

**New Horizons Crisis Center**  
**SMSU Outreach Office Annual Report 2007**  
**Program Director: Elaine Ladwig, LSW**

**ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY**

New Horizons Crisis Center (NHCC) was established in 1981 as a community based sexual assault advocacy program. Since 1994, we have added Abused Children, General Crime, Supervised Visitations and Education Programs. NHCC's main office is located in Marshall, with satellite offices in Slayton, Redwood Falls and an outreach office on the campus of Southwest Minnesota State University. The mission of the Center includes, but is not limited to, providing services and support to crime victims, advocacy for families and education programs for Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, and Redwood Counties in Southwest Minnesota. The main goals and activities of the Center include: 24-hour crisis line, crisis intervention and advocacy services to victims, support groups, community education, professional training, systems change work and supervised visitations and exchanges. We serve men, women and children of all cultures and backgrounds. NHCC is the only general crime victim service agency in our area.

**HISTORICAL NEED FOR SMSU OUTREACH OFFICE**

In 1997, a group of social work students did a survey on campus regarding attitudes about physical violence, sexual assault and alcohol use. There were 792 respondents representing 27.7% of the total student body. Of those surveyed 18% felt sexual assault was a problem on campus and 24.6% reported they had witnessed a sexual assault. Other relevant findings indicated that 15% felt they had the right to sex if they had dated for a long time, and that 18% felt they had a right to sex if they were living together.

This lack of knowledge on sexual assault was disturbing, especially since NHCC statistics indicated the majority of sexual assault clients were college students. As a direct result of this data, a task force was formed on campus to address sexual assault. The Violence Prevention Task Force represented the sole institutional effort to address sexual violence at SMSU, and consisted of university staff, students, victim service providers, faculty, counselors, students affairs representatives, volunteers and administration, with a focus on increased reporting of sexual assault and increased education and awareness of sexual assault. It was from this organized effort that New Horizons Crisis Center took the lead role and applied for grant funding to establish a satellite office on the campus of SMSU. NHCC has had an outreach office on the campus of SMSU since 2000.

**STATISTICAL NEED FOR SMSU OUTREACH OFFICE**

- ◆ Twenty to twenty-five percent of women will be sexually assaulted at some point during their college career. 1

- ◆ Three percent of college women nationally have experienced rape or attempted rape during their academic year. This means, for example, that a campus with 6,000 coeds will have an average of one rape per day during the school year. 2
- ◆ Ninety percent of women know the person who sexually assaulted or raped them.3
- ◆ Forty-three percent of college-aged men conceded to using coercive behavior to have sex (including ignoring a women's protest, using physical aggression, and forcing intercourse), but did not admit that it was rape. 4
- ◆ About 2/3 of victims tell someone, often a friend (but usually not a family member or college official). Furthermore, fewer then 5% of college women who are victims of rape or attempted rape report it to police. 5
- ◆ Ten times more rapes are reported to crisis lines than are reported to the police. 6

## **GOALS**

The overall goals of our campus outreach office are: 1) to change attitudes about sexual assault and general crime by raising awareness, 2) to improve campus response to sexual assault and general crime, 3) to expand services for victims of sexual assault and general crime. These are the activities that the SMSU Program Director completed in 2007 to meet the SMSU outreach office goals.

## **CLIENT WORK**

- ◆ The program director provided services to 107 new victims throughout the year. The types of victims was varied ranging from harassment to physical assaults, children being abused to adults abused as children and from past sexual assaults to recent sexual assault issues.
- ◆ Additionally, the campus program director provided 598 contacts and/or other services for victims, such as face to face meetings, filing restraining orders and orders for protection, personal, legal and medical advocacy, etc.
- ◆ The campus program director was in regular contact with the University Public Safety throughout the year to collaborate about services and safety issues.
- ◆ The SMSU program director had a total of 6,124 contacts. This includes client contacts, distributing sexual assault handbooks and RAINN Day cards, presentations, moderating "TOUCH" play and speaking at the "Sex Signals" play.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

