

**NORTH DAKOTA COUNCIL ON ABUSED WOMEN'S SERVICES
COALITION AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT IN NORTH DAKOTA**
525 N. 4th Street * Phone (701) 255-6240 * Fax 255-1904 * Toll Free 1-888-255-6240 *
www.NDCAWS.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: FRIDAY, JULY 13, 2012

CONTACT: Jennifer Weisgerber, Public Relations/Communications Coordinator
jweisgerber@ndcaws.org 701-255-6240, ext. 106

FIRST-EVER OIL BOOM LISTENING SUMMIT BRINGS TOGETHER CRISIS INTERVENTION CENTERS, LEADERS

BISMARCK, N.D. – When contemplating the impact of oil production in western North Dakota and eastern Montana, it's easy to think about issues like production taxes, safety regulations, environmental welfare or rejuvenated communities, but it's more difficult to talk about topics like increases in drug-facilitated sexual assault, sex trafficking or failing to connect with underserved victims of domestic and sexual violence in our communities.

On Tuesday, directors of crisis intervention centers in western North Dakota and eastern Montana will gather in Sidney, Mont., to talk about the multitude of complications that come along with oil production and share those problems with state and federal leaders who can help them create change and find solutions together. In North Dakota, programs from Williston, Dickinson, Stanley, Trenton, Belcourt, Beulah, Minot and Washburn plan on attending.

The first-ever Oil Boom Listening Summit is a joint venture between the North Dakota Council on Abused Women's Services (NDCAWS) and the Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (MCADSV) to provide a space for open dialogue about challenges for crisis intervention centers that are facing multi-faceted obstacles in providing outreach and services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

The morning session will be for advocates to discuss specific issues being faced in their communities. The afternoon session, held at the Richland County Fair and Rodeo Event Center in Sidney, starts at 1:30 p.m. and features a panel presentation from victim service providers and small group discussions, along with thinking about next steps.

More than 150 leaders from various sectors in both states have been formally invited, including legislators, law enforcement, the Attorney General's Office, as well as representatives from the state Health Department and Department of Human Services, the Supreme Court, the state Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, the FBI, the Indian Affairs Commission and the North Dakota Petroleum Council.

Information and dialogue generated at the Oil Boom Listening Summit will be used to create materials to raise awareness of important issues facing victim service providers in oil-producing counties and to educate and engage new partners in future grant work focusing on the energy industry.

ABOUT NDCAWS:

The North Dakota Council on Abused Women's Services/Coalition Against Sexual Assault is a membership organization representing the 21 domestic violence and sexual assault crisis centers throughout the state. 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.

ABOUT MCADSV:

Incorporated in 1986, the Montana Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence (MCADSV) is a statewide coalition of individuals and organizations working together to end domestic and sexual violence through advocacy, public education, public policy, and program development. Its mission is to support and facilitate networking among member organizations while advocating for social change in Montana. For more information, please visit www.mcadsv.com.