



UPDATE

SOUTH DAKOTA NETWORK AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

A Note from the Executive Director

Krista Heeren-Graber

As we approach the holiday season, I ponder about the meaning of Christmas and the season. I think that there is a certain kind of magic this time of year. That magic is easy to miss when we are caught up in the busyness of work, home, and holiday events. And as we know, there are many struggles as well. Magic for me is when I am surprised, overwhelmed, or amazed. For example, watching the connection between people who truly care about each other even when faced with the most challenging of circumstances- that can be pretty amazing.

I receive phone calls every day about domestic violence or sexual assault situations and listen to the concerns and questions from you as you navigate helping families. There are times that I hang up the phone after hearing horrific stories of abuse, and I am overwhelmed by the passion from the caller to do whatever they can to ensure that the family will be safe.

I met with two women this week that are survivors and lifelong advocates. I was moved by their continued commitment to help others and work to create safer spaces for everyone even when they were struggling with their own trauma and healing.

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Need support providing services for your clients with disabilities? Find out how with the new liaison services.

Story on Page 4

New Resources for You!

Marsy's Law & Legislative Updates

The Network has Marsy's Law Explanation brochures available in both English and Spanish. These explanation brochures are NOT a replacement for the Marsy's Law card from the Attorney General's office. They are to be used in addition to the Marsy's Law card as a way to explain Marsy's Law victim rights in plain language.

If you would like copies sent to you, please contact Kathy at kathy@sdnafvsa.com or call The Network at 605-731-0041.

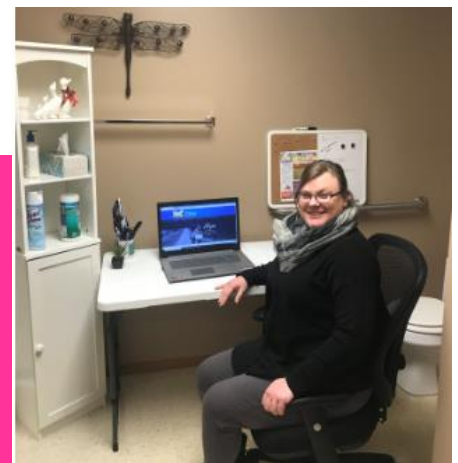
Starting January 14, 2020, watch for our weekly legislative updates and all other emails and posts about bills and other legislative activity.

For more information about the South Dakota Legislative Session 2020, go to <https://sdlegislature.gov/>. Please encourage others to join the Network to receive the significant legislative updates.



While having a toilet in your office may seem convenient, the truth is that we've outgrown our current space and need your help.

We are in search of an agency or business to lease our space, so we can move to a bigger office to accommodate our growth. Let us know if you have any leads!



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Note from the Executive Director

Last month, I shared an Uber ride to the airport with two advocates. Upon hearing about the professions represented in the car, the Uber driver shared about her history with a violent relationship years ago. One of the advocates actively listened and validated her words, even at 4am in the morning. I was really tired and didn't say a word but smiled as I thought about how some people are always kind and generous. There are really great people out there and I get to work with lots of them. To those reading this: You are one of the really great people that I have the honor to work with on a regular basis. I am truly thankful for your passion.

The Network's membership and partnerships continue to grow. We were very excited to receive nearly every grant award per grant application written last winter. With new projects starting, we are hiring new staff. With this significant agency growth within the last two years comes challenges with maintaining our current workload in a timely manner, including the reimbursement process and other related documentation. The Network takes all your feedback very seriously, so we are in the process of hiring additional staff to work through these challenges. But we also celebrate successes as we continue to have great reports on audits and site reviews.

As director, I find that much of my time is spent consulting on criminal and civil cases involving domestic violence or assault. I talk with many advocates and other professionals on a regular basis about how to help individual families and/or survivors. We are excited for the upcoming legislative session as we have been able to work with legislators through providing information and resources for potential improvements to our state laws to help victims and their families. We will keep you all updated during legislative session 2020 which is scheduled to begin on the second Tuesday in January. Once again, thank you for working with us and allowing us to be a part of what you do every day.

Project Updates

Bridging South Dakota

Bridging South Dakota, the disability project, continues to move forward with services at the intersection of sexual violence and disability. Disability Rights South Dakota (DRSD) has transitioned into the project and the Compass Center (TCC) is the most recent edition to the project as a representative of the victims' services side of the intersection. Both DRSD and TCC will be adding a liaison position as part of their role. The liaisons are statewide with current active positions in Rapid City and Aberdeen. New liaison positions will soon be available in Pierre and Sioux Falls with the addition of DRSD and TCC (see page 4).

