

## **Charge to the Northwestern University Campus Coalition on Sexual Violence 2012**

### **Background and Statement of Need**

Sexual violence – including sexual assault, relationship violence, and stalking – is a serious problem on college campuses. According to the 2005 report *Violent Victimization of College Students* (Baum & Klaus), college students are at higher risk for being sexually assaulted than non-students in the same age group. Baum & Klaus estimate that 15 – 20% of female college students have experienced forced sexual intercourse, and that 1 of every 14 US men have been physically assaulted or raped by a partner. However, only 5% of completed/attempted rapes against students were reported to police. One-half to three-quarters of sexual assaults on campus involve alcohol or other drug use by the victim and/or the perpetrator. The pervasive use of alcohol, lack of sanctions, and all-male membership groups on many college campuses appear to contribute to the prevalence of sexual assault, as do other factors such as sex role socialization and the widespread acceptance of rape myths.

Dating and domestic violence is also an issue for students. According to the American College Health Association (ACHA) National College Health Assessment, in 2011, 11% of female students and 7% of male students reported being in emotionally abusive relationships. Two percent of both female and male students report physically abusive relationships. Lack of social or communication skills, depression and other mental health issues, and alcohol use appear to contribute to relationship violence among college students.

According to the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA), rates of stalking among college students also exceed the rates among the general population. Approximately a quarter of female students and 10 – 15% of male students report being stalked. As with sexual assault, campuses provide a unique environment that can be conducive to stalking behavior, since students are in close proximity to one another, have flexible schedules, and are not necessarily accountable for their daily activities.

### **Environment at Northwestern University**

Northwestern University has a student population of 16, 475 with almost equal numbers of undergraduate (8367) and graduate students (8108). The University is a charter member of the Big Ten conference and sponsors 19 intercollegiate athletic teams (8 men's and 11 women's). Greek membership at Northwestern University is approximately 2766 students with about 866 students living in sorority and fraternity houses on campus representing about 33% of the undergraduate student population. The incoming class (of 2014) is 53% female and 47% male.

Northwestern University Police (NUPD) collect data as required by the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security and Campus Crime Statistics Act. There were three sex offenses (forcible) reported in 2010, two of which were reported in on campus student residential facilities. NUPD received five reports in 2008 and 2009.

As stated above, national data show that only 5% of completed or attempted sexual assaults of students are reported to police. Anecdotal evidence from Northwestern University staff who

provide services to sexual assault survivors indicate that this trend of underreporting holds true at our campus. Some survivors seek on-campus counseling, and many may subsequently decide not to pursue any kind of legal or judicial recourse, often because of the daunting process of doing so in a small community such as a college environment and because of the difficulties inherent in acquaintance rape cases. Thus, it is known that the Clery data is not an accurate reflection of level of sexual assault on college campuses.

In 2010, Northwestern began collecting data about undergraduate student health behaviors using the Core Survey on Alcohol and Other Drugs (implemented in even years) and the American College Health Association National College Health Assessment (implemented in odd years). In the 2010 Core Survey, 4.5% of NU students reported forced sexual touching or fondling and 2.1% reported unwanted sexual intercourse during the previous year. Almost 10% reported being taken advantage of sexually while drinking. In the 2011 NCHA, 5.5% of NU students reported being sexually touched without their consent, 2.6% reported attempted or completed sexual penetration without their consent, 3.2% reported being a victim of stalking, 4.3% reported being in an emotionally abusive relationship, and less than 1% reported being in a physically abusive or sexually abusive relationship in the previous 12 months.

### **Guidance and Best Practices**

#### *American College Health Association*

In 2008, ACHA released *Shifting the Paradigm: Primary Prevention of Sexual Violence*, a toolkit to assist universities in assessing and improving sexual violence policies, prevention, and intervention. It includes the following recommendations:

1. Develop a policy statement and directive from the president/chancellor of the institution that demonstrates recognition of sexual violence as a problem, a commitment to reduce its occurrence, and action steps for the campus community.
2. Develop a multidisciplinary taskforce on campus to address sexual violence prevention and response services that includes high-level campus administration, academic leaders, student leaders, and community partners.
3. Create policies that reflect an expectation of civility, honor, respect, and nonviolence for all members of the community and encourage behaviors that build a sense of community.
4. Revise, enforce, and widely distribute disciplinary regulations in the student code that demonstrate an intolerance of all forms of sexual violence and implement sanctions for violations by faculty, staff, and students.
5. Educate disciplinary boards on non-stranger assaults, perpetrator patterns, and possible victim responses and patterns.
6. Provide comprehensive training on all aspects of sexual violence for campus administrators; campus law enforcement; health and counseling services staff; faculty; staff; and student leaders that includes the dynamics of sexual violence, access to care, victim response, and federal/state statutes.

