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Reaching Out:
Organizing Our Communities Around Sexual Assault
NDCAWS/CASAND Hosts Two Day Summit

June 21, 2010 (Bismarck) – The North Dakota Council on Abused Women’s Services/Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NDCAWS/CASAND) will be hosting a two day summit in Bismarck at the Comfort Inn on June 22nd & 23rd, 2010. NDCAWS/CASAND is comprised of 21 domestic violence/sexual assault service providers across the state; each program assembled a team of professionals from their community to attend the summit. Teams consist of advocates, prosecutors, sexual assault nurse examiners, and law enforcement.

The goal of this Summit is to bring multidisciplinary teams together from communities around the state to enhance sexual assault services to victims and increase offender accountability through collaboration and partnerships. It is our hope that the Summit will serve as a means to solidify consistent services for victims and their families statewide. In 2009, ND domestic violence/sexual assault service providers served 830 victims of sexual assault.

At this two-day event, invested players in the movement to end sexual assault will have the opportunity to network and develop relationships with other professions in their community to define ways to best serve victims and their families. “Sexual Assault is a pervasive social problem with far reaching effects; 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime. Collaboration and teamwork in local communities is essential to helping victims find justice and hope. This summit supports an opportunity to do that,” states Janelle Moos, Executive Director of NDCAWS/CASAND.

In addition to the teams, participants include representatives from the Attorney General’s office, the ND Health Department, the Crime Lab, Sex Offender Notification staff, Department of Corrections, Chiefs of Police, and the First Nations Women’s Alliance.

Media is encouraged to attend the Summit and interview National and Statewide experts on Sexual Assault.

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ND Council on Abused Women’s Services/Coalition Against Sexual Assault

The ND Council on Abused Women’s Services/Coalition Against Sexual Assault is a membership organization representing the 21 ND domestic violence and sexual assault crisis centers. It is the mission of NDCAWS/CASAND to provide leadership and support in the identification, intervention, and prevention of domestic and sexual violence. For more information, please visit www.ndcaws.org