

Vermont Network NEWS

The newsletter of the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

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Liese Brown..... Advocacy Project Coordinator

Sarah Kenney.....Public Policy Coordinator

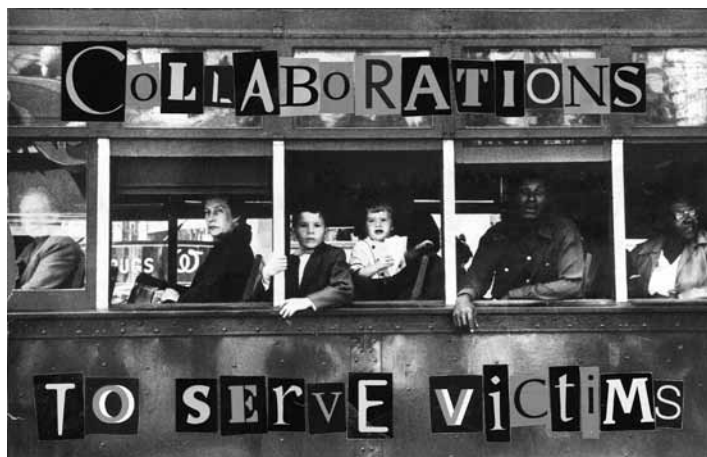
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Auburn Watersong..... Economic Empowerment Specialist



Collaborations – Building Comprehensive Solutions

BY KAREN TRONSGARD-SCOTT, DIRECTOR

Good collaboration is like good marriage. The interested parties have to be committed listeners, demonstrate authentic respect, understand each others’ roles, deal effectively with change, and be willing to give and feel the love. And a good sense of humor and thick skin helps. In the case of the kind of collaboration we are covering in this issue of the Network News, ‘the love’ reflects caring for the members of the collaborative group, but more importantly, caring deeply about the positive impact of collaboration on victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Without this devotion to the people on the receiving end of the collaboration, groups quickly unravel with plenty of tears and recriminations or slowly wither until members of the group wonder why they got together in the first place.

Bad relationship analogies aside, collaboration is the bedrock for systems and services in our world. From the Vermont Council on Domestic Violence to individual county task forces to newly born Special Investigation Units, caring professionals from varying backgrounds and with various roles and responsibilities can and do come together to create meaningful systems that meet the needs of

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Collaborations

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survivors. Collaborations that work share characteristics and practices that include a clear mission and commitment by all members to the mission; an understanding of individual roles and of the collective role of the collaborative; shared commitment to communicating in ethical ways; a process for resolving conflict; a willingness to try new ideas and to provide honest feedback; and a focus on the impact of the collaborative on survivors. And, again, it helps to have a good sense of humor and thick skin.

With so many great examples of successful collaboration in our state, choosing a few to highlight was a real task. Included in this issue are coordinated community response groups working in local communities to create supportive change for victims; the incredible collaboration between the Vermont Network and some of our state's important disabilities rights organizations; the ambitious, far-reaching collaboration that is the Vermont Approach; and collaborative efforts emerging through the establishment of Special Investigation Units. Thanks to our contributors who were so willing to share their knowledge and wisdom about collaboration.

The Accessibility Project

CHANI WATERHOUSE, PROGRAM SUPPORT COORDINATOR

History

The Creating Access Team (CAT) was formed in 2005 to work collaboratively on a planning grant to design processes for assessing the accessibility of Network Programs for people with disabilities and Deaf people, assessing the responsiveness of disability organizations to survivors of domestic and sexual violence, and supporting all involved in enhancing their accessibility and responsiveness.

Original members of the CAT included the Vermont Network (the Network), Battered Women's Services & Shelter (BWSS), New Beginnings, Voices Against Violence, Deaf Vermonters Advocacy Services (DVAS), the Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL) and Green Mountain Self Advocates (GMSA). Vermont Psychiatric Survivors joined the collaborative between 2006 and 2008.

In 2008, new grant requirements caused the collaborative group to downsize to three core organizations, the Network, VCIL and GMSA, and the group changed its name to the Vermont Core Team (VCT). Currently VCT members are implementing a strategic plan to make changes in their own organizational policies and practices, as well as supporting pilot collaborations between DV/SV and disability provider organizations in Washington and Chittenden counties.

