

Perspectives

The South Dakota Network Against Family Violence and Sexual Assault

Vol. 9, No. 3 DECEMBER 2007 listening, understanding differences, building partnerships

SD NETWORK AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT WILL BE DOING BUSINESS AS "THE NETWORK"

The Network Board of Directors held a strategic planning session in August 2007 and voted at the membership meeting on December 5, 2007, to approve the following changes. The changes will take place in 2008. We will be doing business as "The Network" but maintaining our legal name "The South Dakota Network Against Family Violence and Sexual Assault."

Our new mission statement is "working together to promote victim rights for a safer South Dakota."

The new vision statement is the following. The Network is a state-level non-profit agency comprised of caring people dealing with the concerns of domestic violence and sexual assault victims. Our member programs employ and support individuals of all racial, social, religious and economic groups, ages, and lifestyles. Rural, urban and tribal areas are proudly represented. The Network believes that the abuse of power in society fosters domestic violence, rape, gender inequality, racism, and poverty by perpetuating conditions in which certain groups benefit from the domination of others. We believe that domestic violence results from the use of force or threat to achieve and maintain control over others

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**Our
Mission
Statement
Working
Together to
Promote Victim
Rights for a
Safer South
Dakota**



Pictured l. to r. Lora Ronning, Verzella Bauman, Krista Heeren-Graber, Rep. Herseth-Sandlin, Holly Jeschke, and Liz Bara.

The Network staff not pictured: Kathy Rutten








In October 2007, Representative Stephanie Herseth-Sandlin held a press conference at The Network's office.

Picture is of The Network staff with Rep. Herseth-Sandlin

Congratulations to
Krista Heeren-Graber
2007 Woman of Achievement
Presented by Sioux Falls Chapter of Business
and Professional Women

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in intimate relationships. The Network opposes the use of violence as a means of control over others and supports equality in relationships. All of our programs and services are rooted firmly in the belief that people victimized by crime have the right to assume power over their own lives by making informed choices regarding their empowerment journey. The Network is dedicated to the empowerment of those victimized by domestic or sexual violence. Therefore, we are passionate about eliminating personal and societal violence and welcome the help of all people as allies. We believe in a world free of violence and we are committed to turning this dream into a reality. The Network envisions a world free of violence. We are committed to making this dream a reality by diligently working in collaboration with other community allies to advance prevention endeavors and improve response efforts across our state. Networking with other entities in our community creates avenues to impact long-term systemic and social change.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES		
<p>Legislation/Public Policy</p> <p> Implementing common practice</p>	<p>Networking, partnerships, grow membership</p> <p> Alliances with unique groups</p>	<p>Organizational excellence</p> <p> 50% of revenue will be “hard” funding</p>
<p>Funding</p> <p> Competing grants</p> <p> Contracts</p> <p> Special program grants</p>	<p>Training and Education/Public Awareness</p> <p> Being sought out to provide education</p>	<p>Sustaining and growing a healthy structural organization</p>

2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION AGENDA

Legislative Session will begin on January 8, 2008. The Network lobbyist will again be Dianna Miller. Dianna has represented The Network well in previous years and we are excited to have her on board again. Some of the bills currently being considered by The Network will address as follows:

- Standards for child custody evaluators and the evaluation process and report;
- Extending the relief authorized on

finding abuse (protection orders) from three years to five years in 25-10-5;

- Further defining the consideration of assault convictions in custody awards;
- Assuring that a penalty is defined in statute when a convicted defendant of domestic violence contacts the victim of the crime and/or if the conditions of release of person charged with domestic abuse are violated; and, protection orders in

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cases of assault or crimes of violence may need to be cross referenced with the domestic and stalking orders for further clarification.

We will be watching for any bills that would impact domestic violence and sexual assault victims and their families. If you would like to be added to our legislative report e-mail group,

this is a great opportunity to join The Network either as an individual or agency member. All members will get weekly updates from our lobbyist, Dianna Miller. If you have questions during session, contact the Director, Krista Heeren-Graber at krista@sdnafvsa.com or 605-731-0041. We welcome your feedback, questions and concerns always.

