



FOR RELEASE on August 24, 2004

Date: August 24, 2004
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**CDC RENEWS COMMITMENT TO FUND
NATIONAL SEXUAL VIOLENCE RESOURCE CENTER**

Harrisburg, PA – The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced today that it has awarded the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape a five year cooperative agreement to sustain and further expand its national resource center. The agreement, which is a continuation of a previous award granted in July 1999, calls for increased emphasis on sexual violence prevention.

“I am very pleased to see funding go the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape to expand the National Sexual Violence Resource Center,” Senator Arlen Specter said. “It is imperative that we curb the violence and lasting effects of rape by developing initiatives to prevent it. I trust that the NSVRC will use this funding to continue to provide services that ensure safety and security in our communities.”

Delilah Rumburg, executive director of the Coalition stated, “This award demonstrates the CDC’s commitment to, and recognition of, sexual violence as an important and urgent national problem. We have filled a tremendous void – one which has resulted in the strengthening of sexual assault services and programs across the nation and beyond.”

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A little over five years ago, the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) became the first and only federally-funded national resource center on sexual violence. And the timing could not have been more crucial as the nation's attention was quickly drawn to an onslaught of unprecedented and often scandalous headlines and accounts involving sexual abuse in some of our nation's most exclusive of circles – the military, the clergy, sports and entertainment communities, and on college campuses.

Governor Edward G. Rendell commended the Coalition on its work over the years and stressed his support for the organization.

“The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape has worked diligently throughout the years on behalf of victims and their families,” Governor Rendell said. “This grant from the CDC will allow PCAR to reach out to more individuals who have been harmed so they can begin to heal and receive the necessary counseling and assistance that is necessary.”

According to Karen Baker, director of the NSVRC, “Since our official opening in July 2000, we have responded to nearly 7,000 requests for technical assistance. This clearly demonstrates that a need exists, and it has been extremely gratifying knowing that we are helping to build the capacity of allied programs across the country. At the same time, we have developed critical partnerships that have been instrumental in supporting our efforts to sustain a national presence while building an infrastructure that will exist for decades to come.”

As the NSVRC continues to perform its current functions, it will broaden services to take on a stronger and more active leadership role in the prevention of sexual violence. “We intend to expand our focus on prevention,” states Baker, “Sexual violence is a complex social problem that deserves and requires a comprehensive prevention strategy. One response does not fit all and it is imperative that we identify risk and protective factors so that we can effectively mobilize our

resources and collectively implement prevention strategies that are broad in scope, diverse in approach, and effective in reach.”

It is estimated that one out of every six U.S. women and one out of every thirty-three U.S. men have experienced an attempted or completed rape as a child and/or adult. Sexual violence creates a host of health-related problems, including injury and sexually transmitted diseases, as well as numerous psychological conditions such as major depression, substance abuse, eating disorders, homelessness and suicide.

The NSVRC, a project of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, collects and disseminates a wide range of resources on sexual violence including statistics, research, position statements, statutes, training curricula, prevention initiatives and program information to coalitions, advocates, and others interested in understanding and preventing/eliminating sexual violence. For more information or resources, contact the NSVRC at www.nsvrc.org.

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