When I walked into my first CAT meeting in 2005, I embarked on a journey the significance of which I could not have predicted at the time. On a long piece of white paper on the wall, we charted the histories of our movements over four decades. The women in the room represented disability rights and domestic and sexual violence organizations. We shared similar histories of discrimination, marginalization and disenfranchisement. What I did not know was that we also shared similar histories of activism and resistance against oppression and disempowerment. I learned about sit-ins at Gallaudet, a Deaf university, by students demanding a "Deaf President Now"; and about disability advocates staging flamboyant protests in front of the White House to draw attention to the impact of inaccessible public spaces and discriminatory practices and policies. I came to understand that we possessed a shared analysis of institutionalized oppression, and that we shared a social change orientation to our work.

By any estimate, people with disabilities and Deaf people are sexually and physically assaulted, emotionally abused and economically exploited at rates which far surpass those for the general public. Although the Americans with Disabilities Act was first passed in 1990, disability advocates report that change has been painfully slow, and many public spaces and organizational practices are still not accessible or provide inadequate accommodations, despite decades-old ADA requirements. There was a great sense of urgency on the part of the disability partners in particular, to make changes in the way systems responded to survivors with disabilities and Deaf survivors, and to make those changes

quickly.

Karen Vastine, who coordinated the project from its inception in 2005 until 2007, remembered that “For the disability rights programs, this was not a new conversation. They had been knocking on the door of the Network for a few years before we had the resources to really plan in an intentional way. I felt some trepidation that we wouldn’t be able to do everything they wanted, and I knew they had been waiting for a long time.” Each partner in the collaboration talked about what her organization needed the collaboration to achieve. Rebecca Shea, who has been the project’s Network co-coordinator since 2007, described how important it was for the Network to have access to “a disability perspective and the support to look at our accessibility issues and address them.” Nicole LeBlanc, a GMSA disability educator, talked about how important it is for people with disabilities to have access to DV/SV advocates who, unlike most disability providers, are not mandated to report abuse of “vulnerable adults” and can provide vital education about domestic and sexual violence.

The disability partners felt an equal sense of urgency to see changes in how disability providers respond to survivors. “Unfortunately the story hasn’t changed,” reported Karen Topper, Director of GMSA. “In the mid-nineties this was an issue that self advocates wanted to address. [Disability] providers did not want to address it directly because they thought people with disabilities would make false reports.” Kim Brittenham, who has been the project’s VCIL co-coordinator since 2008, added “This organization needs to be able to recognize and respond to violence in the lives of the people we work with.”

Karen Vastine described her excitement and optimism at that first meeting, and noted that “Ultimately, we had almost the same goals but our orientation was really different. I saw an opportunity for us to really learn from each other... All of us wanted victims with disabilities to be getting what they needed from [Network and disability] Programs.”

Despite our similarities and the urgency of our shared goals, our work together did not always go smoothly. Conflicts, misunderstandings, different perspectives and historic mistrust needed to be overcome, and created painful challenges along the way. Dhiresha Blose, who was hired by VCIL to co-coordinate the project in early 2007, saw challenges rooted in a lack of understanding or trust that the group genuinely shared common goals, adding that “it was a little challenging to move past what had happened before, but that’s what collaborations are about: bringing people to the table to look at the barriers to moving forward together. It seemed like par for the course that we needed

to address these issues.” Karen Vastine added “The fact that we stuck together and attended meetings and stayed engaged was a huge success,” and Nicole LeBlanc agreed: “Despite all the challenges we’ve faced, we’ve persevered.”

“People came in aware of the centrality of their own expertise,” remembered Dhiresha Blose, but this perspective changed over time as partners developed mutual understanding and came to see each other’s perspectives and expertise as essential to their own success. Karen Topper described how “I loved spending time with the local [Network] Programs. I had so much I wanted to learn from them. They had so much more experience than they knew. They had been making things cognitively accessible for years – they just didn’t call it that... They had the same sense of urgency that we did.” Karen Vastine emphasized the courage of the Network Programs whose “authentic participation” exposed weaknesses as well as strengths and allowed the group to explore the most difficult issues in a meaningful way. “Everyone’s interesting and we’re all doing good work,” reported Stirling Peebles, a GMSA self-advocate*.

