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ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
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Crime Commission Update



May – June 2011

Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice
Dave Heineman, Governor
Michael Behm, Executive Director

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<http://www.ncc.ne.gov>

Dave Heineman, Governor

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

This spring brought several personnel changes at the Crime Commission office.

Brad Hicken, IT Analyst, resigned to take a position with the Department of Roads. We also welcomed Ms. Deb Caha, who has replaced Brad in the IT Analyst position and Mr. James Wright as the new Director of the Office of Violence Prevention.

In addition, Monica Miles-Steffens, ARRA Administrator resigned April 29. The ARRA grant will be handled by Lisa Stamm, Grants Division Chief, until February 2013. Alyson Stephens, Staff Assistant I resigned on May 6. I want to thank Brad, Monica and Alyson for their contributions to the Crime Commission and wish them good luck with their future endeavors.

We are examining the impact of the recently released LB 374, which contains the legislative budget recommendation released April 27. If the budget recommendations stay as released, we will be able to absorb the budget reductions for our agency without impacting current staff positions.

I want to personally thank all staff of the Crime Commission for being 'excellent stewards' of our funds. Savings in many critical areas have allowed us to carry-over funds which assisted our budget obligations. The Crime Commission is fortunate to employ dedicated staff who provide outstanding service to the State of Nebraska and beyond.

Our 2010 Traffic Stop Report was published in May and is now available in hard copy and also on our web site. To access the online copy you can link to:

http://www.ncc.ne.gov/pdf/stats_and_research/report.2010data.final.pdf

~ Michael E. Behm, Executive Director

LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER

Cafeteria Vendor - We have secured a new three-year contract with Consolidated Management Company (CMCo.) of Des Moines for our on-site cafeteria service. The previous vendor, Afternooners of Grand Island, did not bid the new contract. Only one bid was received and while the bid was higher than what was being charged, it remained competitive with bids that we had seen during the past year in other bid attempts. One major difference will be that agencies/students will be billed after meals are consumed, not billed for the entire basic class in advance. This will be a substantial change for agencies who are accustomed to receiving a bill for an entire 14 week training program in advance of the basic class. It is our hope that there will be some savings to agencies with being billed only for meals consumed and not needing refunds of meal plans when students withdraw. CMCo. will begin with the new Basic on May 9th.

Classroom Upgrades - Classrooms A, B and J are being upgraded with ceiling mounted projectors and sound, new presentation podiums, and new presentation computers. This will bring these last three classrooms into alignment with the technology found in classrooms D & E, the main classrooms used by NSPTA and NLETC Basic. Along with the technology upgrades, cables are being buried in those rooms and the Library to eliminate tripping hazards previously presented by extension cords & cabling running from the old presentation carts or the VTC. Classroom A is being updated with new carpet, chairs and paint. It was the only classroom not remodeled during collocation.

Facebook page & waiver—Training Center now has a Facebook page to draw attention to our mission and serve as a recruiting tool for our programs for tuition students. Because of the very public nature of Facebook, we instituted a photo waiver policy for our students in the event some may not want their photo on Facebook. While the waiver is the student's responsibility, an agency may direct their employee on how to proceed with the waiver and offer guidance regarding

any agency social media policy that they have in place. It is our goal to honor the request of our students if their desire is to not have their photo on Facebook.

Welcome - Ann Pritchard started with the Training Center in April as our new Accounting Clerk II. Ann fills one of two clerical support vacancies at the Training Center and will serve as a backup to the late afternoon front desk person, adding customer service redundancy in the evenings.

REPORT ON BYRNE JAG GRANTS

A new report from the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) describes how the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) program funds a diverse range of projects that impact the entire justice system. Cornerstone for Justice: Byrne JAG and its Impact on the Criminal Justice System (http://www.ncja.org/NCJA/Navigation/Policiespractices/Bbyrne_JAG_Impact/Byrne_jag_Report.aspx), includes data on the types of programs funded as well as examples of innovative programs in the states.

The Byrne JAG program is the cornerstone federal justice assistance program. The program supports the federal government's crucial role in spurring innovation as well as testing and replicating evidence-based practices nationwide. States use Byrne JAG funds to test innovative approaches to emerging and persistent problems in public safety. Many successful practices were started by Byrne JAG including drug courts, Hawaii's HOPE program, multi-jurisdictional task forces, and information sharing protocols.

The report serves as a primer on the criminal justice system as seen through the lens of the Byrne JAG program. Each section begins with a short description of the work in that sector of the criminal justice system, the innovations taking root, and Byrne JAG's role in supporting those innovations. The report's data was gathered from state agency administrators earlier this year.

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

Many of us knew that April was Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), but how many of us know the history behind this powerful movement. The following history was taken from the National Sexual Violence Resource Center website at www.nsvrc.org.

Women's organized protests against violence began in the late 1970s in England with Take Back the Night marches. These women-only protests emerged in direct response to the violence that women encountered as they walked the streets at night. These activities became more coordinated and soon developed into a movement that extended to the United States and, in 1978, the first Take Back the Night events in the U.S. were held in San Francisco and New York City. Over time, sexual assault awareness activities expanded to include the issue of sexual violence against men and men's participation in ending sexual violence.

