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2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Legislative Session 2023 had very positive results for the SD Network. SB 90 and 91 passed adding certain definitions related to the crime of rape and revised certain provisions regarding the crime of rape. Adding the definition of consent and providing a penalty when rape occurred without consent were significant changes for SD sexual assault laws. Thank you, Senator Tim Reed. SB 103 passed to hold a pilot project to consider lethality and risk with no contact and other court orders. The pilot project was a suggestion of the Unified Judicial System. The pilot project began shortly following the conclusion of the session. The following SD counties are participating in the pilot project: Mellette, Yankton, Minnehaha, and Day. Krista Heeren-Graber was invited to speak at the annual Judge's conference about evidence-based lethality and risk assessment tools and IPV in May 2023 in Rapid City.

PROJECTS

ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT

The Network coordinated and liaised with event centers, food vendors and hotels for 50 plus meetings and trainings, including Membership meetings, SVI, DVI, the Leadership Retreat, Staff Retreat, and Survivor Retreat. There were 9 total rural site visits conducted with different shelters and agencies around South Dakota.

Along with this, the progress report and reimbursement training to 5 new rural advocates were provided. SD Network also received donations and supplies and distributed them to the shelters and the community. The Network participated in Community Health Worker Collaborative of SD. Research was conducted about promotional items and a new logo was designed for the materials Against Domestic Violence. Throughout the year, more cost-effective arrangements were conducted with local businesses.

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CALLS AND TRAININGS



2022 Domestic Violence Institute

From July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, The Network continued to host bi-weekly check in calls for the membership and other agencies. The calls averaged about 30 people per call.

On September 8th, 2022, The Network hosted the Domestic Violence Institute (DVI). 130 people attended. Tracks included a survivor focused track, working with multi-lingual victims, and abusive partner intervention programming.

In March 2023, The Network hosted the Basic Victim Assistance Academy in Brookings. 27 people attended. Topics included domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, ethics, communication skills, working with Native American victims, etc. Even though the weather cut the academy short, the rest of the missed sessions were held via Zoom.

2023
Basic
SDVAA



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In November 2022, The Network hosted the Advanced South Dakota Victim Assistance Academy in Watertown. 22 people attended. Topics included building blocks of leadership, resilience, leadership and trauma-informed responses, and a Native American perspective.



2022 Advanced SDVAA

In June 2023, The Network hosted the first of a 12 month Leadership webinar series. The topic was on time management presented by Lara Roetzel, Pennington County State's Attorney. 100 people were registered to attend, and 42 attended the webinar.

The Network continues to provide training to further the development and connection of Abusive Partner Intervention Programs in South Dakota.

Recognizing barriers for immigrant victims and survivors of violence and their families, the Network has partnered with SD Voices for Peace to apply to the Bush Foundation to respond to these barriers. That application was unsuccessful in being funded. SD Voices for Peace did become a new sub recipient in 2023 of the SD Department of Public Safety Victim Services funding.

The Network did receive the Sexual Assault ARP funding from DPS this year for the first time, to continue the work of SARTS and the statewide sexual assault task force.

Quarterly Membership Meeting of The Network in progress in Spearfish on April 11, 2023.



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DISABILITY GRANT

The OVW Training and Services to End Violence Against Individuals with Disabilities and Deaf People Program (Disability grant) addresses the intersection of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking against people who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing or who have disabilities. This grant seeks to bridge the gap between victims and disability service providers, centers its work around collaboration, and focuses on the Sioux Falls area with partners statewide. The collaboration and idea behind this grant is named Bridging South Dakota. Core partners of Bridging South Dakota include The South Dakota Network Against Family Violence and Sexual Assault (the Network), South Dakota Deaf Resources and Outreach Programs (SD DROP; formerly known as Communication Service for the Deaf), Disability Rights South Dakota, The Compass Center, and South Dakota Urban Indian Health.