Mutual understanding created a foundation for the development of mutual trust, which has dramatically changed the dynamics of our collaborative work over the last four years. Karen Topper described how she has come to assume good intent on the part of partners, even when mistakes are made. Rebecca Shea added that now when there are problems, “people assume that Network Programs are doing the right thing, or doing their best to try.”

Everyone I talked to emphasized the transformative nature of this collaboration, for their organizations but also for themselves as individuals, and this mirrored my own experience. “It has changed me,” reported Stirling Peebles. “I’m really interested in becoming a legal advocate now.” Karen Topper described how an awareness of domestic and sexual violence now influences all her work at GMSA: “It’s really become part of the fabric of what we do.”

There were also many wise words about crucial elements of successful collaboration. According to Karen Topper, “You need to listen more. Look for the ounce of truth. Assume good intent. Presume the person is doing the best they can.” Dhiresha Blose talked about how collaboration requires continual self-evaluation and awareness. She and Karen Vastine emphasized the importance of honesty and flexibility about personal agendas. As Karen described it, “No amount of forethought and preparation is really going to matter unless the collaborative is willing to talk about

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* *Self Advocates are people with cognitive disabilities who are part of a self-empowerment movement to create more power, choice and control in their own lives and in the lives of other people with cognitive disabilities*

The Accessibility Project

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what they're willing to lose and give to the group." At the same time, self interest is a central issue in collaboration, and Rebecca Shea stressed that "You'd better feel that both parties are getting something out of it." "A group needs to feel successful," asserted Karen Vastine. "They need to know what benchmarks they've hit and be able to pat themselves on the back."

Finally, this experience has highlighted, for all of us, the value of collaboration despite all its challenges, and the privilege of being able to invest time into a collaborative project. In the words of Dhiresha Blose, "We can accomplish and learn so much more by bringing our individual experiences together in an inclusive way. Building relationships is key to being successful in providing what we say we need to provide to people in need."

Just Do It: Successful Collaborations

An Interview

CHANI WATERHOUSE, PROGRAM SUPPORT COORDINATOR

Four years ago, the Sexual Assault Crisis Team of Washington County began meeting with Norwich University's Equal Opportunity Office and substance abuse services provider to explore opportunities to take a more proactive approach to sexual violence on and off campus at Norwich. From these initial meetings grew a vibrant collaboration between SACT and Norwich, culminating in a formal commitment to continuing their collaborative work through 2012. Currently SACT advocates have regular office hours and their own space at Norwich for individual advocacy with victims. Norwich has integrated SACT into its regular training schedule, ensuring that students, faculty and staff receive ongoing education and training about sexual violence and the role of bystanders in preventing sexual violence. SACT provides consultation to Norwich to support the development of policies and protocols to guide the responses of security, residential life and other staff to sexual violence issues. I met recently with Bobbi Gagne, SACT's Executive Director, and Christy Doyle, Norwich's Equal Opportunity and Employee Relations Coordinator, to learn more about their collaboration and what it has accomplished.

CW: *Collaboration best practice emphasizes how important self-interest is to successful collaboration – the more urgent the self-interest is, the more dynamic collaborations tend to be. Could each of you talk about your goals when you started? Where did you find the*

motivation to sit down together?

Bobbi: 98% of the sexual assault calls we were receiving from Northfield or from Norwich University had to do with sexual violence that had happened off campus. For us that was the key motivator. We could provide the services they needed after something had happened through the hotline and medical or legal advocacy. We could provide handouts with all of our program information and what to do if you are a victim of rape, but there was no way for us to address the risk off campus, no way to address the connection between alcohol and sexual assault, no way to address the fact that Norwich students had an amazing ability to change what was happening off campus. When we started doing bystander education, we started to see an amazing change.

Christy: The reality was we were a part of SACT's business. SACT was providing services to our students who became victims, and to victims of our students. So it seemed like a no-brainer for me. We sit in this community, and we impact this community, so how can we not have a relationship with SACT? SACT's presence on the campus is hugely beneficial for us. It helps to communicate the university's commitment to creating a safe campus and allows Norwich to provide prevention education to all students, faculty and staff. The Equal Opportunity office saw a gap in services. The office could not provide fair and unbiased adjudication in these cases and also play the role of victims' advocate. So I was very motivated to work with SACT.

