LOCALNEWS

Local panel discusses assault

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

What happens when someone in Koochiching County reports a sexual assault?

Attendees at presentation last Wednesday by Friends Against Abuse in recognition of sexual assault month found out following a screening of the film "Brave Miss World."

A local panel made up of International Falls Police Chief Mike Musich, sexual assault nurse examiner Cory Morff Whitman, Koochiching County Attorney Jeff Naglosky, and FAA advocate Jessica Kokesh explained their role in the process that can start with a call to law enforcement officers and may end with the sentencing of an offender.

FAA Director LeeAnn Meer concluded the discussion by stressing the importance of reporting sexual assault and raising awareness of its occurrence locally. She pointed to a table, the 'Sole' Survivor display, outside the RRCC theater displaying about a dozen pairs of shoes representing the people who reported sexual assaults locally in 2013.

"We must break the silence," she urged. "We must talk about it."

Police

Musich said dispatchers at the Koochiching County Law Enforcement Center are trained to get information about the assault from a caller.

At that point, the two main concerns are the safety of the victim and whether the victim needs medical attention, he said. Other immediate concerns involve when the assault occurred, whether weapons were involved, if the suspect is present and/or known to the victim and how to preserve evidence.

Officers want to meet with the complainant as soon as possible, he said and will do so at the hospital, residence or Law Enforcement Center. At that time, he said the role of the law officer is explained and information on resources, including FAA advocates, is provided.

Police begin to collect evidence as soon as possible, including forensic evidence and information from witnesses. Evidence can be collected from a hospital examination, clothing, and from the site of the crime.

Hospital

Morrf Whitman stressed anything that happens at the hospital only does so with the consent of the complainant. She said collecting evidence is very intimate and she attempts to it as sensitively as possible.

"Their consent was taken away in the assault, so at every moment I say 'we can stop if you want,'" she said.

She asks questions about the assault, about the history of the assault and takes photographs for evidence. She collects evidence through a physical examination for a kit, which is preserved for the police. She said support from family, a friend or an FAA advocate may be present during the hospital examination.

Attorney

Naglosky said he is responsible for determining whether there is enough evidence of an assault in an allegation to charge someone with criminal sexual conduct, the term used in the court rather than rape, and to determine what degree the charge should be if it goes forward.

STAFF PHOTO BY LAUREL BEAGER

From the left, International Falls Police Chief Mike Musich, sexual assault nurse examiner Cory Morff Whitman, Koochiching County Attorney Jeff Naglosky, and FAA advocate Jessica Kokesh explained their role in the process when a sexual assault is reported.

A variety of factors are weighed in determining the degree, including age of the victim, age difference between the victim and perpetrator, whether the perpetrator was in a position of authority over the victim, whether violence or the threat of violence or coercion was involved.

"It's important to have as much information as possible," he said.

In determining whether an allegation should result in a charge, he said he refers to police reports which are based on officer observations, as well as statements from the victim, witnesses and the suspect.

"I need to think long term: What can we prove at trial, what evidence will be admitted in court, whether a jury of 12 will find beyond a reasonable doubt it happened," he said.

If a complaint is drafted and submitted to the court, it provides the allegations and why Naglosky believes there is probable cause the suspect committed the crime. If the judge agrees, a suspect is brought before the court to answer the complaint.

Naglosky admitted that court processes can be drawn out over a period of time, but he also said his office is required to follow victims' rights policy, which allows for the victim's involvement in the process, including what the victim believes should happen to the suspect in sentencing.

"Minnesota law is not perfect, but one thing it does very well is give the victim the opportunity to weigh in and help the court do what is most just," he said.

Naglosky told The Journal the general statute of limitations is three years from the offense date. If the victim was under 18 years of age at the time of the offense, the statute of limitations is nine years. If the victim was less than 18 years old at the time of the offense and did not report within the nine year period, the case may be prosecuted within three years of the report to law enforcement.

Advocate

Kokesh said advocates can be a part of all or any steps of the process.

"We do what ever is needed at the time for the person," she said.

Kokesh said if a victim chooses to report an assault in the future, evidence will be kept for future use.

"The healing journey can be long and difficult," she said. "It is personal. You have the right to have someone held responsible."

She discussed the rights of a victim, or survivor, of sexual assault. That includes understanding that an assault was not their fault and the right to expect be treated with dignity, respect and sensitivity through the process.

In addition, a victim has the right to be informed throughout the process, including when and if an arrest was made and when hearings are scheduled. Advocates, she said, can get answers to questions a victim may have.

Victims have the right to court ordered protection and compensation for medical and/or counseling services and property loss.

"You do have a lot of power," she said. "And putting the power back in your hands is important."

Council calls special meeting

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Littlefork City Council is scheduled to conduct a special meeting at 1 p.m. Thursday at the Littlefork City Hall to discuss purchasing a replacement ambulance.

Emergency medical technician and first responder Rob Wimmer was driving the ambulance April 19 on Minnesota Highway 6 when he hit a moose. The ambulance was deemed a total loss.

Since then, the city has been renting a replacement ambulance at a cost of $125 per day, city Administrator Sonja Pelland said.