This grant has five overarching goals briefly described as: increasing internal training capacity on violence against people with disabilities by providing cross-training for entities working at the intersection of violence, conducting outreach to ensure victims with disabilities receive appropriate assistance, provide technical assistance to victim and disability service providers to ensure safety and services for victims with disabilities, providing advocacy/intervention services for victims through liaisons, and addressing racial equity as a component of ending sexual assault through inclusion of Urban Indian Health serving on the Bridging South Dakota multi-disciplinary team to ensure culturally specific considerations within project activities.



Madison, a former intern at the Network, spent March 30th, 2023 in Vermillion talking to current social work students about her field experience at The Network.

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EMERGENCY SERVICES FUNDING

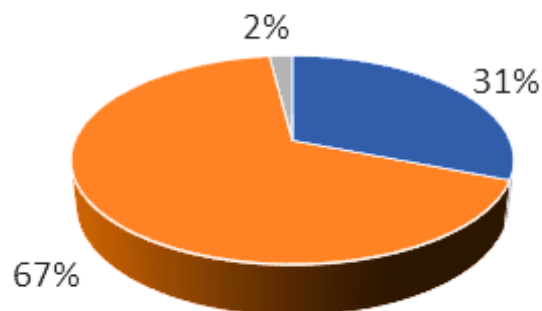
The Network received a grant from the Larson Family Foundation to provide emergency services funding to assist victims in eliminating barriers to safety. Assistance included bus tickets, gas cards, car repairs, hotel stays, security systems, rent, security deposits, etc. 177 people received assistance through this grant.



DISABILITY CONT--During the FY22-23 fiscal year, the Disability grant served 75 victims/survivors with disabilities or who were Deaf/Hard of Hearing. The service provided most frequently and directly to victims/survivors was advocacy.

Technical assistance was provided to a variety of professionals and teams throughout South Dakota. Topics addressed included access and safety, collaboration and cross-training, law enforcement response, disability services and resources, responding to violence against people with disabilities, prosecution of violence against people with disabilities, victim services response to violence against people with disabilities, the Americans with Disabilities Act, service animals in victim services, cultural appropriate services, caregiver abuse, safety planning for victims with disabilities, and issues/barriers for victims living in residential facilities.

Type of Violence in OVW Disability Grant FY22-23



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FAST

(Sexual Assault Forensic, Medical and Advocacy Services for Tribes)

Through the FAST Initiative and the Tribal Advisory Board through RPE, our tribal partners know we understand their work, that we have the expertise needed to address their needs, we are reliable, timely, and thoughtful in our responses. We provide resources that are high quality, evidence based, current, culturally relevant and trauma informed. This is done through phone calls, emails, bi-weekly Zoom calls, on-site visits, quarterly round tables, and webinars.

Areas addressed are:

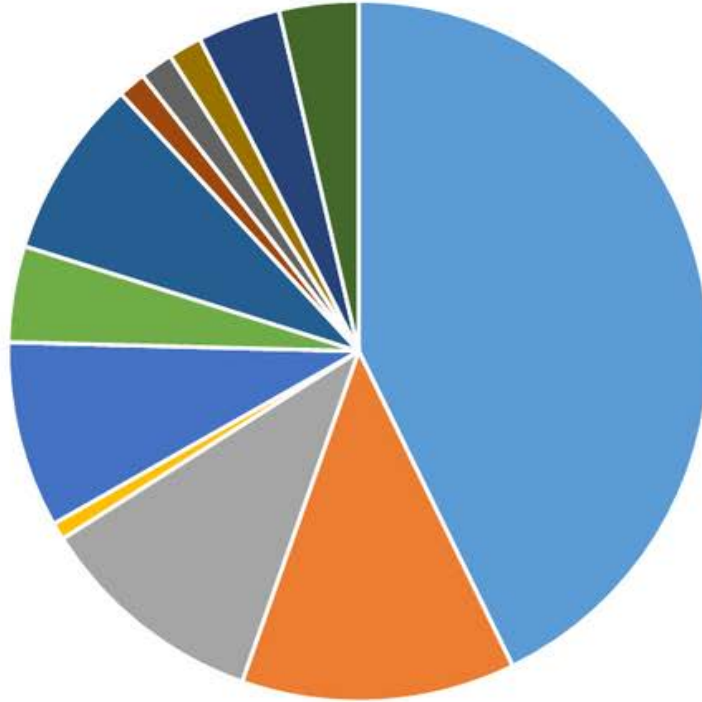
- **Cultural Awareness** – 9 tribes are unique and have many similarities, but are different in many areas from spirituality, employment opportunities, size, location of services, traditions, needs, and resources.
- **Education** – generational trauma, complex relationships with governments, jurisdiction.
- **MMIW** – the history, movement, sharing of information, and tracking of cases.
- **Human Trafficking** – definition, tribal codes, state law, federal law, trends, collaborations, prevention, awareness
- **Sexual Assault** – trauma informed, ACES, victim centered, relationships with SANE, law enforcement, other advocates and agencies, victim's services, SART development and maintenance.
- **Multi-Disciplinary** - we have included the following in the team throughout the grant – Dept of Health, CPCM, Tribal Domestic Violence Shelters, Tribal Coalitions, Tribal Schools, Truancy groups, housing, health care centers, SANE Nurses, transportation, advocates, out of state HT Task Force Members and Coalitions, Help Lines (211, 888, 988) DOJ, DCI, Department of Homeland Security, Sheriff Departments, SD HT groups, elders, educators, community based mental health centers, judges and lawyers.
- **Offenders** - background characteristics and problems of violent offenders and curriculum to treat offenders and reduce recidivism.
- **IT support**
- **COVID Relief supplies**
- **Self- Care** – creating a space that is safe to share successes and difficulties, ask for help, learn, build community, yoga, meditation.
- **Safety** – situational awareness, structure safety, transportation safety, professional Development.

We are privileged to have representation and participation from all 9 tribes in South Dakota who work in various capacities, including but not limited to sexual assault advocates, domestic violence advocates, tribal administration, advocacy, education, health care, victim services, and public safety.

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**FUNCTIONAL
EXPENSES**
\$2,816,593 Total
FY
2022 2023



- \$1,204,490 - Network Personnel and Benefits
- \$355,962 - FAST, SAKI, and ICJR Programs -Subrecipients and Contractors for fees, salaries, benefits
- \$298,834 - Disability, RURAL, and Transitional Housing Programs - Subrecipients and Contractors for fees, salaries, benefits
- \$22,334 - ARP, and Coalition Programs -Consultant fees
- \$242,393 - Justice, and Legal Programs -Subrecipients and Contractors for fees, salaries, benefits
- \$125,159 - Professional Fees and Consultants - Administrative and Programmatic
- \$233,300 - Conferences, Training programs, and presentations received by and offered to Network staff, Subrecipients, Membership, and other professionals for travel and training costs
- \$36,148 - Network and Consultant In state travel: Network Membership meetings; SVPPC, SA, and various grant meetings; Roundtable discussions, and Subrecipient Monitoring
- \$43,184 - Contractual specific supplies, Awareness Resources, Law Enforcement Resources
- \$43,909 - Network postage and supplies costs
- \$107,719 - Network rent and operating costs, membership dues, bank fees
- \$103,161 - Emergency services to victims and survivors

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IMPROVING CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

The first year of the Improving Criminal Justice Response (ICJR) grant is a planning year. Since receiving the grant in October 2022, The Network has worked on putting together the programs that will reach the goals of the grant. In furtherance of the goals of the grant The Network hired an attorney as a full-time employee. In January 2023, Lara Roetzel, former interim Pennington County State's Attorney, came to work at the Network to begin working on the goals of the ICJR grant. Lara was with The Network until April 2023, when she returned to Pennington County as the duly appointed State's Attorney.