Bobbi Gagne, Governor Douglas, and Norwich University collaborators at the 4th Annual Red Flag Ceremony on the State House lawn in 2008.



CW: *I know you both went into the relationship with a real appreciation for the expertise of the other and a sense of curiosity about the perspective of the other. Can you talk about that?*

Bobbi: We came together from very different areas. We each brought our expertise and we were looking for how the other party's information and knowledge could help to create a unique program. We also acknowledged it would take time to develop a protocol for how we would work together, even given both Norwich and SACT had the best interest of the students as a common denominator.

Christy: I am not an expert in sexual violence. I am a policy adjudicator. SACT provided this expertise and important information about sexual violence that we desperately needed. To not avail ourselves of that would have been really short-sighted.

CW: *What compromises did each of you have to make in order to work together successfully and what could you not compromise on?*

Bobbi: We were clear that we couldn't compromise around confidentiality, and we couldn't compromise on advocating for what victims wanted. The goal was to develop a way students could get their needs met while respecting the fact these victims were adults and had the right to determine if they wanted Norwich University and/or the police to be involved. SACT and Norwich felt many issues, such as the need for a separate dorm, leaving the campus for medical or legal support, and other student support, could be handled at the student's request with only a need-to-know policy.

Christy: For SACT it was confidentiality. For us, we had to be totally open about what was going on for the Norwich community. We had to let someone see all of who we are. Of course SACT already knew, but regularly working with them in a systematic, proactive, meaningful and transparent way was an important change. SACT emphasized victim's rights and choices over all other concerns.

Bobbi: The success of this collaboration has required mutual compromise to ensure civilian and military students' needs are heard. SACT has had to re-educate our advocates on how to assist with the military lifestyle at Norwich.

CW: *Apart from compromises made on both sides, how else did you develop trust between SACT and Norwich?*

Bobbi: A long year.

Christy: Time. I think we both developed a mutual respect. Bobbi responded to things in a way that I thought was fair, reasonable and appropriate. We're dealing with very difficult and sensitive issues. We've had some very difficult cases where answers aren't always clear. Bobbi always behaved in a way that was very reasonable and was in the best interests of the students, staff and faculty.

Bobbi: I was able, by being more involved on campus and with students, to actually see over time that Norwich's response to victims was often very good - not that victims get everything they ask for, but I've seen victims, regardless of gender, get things that amaze me. For example, on a campus where every dorm room is like gold, SACT can, within a few hours of a victim's request, get them into a private room. For me this helped SACT trust their intent.

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Successful Collaborations

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CW: *What has this partnership taught you about collaboration?*

Christy: Just do it – start building the relationship on behalf of your organization, alone if necessary. Had we made things more public in terms of announcing this relationship rather than just starting to provide services, we would not have made the progress we have in the last few years. Faculty, staff and students needed time to trust SACT advocates would respect their right of

confidentiality, and they needed training to understand that students' needs may not always be the same as those of Norwich, their parents, law enforcement, or the legal system and that SACT advocates were a presence on campus not just during emergencies, but part of the student life all year.

Bobbi: That collaboration can be successful, even when you're talking about a fox and a hen. It can be successful regardless of your differences, if you have some common goals and you can really both compromise - because one-sided compromise isn't compromise - if you can both compromise in key areas, the rest of it will fall into place.

REPAIR:

A Model for Revitalizing Collaborative Community Response to Domestic and Sexual Violence in Tough Economic Times

AUBURN WATERSONG, ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT SPECIALIST

[Note: The model described below has been created by the author as a result of her years of community organizing experience in the domestic violence field.]

As advocates for battered women in Vermont, we have had our share of experience with the economic challenges that face survivors as they seek safety. Add to the mix a sagging economy, and it's not just the intervention efforts that suffer; the prevention and collaboration work can also take a hardy nose-dive.