The ambulance service has been considering purchasing a replacement ambulance, and needs council approval to make a large purchase, Pelland said.

A special meeting has been scheduled to address the issue because it can't wait until the regular May city council meeting. The city can't afford to spend $125 per day on a rental ambulance until then, she said, when it would be able to put that money toward purchasing a replacement.

The ambulance service is required to have a backup ambulance, Pelland said, which is why the city has been renting an ambulance since the accident. The replacement ambulance the service has been considering purchasing costs between $35,000 and $38,000, she said.

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PRICE: ELEM: $1.50 SEC. $1.60 ADULT: $2.00

Daily offering is
- Milk
- Juice
- Fruit

And a choice of one of the following::
- Yogurt/Nutrigrain Bar
- Cereal/Nutrigrain/Toast
- Entre:

1st: Excellent Egg Taco w/Salsa, Yogurt Cup, Pineapple Chunks
2nd: Aloha Muffin , Cereal & Grapes
5th: Star Spangled Pancakes, Sausage
6th: Bagel with Toppings, Fresh Orange
7th: Breakfast Pita w/Salsa, Hash Browns, Kiwi
8th: Cereal Bar, String Cheese, Citrus Fruit Cup
9th: French Toast Strips, Strawberries & Bananas
12th: Western Omelet Quesadilla w/Salsa, Potato Rounds, Fresh Pear
13th: Scrumptious Coffeecake, Sunrise Smoothie, Graham Crackers
14th: Biscuit & Gravy, Apricots
15th: Oatmeal Breakfast Round, Banana
16th: Waffles w/Syrup, Sausage Links, Mandarin Oranges
19th: Breakfast Sundae, Raisins
20th: Breakfast Cheese Pizza, Fresh Mixed Fruit Cup
21st: Breakfast Bake w/Tomato Salsa, Toast, Fruit
22nd: Pumpkin Chocolate Chip Muffin, Cereal, Orange
23rd: Pancake on a Stick w/Syrup, Tri-Tater
26th: Cook's Choice
27th:: Cook's Choice
28th: Cook's Choice
29th: Cook's Choice

Offer-vs-Serve is designed to decrease plate waste and reduce food cost while maintain nutritional integrity of the lunch. Students are offered five required food items: meat/meat alternate, milk, grains/breads, fruits, vegetables. Students are required to select three of the five items with one of the items being either the fruit or vegetable component.

For more information or assistance, please call Sue Karsnia, Food Service Director
Phone: 218-283-2571

ISD 361—APRIL 2014

LUNCH MENU

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Lunch Prices Elementary $2.00 Secondary $2.10 Reduced $.40 Adult $3.50			1 Turkey & Cheese Hoagie w/lettuce & tomato French Fries Sliced Peaches Graham Snacks (9-12) Fruit Choice Milk	2 Country Style Beef Pattie Mashed Potatoes/ Gravy Steamed Broccoli Wheat Roll & Jelly (6-12)
5 Taco Soup Tortilla Chips Fresh Broccoli Sliced Pears Snickerdoodle Fruit Choice Milk	6 Corn Dog Garden Salad Seasoned Peas Apple Wedges Fruit Choice Milk	7 Beef & Noodles Mashed Potatoes Fresh Baby Carrots Blueberry Oat Muffin Pineapple Tidbits Fruit Choice Milk	8 Chicken Quesadilla Salsa & Tortilla Chips Refried Beans Orange Wedges Fruit Choice Milk	9 Cowboy Cavatini Tossed Salad w/Romaine Green Beans Wheat Roll & Jelly Fresh Banana Fruit Choice Milk
12 Mandarin Orange Chicken Breadstick Tossed Salad w/Romaine Steamed Carrots Rice Fresh Strawberries Fruit Choice Milk	13 Pork Rib on a Bun w/ Lettuce & Tomato Tri-Tater Tots Green Beans Fresh Kiwi	14 Macaroni & Cheese Meat Balls Seasoned Peas Fresh Baby Carrots Whole Wheat Bread &	15 Baked Chicken Drumstick Two Potato Mash Green Beans Angel Biscuit & Jelly Fresh Kiwi	16 FES: Cooks Choice FHS: Sloppy Joe Tortilla Chips Sweet Potato Puffs Baked Beans Fresh Grapes
19 Chicken Wrap Romaine & Tomato Mix Spanish Rice Steamed Carrots Tropical Fruit Sauce Fruit Choice Milk	20 Hamburger on a Bun Lettuce & Tomato Sweet Potato Fries Fruit Cocktail Rice Krispy Bar Fruit Choice Milk	21 Taco Salad Tortilla Chips & Salsa Refried Beans Cinnamon Puff Pineapple Tidbits Fruit Choice Milk	22 Chicken Nuggets French Fries Fresh Broccoli Wheat Roll & Jelly (6-12) Strawberries Fruit Choice Milk	23 FES/WEE: School Picnic FHS: Pig in a Blanket Potato Wedges Broccoli w/Cheese Fresh Apple Milk
26 COOK'S CHOICE	27 COOK'S CHOICE	28 COOK'S CHOICE	29 COOK'S CHOICE	

This lunch menu brought to you by... ISD 361 and UnitedHealth Group
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