Programs to Combat Violent Crimes Against Women on Campus

Progress Report: July-December 2000

University of Puerto Rico at Humacao
In January 2000, UPR-Humacao initiated the implementation of its first Grant to Combat VCAW on Campus. The grant is developing a prevention program on campus, procedures to deal with VCAW on campus, improving support services prior and during the investigative processes, improving data collection and analysis on VCAW on campus and training administrators, security personnel, counselors, students and personnel serving on disciplinary boards to effectively use procedures and policies as well as to adequately respond to VCAW on campus. All activities are developed through a strong collaborative model among various offices and programs in the University as well as with external and community collaboration. A community base organization, Casa de la Bondad, a service provider for battered women, provides victim services and training for the campus community.

This semiannual progress report is organized according to the goals and scope of the program and is divided by special interest categories and minimum requirements. For each goal, a brief description of activities during this reporting period is included. The report also includes a brief description of the program’s administration and the status of the evaluation component, including a report on the achievement status of the effectiveness and impact criteria to provide information to monitor grant implementation and goal achievements.

Special Interest Categories

Goal 1: To Develop a comprehensive campus-based advocacy program

An Advocator was hired in March 2000. In addition to providing direct services, she is directly involved in the process of developing procedures, in all the educational and prevention activities and in designing the educational campaign. During the period covered by this progress report she has provided direct services to 18 victims of violence against
women on campus, to three students that have a female family member who suffers domestic violence and to three women from the general community. She has also provided orientation to four faculty members who have asked for advice on how to help their students. Cases have also been referred to Casa de la Bondad, legal aid services and the government’s Housing Department.

The advocator is also developing a computer base data system in collaboration with Prof. Elio Ramos, a professor from the Computational Mathematics Department.

**Goal 2: To Develop a comprehensive violence against women prevention program**

This component has been implemented with the collaboration of the community-based service providers, the Prosecutor’s Office and the local Police Department. During this reporting period a three hour seminar was offered to all of the Coordinating Committee members, academic counselors and Department Chairs to discuss violence against women dynamics, how to properly handle cases and to identify and refer cases to the Program.

Due to scheduling problems the seminar for private housing owners and administrators was rescheduled for February, 2001.

The Prevention Program includes a campus education and awareness campaign. The program has participated in two Resource Fairs organized by the Quality of Life Office and all educational materials have been distributed. At this moment we are reediting our sexual assault and stalking brochures. We also publish our first edition of the program’s newsletter: Conciencia… Universitaria (translation in English: University Consciousness) (included in the appendix) and two more are in the edition process. All materials are accessible to Spanish speaking minority groups in
the USA. We have also developed our own web site at: cuhwww.urp.clu.edu/ppvm and have the following email: ppvm@cuhwww.upr.clu.edu.

**Peer Advocator Program**

The Prevention Program includes peer support. Fifteen students have been trained during this period on: peer counseling; crisis intervention and first order help; team work; stress management; as well as on all subjects covered in the training for incoming students. They met three hours every week for their training sessions, to distribute materials and publications and to provide peer counseling and referrals to victims. These 15 students, including 2 male students, have provided direct support to six victims during this period. They also participated in a 3-day retreat and have designed their own promotional campaign. They have developed a sense of a team and are very committed to their work. During the next semester they will design and offer trainings and will also produce educational materials.

These students have been awarded registration waivers as long as they are part of the program.

**Minimum Requirements Categories**

**Goal 3: To Develop a coordinated community response**

The Coordinating Committee (CC), a multidisciplinary community collaboration response to violence against women on campus, continues to work on its main task: **to develop and implement procedures to effectively deal with VCAW on campus**. During this period, the program’s investigator primary responsibility has been to support the CC in this task. Casa de la Bondad, the Prosecutor’s Office and the Humacao Police are also members of the CC. A new
member has been included from the Humacao municipality Women’s Affairs Office. During this report period the CC members have met twice to discuss procedures and policies. A new procedure to handle emergencies has been developed and evaluated by the Chancellors Office. This new emergency procedure should be approved during the first weeks of the next semester.