For years, communities across our state and nation have been succeeding in and building effective coordinated community responses to domestic and sexual violence. Those of us who participate in local task force meetings are well aware of the challenges in keeping a multidisciplinary group connected and invested. Once the participants at the table see job cuts in their own workplace and find less time to commit to collaborative efforts, these groups find themselves waning in attendance, losing momentum, and worrying about losing core relationships between partners that may have taken years to build.

So how do community agencies and individuals who are overloaded with work and less available for meetings remain committed to continued collaboration? Amidst these economic challenges, the primary concern becomes sustainability. Numerous domestic and sexual violence task

force members and collaborative partners have argued that the most valued benefit of the coordinated community group is the connection and conversation – a time set aside to talk with one another about domestic and sexual violence trends in their own neighborhoods, to share agency policies, practices and protocols, to identify the common ground and the unbridgeable gaps. How then are these benefits sustained when resources are dwindling and partners are guarding their increasingly limited time?

Outlined below is my model for revitalizing community collaboratives during challenging times.

REPAIR: Reframe, Embrace, Participate, Anticipate, Innovate, Recognize

1. Reframe the issue: Move from despair to planning by moving the question from survival to value.

Often groups struggling for survival fall into the habit of complaining that they have no way to survive, and soon a self-fulfilling prophecy sets in: "With less money and dwindling membership, we aren't going to be able to sustain this group much longer" becomes "We lost funding and members so we stopped meeting." Consider scheduling a special gathering wherein the membership reconvenes one time only to consider the value of the

collaborative body; reframe the question to, “Why must we thrive?”

2. Embrace: *Celebrate the advantages of your current circumstance.*

It is possible that members of financially challenged collaboratives may find the value of human resources outweighs the value of financial resources. Perhaps, for example, being smaller in membership has relaxed a previously formal governance structure, making it more accessible and easier to understand. Perhaps with fewer more engaged members, the group is getting more tasks completed. Fewer resources need not mean poor quality; it may present an opportunity for a leaner, more efficient group. So, embrace the current circumstance and ask “In spite of the current difficulties, what things do we like about this group and the way it is functioning?” Once the issue has been reframed and the current circumstances embraced, the ground has been strengthened. This can inspire commitment and participation.

3. Participate: *Accept responsibility, and participate accordingly.*

Community collaborations need not allow one particular agency to have the sole responsibility of sustaining the group. If each member accepts responsibility for participation — without complaint or coercion — all members begin to sense that the group is a valuable entity, important to each member. When you model the importance of the group, others will know they are not wasting their time. When you participate in a collaborative, consider using your agency’s commitment as the catalyst to invite other agencies to commit comparable time and resources.

4. Anticipate: *Expect the challenges, name them, and plan accordingly.*

It would be futile to suggest that collaborative work is ever easy. If the challenges are not expected, named and acknowledged, the tone of the participants becomes negative. When the challenge is named (for example, “Our

participating members are lessening because of agency layoffs”) then the group can effectively strategize ways to meet the challenge (“How can this be more meaningful to that agency? Should we meet at that agency’s conference room?).”

5. Innovate: *Use technology to connect in various ways.*

Consider convening meetings via teleconference. Perhaps one collaborator has the hardware capacity for a conference call? Can folks who do not wish to drive long distances and lose valuable work time join the meeting via phone? How can the group connect regularly via the internet?

6. Recognize: *Use documentation and evaluation as marketing tools.*

A group that plans to sustain itself for longer than five years ought to consider the value of a well-crafted evaluation process, and yes, there could be real monetary value to this effort as well. Does the community hear about the work that is being done by the collaboration? With public recognition of the collaborative successes (articles, press releases, education provided, and awards given and received) comes the possibility of growing membership and increased financial support. Donors, grantors, and foundations are more likely to fund groups that can visibly demonstrate how their work effects change.

With budget cuts and tightened schedules, most collaborators are facing doing more with less. The suggestion inherent in this model is that fewer monetary resources can actually provide an opportunity to reconstruct without needing to re-invent. When faced with decreasing resources we can learn to build upon the resources that currently exist. The financial and relational sustainability of a group depends heavily upon its members’ commitment, attitude, planning, creativity, and documented self-reflection. This type of reconstruction might actually revitalize community-based multidisciplinary efforts to eradicate domestic and sexual violence.



