

Appendix A

A Brief History of Miami's Response to Sexual Assault

(prepared by Jane Goettsch, May 12, 2006, last updated September 19, 2008)

Introduction: One of the most highly publicized and troubling issues affecting today's college students, particularly at undergraduate residential institutions like Miami, is sexual assault. The expression of this problem is shaped by a student culture that encourages heterosexual gender roles of male entitlement and conquest, and sends conflicting messages to women about the value of appearing sexually attractive/available but being sexually inexperienced. Added to this mix are an expectation of "effortless perfection" (to use a term coined by Duke University's Women's Initiative) and a "work hard/play hard" philosophy that promotes excessive use of alcohol. Of course, student culture takes its cues from a society still marked by power differences and social inequities along gender lines. Such cultural characteristics complicate the problem of sexual assault.

Nationally recognized sexual assault educator Claire Kaplan and colleagues* identify several structural models for addressing this problem: (a) a community-based model, in which existing community crisis centers provide programming and services for a campus, (b) a student-run model that relies on student groups to provide programming and advocacy, (c) a diffused model, in which various departments offer services and/or educational programming as part of their overall services, and (d) a centralized model, in which one department, office (or individual) is assigned the primary responsibility for making sure that accessible, appropriate, and comprehensive services are available.

(*C. Kaplan, M. Hindus, E. Mejia, J. Olsen, and L. La Due, "Violence against Women: Women's Centers' Responses to Sexual Assault" in S. Davie (Ed.), *University and College Women's Centers: A Journey Toward Equity*, 2002, pp. 149-202.)

Project TIPP – 1980-2002: In 1980, Miami drew from all four models in creating Project TIPP, a cooperative effort by Miami University and Oxford agencies to reduce sexual assault. This innovative project's goals were to: (1) coordinate reporting and victim assistance among campus and community agencies, (2) separate fact from rumor by providing information on the number and types of reported sexual assaults on campus and in Oxford and (3) assist students, particularly women, to gain control over their lives through awareness of situations of vulnerability, methods of self-protection and medical, legal and counseling help.

Project TIPP produced two informational publications: the TIPP Brochure, provided to all first-year students and their parents during Summer Orientation, and the TIPP Report (renamed the 2907 Report and later renamed the Rape and Sexual Assault Information Report), published monthly and later once a semester in the *Miami Student* and *Miami Report*.

A coordinating committee (TIPP Committee) composed of university and community representatives, met annually to share information and resources, review local and national trends and evaluate the effectiveness of the TIPP publications. The Vice President for Student Affairs (VPSA) chaired the TIPP Committee and, from 1980-1989, the Office of Student Activities coordinated Project TIPP. Following a divisional reorganization in 1989, coordination of Project TIPP shifted to the VPSA's office. (It shifted to the Women's Center in Fall 1999 when Jane Goettsch, who had been responsible for the TIPP publications from 1985-89 and again starting in

1994, received approval from VPSA Myrtis Powell to continue her role with Project TIPP to ensure the project's continuation during her transition from Student Affairs to the Women's Center.).

In 1997, the TIPP Committee recommended ceasing publication of the TIPP Report, in part because of difficulty obtaining data from a community agency as well as doubts about the TIPP Report's effectiveness in changing students' behavior. Additionally, federal legislation mandating annual reporting of campus crimes caused confusion over reporting inconsistencies. The TIPP Committee continued to meet annually and distribute the TIPP Brochure to all incoming students. A TIPP Education Subcommittee was formed to bring together representatives of university and community sexual assault education efforts to (1) share information and resources, (2) determine what students know and need to know to make informed, healthy decisions, (3) coordinate educational initiatives and (4) identify gaps in programs and services and make recommendations to the VPSA and full TIPP Committee. The TIPP Committee and TIPP Education Subcommittee were active through Spring 2002.

Escort Services: During the 1980s, the Association for Women Students operated an "escort service". Initially a walking service utilizing both volunteers and student employees, the service later incorporated a driving service through collaboration with the Miami University Police Department (MUPD). Eventually, the MUPD took over the service. That service has now evolved into the Nighttime Door to Door Service, which is overseen by Parking Services.

New peer education groups are created – 2001-2003: The Student Counseling Service began recruiting for a new sexual assault peer education program for men in Fall 2001 and MARS (originally Men Advocating Responsible Sex, now Men Against Rape and Sexual Assault) began offering programs the following fall. By Fall 2003 several peer education programs (including those focusing on alcohol and other drugs, women's issues, and sexual health) had coalesced into a new program – HAWKS (Health Advocates for Wellness Knowledge and Skills), which includes sexual assault as part of its programming repertoire. HAWKS is coordinated through the Office of Health Education.

