



NATIONAL CENTER
on Domestic and Sexual Violence
training • consulting • advocacy

7800 Shoal Creek, Ste 120-N • Austin, Texas 78757 • tel: 512.407.9020

NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Debby Tucker

February 9, 2005

The last week of January, **Vickie Smith**, the **National Center's** Deputy Director, and I went to our Nation's Capitol to join the efforts to pass the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization 2005 (VAWA 2005). **Legal Momentum** (formerly NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund) is coordinating the **Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Against Women**, a diverse coalition of more than 70 organizations nationwide committed to passing VAWA 2005. The **National Center** is a member of the Task Force. We received a summary of all the sections of VAWA 2005 and discussed strategy, working with the media, ally building, mobilizing the grassroots and lobbying.

While in DC, we met with **Michael Drobac**, **Legal Counsel to Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison**, (R-TX). **Allison Randall**, of the **National Network to End Domestic Violence**, accompanied us. We discussed military issues in VAWA 2005 and the need for dedicated funding to support the increasing requests for technical assistance and training related to the military's response to domestic and sexual violence. Michael also provided us with valuable insight into navigating Congress' committee process to pass VAWA 2005. With **Lisalyn Jacobs**, Vice-President for Government Relations, **Legal Momentum**, we met with **Louisa M. Terrell**, Counsel, **Senate Committee on the Judiciary and Subcommittee on Crime & Justice**, to discuss VAWA 2005 and the appropriations process. Leaving Capitol Hill, we met first with **Mary Lou Leary**, the new Executive Director of the **National Center for Victims of Crime**, and then **Lynn Rosenthal**, Executive Director of the **National Network to End Domestic Violence**. We discussed possible opportunities for collaboration with both organizations.

Retooled Training for Dispatchers Debuts; May 11-12 Next Class

The **National Sheriffs' Association** and the **National Center** unveiled the retooled curriculum for our *Rural Domestic Violence Training for Communication Professionals (Dispatchers/Call Takers)*, January 13-14, 2005 in Oklahoma City, OK. We revised the curriculum based on the experiences from four pilot trainings conducted in 2003-2004. Nearly 50 dispatchers were trained by the **National Center's Vickie Smith**, **Michael LaRiviere**, **Salem (MA) Police Department**, and **Scott Santoro, JD, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center**. The next training is May 11-12, in Arcadia, WI. This project is funded by the **Office on Violence Against Women**. Two participants raved about the training in an email:

"We would like to start off by saying this class was phenomenal. All information discussed and explained was informative and very much needed. ... The materials given in class will be copied and given to all ... Dispatchers for their benefit and immediate use. [We] immediately came back to work wanting to apply our new knowledge ... We recommend this class be taken by not just Officers and Dispatchers but Fire Fighters and Emergency Medical Staff would greatly benefit from this as well. ..."

✍ For more information about this training or any of our other law enforcement trainings, visit http://www.ncdsv.org/ncd_ongoingtrain.html.

Military/Civilian Collaboration Project Kicks Off

Some 80 leaders from military, law enforcement, justice system and victim advocacy organizations gathered on January 25th to launch the Military/Civilian Coordinated Community Response Demonstration Project with the **Army's Fort Campbell** and the surrounding communities of **Clarksville, TN** and **Hopkinsville, KY**.

Fort Campbell Installation Commander **Major General Thomas R. Turner** hosted the kickoff luncheon, with welcoming remarks from **Colonel Dave Martino**, Chief of Staff for the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and Fort Campbell. As the Site Coordinator, I attended the event and will work closely with local coordinators, **Helen Kinton**, Director, **The Sanctuary**, **Patricia Mock**, Managing Attorney, **Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberlands**, and **Louie Sumner**, **Fort Campbell Family Advocacy Program Director**, the on-the-ground leaders for this project.

↳ See news coverage at http://www.ncdsv.org/ncd_news.html.

The **Battered Women's Justice Project (BWJP)**, Minneapolis, MN, is subcontracting with the **National Center** to assist in implementing the project, which is funded by the **Office on Violence Against Women** and the **U.S. Department of Defense**. Jacksonville, FL, and the **JAX** and **Mayport** naval stations, is the Project's other demonstration site. BWJP's **Connie Sponsler-Garcia** is managing the entire project and coordinating the Jacksonville effort.

Happy New Year from Altria!

It is certainly a happy New Year for the **National Center** with the generous contribution from **Altria Group, Inc.**, to support our website. Their gift allows us to keep our site up-to-date and dynamic. Specifically, we'll evaluate the site, add a photo gallery, create an interactive timeline of the National Center's history and explore the possibility of automatically notifying people of additions to the site. *Our heartfelt thanks to Altria, especially Diane Eidman, John Barnes and Shawna Aarons.*

Comings and Goings to the National Center's Board

Robert L. Stein, II, Dover, OH, former Executive Director of the **Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence**, is joining our Board of Directors this year. We're thrilled to have Bobb, especially with his military expertise. After six years on the Board, National Center co-founder **Sarah M. Buel, JD**, **The University of Texas School of Law**, has been designated *Director Emeritus* in recognition of her leadership. Regretfully, we said good-bye and thanks to **Monika Johnson Hostler, MA**, Executive Director, **North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault**, as the commitments in her own state made it difficult to continue serving on a national board.

On the Air

On January 7, I was interviewed on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered* about the Pentagon's new sexual assault policies.

↳ If you missed it, or want to hear it again, go to http://www.ncdsv.org/ncd_news.html.



↳ 2004 was quite a year for us – see the attached highlights