

Clara Bell Duvall

Reproductive Freedom Project

Year End NEWSLETTER 2005

Philadelphia Address
 P.O. Box 40008
 Philadelphia, PA 19106

Tel: 215.592.1513
 Email: duvall@aclupa.org
www.aclupa.org/duvall

Pittsburgh Address
 313 Atwood Street
 Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Harrisburg Address
 313 Atwood Street
 Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Contents

Survivors' Perspectives on Emergency Contraception: RaisingHerVoice

Minors' Rights Project Update

Opposing Abstinence-Only Education

Emergency Contraception

Medical Students for Choice

Intern Profiles

Duvall Launches RaisingHerVoice.org Sexual Assault Survivors Speak Out about Emergency Contraception

Each year 25,000 women become pregnant following a sexual assault. If every rape victim had taken emergency contraception (EC or "the morning after pill"), only 3,000 of those women would have to face the additional trauma of an unwanted pregnancy. The Duvall Project is devoted to advocating for EC to be available in all hospital emergency departments and pharmacies so that rape victims receive the prompt, compassionate care to which they are entitled.

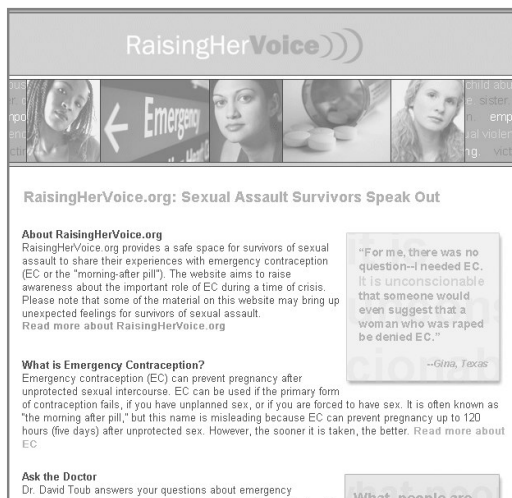
On November 1, 2005, Duvall launched RaisingHerVoice.org, a website that provides a safe space for survivors of sexual assault to share their experiences with EC. The website aims to raise awareness about the important role of EC during a time of crisis, stressing that every survivor who visits a hospital emergency room should receive compassionate treatment, including the decision to receive EC. By advocating for the rights of sexual assault survivors, the website establishes common ground between the reproductive rights and anti-sexual assault communities.

The website was launched the day after the C.A.R.E. Act (Compassionate Assistance for Rape Emergencies) was introduced in

Pennsylvania and has gained media attention for presenting first-hand accounts from sexual assault survivors. The C.A.R.E. Act would require all hospitals in Pennsylvania to offer EC to sexual assault survivors. RaisingHerVoice was, in part, created to respond to a growing number of requests from the press and legislators to hear from the voices that really matter--those of rape victims.

At RaisingHerVoice, visitors can hear from Priya who advocated for a 14 year old girl who was ultimately unsuccessful in obtaining EC; Gina, a survivor who received EC and now speaks about her experience to help other women; and a number of other stories from courageous survivors that address the importance of EC in the aftermath of sexual assault. Women and advocates may also submit their own stories for publication on the site.

RaisingHerVoice provides general information about EC, links to helpful websites and other resources, and ways to get involved locally. In the "Ask the Doctor" section, ACLU Philadelphia board member Dr. David Toub answers visitors' questions about how EC works and what to expect after taking



WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT RaisingHerVoice

"I can't begin to explain how important it was to my recovery that I was able to make a choice to protect myself from a potential pregnancy. I think this website and the people behind it are doing a wonderful job raising awareness about an issue that cuts across race and social status, across politics and across continents." -Heather, Florida

the medication.

Since its launch, the website has been enthusiastically received by reproductive rights and anti-sexual assault advocates alike.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS & UPDATES

Minors' Rights Project

During 2005, the Duvall Project sought to expand the Minors' Rights Project and to improve minors' access to accurate, medical assistance and counseling in Pennsylvania. Duvall developed a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary workshop to inform participants about minors' rights. The workshop addresses the practical concerns that arise when discussing medical issues with minors and encourages dialogue between teens, parents and professionals about the difficult choices facing minors and their health consequences. We trained volunteers to present the program and distributed the informational materials throughout Pennsylvania.