At the Sexual Violence Institute Lara presented the audience with information on how to provide legal advocacy to victims and explained the difference between that and legal advice. Lara also worked at strengthening CCRs in western South Dakota by attending various SART team meetings in the region. Lara also began developing a protection order training that would provide victim advocates statewide with crucial, detailed information about how to best provide legal advocacy for victims in this area. The training is developed in partnership with another Network employee, Mike McCormick. —————>

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES: FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND SERVICES ACT

Starting in December 2022 and finalizing in February 2023, the HHS FVPSA office held a comprehensive site visit with the Network staff, board of directors, and membership. The site visit included virtual meetings, the review of organizational documents, financial records, grant reports and budgets, and discussions regarding the overall function of the South Dakota Network as a statewide coalition. Recommendations for potential changes or suggestions were received in March 2023; the Network revised the by-laws with minimal changes. The final HHS FVPSA office report indicated a very positive outcome from the entire review for the SD Network.

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February 9th, 2023 at the State Capitol



Day 4 of the Basic SD Victim Assistance Academy in Brookings. Topics included working with people with disabilities, crimes against the elderly and people with disabilities, and ethics in victim services.

ICJR CONT--The training will ultimately be completed by the attorney hired by The Network to replace Lara. This attorney is Tracey Dollison Decker, a former Assistant Chief Deputy State's Attorney for Pennington County. She began working for The Network on April 24, 2023. The protection order training is very detailed and includes domestic abuse protection order, stalking protection orders and vulnerable adult protection orders.

The training will be developed so that it can encompass all three orders or be divided into a training just on one particular type. The training includes local information from each of South Dakota's 66 counties and 9 Indian reservations. The research on the local information from the counties and reservations was done by Network intern, Maria Gallegos. This training will be offered during the second year of the grant to assist in meeting the grant's goal of providing training and technical assistance for victim advocates as they provide legal advocacy to their clients. —————>

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ICJR CONT--Also, during the planning year, the first meeting of the taskforce that will create statewide minimum standards for victim advocates was held on June 7, 2024, both in person and with a zoom option. Approximately 20 people from across the state attended and discussions were begun on why South Dakota needs minimum standards for victim advocacy and how The Network, in partnership with the Department of Public Safety Victim Services, will create and implement the standards. In the second year of the grant quarterly meetings will be held.

Other work that has been done during the planning year includes updates to the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Courtroom Training, which will be held in October 2023. During the planning year, Network employees continue to work with ICJR TA contacts to develop a strategic plan and understand how the needs assessment provided by Network member agencies can be utilized to meet the goals of the ICJR grant. The next fiscal year will be an exciting year for the ICJR grant as these developing projects are presented across the state and further developed to continue to identify and address barriers victims face in the court system.



FAST Tribal Sexual Assault Initiative Group stopped at the George S. Mickelson Criminal Justice Center on February 9th. They met with Attorney General Jackley and toured the Forensic Lab

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Some of The Network staff and interns hosted a booth at the NASW-SD Conference in Sioux Falls on March 16th.



East River SD Network staff celebrating National No More Week by wearing teal to say “no more” to domestic abuse.

JUSTICE FOR FAMILIES GRANT

The Network was awarded the Justice for Families (JFF) grant through the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) for the second consecutive grant cycle. The JFF grant is multifaceted; the first goal of the project is to improve supervised visits and safe exchange services for parents with intimate partner violence cases across South Dakota. Partnering on this portion of the project is Safe Place Family Visitation Center located in Mitchell. The center has seen an increase in the number of families they have served throughout the January to June 2023 reporting period and, while the primary goal will always be to not need these types of services, Safe Place and The Network are pleased with the support that Safe Place is able to offer to families affected by IPV. Safe Place also participated in a gap analysis along with The Network and Inspire Action which evaluated Safe Place’s policies and procedures using OVW’s Guiding Principles.



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JUSTICE FOR FAMILIES CONT--The second part of the JFF grant includes the efforts toward improving court case outcomes for DV cases in South Dakota. As a partner on the JFF project, Lutheran Social Services has been completing assessments for those convicted of DV and monitors compliance with court orders for these individuals, all the while collecting data to validate the DVSI-R tool to assess recidivism risk factors. LSS reports that an astounding 84% of those convicted of DV and referred to their program have followed through with contacting the agency for an assessment, 72% of which continued on to enroll in their recommended intervention.