By the early 1980s, there was increased interest in coordinating activities to raise awareness of violence against women. As a result, time was set aside during October to raise awareness of violence against women issues. Over time, October became the principle focus of domestic violence awareness activities. Sexual assault advocates looked for a separate time to focus attention on sexual assault issues.

In the late 1980s, the National Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NCASA) informally polled state sexual assault coalitions to determine when to have a national Sexual Assault Awareness Week. A week in April was selected. Over time, some advocates began focusing attention on sexual violence throughout the month of April. In the late 1990s, many advocates began coordinating activities throughout the month of April on a regular basis, promoting an idea for a nationally recognized month for sexual violence awareness activities.

From 2000-2001, the Resource Sharing Project (RSP) and the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) polled state, territory, and tribal coalitions and found that the color teal was the preferred color for sexual assault awareness and prevention and that April was the preferred month to coordinate national sexual assault awareness activities. As a result, Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) was first observed nationally in April 2001.

For more information on sexual assault, please contact Amanda Hanner, Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition, at 402-476-6256 or Merry Wills, Nebraska Crime Commission at 402-471-3416.

CRIME VICTIM'S REPARATIONS

On May 6, 2011 the Crime Victim's Reparations committee voted to begin accepting claims from victims of felony assaults whereby an element of the crime is serious bodily injury. We will begin accepting these claims for any crime committed after July 1, 2011. If you have any questions, please contact Pat Dessel at (402) 471-3415.

CJIS TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

The 2011 CJIS (Criminal Justice Information System) Conference was held in Kearney on June 8th and 9th. Topics included the use of table/iPads, AFIS, crash reporting, laboratory tracking, and national data sharing.



CRIMINAL JUSTICE VIDEO LIBRARY

The following videos have been added to the library and are available for loan:

SIMPLE SPANISH COMMANDS (DVD)
26 Minutes Color Line of Duty: 2010
AD

This program contains ten lessons and presents an opportunity to learn Spanish words and phrases that will prove useful for law enforcement officers who have contacts with Spanish speaking people. This DVD can be used for basic or in-service training.

SIGNS OF THE DEAF (DVD)
32 Minutes Color Line of Duty: 2010
AD

This program contains eight lessons that teach simple sign language that can be used by law enforcement officers who have contacts with deaf people. Some deaf people can read lips, but only about 30% of what is said can be lip read. This DVD is useful for basic or in-service training.

ANIMAL ABUSE (DVD)
35 Minutes Color Line of Duty: 2010
AD

Law enforcement officers are often the first responders for calls involving animal abuse. This video explains what officers should do when they arrive on the scene. Some graphic scenes of animal abuse are in the program. Animal abusers often graduate to crimes against people. A short segment at the end of the video includes "lessons learned."

BINGE (DVD)
30 Minutes Color NET Television: 2011
AD

More than 40% of all young people between the ages of 19 and 25 in Nebraska have engaged in binge drinking. Binge drinking is defined as five or more drinks in a two hour period. This video, produced by Nebraska Educational Television, looks at several incidents involving binge drinking and was filmed in Lincoln and Kearney. Included are interviews with Lincoln Police Chief Tom Casady, police officers, UNL students, a bar owner, and a drunk driver who survived an auto accident. This is an excellent program that presents a perspective on binge drinking from several aspects.

SERVING CRIME VICTIMS WITH DISABILITIES (DVD)
31 Minutes Color Office for Victims of Crime:
2010 AD

There are particular challenges for crime victims with disabilities. There are physical accessibility issues and attitudinal barriers. This program, divided into two segments, is designed to educate victim advocates in reaching out and serving these types of victims. It includes interviews with disabled victims who describe the types of services and support that they did (or did not) receive.

NOTES

- We have limited copies available of the 2011 Nebraska Criminal Justice Directory. If you have not ordered a directory and would like one, please contact Ann Bauers at (402) 471-2195. The cost is \$7.50 plus sales tax if applicable
- The annual Crime Victim's Rights Luncheon sponsored by the Nebraska Coalition for Victims of Crime was held on May 24. At the luncheon, the following people were presented with awards:
 - * Victim Advocate of the Year - Traci Nelson, Platte County Victim Assistance Program
 - * Allied Professional Award - Pat Dessel, Nebraska Crime Commission
 - * Volunteer Victim Advocate Award - Erica Wright, Voices of Hope
 - * Public Policy Award - University of Nebraska-Lincoln Police Department Threat Assessment Program



HAPPY SUMMER TO EVERYONE

THOUGHT(S) FOR THE DAY

-ON AGING-

“True terror is to wake up one morning and discover that your high school class is running the country.”

-Kurt Vonnegut

“Forty is the old age of youth;
fifty the youth of old age.”

- Victor Hugo

“I'm a firm believer in the longer you live, the better you get.”

- Bob Dylan (age 70)