



UPDATE

SOUTH DAKOTA NETWORK AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

A Note from the Executive Director

Krista Heeren-Graber

It's amazing to think that I've been lucky enough to be the Network Director for twenty years! In 1999, I started without an office working out of my car, just trying to figure out how to write a grant using the old style Apple computer. Membership has grown from 14 agencies back then to over sixty agencies now! I continue to be very grateful for the opportunity to work with wonderful people every day.

It is disappointing that after 20 years of work, we still have so much violence in our communities and our state. Some days, it doesn't feel like we have made any progress. I just keep reminding myself that "*We are stronger together!*" This is what I love about the Network – our partnerships, networking, and the passion over everyone involved. Our shared passion to help others, specifically victims and survivors of violence, is the reason that I go to work every day.

Continued Page 2



Service & Assistance Animals in Shelters

When a client wants to bring an animal with them into shelter, you will need to determine if that animal is a service animal. To do this, you ask two questions:

1. Is it a service animal?
2. What service does the animal perform (for you)?

If you determine the animal is a service animal, let them in with their animal **without** further documentation or questions. If they tell you it is not a service animal or you determine it is not one, you still need to consider your obligations under the Fair Housing Act (FHA) regarding emotional support of therapy animals.

Your agency may also have a policy that requires documentation for assistance animals. If it does, the policy needs to explain how equal access for a person with an emotional support animal is assured. The policy should also include information on how staff will be trained to ask for documentation (such as what questions will be asked and what documentation required) and how staff will assist survivors in obtaining that documentation. For more guidance, contact [Krista](#) or [Olivia](#).

The Network now offers liaison services for sexual assault victims/survivors with disabilities.

Story on Page 6



**“We are stronger together.”
– Krista Heeren-Graber**

Continued from page 1
Note from the Executive Director

There were many highlights this last year and as it may be difficult to list all of them, but I want to highlight a few. The Network completed a federal audit of millions of dollars with very few items to change. We increased our membership significantly – adding approximately 10 new agencies! We also grew our staff who revitalized with refreshed energy. I traveled hundreds of miles across SD experiencing our great state while meeting with advocates, law enforcement, prosecutors, and many others. There is much more to come! The Network has many new projects with new partners.

After twenty years, it is more apparent to me than ever that oppression, power, and control fuels the violence in our communities, and it is critical that we identify it and address it. **Every person matters and every person has value.** Thank you for your commitment to help others and your partnership! This is hard work – making it essential that we work together and support each other.



Tori Vogt from the Network and Katie Peterson with CSD work on the Bridging South Dakota Project.

Project Updates

Bridging South Dakota

The Network has partnered with SD Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities and Communication Services for the Deaf to create Bridging South Dakota (BSD). This partnership sought to improve services for victims/survivors with disabilities or who are deaf by enhancing the capacity of our statewide organizations to provide trauma-informed, safe and accessible interventions through trainings and liaison services. BSD partnered with Safe Harbor in Aberdeen to provide a statewide conference in June 2019. This conference brought together professionals working at the intersection of sexual assault and disabilities. Nationally known for her work, Erin Esposito, was the key-note speaker.

BSD was pleased to continue the enhancement of services for victims/survivors through liaisons. These liaisons were formed from the project's partnerships and reside in Rapid City, Pierre, and Aberdeen. Since the start of the liaison services, several survivors with disabilities or who are deaf have been able to receive accessible services. BSD continues to work through marketing strategies in order to promote public awareness on these services. The Disability Project page is a new addition to the Network's website. A collaborative effort with the Helpline Center, the page continues to develop with the 211 link, other resources, and information on Bridging SD. The Conference Planning Committee of Bridging SD has started to integrate the planning and action stages of the 2020 Bridging SD conference which has a target audience of those working at the intersection of disability and sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. This conference is a means to combat this issue and provide victim/survivor services specific to this population that have previously been unrepresented. For more questions about BSD, contact Olivia Boese or Krista Heeren-Graber.

Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation Grant (CTAS)

Through the CTAS grant the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe Domestic Violence Program has been able to provide Transitional Housing for victims. During the last year this program has assisted 9 victims of domestic violence with transitional housing. For questions about this program, contact Jordan Catlett.

