

## **Pottawattamie County Attorney's Office**

Shelly Sudmann, Assistant Pottawattamie County Attorney, shared her experience as a Criminal Division attorney primarily prosecuting drug-related and sex-related



crimes. Shelly received her law degree from the University of Nebraska College of Law and has worked in the office of the Pottawattamie County Attorney for 13 years.

Shelly discussed facts about sex abuse, how parents and the community can reduce the risks to children, and the sex offender registry. She noted that child sexual abuse is likely the most prevalent health problem children face, with the most serious array of consequences. About one in ten children will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday. She explained that, for many reasons, coming forward can be extremely difficult for the victim. Shelly also discussed the need to especially educate youth about the wrongful use of cell phones. Sex-related pictures, if under the

age of 18, are considered child pornography. Once posted on the internet, they can never be removed. The County Attorney's office is available to provide education to schools and communities to help minimize the risks to children and youth on subjects such as bullying, sexual abuse, sexting, internet crime and others.