



Kansas Bureau of Investigation

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KBI, KCSDV and the YWCA sponsored a private film screening and discussion on sexual assault

TOPEKA – Today, the Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI), the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence (KCSDV), and the YWCA of Northeast Kansas Center for Safety and Empowerment, in partnership with the Joyful Heart Foundation, sponsored an exclusive film screening and discussion about sexual assault.

The film titled “I Am Evidence” was shown Monday afternoon, Oct. 23 at the KBI Forensic Science Center on Washburn University’s campus. The film was viewed by approximately 100 advocates and other professionals committed to improving the response to sexual assault in Kansas. Following the screening, Kym Worthy, the Wayne County, Michigan Prosecutor facilitated a discussion about the value of testing sexual assault kit evidence, and establishing a victim-centered approach to sexual assault response. Prosecutor Worthy has been a vocal leader in the movement to reform sexual assault investigations after the 2009 discovery of over 11,000 sexual assault kits in a Detroit police property storage facility.

Private film screenings of “I am Evidence” are being held in limited communities across the nation in advance of HBO’s release of the film which is planned for sometime in 2018. The film was produced by Law & Order SVU actress and founder of the Joyful Heart Foundation, Mariska Hargitay. It highlights the national issue of unsubmitted and untested sexual assault kits while detailing the stories of four rape survivors in the years after their assaults occurred. The film is intended to engage survivors, activists, leaders, community members, and local, state, and federal officials in an effort to address the problem of sexual violence.

This screening event was a collaborative project by partners of the Kansas Sexual Assault Kit Initiative, who are working to bring awareness to sexual assault and emphasize the importance of testing sexual assault evidence. Members of the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative are working to bring another viewing of the film to Kansas in early 2018. This subsequent screening is expected to be open to the general public.

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Find more information about today's event here: <http://www.kcsdv.org/i-am-evidence>, and for further details about the film visit: <http://www.joyfulheartfoundation.org/programs/advocacy/i-am-evidence>.

Photos from the event are included below:



Wayne County, Michigan Prosecutor Kym Worthy with representatives from the KBI and KCSDV - *Left to Right: Kathy Ray, Teresa Gallegos, Executive Director Joyce Grover, (from KCSDV) Prosecutor Kym Worthy, KBI Director Kirk Thompson, Katie Whisman, Megan Roberts (from KBI).*



Prosecutor Worthy facilitates a discussion on the value of testing sexual assault kit evidence

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