



UPDATE

SOUTH DAKOTA NETWORK AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

A Note from the Executive Director

Krista Heeren-Graber

2020 started off as a banner year for The Network. Before March, we received the federal domestic violence coalition designation, we were awarded new projects (which you will read about), and increased our membership. Legislative session 2020 brought forward sexual assault legislation to allow minors and individuals with disabilities to consent to forensic medical exams. Effective July 1st, anonymous rape kits will be stored for seven years. There were other bills to support trafficking victims and to provide additional assistance for victims to seek safety through changing their names and applying for victim's compensation. We were honored to have the support of the SD legislature and many amazing lawmakers to empower victims and survivors. Much of this work could not have been accomplished without our lobbyist – Dianna Miller, whom we greatly appreciate.

In March, our world changed in unexpected ways. Due to COVID-19, we all struggled to develop new pathways to support our survivors. In response, The Network worked with DPS Victim Service to provide weekly update Zoom calls with victim service providers across the state. The partnerships, teamwork, and support for each other has been incredible. It has been my honor to listen to your ideas and learn about your struggles as you continue to provide services for victims of violence and their families during these very challenging times. If COVID taught us anything it is that people are struggling. And that the world is very different depending on who

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Representative Reed Honored



Representative Tim Reed was presented with the prestigious National Sexual Violence Resource Center Visionary Award on April 20th for his outstanding work on victim rights.

In 2017, Representative Tim Reed met with a board-certified Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE). During this meeting, Rep. Reed intently listened to the SANE's concerns regarding gaps in the care of victims who receive medical forensic examinations. He was deeply moved by the pitfalls the SANE described. Immediately after this meeting, Rep. Reed started studying national best practices and drafting legislation to help remedy the gaps. Rep. Reed has introduced victim-centered bills the past three legislative sessions, where 100% have been made into law. He has introduced legislation that assures victims are not billed after a forensic examination and stores anonymous sexual assault kits with law enforcement rather than the hospital. In 2020, he had bills to decrease the age of consent for a medical forensic examination and extend the length of time anonymous kits are held. Rep. Reed has been a voice for positive change, and he works hard to eliminate barriers for victims.

Honorees include lawmakers, survivor activists, longtime advocates, nurse examiners, law enforcement and many more from across the country. They represent a wide range of disciplines and were selected for their outstanding work toward ending sexual harassment, misconduct, and abuse.

How did The Network respond to the COVID-19 Crisis?

Story on Page 3



Krista Cuddles with "Cat"

This newsletter highlights our new coworkers — our pets.

you are and where you live.

The lesson would be tragically reinforced with the death of George Floyd and the resulting protests across the country and throughout South Da-

kota. As providers that work on interpersonal violence issues, we know that the core of violence is power and control. This most recent case is a stark reminder that the legacy of colonialism and structural oppression is not only our history, but very much our reality.

In my career I have had, and continue to have, the opportunity to work with the very best of our law enforcement. It is my hope that we will all continue to work towards healing this violence through our legislative, advocacy, programmatic, and technical assistance efforts. As we move forward, we should all consider how to challenge the injustices that work in our society.

The Network is strong because of our respected and committed members - the shelters, crisis centers, CASAs, counseling agencies, visitation centers, law enforcement agencies, states attorneys, child assessment centers, and others. In your great work helping victims of violence, what role can you play to prevent injustice and oppression in your work? How can The Network forward your efforts? We all need to consider these questions, now more than ever. Reach out and let us know. We stand together. We stand with you.



**Kathy & Sophie
In Quarantine**

Project Updates

Avera eSANE

The SD Networks role on the Avera eSANE project is to assist Avera in connecting eSANE (telehealth Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners) locations to local victim service resources. This project has been on hold due to the pandemic.

Bridging South Dakota

The Disability project is working to shift its objectives and activities in light of COVID-19. Bridging SD was planning a statewide conference for September 2020, which has been cancelled. Bridging SD is working to create new activities while maintaining some of the core objectives of the Disability project. Future activities will focus on creating awareness and response to the intersection of sexual violence and disability. Virtual platforms will be a part of the next steps for the Disability project. From trainings to marketing liaison services, Bridging SD continues to promote safety and accessibility into South Dakota's awareness and response to sexual violence against individuals with disabilities or individuals who are deaf. Contact Olivia Boese or Krista Heeren-Graber with questions.

Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation Grant (CTAS)

The CTAS funding has been extended for an additional year in the Flan-dreau area. This funding provides transitional housing and an additional advocate to provide services in the community. The Wholeness Center is currently hiring for an advocate to provide culturally informed services to Native American survivors. For questions about this program, contact Jordan Catlett.

Emergency Services Funding

The Network is excited to announce that it has been awarded \$70,000 from the Larson Family Foundation for emergency services funding! The Larson Family Foundation has been a supporter of this need for 8 years. Besides the support of The Larson Family Foundation, other private foundations have also been supportive of this need over the last year. Those private foundations and donations include Delbridge Family Endowment through the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation, Sioux Falls Women's Alliance through the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation, BNSF Railroad Foundation, Salem Mennonite Church in Freeman, SD, and a private personal donation. From January 1, 2020 to May 31, 2020, The Network has provided over \$16,310 in emergency assistance member agencies and partners to assist 43 survivors and their 75 children. The emergency assistance included deposits, rent, bus tickets to relocate to a safer location, car repairs, clothing replacement, utilities, food vouchers, replace a work permit, and civil legal fees to obtain safety. For more questions about this program, please contact Kathy Rutten.

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 2019 and spring of 2020, one BSW student in the spring of 2020 and one student for the summer of 2020. We will be onboarding three MSW and two BSW students this coming fall for 2020/2021 school year. For questions about this grant, please contact Ashley Dwyer.

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Project Updates

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Improving Criminal Justice Response

ICJR grant partners from the Sioux Falls Police Department, Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office, Lincoln County Sheriff's Office and Children's Inn continue to respond to domestic violence cases and the needs of survivors. Work is happening around improving coordination as well as developing resources to assist victims in navigating the protection order process. The Sexual Assault Taskforce also works under the ICJR grant, and has met to discuss needs across the state, as well as future areas to focus. The group is in the process of expanding to include a broader membership to also include partners focused on the SAKI grant project. In addition, Becki has been meeting with SART/CCRT coordinators across the state regarding what type of technical assistance, training or resources would be helpful for communities. A short survey will be going out in early June to help plan for future efforts and areas of focus. Contact Becki Jordan with questions.

Justice for Families

The Justice project continues to move forward with its three components. The Network collaborates with LSS, and the 2nd circuit to provide lethality assessments on misdemeanor domestic violence cases. Based on the assessments offender treatment programming or individual counseling may be recommended. The Network and LSS are working with victim services providers to ensure that safety of victims is at the forefront of those involved with offender

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The Network Responds to COVID-19

In mid-March, when COVID-19 really started to hit South Dakota, The Network had to very quickly react and adapt to the challenges of continuing to provide technical assistance and resources to its member agencies and partners in a safe way that reflected the guidance from the state and federal levels. Almost all of The Network staff started working remotely, and only one staff member was in the office most of the time. It was more important than ever to stay open and to help agencies stay open to offer services to survivors who were now being quarantined in their home with their abusers and to find new and creative ways to offer services remotely and virtually.

The Network started hosting weekly check in calls via Zoom for members, non-members, and others to talk about issues that were arising due to COVID-19. This was in partnership with South Dakota Department of Public Safety Victims' Services. The calls averaged about 60 people per call. Topics that were discussed on the calls included how to alter shelter living based on the guidance from CDC, how to sustain services including using technology to communicate with survivors and do it in a safe and confidential way, the effect on funding issues and how to update policies to reflect remote work, hazard pay, etc., how to keep staff that needed to continue to be on-site at their agencies safe, the effect of the CARES Act and stimulus funding, how law enforcement responses had changed, how to offer sexual assault services if they were no longer able to go into the hospital with a victim, the response from both state and tribal entities, and most importantly how to practice self-care during this scary and difficult time. Because so much information was coming out very quickly from the national agencies, The Network created a webpage with resources gathered from across the country including the CDC, the National Network to End Domestic Violence, OVW, OVC, National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, International Association of Forensic Nurses, and many others.