The health community of Pittsburgh received this initiative with great enthusiasm. Originally, Duvall hoped to host two train-the-trainer sessions to prepare 20 volunteers to speak to healthcare and law professionals about minors' rights concerning confidential healthcare. We exceeded our expectations and have hosted seven train-the-trainers sessions, five in the Pittsburgh area and two in central Pennsylvania. There are currently 45 trained speakers in the Pittsburgh area and 70 speakers throughout Pennsylvania. These volunteer speakers have been active in training others at their agencies and elsewhere, educating over 250 professionals about confidentiality with respect to minors' healthcare.

Medical Students for Choice

This spring, the Duvall Project honored Medical Students for Choice in a festive evening of delicious food and dance-floor fun in Philadelphia. About 400 medical students, physicians, conference facilitators and ACLU friends and supporters gathered to recognize the long-standing commitment of Medical Students for Choice to reproductive rights, education and life-saving training.

For over ten years, MSFC has been dedicated to ensuring that women receive the full range of reproductive healthcare choices." Because a lack of trained compassionate physicians is one of the major barriers to providing comprehensive reproductive healthcare, MSFC medical students and residents work to make such care--including abortion--a standard part of their education and training. The Duvall Project has worked with national MSFC campus groups as well as the seven chapters in Pennsylvania.

Opposing Abstinence-Only Education

The Comprehensive Sexuality Education Project had a promising start during the summer. The Duvall Project focused on laying the groundwork for legislative and grassroots efforts that would encourage Pennsylvania schools to return to sexuality education based on sound public health principles.

Duvall designed fact sheets depicting the failures of abstinence-only education and exploring the effect of abstinence-only curricula on particular groups, including gays and lesbians, individuals living with HIV and AIDS, and sexual assault survivors. The fact sheets also highlight how abstinence-only curricula often employ harmful gender stereotypes and present misinformation about the effectiveness of contraceptives. Additionally, Duvall created a fact sheet placing abstinence-only education in a broader civil liberties framework. The fact sheet discusses issues such as free speech (for teachers and students), students' rights, and LGBT rights.

Over the summer, the Duvall Project hosted a train-the-trainer workshop that provided attendees with tools and tips for conducting local house parties to raise support for comprehensive sexuality education in Pennsylvania school districts. Pittsburgh ACLU board member

Brenda Lee Green presented the details of planning a house party, while Duvall Director **Carol Petraitis** and ACLU-PA Community Education Coordinator **Amy Laura Cahn** discussed available tools and strategies for change.

WHAT ARE ABSTINENCE-ONLY EDUCATION PROGRAMS TEACHING OUR KIDS?

"The liberation movement has produced some aggressive girls today, and one of the tough challenges for guys who say no will be the questioning of their manliness." -Sex Respect, p.25

"For condoms to be used properly, over 10 specific difficult steps must be followed every time. This tends to minimize the romance and spontaneity of the sex act." -Choosing the Best, p.25

"Is it fair to make the baby die because the mother lacked the moral fortitude to adequately control her boyfriend?" -Sex Respect, p.70

"Marriage commitments are the bedrock of social order...People who remain single suffer psychologically." -CLUE 2000, p.2

"There is no such thing as 'safe' or 'safer' premarital sex." -FACTS, p.9

Activists Making a Difference

After conducting research on the effectiveness of abstinence-only curricula, ACLU-PA Board Member **Clark Moeller** drafted *The Consequences of Abstinence-Only Sex Education*. He presented his research to the Bradford County Alliance for Democracy (BCAD) who agreed to sponsor a local initiative advocating against the use of abstinence-only curricula in Pennsylvania schools. Clark and BCAD have experienced success in several school districts that have agreed to oppose abstinence-only education. Clark plans to continue his work and assess how he may successfully change current school sex education and state funding practices.

Visit Clara Bell Duvall on the Web: www.aclupa.org/duvall

EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION

Project Update

The Duvall Project has been involved in a wide-ranging education and advocacy project, both locally and nationally, to ensure that sexual assault victims receive EC in hospital emergency rooms and pharmacies. EC is a form of birth control that can safely prevent pregnancy after unprotected intercourse. It can be used if contraception fails, if a woman has unplanned sex, or if she is forced to have sex. EC is effective up to 120 hours after unprotected sex, but the sooner it is taken the better.