7. Develop a coordinated, seamless, victim-centered response service between campus and community resources that offers the options of:
  - Anonymous reporting
  - Law enforcement involvement
  - Judicial/disciplinary board actions
  - Medical care/forensic examination
  - Emergency contraception
  - Academic/housing accommodations
  - Follow-up counseling, support, and advocacy
8. Integrate screening for sexual violence into patient history protocols.
9. Adhere to federal, state, and local statutes and reporting requirements.
10. Integrate sexual violence prevention education into curricular and non-curricular activities.
11. Offer residence hall and extra-curricular activities that are alcohol free.
12. Develop educational/outreach programming that:
  - Recognizes that sexual violence is a learned behavior
  - Teaches bystander intervention techniques
  - Addresses the role of consent in sexual relationships
  - Encourages the involvement of men
  - Addresses alcohol and other drugs issues and the connection with sexual violence
  - Provides concepts that encourage healthy, consensual sexual relationships
  - Addresses non-stranger sexual violence and dispels traditional beliefs
  - Encourages positive role modeling and mentoring for men and women
13. Create and codify amnesty policies for underage drinking for victims who report sexual assault.
14. Invest men in the prevention of sexual violence, including those actions that dehumanize and objectify women.
15. Publish and announce the availability of protocols on campus websites for all campus members to access resources, referrals, and helping strategies for victims of sexual violence.

### *US DOJ Office on Violence Against Women*

Further guidance for universities is provided by the US Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women (OVW). In 1994, the federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) was approved, and in 2000 and 2005, the re-authorization of VAWA appropriated funds for campus programs. The goals of the Campus Grant Program are “to develop and strengthen effective security and investigation strategies to prevent and prosecute domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking on campuses and to develop and strengthen victim services in cases involving such

crimes against women on campuses.” Northwestern University received VAWA funding for the first time in 2011. Campuses which receive VAWA funding are required to adhere to several best practices, which can also serve as models for universities who do not receive VAWA grants. These minimum standards for VAWA campus grantees include:

- Create a coordinated community response to violence against women on campus. The multidisciplinary response should involve the entire campus as well as the larger community in which the campus is located.
- Develop partnerships with at least one local nonprofit, nongovernmental victim advocacy organization and one or more of the following criminal justice or civil legal agencies: law enforcement, prosecution, civil legal assistance providers, systems-based victim advocacy units, or judiciary and court personnel.
- Establish a mandatory prevention and education program about violence against women for all incoming students, working in collaboration with campus and community-based victim advocacy organizations.
- Train campus police to respond effectively to cases of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking cases.
- Establish or strengthen programs to train members of campus disciplinary boards to respond effectively to charges of violence against women.

### *US Department of Education Office for Civil Rights*

In April 2011, the US Department of Education Office for Civil Rights issued a “Dear Colleague” letter stating that the requirements of Title IX cover sexual violence and reminding schools of their responsibilities to take immediate and effective steps to respond to sexual violence in accordance with the requirements of Title IX. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (“Title IX”), 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1681, *et seq.*, prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any federally funded education program or activity. The specific responsibilities that were outlined in the “Dear Colleague” letter are as follows:

- Once a school knows or reasonably should know of possible sexual violence, it must take immediate and appropriate action to investigate or otherwise determine what occurred.
- If sexual violence has occurred, a school must take prompt and effective steps to end the sexual violence, prevent its recurrence, and address its effects, whether or not the sexual violence is the subject of a criminal investigation.
- A school must take steps to protect the complainant as necessary, including interim steps taken prior to the final outcome of the investigation.
- A school must provide a grievance procedure for students to file complaints of sex discrimination, including complaints of sexual violence. These procedures must include an equal opportunity for both parties to present witnesses and other evidence and the same appeal rights.
- A school’s grievance procedures must use the preponderance of the evidence standard to resolve complaints of sex discrimination.
- A school must notify both parties of the outcome of the complaint.

***US Department of Education Higher Education Center***

In October 2011, the U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women hosted the National Summit on Campus Safety for College and University Presidents. This event provided presidents and trustees with an opportunity to learn about the scope of these problems and how they can support efforts to institute policies and programs that address the needs of victims, hold offenders accountable, and build a safer campus environment.