PROTECTION ORDER SURVEY RESULTS COMPILED BY ANNE ROSENBAUM, INTERN

The purpose of the survey was to evaluate the effectiveness of South Dakota protection orders according to those who have an order themselves, those who have helped others obtain an order, and those who enforce the orders. The following is a synopsis of Anne’s formal report of the research.

On a scale of 1 to 10 (1 being “not effective at all” and 10 being “very effective”), the average response from participants on the **effectiveness** of temporary protection orders was 6.42. Using the same scale, the average response on the **effectiveness** of permanent protection orders was 6.37.

The average response for people’s **experiences** with protection orders was 5.82. When asked to choose descriptors of the process to apply for a protection order, the majority voted for “complicated” (42.9%) and “frustrating” (42.9%). “Simple” and “convenient” were chosen by 22.5%. Only 12.2% chose “comforting.” No one chose “impossible.”

The results of the survey illustrate that the people of South Dakota do

not feel especially safe with a protection order. The effectiveness rating on average was 64%, however their experience rating was only 58%. For an order that people turn to for safety and well-being, these ratings are not high enough. Many survey participants offered suggestions for reform ranging from the education concerning the order, the court system during the hearing, the enforcement of the order, to the consequences for a violator of the order.

Quotes from the open-ended questions:

Ineffective Aspects

- ◆ “The temporary or permanent orders are not enforced and violations are ignored”
- ◆ “All agencies are not working together in some cases.”

Effective Aspects

- ◆ “Sends a message to the offender/ batterer”
- ◆ “The peace of mind that it gives victims, that someone is taking them seriously...empowered that they were able to tell their story and be believed.”

For the full report, visit The Network’s website at www.sdnafvsa.com.

GRANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR VICTIMS PROJECT UPDATE

By Liz Bara

Our Legal Assistance for Victims (LAV) grant provides for free civil legal assistance for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence. East River Legal Services (ERLS), Dakota Plains Legal Services (DPLS), and Lutheran Social Services (LSS) are our grant partners.

This 2 year grant was scheduled to end Dec. 31 of this year. In September, we received word that the LAV grant was again awarded to The Network, and will now extend until Dec. 31, 2009. This project will continue to provide free civil legal services to victims throughout the state, but funding has been decreased to \$600,000, compared to the previous LAV grant amount of \$850,000. The budget changes necessitated that we cut out two and a half attorney positions, mileage reimbursement for travel, and pare down covering court costs and filing fees for victims. The decreases in the number of attorneys consequently mean fewer victims will be served. Thus, in screening for client eligibility to the program, the income guidelines threshold was lowered to 125% of poverty level for all requested legal assistance other than for protection orders. The eligibility for protection orders remains at 200% of poverty level.

ERLS has two attorney positions covering the eastern part of the state, and DPLS has two attorney positions covering the western half. The LSS immigration attorney is funded for a 25 hour a week position. Applications for services are made directly to those agencies.

Since the project start date of October 2005, through July 31st of this year, 1034 victims have received free help with their legal issues. For questions about the program, contact Liz Bara through The Network at 605-731-0041.

NETWORK RECEIVES TRANSITIONAL HOUSING GRANT

The Network received a \$255,000 grant award from the Office on Violence Against Women to offer transitional housing for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Nine member agencies partnered with The Network and will be offering the transitional housing to victims either on-site or at scattered sites in their respective communities.

The nine agencies are Safe Harbor—Aberdeen, Mitchell Area Safehouse, Wholeness Center—Flandreau, Women's Center/Shelter—Yankton, Rape and Domestic Abuse Center—Sioux Falls, Domestic Violence Safe Option Services—Vermillion, YWCA Family Violence Program—Huron, Missouri Valley Crisis Center—Chamberlain, and Children's Inn—Sioux Falls.