Emergency Services Funding

From July 1 until June 30th, 157 clients received about \$62,500 in assistance with emergency needs. The average assistance was about \$400/client. The emergency needs included bus tickets or gas cards to relocate to safety, rent and/or deposit for a safe place to live, replacement of medication, help with back utility payments, car repairs, a nursing license, a work permit replacement card, replacement of clothing or toiletries, etc. This need is funded through private foundations which include Larson Family Foundation, C.J. Delbridge Family through the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation, and BNSF Railroad. For more questions about this program, please contact Kathy Rutten.

Continued Page 3

Between July '18 and end of June '19

\$62,526

In emergency funds were distributed.

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

157

Clients were served

208

Children were benefited



**Together, we are
The Network.**

Meet Your Network Staff

Staff members answer the question: "What was your proudest moment working for the Network this past year?"

My proudest moment has been when our membership or others call me with "how to" questions for something that they are doing, and I am able to walk them through it in a way they are able to understand. -Bonnie

My proudest moment was receiving a ribbon skirt at a Coming of Age ceremony in early summer. It was a great honor. -Krista

My proudest moment was when I was able to obtain a protection orders on behalf of two child victims and their mother from the abusive father/ex-husband. Mother had attempted several times over the course of a decade to either obtain a protection order and/or keep one with no success. I was also able to secure supervised visits only for the two youngest children he had not physically abused. All without any of them having to testify at trial and cause further trauma. To see the relief and joy in their faces, knowing they would be safe from now on, is what drives me to keep going on the hard days -Jennifer

Defining one moment within the past year as my proudest is a difficult task! Within the last year I have built and fostered meaningful relationships across the state of South Dakota. I have assisted in writing successful grants that have and will continue to provide services to victims and survivors. Along, with helping train and educate our youth on sexual violence prevention. My proudest moment is knowing my contributions continue to advance the mission of eliminating violence in South Dakota. -Jordan

My proudest moment was being on a panel on a live broadcast on SD Public Broadcasting discussing domestic violence and human trafficking. Once the discussion started I felt confident in my knowledge and being able to articulate and bring awareness to the issue. - Kathy

It is difficult to come up with a single moment! Overall, I am proud to be a part of the work the Network does to promote victim's rights and expand services across the state of South Dakota through multidisciplinary collaborative efforts. -Olivia

My proudest moment this past year was coordinating 29 law enforcement trainings that all had students excited to learn and improve their response to domestic violence and sexual assault cases. -Raina

My proudest moment was my research which was used in the legislature to sway a bill in our favor. -Tori

In the short time I have been with the Network my proudest moment has been learning and helping anywhere that I can and feeling such a great accomplishment. Also for everyone making me feel like I really belong here, this is a great company in all that we do and accomplish. -Shiloh

My proudest moment has been telling others about who we are and what we do! To be able to help the Network reduce expenses and stay under the budget when traveling and meeting, also assist the rural advocates keeping track all their works and data on the progress report accurately as well as proficiency. -Vien

Project Updates

continued

Family Violence Prevention Services Grant

FVPSA funds have provided The Network the ability to onboard and supervise bachelor and masters level interns for The Network. Ashley provided internship supervision for two MSW students for the fall of 2018 and spring of 2019, one BSW student in the spring of 2019, and one human development/family services student for the summer of 2019. We will be onboarding two MSW students this coming fall for 2019/2020 school year. For questions about this grant, please contact Ashley Dwyer.

Family Violence Prevention Services Grant – Tribal

The Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe's (FSST) Domestic Violence Program has been able to provide emergence services to victims through these funds. Services provided include rent deposits, help with utilities, emergency hotel stays, groceries, and other necessities. This funding also includes a free training to be held on September 11th, 2019. Lenny Hayes, MA, will be training on the impacts of trauma on two-spirit/Native LGBTQ communities. The training is free and open to the public. For questions about this program, contact Jordan Catlett.

Improving Criminal Justice Response

ICJR currently funds four officers in the Sioux Falls Police Department, and the Sheriff's Departments in Minnehaha and Lincoln counties who specialize in domestic violence cases and provide training to other officers. It provides funding for a part-time victim advocate. It funds the Sexual Assault Task Force and its meeting, trainings, and technical assistance provided to Sexual Assault Response Teams statewide. As part of this, the grant funds a Resource Prosecutor to assist with training and technical assistance in domestic violence and sexual assault cases. ICJR is currently in the final year of the 2016 grant award. A new grant application was submitted in February to continue to provide services for 3 more years. For questions related to this program, contact Raina Boyum.