Obtaining masks and cleaning supplies became a challenge for agencies, so The Network coordinated with a class from the University of South Dakota to assist in finding needed cleaning supplies and put out the word on various social media platforms and email listservs about the need for masks for shelters and other agencies for both staff and clients. That class has ended, however The Network is still able to assist in finding masks and other needed supplies.

Many meetings and trainings were scheduled to be held in person this spring and had to be cancelled or changed to be offered virtually. The Network changed its quarterly membership meeting that was supposed to be held in person in Yankton on April 20th to a Zoom meeting. Every meeting including staff meetings became virtual meetings. In June, several trainings will be offered virtually including the NOVA Basic Crisis Team Response and a STOP Law Enforcement Training for Winner.

As The Network looks to the summer, it will continue to respond and assist members, partners, and others with the ever evolving challenges that COVID-19 continues to bring. Please reach out to The Network office with any questions, concerns, needs, etc. The Network is here for you!



The Network Staff Meeting

Project Updates *continued*

treatment programs. The Network is going to be contracting with a law firm in Sioux Falls which will take over the legal part of the project providing free civil legal assistance to a nonoffending parent when there is a child victim of sexual assault/family violence who is 11 years of age or younger. The Mitchell Area Safe House has signed onto the Justice project to move forward with the safe visitation and exchange part of the project. The Network will work with the Mitchell Area Safe House to provide free services for supervised visitations and exchanges in domestic violence cases. Contact Olivia Boese with questions.

Legal Assistance

The Legal Assistance for Victims Project provides free civil legal services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking. Kari Nordstrom from Working Against Violence, Inc (WAVI) in Rapid City provides civil legal services to the western part of the state. Taneeza Islam with South Dakota Voices for Peace provides free legal services for immigration cases related to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking. Jennifer Hynek, the civil legal attorney for The Network, resigned her position the beginning of April.

The Network is excited to announce that it has contracted with Ver Beek Law Firm out of Sioux Falls to provide civil legal services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking in the eastern part of the state. They will be taking cases under the Legal Assistance for Victims Grant as well as the Justice for

Families Grant. There is no cost to the client EXCEPT possible court costs such as filing fees, etc. If you have a survivor who needs civil legal services, please have them call Ver Beek Law Firm at 605-988-8556 to complete an intake. Please ask the survivor to let the firm know what agency referred them, if they are comfortable with that, so the law firm knows that they may qualify under one of the grants. For more questions about this program, please contact Kathy Rutten.

Pipeline Sexual Assault Response Project



Aurora "Helps" Bonnie with the Budget

Work is just beginning on the Pipeline Sexual Assault Response Project, a brand-new endeavor funded through a grant awarded by the Depart-

ment of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women. The purpose of this project is to fill the gap in sexual assault services for Indigenous victims on reservations and in tribal communities of Rosebud, Pine Ridge, and Cheyenne River, as well as the other rural communities along the Keystone XL Pipeline. The project will expand existing programming to assure access to sexual assault services and sexual assault medical-forensic exams by: (1) increasing resources for current demand, (2) providing resources for the projected increase in demand, and (3) leveraging existing services to provide coverage to uncovered areas. According to the theory of change developed for this

grant proposal the result statement is: Native American sexual assault survivors in the pipeline area will have access to sexual assault services (e.g. counseling, safety planning, legal advocacy) and trauma-informed and patient-centered sexual assault forensic-medical exams. Stay tuned for more information on this exciting project! Questions can be directed to Becki Jordan and Jordan Catlett.