The project will provide funding for transitional housing assistance along with support services funding to assist victims with past due utility payments, current utility payments, child care, transportation and any other needs that may be impeding them from obtaining permanent housing.

GRANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

GRANTS TO ENCOURAGE ARREST AWARDED TO STATE

The Office of the Attorney General of South Dakota received a grant of \$737,133 from the Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women. The funding will be used to train personnel, enhance victim safety and prosecute cases of violent crime. The partners on the project are the Attorney General's Office, The Network, Rape and Domestic Abuse Center—Sioux Falls, SD States Attorney's Association, Sioux Falls Police Department, Minnehaha County Sheriff's Department and Lincoln County Sheriff's Department.

The Network will administer the grant project and prepare all reporting requirements for the federal government.

The SD States' Attorney Association will employ one full-time prosecutor to provide technical assistance for other prosecutors to facilitate the widespread enforcement of protection orders, including interstate enforcement, enforcement between States and tribal jurisdictions, and enforcement between tribal jurisdictions.

The Sioux Falls Police Department, the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department, and the Minnehaha County Sheriff's Department have agreed to participate with a safety and accountability audit in coordination with the Rape and Domestic Abuse Center. RDAC will have one full-time employee that will serve as the audit coordinator.

Each law enforcement agency will receive one full-time officer to centralize and coordinate all domestic violence cases. The law enforcement jurisdictions be able to collect information and establish policies and programs. These audits and programs will hopefully be replicated eventually for other law enforcement jurisdictions in the state. The audit team members will receive training and specific guidelines on the audit process by Praxis International in Duluth, MN.



Happy Holidays from The Network!!

We have enjoyed working with all of you and together we are making a difference for victims in South Dakota. Please consider joining us in 2008 as an agency or individual member. See the back of this newsletter for membership information.



CHILDREN'S INN—SIOUX FALLS CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY! By Erin Baker-Daggett, Operations Director



Children's Inn 1977

This year Sioux Falls celebrated the 30-year history of Children's Inn. It was 30 years ago that the humble beginnings of Children's Inn came to fruition in a little two-bedroom house by McKennan Hospital. While recognizing the need for emergency housing for children, little did any of the founders know how many lives it would eventually come to save. The doors opened on September 15, 1977, in response to a need in Sioux Falls for an emergency shelter for children who were victims of abuse and neglect. At the time, Children's Inn was one of 10 domestic violence shelters in the nation.

By 1978, staff had noticed that mothers of the sheltered children were often in need of emergency shelter themselves. So the Inn began to accept both battered women and their children.

1989 brought the addition of support groups, a crisis hotline, and counseling services. A landmark year for Children's Inn occurred in 1991 with the construction of a 13-room facility, open to all victims of family violence.

In 1998, the independent boards of Children's Inn and Children's Home Society unanimously approved a merger of the two agencies.

In 2000, Children's Inn assisted with the development of [The Family Visitation Center](#), which provides a safe, supervised environment for non-custodial parents to visit their children. Outreach services were expanded to provide on-going counseling to past clients and support services for women at protection order hearings. Another service added was round-the-clock availability of Children's Inn staff to emergency rooms at both Avera McKennan and Sanford Health Hospitals to offer support for domestic violence patients.

In 2005, we expanded our building by 10 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, a multipurpose room, along with increased living, dining, laundry, and support space, and a more secure entrance. The building also received a much needed facelift; old blue siding was replaced with new taupe siding.

In 2007, we assumed supervision of the Bright Start Nurse Home Visitation program. The mission of Bright Start is to be a community based voluntary program that offers home visitation services to high risk families during pregnancy and through the child's third birthday.

Throughout its existence, the mission of Children's Inn has been constant, though the range of programs and services to women and children who have been victims of domestic violence has steadily grown.