The program’s staff has developed a pre-proposal for the implementation of policies and procedures based on the technical training received through the Technical Institutes organized by CALCASA. This proposal was accepted and the CC members have distributed tasks to develop the university’s procedures. Original plans were to have final procedures for this fall semester. Nevertheless, we have realized that this process takes more time and that it is a complex and detailed process. Multidisciplinary participation and community involvement require time to develop. In the case of VCAW, the CC also needed more time to become aware of the dynamics of VCAW on campus.

Goal 4: To Develop a Prevention and Education Program for all incoming students

According to our initial objectives and activities, incoming students should receive 9 hours of training during orientation week. Due to logistics problems (we needed to schedule space with almost a semester in advance) we were not able to provide this training as planned. Nevertheless, we managed to resolve this implementation problem by combining strategies: a four hour session during orientation week and two- 90 minutes workshops during their first semester. We still need to provide two more hours of training for this group and we have plans to do so during this coming semester. By the end of their first year at college, this group of students will receive the 9 hours of training that were planned in the proposal.
During this report period, 151 incoming have received additional training on violence against women on campus. The two - 90 minutes workshops were organized as part of the prevention and educational efforts and plans include other workshops for the next semester in order to meet our goals. Both trainings activities were provide in collaboration with the Social Science Department, the community-based victim service organization, Casa de la Bondad and with two feminist activists. The first workshops provided incoming students with the opportunity to discuss the social construction of gender. The second workshop was on social and cultural norms that promote VCAW. Both workshops were video taped.

**Goal 5: To Develop a Campus Security Personnel Training Program**

These training began in September and were organized and offered in collaboration with Casa de la Bondad, the Prosecutor’s Office and the local Police. The following six- three hour workshops and seminars were offered to the campus security personnel:

- Laws
- Case documentation and referrals
- Social construction of gender
- Myths
- Protection orders
- VAW expressions and indicators

Plans are to institutionalize the training and develop training material and a training manual to train new members and security personal throughout the entire UPR system.
Goal 6: To Develop a Campus Disciplinary Boards Training Program

Because of delay in the election of the new Campus Disciplinary Board members, only one training session was organized for this group. A three-hour workshop was offered on laws and myths to the Disciplinary Board and other administrative personnel. In UPR at Humacao, the Disciplinary Board is a very small group (five members: two faculty members, two students, and the Dean of Student Affairs) of elected members that are selected every year. We have discussed this implementation problem with the Chancellor and expect to provide the proposed training during this coming semester. The program expects to train disciplinary board members for two to three years. This will provide the time and experience to develop materials and a manual for all new members and for disciplinary board members from the other ten campuses in the UPR system.

Project management and administration

In order to ensure the program’s institutionalization, the Project is directly under the Chancellor’s Office. This provides leadership for the program implementation and guarantees its total development. The Program Director (PD) is Prof. Sara Benítez, and she dedicates 50% of her time to the project. Prof. Idalia Ramos, member of the Women’s Affairs Committee collaborates in the implementation of the project at no cost to the VAWO/OJD.

Other key personnel includes an Advocator, an Investigator, an Administrative Assistant and the UPR-Humacao Social Worker. The Advocator and the Assistant Administrator were hired in March 2000. The Investigator was hired in May 10, 2000 and works part time. All are dedicated exclusively to the program. During this period, the campus Social Worker has dedicated 25% of her time to the Project and received an economic compensation. She has worked directly with the peer advocates. A graduate student has been hired as a research assistant to support the evaluation and
statistical component of the program. She works 18 to 20 hours a week and is working directly with the evaluators in the development of questionnaires and surveys.

The Program’s staff and other university personnel participated in all Technical Assistance Institutes and teleconferences. All of these training have been very useful for capacity building, resource sharing and networking opportunities.

**Evaluation component**

As stated in the previous report, a group of independent evaluators with expertise on violence against women have started to work on the evaluation. The evaluators are researchers at The University Center for Psychological Research and Services (CUSEP, for its name in Spanish) of the University of Puerto Rico in Río Piedras. CUSEP is highly recognized center for training, research, and psychological services unit.