EC & the Department of Justice

In the first-ever national protocol for the treatment of rape victims, the Department of Justice (DOJ) blatantly omitted information about EC. As part of a broader coalition effort to publicize the omission, Duvall Director **Carol Petraitis** appeared on the Comcast Cable Network call-in show, "It's Your Call," along with Jefferson Hospital emergency department physician **Dr. Ralph Rivello**.

The Duvall Project also helped lead a coalition effort to get signatories onto a letter requesting that the DOJ alter its protocols to include EC. There are now over 300 signatories including national, state and local organizations and individuals. A parallel effort was launched in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. Only two Pennsylvania Representatives--Allyson Schwartz and Chaka Fattah--signed the letter. Working with NY State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer's office, the coalition was able to secure a letter from four attorneys general to the Department of Justice (IL, NY, NM, and CA).

Duvall Brings EC Project to Kentucky

In September, Project Director **Carol Petraitis** travelled to Kentucky to conduct a workshop for the local ACLU. The workshop demonstrated how to replicate Duvall's survey of pharmacies to determine the accessibility of emergency contraception.

An exciting outcome of this trip was that Carol was able to direct staff of 60 Minutes to Kentucky for a story on the difficulty of obtaining emergency contraception even when a woman has a prescription. The story, inspired by the FDA's denial of over-the-counter status for Plan B, was arranged by the ACLU-Kentucky and made possible by their research into the practices of pharmacy provision of emergency contraception in their state. The story was reported by Leslie Stahl and aired on CBS on Sunday, November 27.

FDA STAFF MEMBER RESIGNS IN PROTEST OF THE FDA'S POLITICAL DECISION

"I have spent the last 15 years working to ensure that science informs good health policy decisions. I can no longer serve as staff when scientific and clinical evidence, fully evaluated and recommended for approval by the professional staff here, has been overruled."

--Dr. Susan Wood, Assistant Commissioner for Women's Health & Director of the Office of Women's Health at the FDA, in her resignation letter, August 31, 2005

EC in Pennsylvania Pharmacies

Emergency rooms are often the first line of help for a victim of sexual assault. There, a rape victim can be treated for her injuries, sexually transmitted infections, and the emotional and mental trauma she has suffered. However, as Duvall's research has shown, hospitals have been slower to recognize the importance of offering EC to victims. In fact, rather than provide EC on-site, many Pennsylvania hospitals provide prescriptions. So, we

wanted to find out how easy it might be for a victim to fill a prescription after leaving the emergency department. We wanted to learn if EC was available that day, how long it would take to get it in, if a substitute was available, and if a referral to another pharmacy could be made. A "mystery shopper" called the five closest drug stores to 32 hospitals that sometimes or always gave prescriptions. They were located in 25 Pennsylvania counties.

In seven counties (Carbon, Clearfield, Greene, Lackawana, McKean, Potter and Westmoreland) none of the pharmacies could fill a prescription. In eleven counties, a third or fewer could fill a prescription, and in seven counties, a third to a half could fill a prescription. This study demonstrates that many pharmacies simply do not have emergency contraception on hand, and availability varies greatly by county. Thus, providing a prescription for EC to a victim of sexual assault puts an additional burden on an already traumatized victim. Moreover there is no guarantee that pharmacies will have emergency contraception or be able to get it in time for the drug to be effective.

Our work demonstrates why it is so important for EC to be granted over-the-counter status by the FDA. Whether she visits an emergency room, a doctor, or tells no one, the victim of sexual assault should have easy access to EC without having to explain her circumstances to anyone. In the national efforts to prod the FDA, the Duvall Project will continue to raise the issue of sexual assault survivors and their very real needs.

-Ann Murray

THE DUVALL PROJECT MOVED!

The Philadelphia office of the ACLU-PA and the Duvall Project moved into a beautiful new space in July. For the first time, Duvall staff and interns are sharing office space with ACLU staff--previously, the two offices had been four floors apart. Duvall is enjoying the conversations and collaborations made possible by the new space!

