



# UPDATE

SOUTH DAKOTA NETWORK AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

## The Network Undergoes Federal Audit

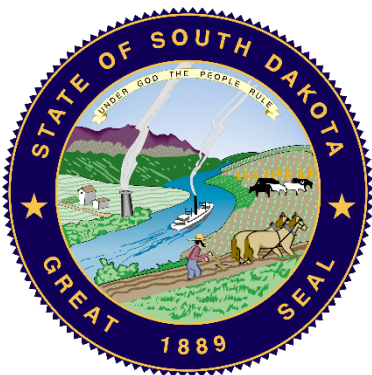
Since 2013, the Network has managed 3 million dollars of federal grant funds through the Office of Violence Against Women to serve the state of South Dakota (learn more about projects on pgs 3 -5). DOJ recently audited The Network and determined that we are achieving adequate progress towards our goals and objectives of each grant. Overall, the audit showed our dedication to setting high standards for grant management.

Overall, we are pleased with the report and will be sending it to all member agencies so you can review it in more detail.

Let us know if you have any questions.



The Network managed five federal grants providing millions in funds to help victims of violence and their families.



## Legislative Update

Find out what happened in the most recent legislative session.

SEE PAGE 5

## A Note from the Executive Director

**Krista Heeren-Graber**

Thank you for your commitment to South Dakota! Thank you for making South Dakota a safer place for everyone! Please let me know how the SD Network can aid you, your agency, and your community. We exist because of you.

Collaboration is a great word, and really explains the work of the SD Network as our mission states "Working together to promote victims' rights for a safer SD". We are honored every day to work with wonderful people across the state of South Dakota coming together to help victims of violence and their families. It is disappointing that our winter weather has created complications for many of our activities in the last few months.

As you will read in this newsletter, we have rescheduled the strategic planning meetings and have scheduled many workshops, conferences, and meetings within the upcoming months. As we continue to wait for additional federal funding to be awarded, we struggle with keeping up with all the requests for partnerships, technical assistance, etc.

Many of you have mentioned the need for training addressing the following: advocacy, domestic violence, sexual violence, best practices, etc. The Network staff plan to offer training sessions across South Dakota this summer as requested by our membership. If you would like to have an

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**“We exist because of you.”  
– Krista Heeren-Graber**

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**Note from the Executive Director**

advocacy training addressing domestic violence, sexual assault, best practices, protection orders, or related topics in your community, please let me know ASAP.

As the Network has been short staffed, we just recently hired a full-time financial assistant. We have a great team of dedicated people willing to travel and work long hours to meet your needs.

The Network has been honored to welcome 12 new agencies since 2018, and we greatly appreciate the opportunity to connect with new partners in our state. It is imperative that we work together to share resources and meet the unique needs of each community whether in rural SD, urban Sioux Falls or Rapid City, or one of our nine sovereign nations.

I have been asked to provide training on domestic violence and protection orders to all SD Judges at their statewide conference in May 2019. Expert witness testimony across SD is taking much of my time. All this work is exhausting, time consuming, and frankly, very disappointing some days. My passion and motivation come from working with all of you. Your dedication to helping others is overwhelming. I receive emails and phone calls from many of you during the day, evenings, and weekends, and as the discussions surrounding victimization are not easy, when I hang up the phone or read the email, I often think about how lucky I am to work with such amazing people.

-Krista

# Project Updates

## Bridging South Dakota

Bridging SD is a project partnership addressing the intersection of sexual violence and disability between the Network, CSD, and the SD Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities. The project is currently working with a work group consisting of services providers, survivors, and individuals with disabilities implementing a strategic plan to improve services for survivors with disabilities and Deaf survivors. The project will be hosting conferences, developing curriculum, enhancing current resources, and other activities to improve the overall response for victims/survivors with disabilities and Deaf survivors. The Bridging SD project will be highlighted in the Bush Foundation spring magazine.

## Emergency Services Funding

All of the emergency services funding has been obligated. If your agency does not receive VOCA funding through the state, there may be funds available through The Network’s VOCA funding to assist with emergency needs such as bus tickets, gas cards, clothing, ID cards, and first month’s rent or deposit. This funding should be used as a last resort. Please contact Kathy at [kathy@sdnafvsa.com](mailto:kathy@sdnafvsa.com) or 605-731-0041 for more information or for approval for funding.

