

The Healing Voice



Sexual Trauma Services
of the Midlands
Group Services Newsletter
July/August 2009

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Volunteer Services Coordinator

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Clinical Intern



Accomplishments

Congratulations to Dr. Lisa Williams for completing her Psy.D. in clinical psychology as of July 2009. Dr. Williams will graduate from the Georgia School of Professional Psychology where she also received her Master's degree in clinical psychology. Dr. Williams has been a volunteer with STSM since 2008 as a group facilitator. We wish Dr. Williams much success with her future endeavors.



Message from the Group Services Coordinator



I would like to thank all of the STSM group facilitators for your dedication to this agency and the people you serve. I am so grateful when I read notes on the satisfaction survey from clients stating how much they enjoyed their facilitator. We make a great team and I am proud of you all. Let's continue to make it a great year at STSM!

Jennifer M. Gantt

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Male Sexual Abuse/Assault

The 'Silent Phenomenon' of Male Sexual Abuse

September 08, 2008 01:40 PM ET | [Adam Voiland](#) | [Permanent Link](#) |

September's issue of the *American Journal of Men's Health* features an editorial about the [sexual abuse](#) of men, a surprisingly common but rarely acknowledged problem. I discussed the issue with Demetrius Porche, the editor of the journal and author of the editorial. Porche, a men's health advocate, registered nurse, and dean of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing, has studied the problem for nearly a decade.

In 2003, one in every ten rape victims was male. 71% of male victims were first raped before their 18th birthday.

The sexual abuse of men isn't something that people are used to hearing about. Where and how does sexual abuse against men tend to happen?

Male sexual abuse happens in all kinds of settings to all kinds of men. We see it in prisons; we see it in boys' homes. Sexual assault is often part of violent crime. I've heard of burglars using sexual assault as a way of silencing and intimidating victims. Sometimes it happens within a family. Many males report inappropriate touching that escalates, in some cases, to sex. Another example is young boys "exploring" with each other. There's a fine line between exploring and getting coerced by another person who really knows what they're doing.

Why does so much sexual assault against men go unreported?

For the longest time, I thought it was the stereotype—that men were basically being macho. Now I've become convinced that in many cases men don't recognize what's happening. Our society and culture tend to associate sexual assault only with women. Men tend to think: "This can't happen to me." Parents and clinicians need to realize that male sexual assault does happen to men, and they need to have a higher index of suspicion.

Does male sexual assault tend to be male against male or female against male?

If you look at outright rape, where there is some sort of penetration, it's male to male. However, if you just look at sexual coercion, it's more typically female against male.

Are some segments of the male population more susceptible to sexual abuse than others?

No, it happens across the board. The problem affects men of all sexual orientations, ages, ethnicities, as well as men of all sizes and incomes. However, people tend to be more sensitive to the issue among younger men.

What can men who have been abused do to address and overcome the problem?

There aren't as many resources out there for men as I'd like to see. The [Men's Health Network](#) is one I recommend. There are also some support groups, though many are focused on men accused by the church. [[MaleSurvivor](#) and [MenWeb](#) are two of them. Therapists such as [Richard Gartner](#) and [Jim Hopper](#) offer additional information for abused men.] We [as a society] really need to talk more about this issue and put it into the public consciousness. Parents need to educate their children about abuse and assault, and educate their boys about what is appropriate. Schools need to start building the issue of men's health and male sexual health into their curriculum.

www.usnews.com

Future Support Group for Male Survivors

STSM is currently in the process of recruiting male survivors for an upcoming support group. We have developed a curriculum that will address the needs and concerns of male survivors. It is our goal to have a successful ongoing support group where male survivors feel safe and comfortable sharing their story and listening to others.

Facilitator Spotlight: Cynthia B. Evans

Ms. Cynthia B. Evans is the Director of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program at Shaw Air Force Base. Ms. Evans provides leadership, consultation, education, support and around-the-clock response to incidences of interpersonal violence for the 20th Fighter Wing; Headquarter Ninth Air Force; 337th Recruiting Squadron; 4th Battlefield Coordination Detachment, 31st Intelligence Squadron, Fort Gordon, GA; Air Force Reserve Officer Training (AFROTC) Detachments 775 University of South Carolina, 770 Clemson University and 592 University of North Carolina, Charlotte. She has been instrumental in facilitating a number of community partnerships, providing leadership in needs assessment development, and orchestrating comprehensive community response to victims. Ms. Evans provides advocacy and client centered support for victims and their family members. She has developed curricula and trained over 135 Air Force, Army and civilian victim advocates. Ms. Evans served in the Air Force, worked for Probation and Parole, was a member of the Governor's Fatherhood Initiative Commission, and was a Richland County Court Appointed Special Advocate. She currently serves on: Richland County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), Sumter Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee, SAFE KIDS-Sumter Coalition, Sexual Trauma Services Volunteer and as Executive Director, Shaw Community Action Information Board (CAIB). Ms. Evans has been a volunteer group facilitator with STSM since 2008. She co-facilitates the Shandon Women's Support Group.

*Cynthia,
Thank you for your dedication to STSM and your outstanding leadership skills as a group facilitator.*

Potential Facilitators

Purpose: To provide therapeutic, psycho-educational, and support group services to survivors and their families. Groups are designed to serve varied populations including female and male survivors, adolescents, and their families.

Responsibilities:

- Attending to, describing, acknowledging, confronting, understanding, and responding empathically to group members behavior, statements, and themes
- Maintaining group focus
- Giving and receiving feedback in group setting

Qualifications:

- Students currently enrolled in graduate program in counselor education, social work, psychology, or other closely related disciplines
- Licensed and/or Masters-level social workers, psychologists, and counselors
- Reliable, dependable, and self-confident about handling stressful situations

To apply please email gsc@stsm.org.

Birthdays

Cynthia Evans – July 1st
 Sherry Lewis – July 13th
 Mary Dell Amick Hayes – August 3rd
 Ginny Waller – August 13th

Upcoming Training and Events

Health Care Forum

July 6 (5-7pm) Drew Wellness Center

Civil Justice for Victims of Crime in SC

July 8, 9, 14 Charleston, SC

Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence with the Elderly and Disabled

July 9-10 Charleston, SC

STSM Volunteer Appreciation Night

July 24 (5:30pm) Capital City Stadium

Survivors and Addiction In-Service

July 31 (10-11am) STSM

SCCADVASA "Victims Service Provider Core Certification Training

August 19-21 Rock Hill, SC

Motivational Enhancement Therapy In-Service

August 28 (10am-12pm) STSM

Friendly Reminder to Group Facilitators

All forms are due by the first business day of the month.
 Weekly group updates are due by 9:00am every Friday via email.

Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands

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Office - 803-790-8208

Fax - 803-790-8282

24 hour Hotline – 803-771-7273

Check out STSM on Facebook!

JULY 2009						
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Current Groups

- Monday – Morris Village Female Psycho-Ed
Killingsworth Female Psycho-Ed
- Tuesday – Shandon Female Support Group
- Wednesday – Sistercare Lexington Female Psycho-Ed
The Women's Shelter Female Psycho-Ed
- Thursday – CHIC Chat Female Adolescent Psycho-Ed
Sistercare Richland Female Psycho-Ed