GUEST COLUMN: What Makes a Good Special Investigation Unit?

BOB WHITE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT NUSI (NORTHWEST UNIT FOR SPECIAL INVESTIGATION)

Collaboration – Defined by Webster as

- 1: “to work jointly with others”
- 3: “to cooperate with an agency with which one is not immediately connected”.

In the world of Vermont’s Special Investigation Units and Child Advocacy Centers, where your long term goal is the development of a single-location for the multidisciplinary team focused on victim services, investigation, and prosecution of crimes involving sexual assault, domestic violence, and crimes against children, how do these definitions apply? First, there’s a need to recognize that the diversity of your team is your core strength.

This strength is achieved when all team members are truly equal, and are willing to fully participate. Team members and their host organizations must be willing to find ways to say yes to reasonable requests. Saying yes builds trust and respect which strengthens the team and ultimately the quality of services provided.

It’s recognized that saying yes is often easier said than done; team members and their host organizations come to the Special Investigation Units/Child Advocacy Centers with policies, procedures, financial limitations and sometimes even existing laws that may require team members to be more creative in the ways they collaborate.

The road to overcoming these barriers begins with a common team desire to improve the way services are provided to victims and their families. Team members must be willing to work within their host organizations to change the traditional “silo approach”, recognizing that the independent actions of each organization do have an impact on the rest of the team and the system.

Teams must recognize that these types of systemic changes occur slowly over time and not become frustrated with the pace. They can begin the process of bringing change to their own regions now, through a willingness

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Sexual Violence Awareness Month

VERMONT NETWORK AGAINST DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE’S

5th Annual Red Flag Ceremony & Legislative Breakfast

- **April** is always a time to honor victims/survivors of sexual violence. The ability to recognize, name and speak out on behalf of self and others is the most important asset we can develop in every resident of Vermont. We need especially to build capacity for adults to model wholesome, informed, healthy and respectful sexual behavior and hold accountable those who don’t.
- **Legislative Breakfast- State House Cafeteria:** Advocates and allies from across the state met to talk about sexual violence prevention initiatives and services for survivors.

- **5th Annual Red Flag Ceremony-State House Lawn:** 1,234 flags, each representing a victim of sexual violence served by the Network Programs in 2008, were placed to proclaim April “Sexual Violence Awareness Month”.



Thank you for your commitment to eradicating sexual violence in Vermont.

An Invitation to Testify

On June 10, 2009, the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing about the importance of reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act. The Judiciary Chair, VT Senator Patrick Leahy, invited a few select witnesses to testify about VAWA's vitally important role in supporting victim services and prevention. The Network's Director, Karen Tronsgard-Scott, provided testimony, along with Catherine Pierce, the Acting Director of the federal Office on Violence Against Women, actress Gabrielle Union, who spoke on behalf of the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, and Ann Burke, founder of the Lindsay Anne Burke Memorial Fund and co-founder of MADE (Moms and Dads for Education to Stop Dating Abuse).

Earlier in the day, representatives of the Vermont Network presented a resolution honoring Senator Leahy for his incredible support to victims and survivors of sexual and domestic violence. Donna Macomber, co-director of Women's Crisis Center, and Michelle Fay, director of Umbrella, presented the resolution.



Chairman Leahy greeting Karen Tronsgard-Scott, Network Director.



Michelle Fay and Donna Macomber present the Network's resolution to Senator Leahy.



Karen testifies, seated between Gabrielle Union and Ann Burke.



Karen and over 100 domestic violence advocates from around the country went to Capitol Hill to lobby for protections for survivors.



Michelle Fay, Donna Macomber, Senator Leahy, Gabrielle Union, Karen Tronsgard-Scott, and Sarah Kenney, the Network's Public Policy Coordinator.