Rape Prevention Education

The Rape Prevention Education 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: Shifting Boundaries & Green Dot College. In response to COVID-19 Ashley Dwyer will be assisting with creating virtual classrooms to continuing the programming. If you are interested in learning more about virtual shifting boundaries, please contact her at ashley@sdnafvsa.com. The RPE grant funds two Sexual Violence Prevention Planning Committee meetings twice a year for prevention specialists across the state. Our last meeting was held virtually on May 19th with a presentation by Dr. Katie Edwards and Ramona Herrington with Youth V.I.P and No Means No Worldwide out of Rosebud and Rapid City. If you are interested in accessing the recorded presentation, please contact Ashley. The first Sexual Violence Prevention Tribal Advisory (SVPTA) meeting was held virtually on May 18th. The SVPTA will meet again virtually in June and then plans to meet virtually on a quarterly basis until we are able to meet in person. If you are interested in learning more about the SVPTA, please contact Jordan Catlett.



Vien is staying cool during COVID

Budget Update

The Finance Department is busy reviewing reimbursements for accuracy and issuing payments. Drawdowns are consistently getting submitted and document scans are being uploaded for those that require them. Back-up documentation is being saved to support those requests. Financial Status Reports and Budget to Actual is ongoing. Working remotely is done when possible, however working in the office on financial tasks is just a whole lot quicker and easier compared to working remotely. It is possible to be done remotely if needed.

Bonnie is currently working on assisting with the updating of The Network's internal policies and the travel policy within that document. Closing out the state grants comes in May and June, along with our fiscal year end close-out. Preparations have begun for our regular audit that is soon to follow. Please get any reimbursement requests, for work that was done prior to June 30th, into The Network as soon as possible in order to assist with the completion of our fiscal year. For processing, send requests to: reimbursements@sdnafvsa.com.

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Project Updates

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Rural

In January, the 11 rural agencies on the rural project came together in Sioux Falls, SD. During the meeting they received the first of many trainings on human trafficking from Call to Freedom. The rural advocates have developed creative ways to adjust and adapt to the new unknowns of the pandemic. In addition to monthly training, advocates have participated in virtual office hours, where they have shared their ideas, knowledge, and skills with each other. Rural advocates have utilized technology to continue providing services and outreach during this time. 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 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. 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.

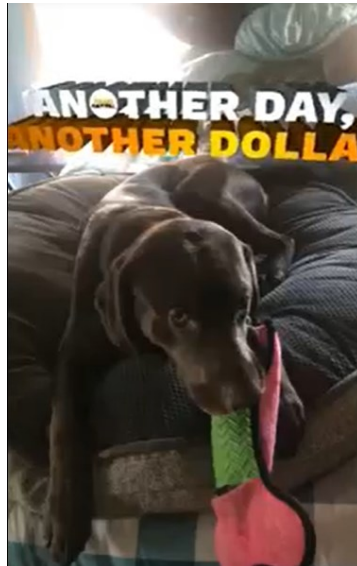
Sexual Assault Kit Initiative

In October of 2019, the Beadle County State's Attorney's office was awarded the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) Grant through BJA. This grant is a partnership between Beadle County, The Network and USD and will be a 3-year project working to improve policies and practices surrounding sexual assault kits. The grant requires that the first step be an inventory to assess if there are unsubmitted sexual assault kits in the state. This inventory will be taking place over the summer of 2020 and will focus on law enforcement agencies, hospitals, and the crime lab. Additionally, the SAKI grant will assess the current tracking system of sexual assault kits, provide technical assistance for prosecutors, and analyze data related to how sexual assault kits impact the success of cases. This grant is coordinated by Raina Boyum.

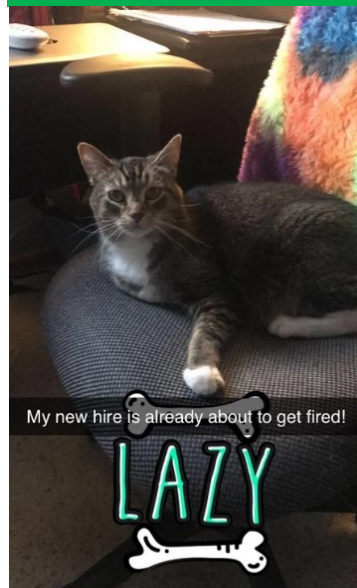


Meet our Intern!

