SUBJECT: GCOSW’s 34th Annual Conference on Interpersonal Violence Prevention and Response

CR# N/A

DATE OF INCIDENT: Tuesday, May 12, 2015

DATE OF RELEASE: Monday, May 11, 2015

NARRATIVE:

The Gainesville Commission on the Status of Women is hosting its 34th Annual Conference on Interpersonal Violence Prevention and Response (formerly known as the Sexual Battery Conference) on Tuesday, May 12th, 2015, at Trinity United Methodist Church, 4000 NW 53rd Avenue from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. The conference is open to the public. The cost of the conference is $80.00 for non-students and $40.00 for students. Continuing education credits are available at a cost of $30.00. Breakfast, lunch, and refreshments are included in the registration fee. The purpose of this yearly conference is to provide a forum to discuss current trends in the fields of interpersonal violence prevention and response including evidence-based best-practices, such as utilizing culturally competent interventions, as well as to highlight emerging areas of focus for the field, including exploring ways to effectively enlist men as partners in the fight to end violence against women.

This year's program will explore ways to address these challenges for the purpose of providing victim-centered intervention and prevention services and of promoting recovery from various forms of oppression, including child abuse, domestic and intimate partner violence, sexual abuse, sexual harassment, and sexual battery. This conference is relevant for those who work in law enforcement, child advocacy, mental health, victim services, domestic violence shelters, education, medical settings, the judicial system, and for survivors and other members of the public who are concerned with these issues. This conference can provide 5 CE credits for Nursing, Psychology, Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy, and Mental Health Counseling as well as 2 CE credits for Domestic Violence.

Two featured speakers of the conference this year include Roger Canaff and John Beams. Roger Canaff, J.D., is a widely known child protection and anti-violence against women advocate, legal expert, author, and public speaker. He has devoted his legal career to the eradication of violence against women and children first as an Assistant Commonwealth’s Attorney in Alexandria, VA then as a special Victims ADA in the Bronx, NY, and as an Assistant Attorney General with the state of New York. With more than 10 years of experience, he has prosecuted cases involving sexual and physical abuse against children and adolescents, and also, sexual assault against adults including the elderly and persons.
with disabilities. Roger served in the National Center of the Prosecution of Child Abuse, a unit of the National District Attorneys Association in Alexandria, VA. Currently, Roger serves on the Board of Directors as President of End Violence Against Women International (EVAW), an organization that provides training, technical assistance, research, and advocacy. Roger took a position as a Highly Qualified Expert in June 2009 for the Department of the Army assisting military prosecutors in investigating and prosecuting sexual assault cases within the armed forces. He left federal service in February 2012 and now trains and consults privately, nationally, and internationally.

John Beams, J.D., L.S.W., practiced law for 16 years as a deputy prosecuting attorney, then civil rights attorney and executive director of the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission, and finally in private solo practice. He is a licensed social worker and a divorce mediator. John co-founded the Mayor’s Commission on Domestic Violence, Rape and Sexual Assault in Fort Wayne, IN. He also co-founded the Domestic Violence Action Council and the Domestic Violence Civil Justice Alliance of N.E. Indiana as well as the Wells County Domestic Violence Committee. In 1981 he co-founded the Center for Nonviolence, a domestic violence intervention organization in Fort Wayne, where he remains employed full time providing administration and direct services. He co-authored Indiana Standards for Batterer Intervention Programs, and has authored articles for Bulletin of the Peace Studies Institute, Manchester College, and Changing Men Magazine. He has provided workshops and technical assistance for the ICADV annual conference and summer institutes, the Texas Council on Family Violence, the National District Attorneys Association Annual Conference on Domestic Violence, the Violence Against Women Grant Office, Washington, D.C., the Portuguese Commission on Gender Equality, the Allen County Superior Court and the Indiana Supreme Court.

The Conference Committee will also be hosting the Survivors’ Art Exhibit, with the reception being held at the Hippodrome on Friday, May 15th, 2015 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. The art will continue to be displayed at the Hippodrome through Saturday, May 23rd, 2015.

For conference or committee information, please contact Debra Weiss, Conference Chair, at: gcsw.conference@gmail.com.

Released by: Major Brad Barber, Assistant Director
Reviewed by: Deputy Chief Tony Dunn, Associate Director
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