The Vermont Approach

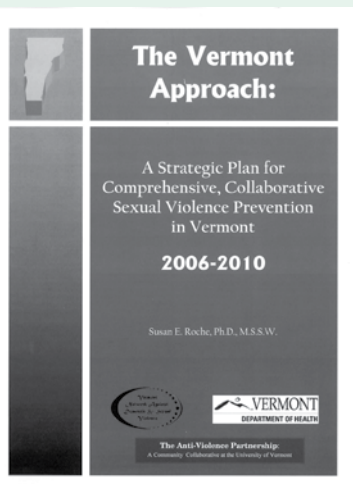
ANNE LISKE
SV COORDINATOR, AVP AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

Shortly after classes ended at the University of Vermont this spring, 50 people gathered to talk about preventing sexual violence on college campuses in VT and developing a statewide campus prevention network to support their work. They were campus and community advocates and educators, and they brought excitement, ideas and momentum to this first ever Campus Prevention Institute, sponsored by the VT Approach (VT's five year plan for Sexual Violence Prevention) and the UVM Women's Center.

Strengthening sexual violence prevention initiatives on college campuses is critical and there were many issues and ideas to explore. How can a campus create sexual violence prevention leadership from a community responsibility approach, incorporating all its intersecting layers of community? Just as an active campus commitment to "diversity and inclusivity" must evolve toward a human rights, anti-oppression, social justice stance to be fully effective, campus sexual violence response must similarly recognize and transform a narrow approach to community into a much broader and far-reaching social and cultural change model. Beyond collaboration protocols with local agencies, there is great potential to model real community change approaches to sexual violence from all sectors and members of the community, on and off campus.

There was good energy and enthusiasm for furthering the work; next year's event will be hosted at Norwich University.

Note: Electronic copy is available upon request to library@vtnetwork.org.



New Laws and Reforms in Vermont

The 2009 session of the Vermont legislature was certainly exciting, with many new laws and reforms that took effect on July 1st. For details on new laws that impact victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence, check out the public policy section of the Network's website:

www.vtnetwork.org

Special Investigation Units

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to work together and achieve success on smaller issues or projects. With small successes, comes the desire to achieve more, which leads to two key components: mutual respect and trust.

Once these core components are in place, barriers tend to disappear; policies, procedures and even laws are changed over time.

The Vermont Special Investigation Unit movement is a prime example of how small collaborative successes in Chittenden, Franklin and Grand Isle Counties in the 1990s have changed the systemic approach to crimes involving children, domestic violence and sexual assault.

Today, more than a dozen Special Investigations Units and/or Child Advocacy Centers, all in different stages of development throughout Vermont, are serving the victims of these horrendous crimes.

While much has been accomplished, so much more remains to be done. With continued collaboration at the local level, along with the ongoing support of our state leaders, I'm confident that our system will continue to improve the way we investigate, prosecute and provide victims services in Vermont.

The Network Office Welcomes Auburn

Auburn Watersong joins the Network Office as the Economic Empowerment Specialist. She comes from the Northeast Kingdom where she most recently worked as a consultant to the Orleans and Northern Essex Domestic Violence Task Force (see article REPAIR) and has extensive experience working in and with numerous Network Programs as an advocate and community organizer. She has worked with families, primarily women and children, in abuse prevention and intervention for more than 17 years. Auburn has recently moved to Montpelier with her two children, Gabe and Emma. In April, she completed a nine month internship as a Chaplain at Fletcher Allen Hospital in Burlington and is currently working toward her Master's Degree at the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts.



SAVE THE DATE

NOVEMBER 2009

Wednesday, November 18, 2009
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

18

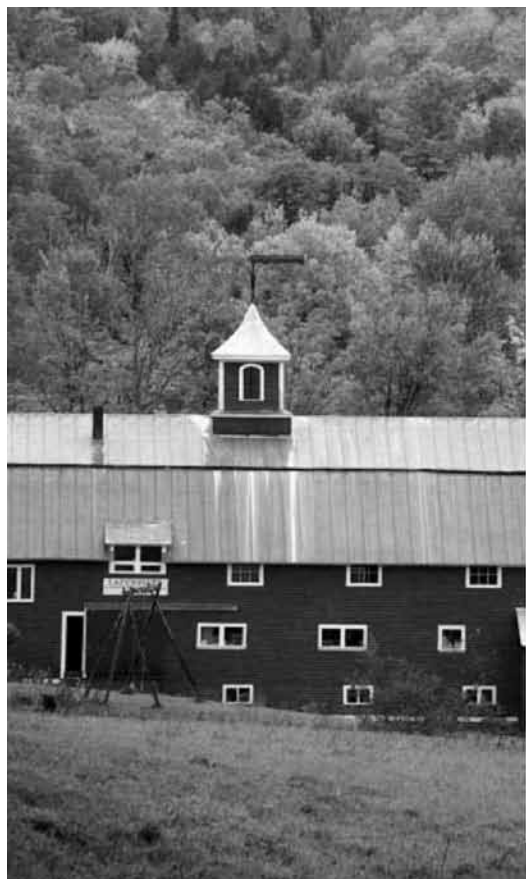
Lake Morey Resort
Lake Morey Resort
1 Clubhouse Road, Fairlee, Vermont
800-423-1211

