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### **YUKON WOMAN NAMED STATE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM MANAGER**

Karen Hill, a resident of Yukon, has been named program manager for the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services' domestic violence/sexual assault services division.

Hill joined the state agency after serving as a domestic violence specialist with the Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (OCADVSA). There, she worked to increase awareness of domestic violence issues and available services, and coordinated with various agencies to improve community response to domestic violence.

Prior to OCADVSA, she was a court advocate for domestic violence victims for four years. As a court advocate, she assisted with crisis intervention and legal issues, and implemented training in the areas of domestic violence and sexual assault for law enforcement and the Oklahoma Department of Human Services.

Hill has extensive knowledge of victims' protective order procedures and legislation, and has participated in numerous conferences and trainings to increase knowledge regarding violence-against-women issues.

She is a member of the Child Abuse Training and Coordination Council, Drug Endangered Children's Steering Committee, Latino Community Linkage Council, Oklahoma

(more)

DV program manager/2

City Regional Advisory Board, Oklahoma Native American Domestic Violence Coalition, High Risk Families Board and District Attorney's Council.

"The Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services is pleased to have someone of Karen's caliber advocating for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault," said Julie Young, ODMHSAS deputy commissioner for domestic violence/sexual assault services. "As program manager, one of her duties will be to monitor the quality of state-contracted facilities to make sure they are providing the best possible services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, and, in many cases, their dependent children.

"Domestic violence is a huge problem in Oklahoma," Young added. "Intimate partner violence occurs in one out of every six couples. A survey conducted in 1999 by our agency found that nearly 136,000 Oklahoma women had been abused in some manner in the 12 months prior to the survey. Nearly 30,000 of these women were victims of physical violence. These numbers don't include the fact that nearly 40 percent of females are victims of attempted or completed rape during their lifetimes."

The ODMHSAS domestic violence/sexual assault services program contracts with more than 35 emergency shelters statewide, all of which offer a range of services. Services

typically include immediate emergency shelter and crisis counseling, legal advocacy services, and referrals to employment services or job-training programs, housing, medical care, child care, and outpatient mental health or substance abuse counseling.

For more information about state domestic violence shelters, call the agency's 24-hour "Safeline" hotline at 1-800-522-7233.

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