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 V ident V idimization 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.

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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

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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.

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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)

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The following entities are members of the Coalition