- ◆ Prior to the start of the 2007 fall semester training was provided to 31 residential hall advisors and 23 SMSU security officers. Topics covered included sexual

- assault, date rape drugs and information on procedures if someone reports that they have been sexually assaulted. In addition, a presentation on boundaries, sexual assault prevention and date rape drugs was given to one dorm “house.”
- ◆ During fall 2007 orientation week, the residential life staff and the residential advisors distributed approximately 900 sexual assault handbooks for NHCC.
  - ◆ The campus program director with help from another NHCC staff member guest lectured in 27 classes involving approximately 601 students. Topics included agency services, child abuse, date rape drugs, mandated reporting, sexual assault prevention, sexual harassment, volunteerism and workplace violence.
  - ◆ The Psychology club invited the SMSU program director to participate in a panel for professionals from the community. The program director talked about her experience at NHCC and about being a licensed social worker.
  - ◆ The campus program director worked with the SMSU personnel office to present two sexual harassment trainings to SMSU faculty, staff and students.
  - ◆ Throughout the year the campus program director co-presented a relationship series to 201 students in area high schools. The relationship series presentations are interactive and focus on raising awareness about boundaries, dating, healthy versus unhealthy relationships, consequences of being sexual active and sexual assault. The program director assisted with teen groups at Marshall East Campus Learning Alternatives; the group focused on dating, relationships and boundaries.
  - ◆ New Horizons Crisis Center received a grant to perform the play “TOUCH.” Staff from New Horizons Crisis Center and the Minnesota Department of Corrections performed the play. The play “TOUCH” was developed in 1978, by the Illusion Theater of Minneapolis, to teach children grades 3-6 how to recognize and respond to inappropriate touches. The SMSU Program Director was a moderator for the “TOUCH” Play. There were 28 performances of the “TOUCH” play to areas schools; a total of 2,637 students and 312 adults saw the play.
  - ◆ The program director was a keynote speaker at a Dental Professional regional training. The title of the presentation was, “Family Violence: Implications and Intervention Strategies for the Dental Community.” The sponsor asked the program director and the other presenter to present at future conferences.
  - ◆ The program director presented to an additional 535 people in our service area. The presentations focused on bullying, child abuse, family violence, good touch/bad touch, internet safety, mandated reporting and vulnerable adult abuse.

## **GENERAL SMSU CAMPUS WORK**

- ◆ NHCC brochures on general crime, sexual assault and agency services were placed in prominent locations throughout campus. NHCC posters and business cards continued to be located in all of the men's and women's restrooms in academic buildings and dorms throughout campus. Posters related to sexual assault, volunteering and NHCC services remained available throughout the year.
- ◆ The NHCC website is linked to the SMSU website under Campus Life and Southwest Net. The NHCC website has links to our agency programs, community resources, hotlines, as well as a link to our SMSU outreach office information. There were over 1370 new hits on our website throughout the year.
- ◆ The campus office links to the NHCC's main office 24 hours a day. If the campus program director is on the phone or away from the office, the caller is advised of the crisis number to the main office/crisis line.
- ◆ Students contacted the campus program director and stopped by NHCC offices to get information for class projects, to volunteer or for internship information.
- ◆ Volunteer advocate recruiting was conducted in classes throughout campus. Seven SMSU students completed the training and are now NHCC advocates.
- ◆ April 2007 was Sexual Assault Awareness Month. A display of sexual assault related books, handouts, brochures, statistics and NHCC agency information was featured at the SMSU library throughout the month. The program director collaborated with the SMSU Women's Center and was able to display sexual assault related posters, Sexual Assault Awareness Month information and NHCC agency information both inside and outside of the Women's center. Sexual Assault Awareness Month posters were displayed throughout the SMSU campus.
- ◆ The program director worked with the SMSU Office of Admissions to coordinate bringing the play "Sex Signals" to campus for fall 2007 orientation week. The play focused on gender stereotyping, mixed messages, dating and sexual assault. The program director spoke about the SMSU campus outreach office and agency services. There were approximately 290 students and faculty in attendance.
- ◆ NHCC had a table at the fall 2007 campus fair to provide information to incoming freshman and transfer students. We distributed agency pencils, magnets and brochures covering a number of topics, including date rape, date rape drugs, general crime and personal safety
- ◆ RAINN (Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network) has an annual sexual assault awareness campaign for college students. The program director collaborated with the SMSU library for RAINN day. The SMSU library handed out a "Get Carded" card to students who checked out books. Approximately 50 cards were given out.