Taken together, these efforts suggest the following specific actions presidents and trustees can take to address sexual violence, intimate partner violence, and stalking:

- Use every opportunity to convey that campus security is a priority through speaking and writing about gender-based violence issues and including safety-related messages on Web pages, in recruitment materials, at orientation, and in other communications.
- Devote sufficient monetary and personnel resources to addressing sexual violence, intimate partner violence, and stalking.
- Create a standing task force, coalition, or other planning body to coordinate efforts campuswide. Set the expectation of collaboration across campus departments and with the local community.
- Promote the adoption of a comprehensive approach developed through a systematic planning process.
- Promote and support policy changes that appropriately address and respond to violence against women on campus. Ensure that programs, policies, and procedures meet legal requirements.
- Encourage educational programs to go beyond informational efforts to incorporate bystander intervention or other skills training as part of a comprehensive approach.
- Encourage faculty, staff, and law enforcement personnel to attend annual training on gender-based violence.
- Require evaluation, and use results for improvement.

***Students Active for Ending Rape (SAFER)***

Students Active for Ending Rape (SAFER) is a national organization founded in 2000 at Columbia University whose mission is empowering student-led campaigns to reform college sexual assault policies. In their student organizing handbook, *Change Happens*, SAFER makes the following recommendations for model campus sexual assault policies.

- **Student Input:** Students representing a diversity of communities should have a formalized way of communicating their concerns about a policy to administrators, and an effective, democratic means of changing the policy if it does not suit their needs.
- **Accessibility:** Policies should be easy to understand and use. Administrators should effectively publicize policies and ensure that students understand how they work. Students should be able to use services and disciplinary procedures regardless of income, disability or identity.
- **Due Process:** Disciplinary procedures should be standardized and consistently enforced. Procedures should include provisions that protect students wrongly accused of sexual assault

and measures to ensure fair treatment of those who come forward with complaints of sexual assault.

- Fairness: All services should be available to students regardless of sex, ethnic background or sexual orientation. All disciplinary procedures should be fair and impartial.
- Oversight: Policies should have formalized means of oversight. No one carrying out a policy should have absolute authority, and students should have a formalized way to ensure that policies are being carried out properly and effectively.
- Prevention and Education: Policies should include meaningful efforts at educating students in the dynamics of sexual assault, the effects it has on survivors, and the many factors that allow it to continue. These efforts should challenge sexism, homophobia, racism and other oppressions rather than reinforcing them.
- Crisis Intervention: Survivors should have crisis services available to them 24 hours a day, every day of the school year. Free emergency contraception, antibiotics and post-exposure HIV prophylaxis should be available in school health centers.
- Long Term Counseling: Colleges providing counseling services for students should provide survivors with access to unlimited free counseling.

### *Healthy Campus 2020*

Healthy Campus is a benchmarking document based on the US Department of Health and Human Services' Healthy People framework. Collaboratively created by the American College Health Association, the American College Personnel Association, the BACCHUS Network, NASPA, and NIRSA, Healthy Campus uses data from the NCHA and CORE surveys to set health objectives for campuses and provides a toolkit to help schools achieve these objectives. Healthy Campus 2020 objectives related to violence prevention, along with statistics from NU's NCHA and Core survey data, are listed below. All suggested 2020 targets represent a 10% change from current levels.

- *Increase the proportion of students who report receiving information on violence prevention from their institution.*

Baseline: 36.0 percent of students reported that they had received information on violence prevention from their institution (ACHA)

Target: 39.6 percent

NU: 30.8 percent

Note: NU data is 16 percent lower than the baseline data. A 10 percent increase for NU would result in 33.9 of students reporting that they have received the information.

- *Reduce the proportion of students who report being physically assaulted within the last 12 months.*

Baseline: 4.7 percent in the last 12 months (ACHA)

4.0 percent in the last 12 months (Core)

Target: 4.2 percent (ACHA)

3.6 percent (Core)

NU: 2.5 percent (ACHA)

3.5 percent (Core)

Note: NU data is 47 percent (ACHA) and 13 percent (Core) lower than the baseline data, exceeding the target of a 10 percent reduction for both ACHA and Core.

- *Reduce the proportion of students who report being in an intimate relationship that was emotionally abusive within the last 12 months.*

Baseline: 10.0 percent in the last 12 months (ACHA)

Target: 9.0 percent

NU: 4.3 percent (ACHA)

Note: NU data is 57 percent lower than baseline data, exceeding the target of a 10 percent reduction.

- *Reduce the proportion of students who report being in an intimate relationship that was physically abusive within the last 12 months.*

Baseline: 2.5 percent in the last 12 months (ACHA)

Target: 2.3 percent

NU: 0.7 percent (ACHA)

Note: NU data is 72 percent lower than baseline data, exceeding the target of a 10 percent reduction.