Visit Clara Bell Duvall on the Web: www.aclupa.org/duvall

Each year I marvel at the talent and dedication of the young women who intern at Duvall and donate their time to make our work possible. They are thirsting to make a meaningful contribution. They come to Duvall to work in a collaborative, supportive environment and leave with the tools and vision to make a difference in their lives and our world. *Carol Petraitis, Project Director*

Louisa Alexander is finishing her fourth year at Duvall. She spent the summer working on a new initiative to oppose abstinence-only education in Pennsylvania schools. During the fall, Louisa designed RaisingHerVoice.org and collaborated with Duvall interns on developing the website content. Louisa will receive her MSW from the University of Pennsylvania in May 2006. She will miss Duvall!

Marissa Band, a second-year law student at Rutgers School of Law-Camden, served as a legal intern during the summer. Marissa drafted a 46-page memorandum exploring legal issues surrounding the treatment of minors who are victims of sexual assault. Experienced in anti-sexual violence work, she also helped develop RaisingHerVoice.org.

Ruth Halvey is a senior at Swarthmore College. While interning at Duvall, Ruth compiled information about how rape victims can apply for compensation from the state of Pennsylvania to pay for abortion the pregnancy and shared her findings at a meeting for Pennsylvania abortion providers.

Samantha Lasry is a junior at the University of Pennsylvania majoring in World History and minoring in Women's Studies and African Studies. This year Sam surveyed dozens of hospitals and pharmacies on their policies regarding EC. She is currently studying abroad in Rome, where she is learning about Italy's policies regarding reproductive rights.

Jemma Lloyd-Helliker volunteered with Duvall in the fall of 2005. She moved from England in the summer after working for the United Nations in Vienna on issues including human trafficking and HIV/AIDS. During her time at Duvall, she coordinated a nationwide letter writing campaign to state governors asking them to improve their state's protocols for the treatment of rape victims in hospital emergency rooms.

Denise Marica, a junior at Haverford College majoring in History and Art History, helped to update information on Pennsylvania's hospitals' emergency departments' procedures concerning victims of rape, specifically concerning the distribution of EC. With the results of the hospital survey, Denise created a map of Pennsylvania counties showing which hospitals did or did not dispense EC.

Ann Murray interned with Duvall from 2004-2005 while completing her Master's in Social Work at the University of Pennsylvania. Ann spent much of her time at Duvall working on the Emergency Contraception Project, conducting program development, research, coalition building, and grant writing. She is currently applying to the PhD in Social Welfare program at Penn.

Julie Petrella is a field placement intern completing her Master's in Social Work at the University of Pennsylvania. Julie joined Duvall in August this year and has worked on nearly every project, including writing content for RaisingHerVoice.org, writing grant proposals and reports, and beginning a strategic planning process for the organization. She will receive her MSW in May 2006.

Melanie Rabkin worked on the Minors' Rights Project as an MSW intern from the University of Pennsylvania. Melanie maintained and updated the Minors' Rights training program, designed an information database for the project, and participated in grant writing. She graduated from Penn in May 2005.

CLARA BELL DUVALL PROJECT STAFF

Carol Petraitis, Director
Nancy Hopkins, Executive Director, ACLU-PA
Louisa Alexander, EC Coordinator
Julie Petrella, Ann Murray, & Melanie Rabkin, MSW Field Placement Students
Jemma Lloyd-Helliker, Intern

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Susan Alexander, Karl Baker, James Crawford, Gary Gildin, Peter Goldberger, Ronda Goldfein, Roslyn Litman (ex-officio), Michael Louik, Russell Mack, Nathan T. Melamed, Clark Moeller, Jan O'Rourke, Scott Safier,

DONORS AND FUNDERS

The Clara Bell Duvall Project gratefully acknowledges the generosity of individuals, foundations, and program partners, which makes our work possible and enjoyable. In 2004-2005, these include:

ACLU National Reproductive Freedom Project, Allentown Women's Center, Claneil Foundation, Robert Sterling Clark Foundation, Compton Foundation, Duramed Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Maurice Falk Medical Fund, Samuel S. Fels Fund, Glickstein Foundation, William Talbot Hillman Foundation, Humedco Corporation, IPAS, Inc., John Merck Fund, Ms. Foundation, NARAL Pro-Choice New York Foundation, Overbrook Foundation, The Philadelphia Foundation, Valentine Foundation, and Womens Way.