Continued Page 4



Kirk Albertson, Assistant U.S. Attorney, speaking to the Statewide Sexual Assault Meeting in June. Check out page 6 for information on the next meeting.



We work together to #EndIt at the human trafficking event this past May. Starring Tori Vogt, Olivia Boese, Krista Heeren-Graber, and Emily Haeder.

Kathy was on a special episode of South Dakota Focus covering sexual assault, domestic violence, and human trafficking. Some member agencies were also highlighted.

Watch the video here!

<https://watch.sdpb.org/video/sdf-2419-domestic-violence-6nsfmo/>

Project Updates *continued*

Justice for Families

Justice for Families contains three major components. The first is collaborative work between The Network, Office of Violence Against Women (OVW), and our visitation centers in South Dakota. We work to evaluate service providers looking for areas for improvement in keeping our victims safe. In March, our visitation centers and other non-member agencies in our state had the opportunity to attend training offered by the OVW technical assistants. This training provided information on best practices in 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 no-cost services to non-offending parents that meet the income guidelines in the safe exchange program.



The Network provides training for law enforcement across the state. Check out the upcoming trainings in the calendar of events.

The second is the collaboration between The Network and members of the 2nd 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 recommendations aimed at rehabilitating offenders. There will be a coordinator hired under this project to do collaborative work with the courts to ensure the offenders follow through with recommended programs and sentencing. Lastly, Jennifer Hynek was hired to provide free civil legal services to victims of sexual assault who are 11 years or younger. For questions related to this program, contact Tori Vogt.

Legal Assistance for Victims Project

From July 1st to June 30th, 185 clients received civil legal services through this project. The three attorneys are Jennifer Hynek, Kari Nordstrom and Taneeza Islam. Jennifer is an employee of The Network and covers the eastern part of the state. Kari is an employee of Working Against Violence, Inc. in Rapid City and covers the western part of the state. Taneeza is an independent contractor and assists with cases that involve immigration issues. The project ends September 30, 2019, and a new grant has been submitted. The Network has received preliminary notice that it will be awarded. For questions about this project, please contact Kathy Rutten.

Rape Prevention Education Grant

The Rape Prevention Education (RPE) Grant provides sexual assault prevention programming and technical assistance across the state, with focus on middle schools, high schools and post-secondary institutions. The primary prevention programs are evidenced based curriculums that include: "Safe Dates"; Shifting Boundaries & "Green Dot". On February 1st, 2019, the CDC, Department of Health, and the Network began a new 5-year grant cycle. We have conducted many outreach activities such as: Children's Day at Capitol, Equality Day at the Capitol, Tribal Relations Day at the Capitol, Freedom's Journey: 2019 Freedom Expo, South Dakota Counseling Association Conference, Sioux Falls & Rapid City Pride events, and conducted many site visits across the state with our member agencies. The RPE grant hosted a "Shifting Boundaries" training with creator Dr. Nan Stein in Sioux Falls on April 24th, 2019. The RPE provides a community level prevention programming curriculum to the Yankton, Brookings, Flandreau Indian School, Moody County and Hill City Boys & Girls Club; Veterans Memorial Youth Center in Sisseton; rural advocates, and other individuals who work with youth. Ashley Dwyer will be conducting additional Shifting Boundaries trainings with agencies across the state, please contact her at ashley@sdnafvsa.com for further information.

On June 26th – 28th, the CDC conducted a site visit with DOH leadership to review and see the work being done with the South Dakota RPE funds. Ashley set up presentations and site visits with Augustana College, Boys and Girls Club of the Northern Plains (Brookings), and Veterans Memorial Youth Center (Sisseton). The next Green Dot College Training is tentatively scheduled for September 2019 in Pierre, SD and will have representation from Augustana College, University of Sioux Falls, Oglala Lakota College, and South Dakota School of Mines. The RPE grant allows staff to attend the RPE leadership training and NSAC conference. The 2019 conference will be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, during the week of August 19th-23rd. The RPE grant funds two Sexual Violence Prevention Planning Committee meetings twice a year in Pierre for prevention specialists across the state. Our next meeting is planned for November 6th, 2019.

