual assault to other pressing issues in rural communities, such as drug and alcohol abuse. Connecting these issues will not only assist rape crisis centers in providing comprehensive services to survivors, but can unite community agencies behind a common vision of a safe, violence-free community.

Sharing the connections between these issues and sexual violence with county agencies, other non-profits, county boards, city councils and other community agencies will assist the community in seeing the end of sexual violence as part of a broader plan to improve their community. Connecting sexual violence to substance abuse issues will be of special interest to both public and private substance abuse treatment providers, as many sexual assaults involve alcohol and drugs. Also, many survivors turn to substance abuse post assault as a means to cope, thus making collaboration even more critical for rape crisis centers.

It is helpful to work together with treatment providers or other agencies working on substance abuse issues to create a public awareness campaign that combines the dangers of alcohol and sexual assault, as well as to provide treatment for survivors.

b) Reaching Diverse Populations

Developing an approach that reaches special populations in rural communities is important. Sexual violence is a topic that may not be spoken about or acknowledged in many cultures. In fact, the term "rape" may not even exist in the native language of many communities. It may be

necessary to introduce the subject of sexual violence by talking about women's rights. It is also effective to use examples or role plays about sexual violence when working with such communities to overcome language barriers. Using volunteers or other staff to assist with acting out a scenario about sexual violence will make the subject more accessible. Many programs have had success in reaching diverse groups like migrant farmworkers and Southeast Asian immigrants by presenting workshops through English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. Rape crisis centers that presented at ESL classes found that the most pressing need in these communities was to learn English and that traditional rape prevention education would not be as successful due to a lack of trust and discomfort with the issue. Offering public health classes, parenting classes, and informal educational classes that involve healthy relationship and personal safety information are more effective.

c) Connecting Sexual Violence and Poverty

Poverty is an issue facing many rural communities and is related to sexual violence, as poverty may increase risk for sexual violence. Although it may be difficult to pinpoint all of the ways poverty and sexual violence intersect; it is clear that working to end poverty in rural communities is a struggle connected to that of sexual violence. For example, in the case of intimate partner assaults, financial dependency makes it very difficult for women to leave abusive relationships, and the recent economic downturn has created even more barriers for women in abusive relationships.

According to the Housing and Sexual Violence Fact Sheet:¹⁹

- In a study of rural women who had been sexually assaulted, the women indicated that without housing, other services to address the violence were not likely to be helpful.
- According to a study of homeless and marginally housed people, 32% of women, 27% of men, and 38% of transgendered persons reported either physical or sexual victimization in the previous year.
- In a sample of racially diverse homeless mothers, 92% reported that they had experienced severe physical or sexual violence during their lives; 43% reported child sexual abuse in childhood.

For others, having a low income may mean that one is put in high risk situations more often than those with higher incomes. Not having public transportation, for example, could force many people in rural communities to hitchhike or depend on rides from others. This lack of transportation can place people in vulnerable situations where they could be exposed to perpetrators of sexual assault. Living in poverty may mean one does not have a telephone, may not have secure living space or may have to live with others they do not trust.

Benefit of Outreach in the Community

Rape crisis centers can find access to people through community organizations, county health departments, and local governments. They should be creative in their approach, tailoring their message to each entity. By conducting outreach in the community, centers show a commitment to reach out to all members of the community, which also shows a commitment to meeting the needs of the people living in that community.

¹⁹ National Sexual Violence Resource Center. Housing and Sexual Violence Fact Sheet. PA. 2010

Conclusion

This packet is intended to provide a starting ground for local rape crisis centers to establish or continue a presence in rural communities. Rape crisis centers who utilize these strategies should remember to be flexible in their methods, as needs and challenges may change. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of ideas, merely a starting point. To be most effective, begin with a plan for outreach, set goals, and get out there!

Rape crisis centers should have conversations prior to organizing an outreach campaign about their capacity to provide services in the community. For example, outreach generally results in an increase in service requests, and rape crisis centers should be prepared for that request prior to conducting extensive outreach. Centers can prepare for this increase by enhancing their capacity through volunteers. It might take some time and energy, but the results will be plentiful.

CALCASA encourages your center to utilize and incorporate the information within this packet in training your staff and volunteers. We also invite you to share effective strategies or approaches with CALCASA staff for future updates on this subject. By working together, we can enhance our efforts in changing public perceptions of sexual assault in rural communities. If you require any technical assistance or would like more information on this subject, please contact CALCASA staff at (916) 446-2520 or via e-mail at info@calcasa.org.

APPENDIX A:

RESOURCES

Internet Resources:

The Faith Trust Institute Violence

2400 North 45th #10, Seattle, WA – Phone (206) 634-1903
123 W. Main Street, Durham, NC 27701 – Phone (919) 956-2000
www.faithtrustinstitute.org

The Faith Trust Institute is a national multifaith, multicultural, training and education organization with global reach working to end sexual and domestic violence.

Perspectives on Violence and Substance Use in Rural America

www.nrcel.org/sdrs/areas/issues/envrnmnt/drugfree/vitoc.htm

This site contains a collection of articles entitled “Perspectives on Violence and Substance Use in Rural America”. Articles like “Violence and Substance Abuse in Rural America”, “Crime and Violence in Rural Communities”, and “The Rural Context for Education: Adjusting the Images” will be of particular interest to rural rape crisis centers in California.