During this report period, the evaluators have been designing instruments and /or advising staff on how to develop such instruments. This includes a campus wide survey and pre/post test questionnaires.

In our previous report we indicated that we had submitted an evaluation proposal to the National Institute of Justice with a more comprehensive evaluation plan. This grant was not approved and therefore we will develop the evaluation components based on what was originally included in the proposal.
The following table provides criteria for outcomes and products expected and to be used to monitor and evaluate effectiveness and impact:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria. Outcomes and products</th>
<th>Results achieved during the reporting period</th>
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<tr>
<td>Victims evaluation of their safety on campus</td>
<td>Is included in the advocators files and will be analyzed</td>
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<td>Women students view of their safety on campus</td>
<td>This is addressed in the campus wide survey</td>
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<td>Inclusion of VAW issues in the Introduction to College Life course and the Introduction to Social Science course</td>
<td>The Introduction to college Life course is not currently been offered. The Program Director is currently part of the Committee that is revising the Introduction to Social Science course. Workshops for incoming students have been organized with the collaboration of the Social Science Chair. All faculty members were invited to include both workshops as part of the course content. Ten course section participated and 151 students attended.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revision of campus policies, protocols and procedures relating VCAW on campus and especially designed for an educational system</td>
<td>This is the CC main tasks. Members have met six times to discuss the Program’s goals and activities, their roles, hypothetical cases to identify members roles and areas and procedures that should be include in the policies, to review a preliminary procedure and policy proposal to handle VAW cases and emergencies and to assign task. The Program’s staff has interviewed key university personnel involved in the implementation of University’s policies and has analyzed all relevant University norms and regulations. An emergency protocol has been developed and is pending final approval. A pre proposal has been developed that states all components that should be included in the procedures. The CC discussed and approved this document and is now in the process of developing each component.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Awareness of policies, protocols and procedures and services relating to VCAW on campus among students, faculty, administrators, the general community</td>
<td>NR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrator’s commitment to addressing VAW on campus</td>
<td>The Project is directly under the Chancellor’s Office. This provides leadership for the program implementation and guarantees its total development.</td>
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| The Chancellor is part of the CALCASA/VAWO list server, he has already evaluated the emergency protocol, has written all invitations to the trainings and approved registration waivers for the student advocates.  
Program was presented during a general faculty meeting.  
There is already occurring. The CC members have met six times and are committed to the Program’s goals and activities. The CC has already identified and discussed their roles and the areas and procedures that should be include in the policies. They have also discussed a preliminary procedure and policy pre-proposal to handle VAW cases and emergencies.  
Two brochures have been developed and shared with other grantee in the Technical Assistance Institutes.  
First edition of the Newsletter was published.  
A campus-wide survey is being designed.  
A computer base data system is being developed in collaboration with Prof. Elio Ramos, a professor from the Computational Mathematics Department  
A campus-wide survey is being designed. |  |
| Incidents referrals to government and non-government community based organizations | Ten (10) referrals: four to a community based organization, three to legal aid services and three to the government’s Housing Department  
The CC meetings have provided members the opportunity to become aware of the dynamics of VCAW on campus.  
This measure will be included in the campus survey. |  |
| Reduction of VCAW on campus that fall through the cracks of the university system | This criteria cannot be measured because statistics do not reflect the reality due in part because most of the victims request to remain anonymous. Therefore, cases are not followed through the investigative processes. Nevertheless, during the implementation of the proposal we will gather data on the VCAW cases on campus. |  |
| A campus community that is sensitive to VCAW on campus | The CC meetings have provided members the opportunity to become aware of the dynamics of VCAW on campus.  
This measure will be included in the campus survey. |  |
| Improved investigation strategies on VCAW | NR |  |
| Reported incidents to local law enforcement authorities | No incidents have occurred on campus. Victim cases that have received program services have occurred outside of the campus |  |
| Calls and reports to students services | Computer data base will provide this measure. |  |
| Protection orders violations | NR |  |