Kaitlyn Hall is a rising sophomore at Brown University in Providence, RI concentrating in Indigenous Psychology and Integrative Medicine. Passionate about Indigenous sovereignty, mental health, sexual health and safety, the roots of trauma and violence, and collective healing, she is excited to be working with the Network to continue her advocacy for survivors of sexual harm and violence through political and social work.



Ashley is at her wits end with Dakota and Henry.



My new hire is already about to get fired!

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Training Updates

Due to COVID-19, many training events that The Network was scheduled to host this spring were cancelled. In response, some of the trainings were rescheduled as virtual trainings.

The Network hosted the **NOVA (National Organization for Victim Assistance) Basic Crisis Response Team Virtual Training** in the month of June. 26 people attended the virtual training that included 16 hours of virtual classroom time, 4 hours of guided learning, and 4 hours of a final virtual group project. The training focused on the fundamentals of crisis and trauma, and how to adapt to basic techniques to individuals and groups in this area also known as psychological first aid.

The Network hosted a webinar led by **Leon Leader Charge** on June 24th that was open to any professional working with victims of crime. 36 people participated in the webinar. The two hour training focused on the following:

- Explore Native American culture and history pertaining to South Dakota,
- Evidence-based best practices intersected with culture and prevention efforts: Protective factors pertaining to domestic violence, and
- Methodology based in Indigenous based Trauma informed approach.

The **Advanced South Dakota Victim Assistance Academy and the Basic South Dakota Victim Assistance Academy** were both cancelled due to COVID-19. The Network hopes to reschedule both academies for next spring and summer.

The Network will be hosting a **one day in-person training** on September 2nd at Arrowwood Resort at Cedar Shore in Oacoma. This will depend on the status of the state and country due to COVID-19. If we are not able to meet in-person, there may be a virtual option available. If we are able to meet in person, and you are interested in attending but may not feel comfortable attending in-person, we are working on having virtual access to the training. More information will be coming soon!

Project Updates *continued*

STOP Law Enforcement Training Grant

The STOP Law Enforcement Training Team has been working to accommodate online training and education opportunities for partners, agencies and communities. Trainers are also utilizing this time to update current training curriculums and modules, as well as create new training resources, videos and information cards.

Transitional Housing

The Transitional Housing Project through the Office on Violence Against Women provides rental assistance to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking who are homeless because of the violence. Homeless can be staying in a shelter or living with friends or family. If a victim qualifies and there are funds available, six months of rental assistance is guaranteed. Currently, all of the rental assistance is obligated. The project also provides four case managers located across the state at Working Against Violence, Inc. (WAVI) in Rapid City, Missouri Shores Domestic Violence Center in Pierre, Children's Inn in Sioux Falls, and Call to Freedom in Sioux Falls. The current project goes until September 30, 2021. The Network applied for a new transitional housing grant this past winter and hopes to hear if it was funded in August or September.



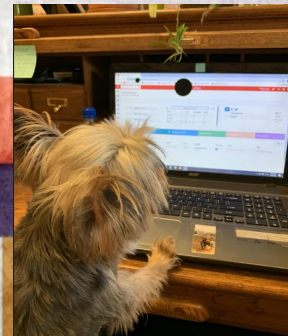
UNH/CDC Youth Voices in Prevention

The Youth Voices in Prevention project is nearing the end of the UNL/CDC funding period. Currently, the research team is developing the Youth VIP toolkit, with input from the youth and programming committee. Although the funding period is ending this fall, the wonderful programming occurring in Rapid City will not be ending! Throughout COVID-19 the youth interns have continued to meet virtually to discuss ways to continue spreading their messages about sexual violence prevention.

The Network is Moving!



But not far. We are just crossing the street!
As of July 15th, our new address is:
2520 E. River Ridge Place, #200



Remi takes over to give Becki a much needed break

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

For law enforcement training contact Becki. becki@sdnafvsa.com

For Sexual Assault Response Teams or the prosecutor resource project contact Mike. mmoore@bcsa.us

For emergency services requests contact Kathy. kathy@sdnafvsa.com

To request presentations addressing the intersection of disability and sexual violence contact Olivia/ olivia@sdnafvsa.com

For advocacy/community training in coordination with your agency or coordinated community response team, contact Krista. 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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