Women's Advocacy Group – 2003-2005: By the end of Spring 2002, the TIPP Education Subcommittee had done all it could within the existing sexual assault response structure. In Fall 2002, Jane Goettsch approached the new VPSA, Dick Nault, about partnering to launch a new initiative that would incorporate and broaden Project TIPP. This new initiative, which came to be known as the Women's Advocacy Group (WAG), was formally launched in January, 2003. The purpose of WAG was to focus and strengthen the Student Affairs Division's programs that support women students. The intent was to take a proactive and integrated approach to addressing sexual assault and other gendered issues facing female students with the goal of shaping student culture in such a way that over time would reduce incidents of these problems at Miami.

WAG was co-chaired by Jane Goettsch (Director, Women's Center), Jim Slager (Senior Administrative Director of Health Services) and Todd Holcomb (Interim Vice President for Student Affairs); Susan Mosley-Howard replaced Todd Holcomb as co-chair in Fall 2003. WAG spent its first semester reviewing the literature, collecting data regarding the needs of women students and assessing current programming. In Fall 2003 WAG contracted with Miami-Middletown's Applied Research Center to conduct focus groups of women students. Spring 2004 was spent reviewing the focus group report and planning next steps. Several WAG members conducted site visits of women's schools and organizations in Summer 2004, and Professor Judy Rogers (EDL) facilitated a WAG retreat in July of that year. During the 2004-2005 academic year WAG formed four

subcommittees: safety, climate for lesbians, disordered eating and recovering the history and traditions of Miami University women. The subcommittees wrote year-end reports, which were presented to VPSA Nault by the WAG co-chairs in May 2005.

Initiatives during 2005-06

A search for external funds to expand Miami's response: In Fall 2004 the WAG safety subcommittee issued recommendations that included the creation of an office to coordinate Miami's response to sexual assault (a similar recommendation to fund a sexual assault coordinator position had been discussed by the TIPP Education Committee in 2001). A version of this recommendation was incorporated into two proposals for federal funding written by WAG members, Karen Murray and Susan Mosley-Howard, in Spring 2005. The proposals were for a Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grant through the Department of Justice and a Department of Education (DOE) grant. Karen and Susan worked with a core team who helped craft the grant and signed memos of understanding regarding their respective roles in grant implementation. A significant portion of the proposed funding was to hire additional staff (a full-time program coordinator and a graduate assistant) to coordinate the university's response to sexual assault.

When Karen and Susan were notified in Fall 2005 that neither grant would be funded, they wrote a proposal for funding through the Miami Parents Council. This proposal received funding in January 2006. This proposal calls for a two-year project whose main elements include: (1) a Campus Assistance Program (CAP) to help the university community identify students whose struggle with psychosocial issues is having an impact on their academic performance and assist these students with assessment, referrals and case management, (2) a Community Coordinated Response Team (CCRT) to support improved coordination among campus administrators, campus police and local law enforcement, (3) professional development for the Office of Ethics and Student Conflict Resolution and (4) media/education materials. Work has already begun on some of these components. The Campus Assistance Program is being piloted by two academic divisions (School of Education and Allied Professions and School of Fine Arts). Sexual assault policy and protocol are being reviewed and the Office of News and Public Information is being consulted regarding revisions to sexual assault information on Miami's Web sites. A CCRT has not yet been convened, pending the outcome of the Sexual Assault Strategic Planning Group's work (see below).

Women's Issues Task Group: In August 2005 WAG co-chairs and VPSA Nault met with new Assistant to the President for Institutional Diversity and Associate Provost, Dr. Michael Stevenson, to review WAG's work and consider next steps. Dr. Stevenson subsequently convened a group called the Women's Issues Task Group, which met during Fall 2005 to review WAG and other documents and recommend actions that would improve the climate for women at Miami. A report, issued in late January, was shared with the President's Executive Council and released to campus media in April 2006.

Associated Student Government (ASG) Initiatives: Several students involved with ASG, including the 2005-06 and the 2006-07 presidents, proposed a variety of activities and legislation in 2005-06 to address sexual assault. February's Sexual Assault Awareness Week was one such initiative. Legislative items included bills to establish a volunteer walk-home service, hold peer-led sexual assault education discussions in first-year halls and create an *ad hoc* sexual assault prevention committee. The bill to hold peer-led discussions in first-year halls has evolved into the "Sex Signals" pilot project, to be implemented in August 2006. An additional bill – to establish an office of sexual assault education – has evolved into a fledgling coalition of student groups focused on expanding sexual assault peer education.