The final portion of the project includes providing free protection order civil legal services to survivors regardless of income. Both East River Legal Services and Dakota Plains Legal Services have signed on to the grant to assist with these services as of October 2023.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR VICTIMS GRANT

The Network has been fortunate to receive back-to-back Legal Assistance for Victims (LAV) grants since 2016, the most recent of which was awarded in October 2022. The previous award concluded just prior to that and provided free holistic civil legal assistance to numerous victims statewide. Project partners for the grant cycle 2019-2022 included Ver Beek Law in Sioux Falls and Working Against Violence, Inc. (WAVI) in Rapid City. South Dakota Voices for Peace were also a part of the project, providing civil legal services related to immigration in the Sioux Falls area. From July 1, 2022, to September 30, 2022, the grant served a remarkable 32 victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

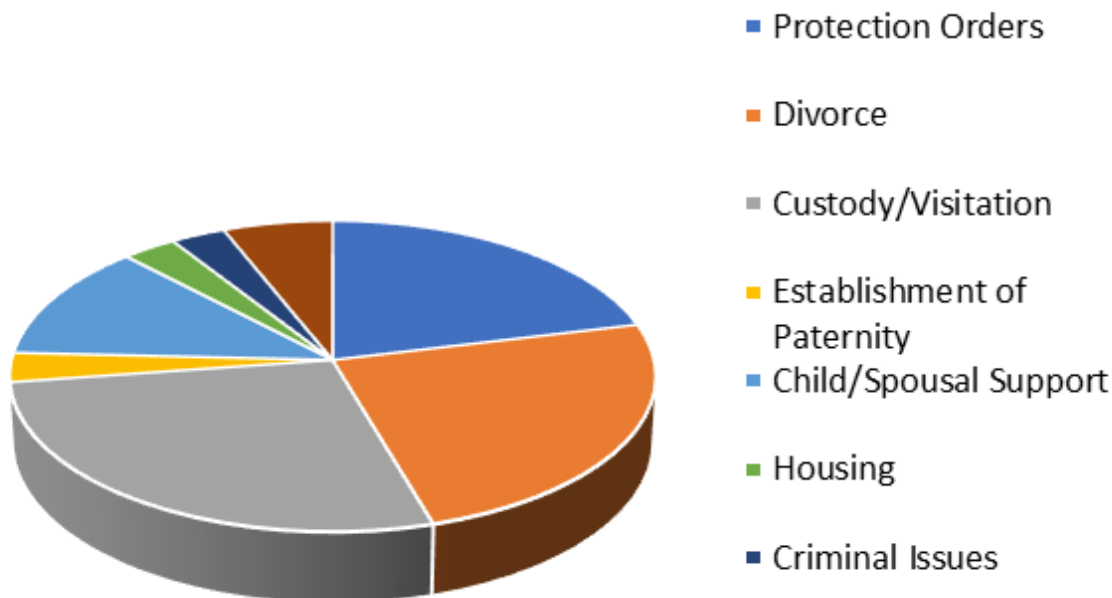
Also accomplished during the previous grant cycle was the South Dakota Legal Needs Assessment, a combined effort by the advisory council



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Assistance by Legal Issues for January 1- June 30, 2023



LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR VICTIMS CONT-- which included The Network, Access to Justice (A2J), Dakota Plains Legal Services (DPLS), and East River Legal Services (ERLS). The group contracted with a consulting company to complete a legal needs assessment on what legal issues clients are experiencing across the state. The preliminary results of the needs assessment were shared with the Advisory Council in July and highlighted the need for additional family law services among other issues across the state. This information is being used to improve advocacy for survivors and provides guidance on case prioritization.

Since October 2022, The Network has been continuing civil legal services for survivors with a new team of experienced attorneys including Beth Baloun and Mindy Werder in East River SD and Jodi Brown in Aberdeen. Kari Nordstrom with WAVI joins South Dakota Voices for Peace in their continued work on the 2022-2025 project. An attorney in Central South Dakota is expected to be under contract in early 2024.

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NEW MEMBERS

During the 2022-2023 fiscal year, The Network welcomed the following new agency members: Esther's Rising and Teddy Bear Den.