- *Reduce the proportion of students who report being in an intimate relationship that was sexually abusive within the last 12 months.*

Baseline: 1.6 percent in the last 12 months (ACHA)

Target: 1.4 percent

NU: 0.5 percent (ACHA)

Note: NU data is 69 percent lower than baseline data, exceeding the target of a 10 percent reduction.

- *Reduce the proportion of students who report being sexually touched without their consent within the last 12 months.*

Baseline: 6.0 percent in the last 12 months (ACHA)

3.9 percent in the last 12 months (Core)

Target: 5.4 percent (ACHA)

3.5 percent (Core)

NU: 5.5 percent (ACHA)

4.5 percent (Core)

- *Reduce the proportion of students who report being sexually penetrated without their consent within the last 12 months.*

Baseline: 1.5 percent in the last 12 months (ACHA)

2.6 percent in the last 12 months (Core)

Target: 1.4 percent (ACHA)

2.3 percent (Core)

NU: 1.0 percent (ACHA)  
2.1 percent (Core)

- *Increase the proportion of students who report feeling very safe “on this campus” at night.*

Baseline: 31.9 percent in the last 12 months (ACHA)

Target: 35.1 percent

NU: 34.7 percent (ACHA)

Note: NU data essentially matches the target of a 10 percent reduction.

### **Structure and Function of the Campus Coalition on Sexual Violence**

ACHA, OVW and HEC recommend establishing a broad-based task force or coalition on campus to assess and improve sexual violence policies, prevention, and intervention. SAFER recommends creating a formal structure for obtaining student input on campus sexual assault policies. With this charge, we maintain the existence of such a group and give the group the tasks of ensuring that comprehensive violence prevention and treatment services exist on campus; that services and programs meet identified campus needs and are not redundant; that resources are being used in the most effective and efficient manner possible; that programs are research-based and adhere to best practices; and that information about campus violence prevention and treatment policies, protocols, services, and programs is widely disseminated to all Northwestern community members. The coalition will be managed by the Center for Awareness, Response and Education (CARE) within the Health Promotion and Wellness Department of the Northwestern University Health Service.

The coalition will meet on campus three times per quarter (once a month) and will have the following responsibilities:

- Review campus programs and services which address sexual assault, rape, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, and harassment
- Review all campus policies concerning sexual assault and relationship violence for appropriateness and consistency
- Assess campus need for additional programs and services and identify gaps in current services, with a focus on traditionally underrepresented groups such as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) students, male students, students of color, international students, and graduate and professional students and their families
- Make recommendations for new programs and services that address identified needs and gaps in service
- Oversee implementation of the FY2011 VAWA Campus Grant Program funds received by Northwestern University
- If deemed appropriate, re-apply for VAWA Campus Grant Program funds in FY2014, when the FY2011 funding has ended

*Charge to the Northwestern University Campus Coalition on Sexual Violence, 2012-2014*

The following entities are members of the Coalition. The group includes students, administrators, faculty, and community organizations. Students who are not members of the organizations listed below may join as members-at-large.

Northwestern University Health Service	Interfraternity Council
Health Promotion and Wellness/NUHS	Panhellenic Association
Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution	Multicultural Greek Council
Dean of Students	National Pan-Hellenic Council
Women's Center	Counseling & Psychological Services
University Police	Multicultural Student Center
Department of Athletics & Recreation	Sexual Assault Hearing and Appeals Board
Gender Studies	Sexual Harassment Prevention Office
Residential Services	International Office
Sexual Health and Assault Peer Educators	Study Abroad
Men Against Rape and Sexual Assault	Religious Life
Center for Student Involvement	Northwestern University Library
LGBT Resource Center	Evanston Police Department
Rainbow Alliance	Porchlight Counseling Services
College Feminists	Rape Victim Advocates
New Student and Parent Programs	Evanston YWCA
Associated Student Government	Center on Halsted
Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life	

A Coalition steering committee will meet on a weekly basis to support the work of the Coalition. The steering committee will consist of CARE, the Women's Center, the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution, the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life, and University Police. Smaller working groups of coalition members may be formed to work on specific projects if it is deemed necessary.

The Campus Coalition on Sexual Violence has been meeting consistently since June 2010. Since that time, the group has conducted a needs assessment, developed a plan to create a centralized on-campus sexual violence response and prevention center based on needs assessment results, and successfully applied for OVW VAWA Campus Grant Program funding, which allowed for the creation of CARE and the hiring of NU's first Coordinator of Sexual Violence Response and Advocacy. This charge allows the CCSV to continue to build on its successful collaboration.