## Family Violence Prevention Services Grant

FVPSA funds have provided the ability to onboard and supervise bachelor and masters level interns. Ashley Dwyer is currently supervising two Master Level Social Work students. In the Tribal program, the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe’s Domestic Violence Program has been able to provide emergency services to victims through these funds. Services provided include rent deposits, help with utilities, emergency hotel stays, groceries, and other necessities. Along with providing emergency services these funds also provide for the FSST DV Program to host a training to address DV and the effects of Trauma in the community, this training is tentatively scheduled for August of 2019.

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Between March '18 and May '19

# \$67,145

In emergency funds were distributed.

Assistance includes bus tickets, gas cards, rent, security deposits, utility deposits, nursing license, hotel stays, and care repairs.

# 172

Clients were served

# 253

Children were benefited



Together, we are  
**The Network.**

# Project Updates *continued*

CALENDAR OF

## Events

Review the below for upcoming activities, trainings, and meetings.

### Improving Criminal Justice Response

ICJR currently funds four officers in the Sioux Falls Police Department, Minnehaha County Sheriff's Department and the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department who specialize in domestic violence cases and provide training to other officers to improve the response in domestic violence cases. There were 890 reports of domestic violence during the last reporting period for these three jurisdictions. The cases are referred to a victim advocate funded through the grant who can provide services, including; safety planning, court accompaniment, referrals, shelter and other victim services. 66 victims accepted services in the last reporting period. The grant includes technical assistance and training provided by the Resource Prosecutor throughout the state. This has grown to include a west river mentoring group for prosecutors who work in rural areas and have limited support. The prosecutors who attend this group have stated that cases are being prosecuted now that would not have been without the training and support this group has provided. 44 trainings were provided by the resource prosecutor and officers on topics surrounding domestic violence, stalking and sexual assault. The sexual assault taskforce has continued to meet and work to provide resources to sexual assault response teams throughout the state.

### Justice for Families

Justice for Families is a big grant with three big components. One part is collaborative work between The Network, Office of Violence Against Women (OVW), and our visitation centers in South Dakota to evaluate services provided to look for areas for improvement in keeping victims safe. On March 5 and 6, 2019 our visitation centers and other non-member agencies in our state had the opportunity to attend training offered by the OVW technical assistant. This training provided information on best practices in the safe exchange and visitation programs and ways to enhance policies and procedures in place to keep families and victims safe. This grant will also provide scholarships to non-offending parents. Another part is collaboration between The Network and members of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit Court. This part of the project will focus on establishing a lethality assessment to be utilized by the judges prior to sentencing to assist in determining ways to keep victims safe and make best recommendation aimed at rehabilitating offenders. There will be a coordinator hired under this project to do collaborative work with the courts to make sure the offenders do follow through with recommended programs and sentencing. The third component is civil legal assistance for child sexual abuse cases.

### Legal Assistance for Victims Project

From October 2016 until December 2018, 260 survivors have received civil legal assistance from the three attorneys. Civil legal assistance included divorces, protection orders, custody, immigration issues, etc. We are excited to announce that civil legal services is expanding to include assistance to child victims - ages 10 years and under. This has been an unfilled need for a long time, and it will be great to assist these young folks during very difficult times. We are anticipating a significant response once we begin taking these cases. As such, The Network will be hiring a third-time paralegal to assist in preparing and handling these cases. The paralegal will join Jennifer Hynek, who handles the civil legal cases for the eastern half of the state.

Please remember to refer survivors of sexual assault who may need civil legal assistance to the attorneys. That is a priority area for this grant. The three lawyers are Jennifer Hynek (East River), Kari Nordstrom (West River), and Taneeza Islam (immigration cases). Jennifer is now an employee of The Network due to potential conflicts of interest with the offender program at The Compass Center. Her phone number is 605-254-5620, and her email address is [jennifer@sdnafvsa.com](mailto:jennifer@sdnafvsa.com). As of March 4<sup>th</sup>, half of her time will be working on cases under this project, and the other half of her time will be working on cases through the Justice for Families project.