RAPE PREVENTION EDUCATION (RPE) GRANT

The South Dakota Network Against Family Violence and Sexual Assault (SDNAFVSA), with support from the Rape Prevention Education (RPE), accommodated two prevention programs to educate college students about sexual assault prevention, legality, and consensual sexual issues.

Sex and the Law was offered at SD School of Mines, University of South Dakota (USD), South Dakota State University (SDSU), Black Hills State University (BHSU), and Dakota State University (DSU). Sex and the Law presents material to college students, faculty, staff, and community members to assist in understanding how the law applies to sexual activity and basics of consent, among other relevant laws and policies related to sexual conduct in the state and the respective universities. —————>



Congratulations to Lara Roetzel, who worked as the attorney consultant and advisor for the Network, on receiving the 2023 Partner Protecting Kids Award for her long-standing work towards advocacy and justice for victims of crime! Great work, Lara!

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Tanya Grassel-Krietlow spoke at The Freedom's Journey Expo on the efforts The Network and our partners are working towards in Human Trafficking.

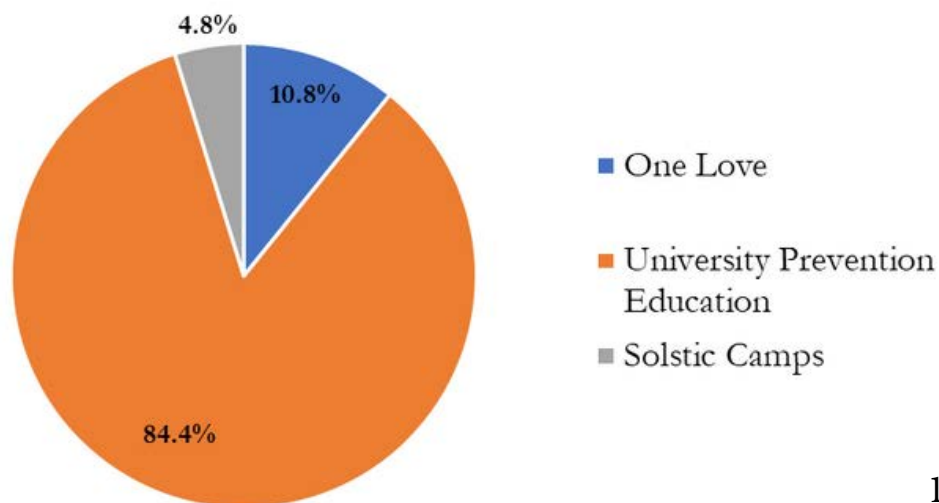
RPE CONT--Sex Signals was offered at Northern State University (NSU) as leadership felt the program aligned better with the needs of the campus population. Sex Signals uses a humorous approach to educate attendees on dating, sex, consent, myths surrounding rape and survivors, and bystander intervention.²

Both programs took place in April 2023, with significant positive feedback from attendees. The following summary presents the methodology and results of post-surveys conducted at the conclusion of each program.

One Love classes began again in Fall 2022 as an ongoing program supported by RPE. A total of 24 classes were held between June 2022 -- May 2023, with 45 individuals completing at least one class of One Love.

The total number of participants reached from programming totaled 416.

RPE Supported Program Reach



One Love: 45 – 10.8%

University Prevention Education: 351 – 84.4%

Solstice Camps: 20 – 4.8%
*this does not include the solstice camps attendance held outside of fiscal year (7/1/22-6/30/23)

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RURAL SEXUAL ASSAULT, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE AND STALKING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

South Dakota has recently begun concentrated efforts to address sexual assault. The Network is at the center of these efforts, supporting programs to improve sexual assault kit tracking, increase access to sexual assault nurse examiners, and developing tools to support rural sexual assault response team (SART) growth and development. The Rural grant will complement these efforts by building sexual assault capacity in rural areas, improving agencies' sexual assault services and their relationships with important segments of their communities (especially for Native American survivors), increasing referrals and reporting – including a presence on IHE campuses, in hospitals for exams, and working with inmates where relevant.