- ◆ NHCC had a booth at the Lyon County Fair and at the Schwan Food Company Health Expo and provided information and brochures about agency services.
- ◆ The campus program director attended Women’s Studies Committee Meetings.
- ◆ The SMSU Program Director wrote articles that were published in newspapers in the four counties NHCC serves.
- ◆ The sexual assault advisory council reconvened and met once per semester. Members included the campus program director, NHCC Executive Director, faculty, counseling and testing staff, student housing, campus public safety, administration and Marshall Police Department.

## **EVALUATION**

Surveys were given in several of the classes following presentations. The results were positive in nature and the students appreciated how the topics gave them a better understanding of how it concerned and applied to them. Some of the feedback received included:

- “Thank you for taking time to help us understand better.”
- “Thanks for coming and informing us.”
- “Enthusiasm/passion about the subject is great.”
- “It was good and we needed to hear this information.”
- “Made me feel comfortable and at ease”
- “I learned more of what to do and also what not to do in a situation like sexual assault.”
- “I feel more comfortable directing them [students] to you.”
- “Keep it up (for other students too).”
- “I suggest this to a lot of different groups. It would open a lot of people’s eyes”

## **FUNDERS**

The SMSU outreach office of New Horizons Crisis Center is funded by Minnesota Department of Public Safety-Office of Justice Programs and The United Way of Southwest Minnesota. Office space and phone use are provided by Southwest Minnesota State University.

***A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR FUNDERS!***

## **VOLUNTEERS**

NHCC depends largely on the help of dedicated volunteer advocates. Our advocates carry a cell phone for one week at a time. They answers calls that come in during the evening, weekend and on holidays. In addition to carrying the crisis line cell phone, volunteers

also do various other tasks for the agency, such as helping out with office duties or assisting in community events parades, fairs, etc. From time to time, advocates may also find themselves offering support for victims in court. It takes a special person to listen to tragic stories and be willing to provide support. We appreciate our advocates very much! If you would like more information about becoming a volunteer, please contact NHCC.

## **STAFF**

Executive Director: *Joyce Arends, MSW, LICSW*  
SMSU Campus Program Director: *Elaine Ladwig, LSW*  
Lyon County Program Director: *Heather Rokeh*  
Murray County/Supervised Visitation Program Director: *Darla Curry, LSW*  
Redwood County Program Director: *Denise Kerkhoff*  
Education Program Director: *Jennifer Bruns*

## **OFFICES**

### ***Main Office***

109 S. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 40  
Marshall, MN 56258  
Phone: 507-532-5764  
Fax: 507-532-3628  
Email: nhcc@iw.net

### ***SMSU Outreach Office***

1501 State Street, ST 152  
Marshall, MN 56258  
Phone: 507-537-6817  
Fax: 507-532-3628  
Email: nhcc@southwestmsu.edu

### ***Murray County Office***

2524 Broadway Ave.  
Slayton, MN 56172  
Phone: 507-836-6272  
Fax: 507-836-6559  
Email: crisiscare@iw.net

### ***Redwood County Office***

231 E. Second St.  
Redwood Falls, MN 56283  
Phone: 507-637-5570  
Fax: 507-637-3961  
Email: crisis@newulmtel.net

## **WEBSITE**

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

## **REFERENCES**

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6. United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. National crime victimization survey. Available at [http://www.fact-index.com/n/na/national\\_crime\\_victimization\\_survey.html](http://www.fact-index.com/n/na/national_crime_victimization_survey.html)