### Rape Prevention Education Grant

The Rape Prevention Education Grant provides sexual assault prevention programming and technical assistance across the state within middle schools, high schools and post-secondary institutions. The primary prevention programs are evidenced-based curriculums that include: "Safe Dates," "Shifting Boundaries," & "Green Dot." Starting February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, The CDC, Department of Health and The Network proceeded with the new 5 year grant cycle. We have conducted many outreach activities such as: Children's Day at Capitol; Freedom's Journey, 2019 Freedom Expo; South Dakota Counseling Association Conference and conducting site visits with our member agencies. The RPE grant is hosting a "Shifting Boundaries" training with creator Dr. Nan Stein in Sioux Falls on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019. This will provide a community level prevention programming curriculum to the Yankton, Brookings, Flandreau Indian School, Moody County and Hill City Boys & Girls Club; rural advocates and other individuals within our membership who work with youth. The RPE grant funds two Sexual Violence Prevention Planning Committee meetings twice a year in Pierre for prevention specialists across the state come together to discuss prevention programming in South Dakota. Our next meeting is planned for May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

## March

28<sup>th</sup> – Disability Project Workgroup meeting in Pierre, SD

29<sup>th</sup> – Disability Project Executive Committee meeting in Pierre, SD

## April

8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> – Watertown Conference. Register at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/April2019Trainings>

11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> – New recruit law enforcement training in Pierre

15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> – Rapid City Crisis Response training for Rapid professionals only

17<sup>th</sup> – Reciprocity law enforcement training

24<sup>th</sup> – Shifting Boundaries training (limited number of participants) in Sioux Falls

## May

6<sup>th</sup> – Membership meeting Chamberlain AmericInn 1-5 PM

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> – Trafficking Conference Chamberlain AmericInn (see website for details)

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# Project Updates *continued*

## Rural Grant

The rural grant project has continued to serve victims and provide outreach and education throughout rural counties in South Dakota. Currently, there are ten rural advocates based out of Watertown, Brookings, Sioux Falls, Madison, Redfield, Pierre, Yankton, Aberdeen, Spearfish and Winner with vacancies in Flandreau and Mitchell. In the last reporting period, the advocates served 466 victims and provided 114 education events to 4,241 participants. Training through webinars and conference calls were held monthly on topics including stalking, SART teams, working with immigrant populations, victim's rights, LGBTQ inclusive services and sexual assault services. The advocates have continued to set up and provide sexual assault training to their local law enforcement agencies and work with SARTs and Multi-disciplinary groups in their areas.

## Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners Rural Grant

The Network is collaborating with The Center for Prevention of Child Maltreatment on this project. This grant will fund nurses to receive didactic, clinical education and SANE certification.

## STOP Law Enforcement Training Grant

The STOP grant will provide 27 trainings during this grant cycle to law enforcement and others who respond to domestic violence throughout the state. Training sites included: Winner, Watertown, Madison, Mitchell, Olivet, Pine Ridge, Milbank, Miller, and trainings for the new recruits and reciprocity students attending the academy. Trainings are provided by a team that includes a prosecutor, law enforcement officer and victim advocate who all specialize in the area of domestic violence and sexual assault. The STOP grant is helping to fund national speaker, Marcus Bruning, to present in Watertown for 2 days in April 2019 as part of an event with another speaker.

## Transitional Housing for Victims Project

At this time, all of the rental assistance has been obligated. From October 2016 until March 2019, 42 survivors have received transitional housing rental assistance. The Network did write and submit for a continuation of this project. If awarded, that project would start October 1<sup>st</sup>. The current project ends September 30<sup>th</sup>. The new project includes a focus on human trafficking survivors.

## Verizon Foundation Healthy Relationship Fund

Verizon funds provided sexual assault awareness programming called The "Hook Up" to five of our higher education institutes across the state. Southeast Tech, Augustana University, Dakota Wesleyan University, South Dakota State University and The University of South Dakota hosted this event on their campus during the week of February 11-15<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

## UNH/CDC – Youth Voices in Prevention

In January 2019, a winter retreat was held at the Storm Mountain Center. During this retreat around 25 youth from Rapid City engaged in learning the dynamics of sexual assault and the skills to be positive bystanders. Throughout the next few months the youth will participate in multiple programming event where they will continue to build upon their positive bystander skills and have fun. Most of the youth who engage in the Youth VIP programming are youth who have been identified as leaders by their peers. The UNH Research team have been conducting surveys in middle and high schools in Rapid City.