Bridging South Dakota is planning a conference for the fall of 2020 which will bring in national and local speakers to present on the intersection of sexual violence and disability. This conference is directed towards training for service providers who may be responding. Survivors will share their experiences to promote awareness of this population that has been previously unrepresented in reporting and underserved.

The survey committee anticipates circulating a survey statewide with data collection to follow. BSD is excited to share that the 211 link has been launched since September and continues to be a tool for those in need of services. The executive committee continues to strategize on how to create public awareness of the services provided by this collaboration in addition to continued partnerships that are targeting systemic change within the state of South Dakota. For more questions about BSD, contact Olivia Boese or Krista Heeren-Graber.

Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation Grant (CTAS)

Through the CTAS grant the FSST 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 and continues to provide transitional housing assistance. In October the FSST Domestic Violence Program hosted a Walk in Her Shoes educational event for the Flandreau Community. Youth from the Flandreau Indian School attended the event and participated in the walk! For questions about this program, contact Jordan Catlett.

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Flandreau
Indian School
Youth at FSST
Domestic
Violence
Program Walk a
Mile in Her
Shoes event.

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. This grant will provide no-cost services to non-offending parents that meet the income guidelines in the safe exchange program.

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. Jesika Senne has been hired as a coordinator under this project to do collaborative work with the courts to ensure the offenders follow through with recommended programs and sentencing. Jesika is hired and supervised through Lutheran Social Services. Lastly, Jennifer Hynek was hired to provide free civil legal services to victims of sexual assault who are 11 years or younger as well as parents who are survivors of domestic violence.

Legal Assistance

This grant was continued through 2021. More information will be forthcoming. For more questions about this program, please contact Kathy Rutten.

Rape Prevention Education

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: "Shifting Boundaries" & "Green Dot". February 1st, 2019, The CDC, Department of Health and The Network proceeded with the new 5-year grant cycle. With this grant cycle we have continued with Shifting Boundaries and working with afterschool programs across the state. We also have continued our bystander prevention programming, Green Dot with many secondary education institutes across the state. Outreach activities include: upcoming days at the capitol, South Dakota Counseling Association Conference, Rapid City & Sioux Falls Pride events, tribal ceremonies, Youth V.I.P retreats, Lakota Nation Invitational and many other network and community events. 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 2020.

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Project Updates

continued

Emergency Services Funding

All of the funding is currently obligated. The Network staff and interns are continuing to look and apply for more funding for this important need. For more questions about this program, please contact Kathy Rutten.

Family Violence Prevention Services Grant

FVPSA funds have provided the ability to onboard and supervise bachelor and masters level interns. Wagner and Donna are our current Master Level Social Work students. For questions about this grant, please contact Ashley Dwyer.

Family Violence Prevention Services Grant – Tribal

The FVPSA Tribal funding was utilized in September to host a one-day training in Flandreau on the "Impacts of Trauma in the Two-Spirit/Native LGBTQ community" presented by Lenny Hayes. This funding was also used to host a one-day educational presentation on Dating Violence at the Flandreau Indian School. For questions about this program, contact Jordan Catlett.



Jordan Catlett, Vien Hall, and Kathy Rutten head to New Orleans for some OVW training to learn more about the Rural Grant requirements.

Improving Criminal Justice Response

This grant continues to provide dedicated officers who specialize in domestic violence in the Sioux Falls Police Department, Lincoln County Sheriff's Department, and the Minnehaha County Sheriff's Department. It also funds a victim advocate from Children's Inn to provide victim services. Funding through the grant provides training and technical assistance from prosecutor, Mike Moore, throughout the state to other professionals working in the field along with funding the sexual assault taskforce. The sexual assault taskforce has continued to work on improving resources for SART teams and was active in supporting the statewide sexual assault meeting that took place in September. A continuation grant was submitted in February to continue this project and the Network was recently awarded a three-year supplemental grant that will expand the work we are doing to include software that will assist the state with tracking training for law enforcement on domestic violence. Staff and an officer from Sioux Falls Police Department recently traveled to New Orleans for the grant orientation meeting and conference.



Ashley Dwyer & Jordan Catlett (not pictured) tabled at the Lakota National Invitational in Rapid City.