| Incidents brought before the Campus Disciplinary Board | No reports have been made during this reporting period. |  |
| Outcomes of Disciplinary Board proceedings | No reports have been made during this reporting period. |  |
| Improved coordination and information sharing among campus administrators, campus security personnel, local law enforcement and community based organizations to reduce VCAW on campus and to provide services to victims. | Is already occurring. The CC members have met six times and are committed to the Program’s goals and activities. The CC has already identified and discussed their roles and the areas and procedures that should be include in the policies. They have also discussed a preliminary procedure and policy pre-proposal to handle VAW cases and emergencies. |  |
| Educational material that is culturally and language appropriate for Latinas and Latinos | Two brochures have been developed and shared with other grantee in the Technical Assistance Institutes.  
First edition of the Newsletter was published. |  |
| Local research on VCAW on campus | A campus-wide survey is being designed.  
A computer base data system is being developed in collaboration with Prof. Elio Ramos, a professor from the Computational Mathematics Department  
A campus-wide survey is being designed. |  |
| A data collection system on VAW on campus that can serve as a model for other universities in PR, USA and |  |
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<td>the Caribbean</td>
<td>A computer base data system is being developed in collaboration with Prof. Elio Ramos, a professor from the Computational Mathematics Department.</td>
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<td>Increase investigation skills on VAW on campus that can be shared with other universities</td>
<td>NR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Informed and trained victim service providers, faculty, students, administrators and security personnel that can serve as trainers for other colleges and universities in PR, in USA and in the Caribbean</td>
<td>Training for security personnel began in September and were organized and offered in collaboration with Casa de la Bondad, the Prosecutor’s Office and the local Police. Six-three hour workshops and seminars were offered to the campus security personnel. A three hour seminar was offered to all of the Coordinating Committee members, academic counselors and Department Chairs to discuss violence against women dynamics, how to properly handle cases and to identify and refer cases to the Program. A three hour workshop was offered on laws and myths to the Disciplinary Board and other administrative personnel. The implementation of the program in Puerto Rico has had an impact in other universities and educational settings. As expected the Program will provide a model for other colleges and therefore we have been invited to present our program in the following educational activities: Interdisciplinary research Center for Gender Issues at the Interamerican University of PR • XI Consortium for Educational Resources to Educate and Prevent Drugs, Alcohol and Violence on Campus. • Isabel Flores High School in Juncos • Multidisciplinary Study Center in Humacao</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peer advocators specialized on VCAW on campus that can become a model project for other universities and schools.</td>
<td>15 students have been trained on peer counseling; crisis intervention and first order help; team work; stress management; as well as on all subjects covered in the training for incoming students. They met three hours every week for their training sessions, to distributed materials and publications and to provide peer counseling and referrals to victims. These 15 students, including 2 male students have provided direct support to six victims during this period. They also participated in a 3-day retreat and have designed their own promotional campaign.</td>
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<td>Training manuals for diverse groups especially designed for an educational setting</td>
<td>All trainings and workshops materials are organized and some of the activities are being video taped for this purpose.</td>
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### Criteria, Outcomes and products

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<td>Awareness among judges, prosecutors and police officers of the dynamics of VCAW on campus.</td>
<td>The CC meetings have provided members from the Prosecutor Office and form the Police the opportunity to become aware of the dynamics of VCAW on campus.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Input on the effectiveness of policies, protocols and process developed</td>
<td>NR</td>
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| Identification of the specific needs in services for VCAW on campus survivors. | Shorter counseling sessions  
Victims do not want to ask for protection orders in their hometowns. We need to make arrangements with the local Prosecutor in Humacao to see if this can be done in Humacao.  
Develop short and concise educational material because students express the need to know about VCAW but they indicate that they do not have much time to read because of course work.  
Commuting students who come to campus only two days a week need to receive counseling during this period and have a heavy course load for these two days. |
| Targeted direction for future activities and needs on VCAW on campus issues. | Incorporate the following evaluation activities:  
- Focal groups  
- Program impact survey  
- Interview with personnel that receive training |

NR = no results achieved or observable for this reporting period.