The Network did write and submit for a continuation of this project. If awarded, that project would start October 1<sup>st</sup>. The current project ends September 30<sup>th</sup>. The new project will include a focus on human trafficking survivors.

The Network and The Beacon Center Present

A Free Training on April 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>

## Working with Domestic Violence Victims

Hear from Marcus Bruning on Domestic Crisis Intervention and Darryl Tonemah on Trauma-Informed responses.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/April2019Trainings>

The Network, Pathfinder Center, Call to Freedom, & Freedom's Journey will present

A Free Training on May 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>

## Working with Victims of Trafficking

Learn about trauma-informed responses and how to identify victims. Hear from a survivor.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/May2019Trainings>

CALENDAR OF

# Events

Review the below for upcoming activities, trainings, and meetings.

## June

### Law Enforcement Training

TBD – Armour  
12<sup>th</sup> – Huron

13<sup>th</sup> – Meeting with Rep. Reed & Sexual Assault Task Force in Chamberlain (follow-up to 10/30 meeting)

19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> – Aberdeen Conference (watch your email for more information)

## August

12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> – Annual Meeting and strategic planning

## Ongoing

Domestic violence & sexual assault victim advocacy trainings offered in June, July & August for membership agencies/communities

# New & Continuation Projects

We have been very busy managing our current grants (see pages 2-4). Several of these are ending in September. We spent much of the winter rewriting those grants to provide three more years of services. These “continuation” applications include:

- Improving Criminal Justice Response (formally Grant to Encourage Arrests)
- Legal Assistance for Victims
- The Rural Grant
- Transitional Housing for Victims

We also signed on to assist with several other projects across the state seeking to end violence. These new grant partnerships include work with:

- AVERA on addressing sexual assault in rural areas
- Youth and Family Services, Working Against Violence Inc., Rapid City Schools and others addressing youth and child services
- University of South Dakota Campus community response team grant

Finally, we are partnering with researchers at the University of South Dakota, Case Western, and University of Nebraska – Lincoln on several research projects to learn more about our state and how we can better work with our clients.

# 2019

# Legislative Update



## Senate Bills

**SB 8 – Provide for a statewide resource information system** – Conference Committee report adopted with amendment for 50% match by counties. Money is in DSS budget. Governor signed.

**SB 143 – Revise visitation rights of a person causing conception by rape or incest** – we already have two statutes that deal with this situation, but it passed committee 7-0, passed Senate 34-0. Bill passed House committee 13-0 and passed House 69-0. Governor signed.

**SB 164 – Provide uniform procedures for the reporting and investigation of missing and murdered indigenous women** – Governor signed.

## House Bills

**HB 1061 – HIV testing bill for victims** – Governor signed.

**HB 1063 – Revises provisions regarding engaging in sexual activity for a fee** – Governor signed

**HB 1155 – Provide for privileged communications between social workers and students** – On Governor’s desk.

**HB 1180 – Revise certain provisions regarding the collection and storage of sexual assault evidence** – support – Governor Signed.

**HB 1198 – define activities that constitute human trafficking** – Governor Signed.

# Contact Us

To Set up trainings, or request assistance, see below:

- For law enforcement training contact Raina at [raina@sdnafvsa.com](mailto:raina@sdnafvsa.com) (now scheduling summer sessions)
- For Sexual Assault Response Teams or the prosecutor resource project contact Mike at [mmoore@bcsa.us](mailto:mmoore@bcsa.us)
- For emergency assistance contact Kathy Rutten at [kathy@sdnafvsa.com](mailto:kathy@sdnafvsa.com)
- To request presentations addressing the intersection of disability and sexual violence contact Gertrude at [gertrude@sdnafvsa.com](mailto:gertrude@sdnafvsa.com)
- For advocacy/community training in coordination with your agency or coordinated community response team this summer, contact Krista at [krista@sdnafvsa.com](mailto:krista@sdnafvsa.com)

For all other inquiries about training opportunities, membership, partnerships, and questions, contact the Network office by calling (605) 731-0041.

Other Staff Contacts:

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