The Network Welcomes Rhonda Bennett

The Network is excited to welcome Rhonda Bennett to the team as Financial Manager! Rhonda recently married Paul Bennett and moved to Sioux Falls from the Yankton area. She graduated from Mount Marty College and has been in Corporate Accounting for 25 plus years. She is looking forward to serving with a non-profit in a professional manner. She is an avid DIYer -- much to the chagrin of her family. She has three grown, married children, and three grandsons all under the age of 3. She loves travel and history and has been to 19 countries. She is looking forward to becoming part of the Sioux Falls community. Rhonda started at The Network on December

Liaison Services for Clients with Disabilities

Liaison services are available for sexual assault victims/survivors with disabilities and who are deaf and hard of hearing in South Dakota, and those agencies serving them. These services are focused on assisting the victims/survivors in obtaining support, resources or services they need as they move forward from their experience of violence. These services are also focused on assisting the agencies serving these victims/survivors so they can provide accessible, safe, and appropriate services.

We will have a total of four liaison positions statewide with this project. Here is the most current contact information for each liaison.

CSD liaison:

Lance Sigdestad
Communication Service for the Deaf
1707 4th Ave. SE
Aberdeen, SD 57401
(605) 370-6593
lsigdestad@csd.org

CSD liaison:

Katie Peterson, NIC, CT
Communication Service for the Deaf
2310 N. Maple Ave.
Rapid City, SD
(605) 223-1345
kpeterson@csd.org

After Hours & Weekends
1-800-670-3989

Disability Rights SD liaison:

Cindy J. Moit
Disability Rights South Dakota
2520 E. Franklin Avenue Suite 2
Pierre, South Dakota 57501
(605) 224-8294 or 1-800-658-4782
Cindy.Moit@drsdlaw.org

Compass Center liaison:

The Compass Center
1704 S. Cleveland Ave, Suite 3
Sioux Falls, SD 57103
(605) 339-0116
info@thecompasscenter.org
Crisis hotline available 24/7
1-877-IN-CRISIS



SAVE the DATE

Bridging South Dakota Conference

Will provide training and education addressing the intersection of sexual violence and disability, and ways we can all best respond when it occurs to people in our communities.

When: September 16th-18th, 2020

Where: Rapid City at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel

More information coming soon

A Moment of Gratitude

From your Network staff

I am grateful for the power to choose. I choose to be mindful, present, serve with excellence and be a force of love & light. -Ashley

I am thankful to get to work with so many amazing people who focus their time on helping those who are hurting and who make a difference in my life through their constant encouragement. -Raina

I am grateful for my family and friends. I am also thankful for my coworkers at the Network; they create a supportive and fun work environment! -Olivia

I am grateful to be part of the Network team as we make a difference for survivors of violence all across the state. -Vien

I am grateful for my friends, family and coworkers at The Network. -Kathy

I am thankful for great friends and family. -Jennifer

I am grateful to live my truth every day and feel loved and accepted by others. -Jordan

I am grateful for my friends and family. Also for such a supportive and caring work environment. -Tori

I am grateful for the opportunity to help those in need in my community. -Wagner

I am thankful for my friends and family who have supported me through my first semester of graduate school. I am also thankful for all the learning opportunities The Network has provided to me. -Donna

I am grateful for clear winter roads and the sun in the sky. I am grateful for my circle of close family and friends that, even though they may drive me nuts sometimes, I still love them! I am grateful that after 45 years, I can still find the humor in most things and enjoy every single day. Peace. -Bonnie



Becki Jordan

Project Updates *continued*

Rural

In October, the Network was awarded supplement funding to continue the rural grant project through September 2022. The new supplement funds 11 rural advocates to continue providing victim services in areas of the state where fewer resources and opportunities are available for victims to receive help. The new funding includes a focus on, and trainings centered on, intersections of intimate partner violence and trafficking. This supplement will also expand the advocates' current work on youth prevention activities. For questions about this program, contact Jordan Catlett.

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners Rural Grant

The Network is collaborating with The Center for Prevention of Child Maltreatment (CPCM) on this project. This grant will fund nurses to receive didactic, clinical education, and SANE certification. We are currently planning a two-day clinical simulation training for January 8th – 9th, 2020. For more information about the SANE program and future trainings, please refer to refer to CPCM's webpage: <https://sdcpcm.com/>. Questions can also be directed towards Ashley Dwyer.

Sexual Assault Kit Initiative

The Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) is a new grant that is hosted out of the Beadle County State's Attorney Office. The project will work on tracking all sexual assault kits and examining how sexual assault cases move through the justice system.