**Building Community Response to Sexual Violence:
Finding the Thread**

only \$75 Lunch included!
Groups Encouraged (groups of 4 or more receive a \$10 discount per person)

OUR Partners:
Anti-Violence Partnership at UVM - The Vermont Approach
Norwich University
Prevent Child Abuse Vermont
Vermont Agency of Human Services
Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services
Vermont Department for Children and Families
Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
Vermont State Police
Washington County Sheriff's Department
Washington County Diversion

For more information:
<http://summit.ourhousevt.org>



SAVE THE DATE

Vermont Network

Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

**Please join us for our
5th Annual Luncheon**
11:00 - 3:00, November 6, 2009
at the Sugarbush Resort in Waitsfield, VT.

Join us for a wonderful meal and delicious dessert,
guest speakers, annual awards ceremony,
and member program recognition.
Call 223-1302 for more information,
or visit our new website at:
vtnetwork.org



Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

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VERMONT NETWORK MEMBER PROGRAMS

**Addison County & Rochester (town)
WomenSafe**

P.O. Box 67, Middlebury, VT 05753
Hotline: (802) 388.4205 or 1.800.388.4205

**Bennington County
PAVE***

P.O. Box 227, Bennington, VT 05201
Hotline: (802) 442.2111

**Caledonia & southern Essex Counties
The Advocacy Program at Umbrella***

1222 Main St. #301, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
Hotline: (802) 748.8645

**Caledonia County (Hardwick area)
AWARE**

P.O. Box 307, Hardwick, VT 05843
Hotline: (802) 472.6463

**Chittenden County
Women's Rape Crisis Center**

P.O. Box 92, Burlington, VT 05402
Hotline: (802) 863.1236

Women Helping Battered Women*

P.O. Box 1535, Burlington, VT 05402
Hotline: (802) 658.1996 (also TTY#)

**Franklin & Grand Isle Counties
Voices Against Violence***

P.O. Box 72, St. Albans, VT 05478
Hotline: (802) 524.6575

**Lamoille County
Clarina Howard Nichols Center***

P.O. Box 517, Morrisville, VT 05661
Hotline: (802) 888.5256

**Orange & NE Windsor Counties
Safeline**

P.O. Box 368, Chelsea, VT 05038
Hotline: 1.800.639.7233

**Orleans & northern Essex Counties
The Advocacy Program at Umbrella
(Satellite Office)**

93 E. Main Street #1
Newport, VT 05855
Hotline: (802) 334.0148

**Rutland County
Rutland County Women's NW & Shelter***

P.O. Box 313, Rutland, VT 05701
Hotline: (802) 775.3232

**Washington County
Battered Women's Services & Shelter***

P.O. Box 652, Barre, VT 05641
Hotline: 1.877.543.9498

Sexual Assault Crisis Team*

4 Cottage Street, Barre, VT 05641
Hotline: (802) 479.5577

**Windham County
Women's Crisis Center***

P.O. Box 933, Brattleboro, VT 05302
Hotline: (802) 254.6954 or 1.800.773.0689

**Windsor County (NE)
WISE***

38 Bank Street, Lebanon, NH 03766
Hotline: (603) 448.5525 or 1.866.348.WISE

**Windsor County (southern parts)
New Beginnings**

23 Pleasant St., Springfield, VT 05156
Hotline: (802) 885.2050 or (802) 674.6700

Statewide Hotlines:
Domestic Violence: 1-800-228-7395
Sexual Violence: 1-800-489-7273

* Indicates Shelter