CALENDAR OF Events

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

August

22nd – Belle Fourche law enforcement training
8 AM – 12 PM

27th – Gettysburg law enforcement training
9 AM – 4 PM

September

11th – Impact of Trauma on Two Spirit/Native LGBTQ Communities, Eastman Hall in Flandreau. 9 AM – 5 PM

19-20th – Academy training for new recruits in Pierre
8 AM – 5 PM

25th – Reciprocity training in Pierre. 1 PM – 5 PM

25th & 26th – DPS Victims' Services Symposium in Oacoma/Chamberlain (see page 6), 8 AM – 5 PM

30th – Sheriff's Association in Pierre, Time TBD

October

2nd – Reciprocity training in Pierre, 1 PM – 5 PM

16th – Elk Point law enforcement training
1 PM – 5 PM

UNH/CDC Youth Voices in Prevention

Since the January 2019 winter retreat the Youth Voices in Prevention Project has been very busy. In April 2019, YVIP community partners, Youth Family Services, Working Against Violence Inc., and Rapid City Area Schools collaborated on a Youth Leadership Boot Camp in Rapid City. The boot camp engaged youth in knowledge and skill building in areas of healthy relationships, social norms, positive messaging, and bystander intervention. Through the boot camp, multiple youth working groups were formed with a focus on sexual violence prevention. One of the working groups focused on sexual violence prevention and street art. Through this working group they collaborated with the Dahl Fine Arts Center in Rapid City to assist the youth in creating a mural in Rapid City's Art Alley. Another addition to the Youth Voices in Prevention Project is the hiring of 11 youth interns. The Youth interns are an integral part of leading the project and working groups. Since the beginning of May the youth have presented at the Statewide Sexual Violence Prevention Planning Committee meeting and have participated in engaging the Rapid City community through tabling at local events. For questions, please contact Jordan Catlett.

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. The events were hosted on their campus during the week of February 11-15th, 2019. Ashley Dwyer provided educational vendor booths, with additional state resources, at each of these events.

VOCA

This funding allowed The Network to offer or sponsor 3 trainings across the state that focused on trauma informed responses to victims of crime. The first training was held in Watertown on April 8th and 9th. Marcus Bruning presented on "Advanced Issues in Domestic Crisis Intervention: A Community-Wide Approach" and Darryl Tonemah presented on "Trauma Informed Responses and Tools to Use." The second training was held in Rapid City on April 15-17th. The training was the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) 24-hour Basic Crisis Response Team training. The third training was held in Chamberlain on May 7th and 8th. The topic was working with victims of human trafficking. Myra Strand presented on "Trauma Informed Response and Care" on the first day. On the second day, Gayle Thom presented on vicarious trauma, and Kelly Patterson, a survivor of human trafficking, presented "Trafficked in the Midwest" and "Removing the Mystery from Dissociation." For questions, contact Kathy Rutten.

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. This grant funds 12 rural advocates to provide victim services in areas of the state where there is fewer resources and opportunities for victims to receive help. In the past year, 867 victims were served, and 23,950 miles were traveled to assist victims who live in areas of the state that have few resources. 250 education events were provided to 7907 people to increase awareness of domestic violence and sexual assault throughout South Dakota. This grant is currently in the final year of the 2016 grant award. A new grant application was submitted in February. If awarded, the new grant would begin on October 1. For questions related to this program, contact Raina Boyum or Jordan Catlett.

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners Rural Grant

The Network is collaborating with The Center for Prevention of Child Maltreatment and The South Dakota Department of Health on this project. This grant will fund nurses to receive didactic, clinical education and SANE certification, for adult and pediatric. Currently, we have conducted the first quarterly training and collaborative learning meeting that was held on May 23rd. This training focused on pediatric sexual assault exam and was conducted by Dr. Free with Sanford's Child Voice. We are in process of coordinating the next quarterly training & collaborative learning meeting for September 17th. For more information about the SANE program and future trainings, please refer to The Center for Prevention of Child Maltreatment webpage: <https://sdcpcm.com/>. Questions can also be directed towards Ashley Dwyer.