Migrant Clinicians Network (MCN)

MCN’s Main Office – P.O. Box 164285, Austin, TX, 78716 – Phone (512) 327-2017,
MCN’S Satellite Office – 344 Flume St, Suite C, Chico, CA 95928 – Phone (530) 345-4806
www.migrantclinician.org

MCN deals with all sorts of health issues for migrant farmworkers. Over the years the MCN has been involved with the development of domestic violence materials designed specifically for work with migrant farmworkers. The materials are available in English/Spanish, which enables a broader audience to access them.

The National Rural Funders Collaborative

402 N Good Latimer Expwy, Dallas, TX, 75204 (214) 824-4450
www.nrfc.org

The National Rural Funders Collaborative was established in 2001 and is a funding initiative to reinvest in and revitalize rural American communities faced with persistent poverty. Funded by private U.S. foundations, the NRFC aims to leverage \$100 million over the next 10 years to expand the human, technical and financial resources needed for measurable improvement in the quality of life for rural communities and families.

Rural Womyn Zone

www.ruralwomyn.net

Rural Womyn Zone was established in 1997 as a virtual community to provide information, outreach, support and a networking base for rural women and their nonprofit organizations and grass roots activities. Collections of headlines and news from rural communities are available, as well as a blog dedicated to violence against rural women.

The Rural School and Community Trust

www.ruraledu.org

The mission of the Rural School and Community Trust is to enlarge student learning and to improve community life by strengthening relationships between rural schools and communities and engaging students in community-based public work. The trust has a variety of publications that may be of use to rural centers such as they approach schools in their service area.

Agency Resources:

Although many of these agencies are in urban areas, they possess expertise in working with diverse populations that exist in many rural areas. We encourage you to access these organizations for information and materials that can assist you in your outreach efforts.

Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI)

2400 Moorpark Avenue, #300
San Jose, CA 95128
(408) 975-2730
www.aaci.org

AACI is a multi-human service program providing services in a linguistic and culturally appropriate manner. They have a mental health program, youth program, and domestic violence program amongst others.

Asian Community Mental Health Services (ACMHS)

310 8th Street, Suite 201
Oakland, CA 94607
(510) 451-6729
www.acmhs.org

Since 1974, Asian Community Mental Health Services (ACMHS) has pioneered mental health approaches that are consumer driven and community-based to fill the void in behavioral health care for the Asian Pacific Islander (API) community.

Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California

1145 Wilshire Blvd, 2nd Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017
(213) 977-7500
www.apalc.org

To advocate for civil rights, provide legal services and education, and build coalitions to positively influence and impact Asian Pacific Americans and to create a more equitable and harmonious society.

Center for the Pacific Asian Family, Inc. (CPAF)

Administrative Office
543 N. Fairfax Avenue, #108
Los Angeles, CA 90036
(323) 653-4045
Crisis Line 1-800-339-3940
www.nurturingchange.org

CPAF operates a multi-lingual and multi-cultural 24-hour hotline and confidential emergency and transitional shelter in Southern California for Asian/Pacific Islander women and their children who are victims of domestic violence, rape, and child abuse.

Feather River Tribal Health (FRTHO)

<u>Oroville Clinic</u> 2145 5th Avenue Oroville, Ca 95965-5870 (530) 534-5394	<u>Yuba City Clinic</u> 1231 Plumas Street Yuba City, Ca 95991 www.frth.org
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The Feather River Tribal Health Organization (FRTHO) provides health care services to Native Americans. Services offered include medical, dental, behavioral health, health outreach, substance abuse counselor, and other related services.

Indian Health Council, Inc.

Administrative Office
50100 Golsh Rd
Valley Center, CA 92082
(760) 749-1410

www.indianhealth.com

Indian Health Council's Human Services Department offers the "Peace Between Partners Program" (PBP), a sexual assault and domestic violence program.

Kene Me-Wu Family Healing Center

P.O. Box 605
Sonora, CA 95370
(209) 984-8602

The Kene Me-Wu Family Healing Center promotes family healing throughout Indian Country. Kene-Wu Family Healing Center offers a culturally sensitive response to partner abuse in the Indian Community through crisis intervention, referrals, parenting education, and more.

Organizacion en California de Lideres Campesinas (Farmworker Women's Leadership Project)

611 S. Rebecca Street
Pomona, CA 91766
(909) 865-7776

<http://www.liderescampesinas.org/english/index.php>

<http://www.liderescampesinas.org/espanol/index.php>

The mission of Líderes Campesinas is to develop leadership for political, social and economic change in the farmworker community.

Two Feathers – Indian Child Welfare Program

2355 Central Ave, Suite C
McKinleyville, CA 95519
(707) 839-1933

<http://www.twofeathers-nafs.org/index.html>

Provides linkages and referrals to community services for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence. Work to build awareness in the community about violence against Native American women.

Union of Pan Asian Communities (UPAC)

1031 25th Street
San Diego, CA 92102
(619) 232-6454

<http://www.upacsd.com/>

To meet the economic, social, psychological, and physical needs of San Diego's Asian and Pacific Islander population.