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**WCASA, Community Partners React With Horror, Sadness to Events in Fond du Lac**

Madison, WI March 31, 2011 – “This victim, like many survivors of sexual violence and domestic violence, showed tremendous bravery in coming forward,” stated Jeanie Kurka Reimer, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault (WCASA), reflecting on the aftermath of events in Fond du Lac. “Reporting sexual assault is a courageous act; we need more survivors to report; sexual assault too often remains a hidden crime, and many victims struggle to be believed, to access services, and to find a sense of justice.”

WCASA is the statewide coalition incorporated in 1985 to support and complement the work of Wisconsin’s community-based sexual assault service providers (SASP’s) and other organizations working to end sexual violence and providing services to victims.

“This case brings home the price of violence that we pay as a culture in a profound, tangible, and painful way; in addition to the emotional and physical impact upon the victim, the perpetrator’s actions resulted in the loss of life and life-threatening injuries to two men carrying out their duty. Our hearts go out to the family of Officer Birkholz, and our thoughts are with Officer Williams and his family.”

When asked how she would want people to respond to this tragedy, Ms. Kurka Reimer stated “It’s a reminder for us all to get more involved in ending sexual assault, dating and domestic violence, and indeed all forms of violence.” Ms. Kurka Reimer added that April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and that many communities across the state will be hosting awareness-raising activities; she encouraged people in the Fond du Lac community to contact ASTOP [http://www.astop.org/] at (920) 926-5395, or their Crisis Line: (800) 418-0270. For other service providers and more information, visit [http://www.wcasa.org](http://www.wcasa.org).

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