State Victim Assistance Academy

An Advanced Victim Assistance Academy was held in Pierre on August 15-17. Topics covered included social and leadership styles, ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences), leadership responses to mass violence, trauma informed responses, and working with individuals in poverty, LGBTQ victims, Native American Victims (including multi-jurisdictional areas), and resiliency. Twenty-six professionals from across the state attended the academy. Direct questions to Kathy Rutten.

STOP Law Enforcement Training Grant

The STOP law enforcement training grant coordinates trainings throughout the state on domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking for law enforcement officers and others who respond to these crimes. In this past fiscal year, we provided 29 trainings to local communities and new recruits at the Academy. This included trainings in Madison, Mitchell, Olivet, Pine Ridge, Milbank, Miller, Armour, Huron and a training for park rangers. STOP funds were used in April to bring in Marcus Bruning, a national presenter on domestic violence, to present at a 2-day conference in Watertown. Due to the high number of training requests this past year a waiting list was started in the spring. Currently, trainings are scheduled for Belle Fourche, the Sheriff's Association, Gettysburg, Elk Point, the Academy and Reciprocity classes. For questions related to this program, contact Raina Boyum.

Transitional Housing for Victims Project

From July 1st to June 30th, 15 clients have received transitional rental assistance. Five case managers continue to provide follow up services to clients who have received transitional housing assistance and to identify clients who would qualify for assistance, however because all funds are obligated, not all are able to receive assistance. The case managers are based out of Children's Inn (Sioux Falls), Caminando Juntos (Sioux Falls), Call to Freedom (Sioux Falls), Missouri Shores Domestic Violence Center (Pierre), and Working Against Violence, Inc. (Rapid City). All rental assistance funds are obligated, however we will be submitting a request for a no cost extension for 6 months which would move the end date to February 28, 2020. That may allow us to open up some more rental assistance for a six month period. A new grant has been applied for, and we are hoping to hear for sure if we receive it in the next month or so. For questions, please contact Kathy Rutten.



Mural created in Rapid City's Art Alley by youth involved in the UNH/CDC grant.

Services for Clients with Disabilities

Liaison services are now available for sexual assault victims/ survivors with disability in South Dakota through and Office of Violence Against Women grant. Many different services are provided, including:

- Case management
- Civil legal advocacy (protection orders, accompanying to court hearings)
- Civil legal assistance (provided by attorney or paralegal)
- Criminal justice advocacy/ court accompanying
- Crisis intervention
- Employment assistance (job training, coaching, supported or sheltered employment)
- Forensic exam assistance (provided by nurse or forensic examiner)
- Hospital/clinic accompanying
- Language services (interpreters and translators)
- Long term Care (assist with connecting to services for daily needs)
- Peer Support connections
- Personal Planning (assist victim/ survivor with goal-setting and develop plans to accomplish)
- Respite (connect to short term care to victim/survivor to relieve primary caregiver[s])
- Transportation
- Victim/ Survivor advocacy (actions designed to assist victim/survivor in obtaining support, resources or services, including housing, employment shelter services, health care, victim's compensation, etc.)

For information about these services, please contact [Krista](#) or [Olivia](#).

Save the Date!

The Network is working with the Department of Public Safety Victims' Services to provide a two day Victims' Services Symposium on September 25th & 26th! This event will be at the Arrowwood Resort (formerly Cedar Shore) in Oacoma/Chamberlain.

- On September 25th, we will discuss Marsy's Law and Victim's Rights issues. We will also follow-up on issues from the Sexual Assault Task Force meeting from this past June.
- On September 26th, we will have training on MAVIS. We will also discuss the role of agency leadership, including board members and directors. It is strongly recommended for all sub-recipients of DPS victims' services grants to attend the second day. Everyone is encouraged to attend both days. Lodging and mileage reimbursement will be provided.

To register, got to

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

You are responsible for making your own hotel reservations. There is a block of rooms for the nights of 9/24 & 9/25 under "SD Network Against Family Violence & Sexual Assault." Call 1-888-697-6363 to reserve your room by August 25th.

Contact Us

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

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

- bonnie@sdnafvsa.com
- vien@sdnafvsa.com
- shiloh@sdnafvsa.com
- gertrude@sdnafvsa.com
- jordan@sdnafvsa.com
- tori@sdnafvsa.com
- ashley@sdnafvsa.com