The Rural program funds advocates at 11 rural agencies across South Dakota. Agencies represented under this grant include:

- Beacon Center, Watertown
- Brookings Domestic Abuse Shelter, Brookings
- Domestic Violence Network, Madison
- Family Crisis Center/Ginny's House, Redfield
- Missouri Shores, Pierre
- Safe Place of Eastern SD, Mitchell
- River City Domestic Violence Center, Yankton
- Safe Harbor, Aberdeen
- Victims of Violence Intervention (Artemis House), Spearfish
- Wholeness Center, Flandreau
- Winner Resource Center for Families, Winner

Education and Mileage

Community Education	83
Hours Spent Training	204.5
Number Trained	2,662
Miles Driven	5,656

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The Network staff attended the Domestic Violence Awareness Forum hosted by Augustana University in February.



A few of our staff members attended Children's Day at the Capitol

Populations Served Through RURAL

Primary Victims	454
New Victims	379
Native American Victims	166 (37%)
Female Victims	421 (93%)
Ages 25-59	362 (80%)
Hotline Support and Referrals	499
Bed Nights in Crisis Shelter	6,530

Training Through RURAL

Trainings to Other Professionals	16
Hours Spent Training	79
Number Trained	175

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SD SAKI GRANT

For several years, the South Dakota statewide Sexual Assault Taskforce discussed how to improve the process of collecting and processing sexual assault kits and improve outcomes of sexual assault cases in the state. Many discussions took place around the length of storage for kits, including where they should be stored, which resulted in new legislation. We continued to have discussions on actively trying to improve our kit processes – and many of you have been integral to these discussions.

In 2019, recognizing the need for additional changes, The Network collaborated with Beadle County State’s Attorney (Mike Moore) and a University of South Dakota researcher (Bridget Diamond-Welch) to apply for a Bureau of Justice Administration Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) grant. Developed in response to the discovery of kit backlogs in other states, the federal SAKI project seeks to ensure states test all sexual assault kits with the most scientifically advanced DNA testing.

Under our state’s project, the SD SAKI team has been working on the following goals: First, we performed

an inventory of sexual assault kits, working with all jurisdictions to ensure that all kits had been submitted for testing. This inventory showed marked improvement from a previous inventory due to legislation passed in 2016 for the process of collecting and testing kits.

Second, we have been working on (still in progress) providing complete testing for older kits that were processed through a crime lab but not tested for DNA due to a lack of bodily fluids (called partially tested). Our team has evaluated the current kit tracking system and made recommendations to move towards an electronic tracking system that would accurately track the kit through the life of the case and give survivors the ability to know the status of their kits. Third, Mike Moore provides technical assistance to prosecutors on sexual assault cases.

Finally, we are working on a research project that will allow us to know more about sexual assault in South Dakota. This research project is currently working with 10 counties to examine what happens to the sexual assault cases that are referred to prosecution. Additionally, we are working with the Unified Judicial System to analyze all sexual assault cases in the state to understand our overall state rates of conviction.

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Megan Timmerman is our current Master of Social Work intern at the Network for the fall and spring. She is attending the University of South Dakota, where she will be receiving her graduate degree of social work in May. She previously received both her Bachelor in Social Work and Psychology degrees with a minor of Criminal Justice while at USD. Megan previously interned at the Community Connection Center in Vermillion, where she engaged in community and program development, assisted clients with their individual needs and developed volunteer procedures. She is originally from Sioux Falls and is passionate about improving outcomes for individuals in her community.

