

**MINUTES**  
**COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**May 7, 2008**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Hanna Cooper  
Sue Dion  
Coral Garner  
Thomas Kottke  
Barbara Lehn  
Chris Mullin  
Regina Rippel  
Jack Rossbach  
Pam Schmidt  
Sheri Smith  
Milo Thompson

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Nancy Appleton  
Soyini Guyton  
Esther Tatley  
Alyssa Vang

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Tina Baum  
Catherine Croghan  
Doris Everett-O'Neal  
Bruce Larson

**STAFF AND GUESTS**

Commissioner Jim McDonough  
Marsha Kurka  
Grit Youngquist  
Emily Huemann  
Rob Fulton  
Richard Ragan

**Prevention of Sexual Violence**

Commissioner Jim McDonough thanked members for their participation on the CHSAC. He said their work does impact policy and budget decisions. Tonight he came to talk about the prevention of sexual violence. The big question he is dealing with is “how do I find leadership and get recognition for this public health problem?” He wants to know how he can help move this issue forward. At meetings he sees that the strongest advocates for this subject are women. As a man he feels he should be involved. The County Board requested an assessment of what’s going on in every department. Marsha Kurka collected data from Department re sexual violence and did an inventory of 22 Departments’ responses. The question What is RC doing to prevent sexual violence across the county? Within 6 months there will be draft recommendations. Commissioner hopes to get the Association of MN Counties involved locally, statewide and nationally. Ramsey County does have a respectful workplace policy and that is a start. Commissioner McDonough said he wants to get upstream on this issue where prevention is the key. Jack mentioned the problem with false accusations. Sheri mentioned that in RC the charging rate is lower than desired. The goal is to institutionalize this issue so that it doesn’t need a political champion to take it forward.

Emily Huemann and Grit Youngquist gave a presentation on prevention of sexual violence.

After 28 years with community human services , this now comes from Public Health. Within Sexual Offense Services there are 3.5 FTE staff and 40 volunteers. The volunteers get 45 hours of training in order to serve. The focus is on primary prevention for a population and not just an individual.

In the year 2002, Regions Hospital hired a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner. An exam is completed within 72 hours of assault. The team includes a nurse and SOS staff and/or trained volunteer. In this program, seventy percent of women assaulted report the assault to police, which is very high. Dignity, care and concern @ Regions is the key to success. Regions Hospital can respond within 30 minutes. A protocol for response has been in place since 1998. The number of assaults has ranged from a high of 247 to a low of 175 in a year.

Safe Harbor for Youth is an ad hoc committee. Within 18 months there will be a place for runaway youth similar to the Bridge in Minneapolis.

Healthy Communities is a population-based prevention program. Grit focuses on the health of young people, preventing teenage pregnancy and links to sexual violence We have a consortium of services within the public health department. The link between sexual violence early in life and the likelihood of causing or becoming pregnant is very high.

The cost of sexual violence in MN was calculated in order to help policy makers understand the cost of not investing in prevention. The Spectrum of Prevention from the Prevention Institute is a framework for helping to think about how to solve problems that is used by Healthy Communities.

The Spectrum of Prevention goes something like this...

Influencing policy and legislation – longer sentences, stricter law enforcement

Changing Organizational Practices – filters on computers to eliminate access to porn

Fostering Coalitions and Networks – council of churches

Strengthen individual knowledge – the ACE (All Children Excel) program as an example

Educating of Providers – information back to the professional environment

Promoting Community Education – to the general public

Strengthening Individual knowledge and skills

Grit and Emily provided some draft recommendations related to sexual violence prevention.

Sexual violence is the use of sexual actions or words that are unwanted by and/or harmful to another person. Sexual violence is a serious public health problem. According to the Minnesota Department of Health, sexual assault in Minnesota costs approximately \$8 billion/year. The cost per sexual assault is estimated at \$184,000 for children and \$139,000 for adults. The Regions Hospital Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program annually examines approximately 185 sexual assault victims, of whom approximately 20% are between the ages of 13-17. Each year, Sexual Offense Services of Ramsey County (SOS) serves more than 750 survivors of sexual assault and more than 500 family members and friends of sexual assault survivors.

It is possible to stop sexual violence. It is possible to prevent sexual violence.

On March 11, 2008, the Board of Ramsey County Commissioners adopted a resolution publicly stating their commitment to stopping sexual violence and ensuring a healthy environment for all people.

Using the Prevention Institute's Spectrum of Prevention tool\* as a basis, the Board adopted goals to develop a comprehensive strategy for preventing sexual violence:

- Strengthen Individual Knowledge and Skills
- Promote Community Education
- Educate Providers
- Foster Coalitions and Networks
- Change Organizational Practices
- Influence Policy and Legislation

The Board directed County staff to develop specific action steps for each of the goals and to report back to the Board in Fall 2008. Additionally, the Board directed the County Manager to coordinate sexual violence intervention and prevention efforts with state and national plans.

The CHSAC commends the Board for its vision, passion and action to end sexual violence.

In appreciation of the Mayor's vision for Saint Paul to be the most livable city in America, the CHSAC recommends the Mayor and City Council make a public commitment to prevent sexual violence and ensure a healthy environment for all people throughout the City.

The CHSAC recommends that City of Saint Paul departments/divisions be directed to use the Spectrum of Prevention tool to:

- a) Inventory current City efforts for prevention and intervention of sexual violence; and
- b) Develop a comprehensive strategy for preventing and responding to sexual violence.

The CHSAC recommends that City and County elected officials and staff strengthen efforts for sexual violence prevention in Saint Paul and Ramsey County by:

- a) Recommending the Joint Property Tax Advisory Committee for the City of Saint Paul/Ramsey County/School District 625 determine how the 3 entities can effectively work together over the next 5 years to prevent and respond to sexual violence coordinating efforts with county, state and national plans;
- b) Identifying specific ways to connect City and County prevention and intervention efforts in order to maximize resources and impact; and
- c) Committing to working together to the greatest extent possible to end sexual violence in our communities.

\* Prevention Institute: <http://preventioninstitute.org/tools.html>

## **Director's Report**

Department is on the move. Family Health (68 staff) moved into their new offices at 1670 Beam Avenue in the lower level of the Community Dental Care Center. The Last Frontier is

the name given to the planned move from Government Center West to Plato. Public Health (90 staff), Ramsey County Emergency Management Services (5 staff) and Veteran Services (5 staff) will all move to the second floor of the former Minnesota Department of Agriculture Building. It will be a challenge for public health that currently occupies 39,000 sq ft and will have only 29,000 sq ft at Plato. It will be possible with a better designed working environment.

June will be the final meeting of the program year. We will not meet again until October.

The strategic plan is currently being examined by each of the sections and specific work activities are being created. The Department (EP3) must convert the strategic plan to a 5 year action plan and submit it to the Minnesota Department of Health by December 08. It will come back to the CHSAC one more time for a final review and discussion before being submitted, probably at the October meeting.

Rob is on a committee examining the Accreditation of public health departments. He is looking at state strategies and the 10 essential services. This accreditation would be similar to what is done with hospitals JAHHOS. It is planned for rollout in 2012. As expected, everyone must pay to become accredited. Washington County will be a beta organization.

### **Next Meeting**

Next meeting is June 4, 2008 and is the final meeting of the program year. Current thinking is we will not meet again until October 1, 2008.