UPCOMING ACADEMY

April 29-May 1, 2020

Advanced South Dakota Victim Assistance Academy in Pierre

The advanced academy is for professionals who work with victims of crime and have 3 or more years of experience in the field or have attended one of the basic South Dakota Victim Assistance Academies.

This advanced academy will be different than the one held in August 2018.

Application information will be released in January 2020.

STOP Law Enforcement Training Grant

Since our last update we have continued to schedule and provide law enforcement trainings throughout the state. The grant year began July 1st and we currently have had 27 trainings held or scheduled on the calendar. In order to strengthen the ability of prosecutors to hold offenders accountable we have arranged to have trainers from AEquitas provide trainings to prosecutors on domestic violence in both Sioux Falls and Rapid City on December 16th (Rapid City) and December 18th (Sioux Falls).

UNH/CDC Youth Voices in Prevention

In October 2019, the Youth Voices in Prevention (YVIP) staff and partner agencies hosted the third camp at Storm Mountain Retreat Center in the Black Hills. Around 65 youth attended the camp and learned skills related to the prevention of sexual violence. Since the camp, the Take Action youth group has debuted two short films. The films depict instances of dating violence and sexting. These films will be used as tools to start discussions on these topics with youth and adults. The Photovoice group has been busy with their traveling exhibit of photos taken by youth. Each week, the participating youth took a photo that depicted the assigned weekly topic.

VOCA

The Network has funds to assist member agencies with trauma informed trainings. If you are interested in hosting a training or already have one in the planning stages, The Network may be able to assist with speaker costs and/or helping professionals with lodging, meals, and mileage to attend the training. Please contact Kathy at kathy@sdnafvsa.com for more information.

The Network is excited to announce that Becki Jordan will be joining The Network team as the Law Enforcement Project Coordinator! She will start her position on February 3rd. Raina Boyum, the current Law Enforcement Project Coordinator, will be coordinating the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) project.

Becki Jordan (she/her/hers) brings nearly 15 years of professional experience working with victims/survivors, organizations, and professionals. Her work, education and research cover a wide variety of topics including: domestic and sexual violence, queer/gender issues, childhood trauma, dynamics of victimization, rural communities, and human trafficking.

At this time, Ms. Jordan works as a Safe Harbor Regional Navigator in Minnesota, providing training, education, and technical assistance to professionals and community members across the state, specifically around human trafficking. She holds a bachelor's degree in Sociology, Women's Studies, & Human Services from the University of Minnesota-Morris. Becki is a Blandin Community Leadership Program Alumni and was the recipient of the 2015 Minnesota Campus Compact Presidents' Community Partner Award. She currently serves as the Board Chair at the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault. Becki is originally from Waubay, South Dakota, and has two children.

Becki shared that she is excited to join The Network, and looks forward to moving back to South Dakota to continue her work in helping to support and advocate for the needs and rights of victims and survivors of violence and oppression.



Youth involved in the
UNH/CDC grant.

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, 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
- jordan@sdnafvsa.com
- tori@sdnafvsa.com
- ashley@sdnafvsa.com
- rhonda@sdnafvsa.com

Dear Krista,



Krista has dedicated two decades to the initiatives and mission of the South Dakota Network Against Family Violence. In that time, Krista has been a mentor, confidant and a trailblazer to the hundreds of people across our state invested in the work of Survivor services and Survivor rights! Krista has created a legacy of work that will live on, in our state, forever as she leads many initiatives in creating survivor-centered services, promoting education of power and control and leading through action. For those of us who know Krista well, we know that she is the heartbeat of social change and strong services for domestic violence and sexual assault survivors all across our state. Her dedications and loyalties to the Network and every Partner Agency are nothing short of remarkable --the state of South Dakota is truly fortunate to have this National Treasure working on the behalf of all survivors and all those who help survivors. --Desiree Johnson, River City Domestic Violence Center

The Network is very fortunate to have someone with such caliber as Krista. Krista is the most dedicated and loyal person, always looking out for the wellbeing of victims and survivors, staff and colleagues.
--Dawn Sikkink, Beacon Center

Krista has been committed to The Network since she was hired in 1999. She has grown The Network from using her car as an office to an office that has been outgrown with 10 staff and 2 interns. She has been a strong advocate and champion of victims. --Kathy Rutten, The Network

Words cannot describe how grateful we are for your passion, energy, and commitment to survivors in our communities. There is no way to count the number of people you have served or lives that you have saved. Here is to the next decade of work!

Thank You!