Creation of the Sexual Assault Task Group – Spring 2006: On May 18, 2006, several students, staff and faculty met with Dr. Michael Stevenson (Assistant to the President for Institutional Diversity and Associate Provost) to discuss Miami's current efforts to address sexual assault. A number of concerns/points were raised at the meeting, including that:

1. Students don't know what programs and services are available or where to go to access them;
2. Miami's current efforts, while considerable, are fragmented and decentralized, causing confusion even among those who implement these efforts;
3. We have lost some of our former connection with an important community partner, the Rape Crisis Program;
4. Our current informational materials (e.g., brochures, AV materials, Web sites) are hard to find. Some are also visually unappealing, and not all are survivor-friendly;
5. Our current sexual assault educational programming is primarily reactive rather than proactive;
6. Peer educators have a role to play in sexual assault prevention education but cannot and should not be expected to deliver all educational programming;
7. There is agreement that current efforts need to be better coordinated but disagreement about which office should be responsible for this coordination;
8. There is interest in creating a sexual assault coordinator position to centralize and enhance Miami's efforts, though, again, disagreement about where this position should be located.

One idea that emerged at the May 18th meeting was the need for a **short-term task group** to develop a vision and strategic plan for implementing a comprehensive and coordinated strategy for addressing sexual assault at Miami, a plan that builds on current efforts and is guided by best practices. Jane Goetsch and John Ward co-chaired this new task group, which met 10 times from August-December 2006. The task group submitted a draft report to Michael Stevenson and Richard Nault on November 13, 2006 and a final report on December 8, 2006. The report contained the following recommendations:

Recommendation Set One: Immediate action steps (recommended timeline: 1-6 months)

1. Form a coordinating team of the leadership of Miami's sexual assault programs and services. The team's initial tasks are summarized in Recommendations 2, 3 and 4.
2. Consolidate existing sexual assault resources, to include developing an "overview" publication, consolidating the numerous other resources and developing a new University sexual assault Web site, easily accessible from the Miami homepage, that provides a one-stop electronic source of information on sexual assault.
3. Assist offices to develop sexual assault response protocols.
4. Develop a cadre of certified sexual assault trainers and a list of recommended outside speakers.
5. Enhance existing peer education programs (HAWKS and MARS).
6. Incorporate a program on sexual assault into First-Year Institute.
7. Institute individual office review of sexual assault program/service quality.
8. Institute a review of alcohol prevention efforts for infusion of core messages identified in the training workshop.
9. Enhance collaboration and information sharing with the Rape Crisis Program.
10. Initiate collaboration between Associated Student Government and Parking Services regarding review of and enhancements to the Nighttime Door to Door service.
11. Continue current sexual assault programs and services.

12. Establish an institutional funding stream to support the above initiatives.

Recommendation Set Two: Action steps to be implemented as soon as resources can be allocated (recommended timeline: 1-3 years)

13. Create a position (recommend fulltime) to coordinate Miami's sexual assault efforts.
14. Establish a developmental model of sexual assault prevention programming for all students that will match educational programming with the specific needs of select student populations. Recommended programs include those identified in Recommendations 15 and 16.
15. Create a new peer education program, a "female-version" of Men Against Rape and Sexual Assault (MARS) that will provide programming to sorority women, female student-athletes and other groups of women.
16. Implement a mandatory sexual assault prevention program (e.g., "Sex Signals") for first-year students.
17. Work with the Office of Health Education to strengthen the connection between alcohol and sexual assault prevention efforts.
18. Institute a process for regularly assessing sexual assault programs, policies and services for outcomes and impact.
19. Explore a partnership with the Rape Crisis Program for increased services for Miami students.
20. Institute an institutional funding stream to support the above initiatives.

Creation of a Sexual Assault Coordinating Team – Spring 2007: In January 2007, Dr. Nault accepted the report and identified next steps in responding to the recommendations. Specifically, Dr. Nault committed to finding funds in Student Affairs to hire at least a half-time sexual assault prevention coordinator, ideally by the end of Spring Semester 2007. He also accepted Jane Goettsch's offer to take co-leadership with Susan Vaughn (Director of the Office of Ethics and Student Conflict Resolution) in coordinating the first set of recommendations.

The Sexual Assault Coordinating Team (SACT) met five times during Spring Semester 2007 (Feb. 12, Mar. 5, Mar. 26, Apr. 16, May 7), and Jane and Susan met periodically with Drs. Nault and Stevenson to update them on SACT's work. SACT accomplishments included:

1. Publication of a new, comprehensive sexual assault brochure distributed to all new students and their parents during Summer Orientation
2. Creation of an easy-to-find, up-to-date sexual assault Web site
www.muohio.edu/sexualassault/
3. Discussion of institutional protocols regarding working with sexual assault victims/survivors and collection of protocols from several offices
4. Outreach to colleagues in Residence Life and in New Student Programs regarding student and advisory staff training needs

SACT transitioned to an advisory team once a new Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Coordinator was hired in August, 2007 (see next section).

Hiring of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Coordinator – August 2007:
(need text)

Formation of Oxford/Miami Sexual Assault Interest Group – Fall 2007:
(need text)