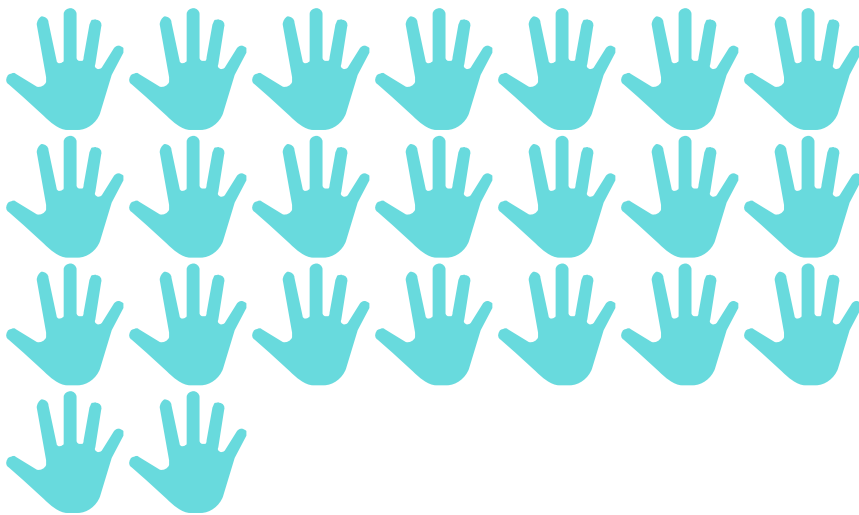
TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

The OVW Transitional Housing grant provides rental assistance to victims/survivors who are homeless as a result of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking. The funds in this grant program are also used to provide case management and occupational therapy to victims/survivors. The Network partners with Missouri Shores Domestic Violence Center, Working Against Violence Incorporated, Children's Home Shelter for Family Safety, and Call to Freedom to provide these essential services statewide. In the fall of 2023 this grant received an extension to provide services for an additional 12 months. During FY22-23, transitional housing rental assistance was provided to 13 survivors. Case management and occupational therapy services were also provided during that time.

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23 total trainings to law enforcement, prosecutors, and victim advocates



STOP: SERVICES, TRAINING, OFFICERS AND PROSECUTORS

The STOP grant allows the Network to train incoming and seasoned law enforcement, prosecutor and victim advocate professionals across the state. This includes training law enforcement officers relocating to South Dakota from other states that are required to undergo "reciprocity" training on the topic of domestic violence. The goal of the grant is to enhance the capacity of local communities to strengthen effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies to combat violent crimes against women and to strengthen victim services in cases involving these crimes. South Dakota continually works on improving the laws concerning domestic violence and sexual assault and these new laws are tracked by our training team and infused into our trainings along with new best practices.

The last part of the fiscal year, Network staff and training team members evaluated the training curriculum and is actively making adjustments to enhance the training experience. The Network team has also been discussing advanced training opportunities in the coming fiscal year, including advanced information on sexual assault, stalking, victim-centered response, and more.

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TESTIMONY AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Krista Heeren-Graber continues to provide a significant amount of technical assistance for victim services providers, prosecutors, and attorneys, and participate with law enforcement training at the law enforcement academy and statewide. She testifies in criminal cases, both for the prosecution and defense regarding primarily domestic violence cases, and occasionally rape cases. There are many survivors of IPV who contacted her to testify during their civil custody proceedings. She has now testified in a few civil cases. The need for affordable and accessible civil legal assistance for victims/survivors of IPV continues to be a huge need in SD, even though the Network provides funding for civil legal assistance. We cannot provide enough funding to begin to meet the overwhelming need.

As the Director of Program Development and Evaluation, Christy VanDeWetering spent much of the year providing technical assistance to victim service agencies. As the Technical Assistance Coordinator for West River, Mike

McCormick also provided agency technical assistance throughout South Dakota. Agency contacts totaled 372 throughout the state. Total fulfillments of technical assistance under DPS-VOCA funding totaled 199 contacts.

The assistance ranged from case management, victim advocacy, policy development, Mavis reporting assistance, trauma informed care, crisis/hotline training to board development. In addition, VanDeWetering presented at several meetings and conferences including the Basic Victim Assistance Academy, DPS symposium, and the SDSU school of pharmacy. She also has been called to testify as a domestic violence expert witness. During Network staff transition, Christy supported the work of the Rural grant, providing biweekly calls to rural advocates and completing biannual reports. Lastly, her work on the statewide needs assessment has helped identify the continued strengths, successes, and needs for victim service providers and agencies.