Children's Inn 2007

DANIELE DOSCH LEAVES NETWORK STAFF

The South Dakota Network Against Family Violence and Sexual Assault would like to thank Daniele Dosch for her dedicated service to the agency and its member programs. For the past six years, Daniele has been coordinating the Rape Prevention Education Grant in partnership with the South Dakota Department of Health. Although Daniele will no longer be serving in this capacity, she will continue to be an active member of The Network and will serve on the SD Sexual Violence Prevention Planning Committee. During her time at The Network, Daniele was recognized as the 2004 Victim's Champion and honored by the National Sexual

Violence Resource Center with the 2003 Award for Outstanding Advocacy & Community Work in Ending Sexual Violence. "I am thankful for the opportunity to have worked at The Network. I have immense respect for people who are working in the trenches with victims of violence. I am humbled and grateful for being raised up in this movement by so many phenomenal women" says Dosch. She continues, "I've seen amazing changes in the sexual and domestic violence fields these past 15 years. It's inspiring and I am confident that The Network will continue to lead the way in creating a safer South Dakota!"

THE NETWORK AGENCY MEMBERS

**ARTEMIS HOUSE—
BELLE FOURCHE
605-723-0964**

**ARTEMIS HOUSE—LEAD
605-584-3560**

**ARTEMIS HOUSE—SPEARFISH
605-642-7825 OR
1-800-999-2348**

**BC STOP DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE—MARTIN
605-685-6986**

**BROOKINGS DOMESTIC ABUSE
SHELTER
605-692-7233**

**CATHOLIC FAMILY
SERVICES—SIOUX FALLS
605-988-3775**

**CHILDREN'S INN—
SIOUX FALLS
605-338-0116**

**COMMUNITIES AGAINST
VIOLENCE AND ABUSE—LEMMON
605-374-5823**

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SAFE
OPTIONS SERVICES—VERMILLION
605-624-5311**

**FAMILY CRISIS CENTER—
REDFIELD
605-472-3097**

**FIRST CIRCUIT CASA
PROGRAM—MITCHELL
605-996-1202**

**GOODWILL INDUSTRIES—
SIOUX FALLS
605-731-1931**

**GREGORY COUNTY
SHELTER—BURKE
605-775-2220 OR
1-800-658-3486**

**LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES
OF SOUTH DAKOTA
605-357-0131**

**MADISON HOUSE OF HOPE
605-256-6188**

**MISSOURI SHORES
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
CENTER—PIERRE
605-224-0256**

**MISSOURI VALLEY CRISIS CEN-
TER—CHAMBERLAIN
605-234-5155**

**MITCHELL AREA SAFEHOUSE
605-996-6622**

**PRESBYTERY OF
SOUTH DAKOTA
SOCIAL WITNESS AND
ACTION COMMITTEE
605-339-1912
RAPE AND DOMESTIC ABUSE**

**CENTER—SIOUX FALLS
605-339-0116**

**SAFE HARBOR—ABERDEEN
605-226-1212 OR
1-888-290-2935**

**THE WHOLENESS CENTER—
FLANDREAU
605-997-3535**

**WINNER RESOURCE CENTER FOR
FAMILIES
605-842-2736**

**WOMEN'S RESOURCE
CENTER—WATERTOWN
605-886-4300**

**WORKING AGAINST
VIOLENCE, INC—
RAPID CITY
605-341-3292**

**YANKTON WOMEN'S
CENTER/SHELTER
605-665-4811**

**YWCA FAMILY VIOLENCE
PROGRAM—HURON
605-352-4952**



The Network Leadership

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1-800-430-SAFE
SD Domestic Violence Hotline

***The Network
Information***

Sioux Falls Office
605-731-0041

Office fax
605-977-4742

Toll free
1-800-670-3989

Website
www.sdnafvsa.com

MEMBERSHIP REPLY FORM

Please complete this form and return with your check to:
SDNAFV&SA, PO Box 90453, Sioux Falls, SD 57109
Phone 605-731-0041

Individual membership: \$35
Agency membership: \$175

Name _____

Organization (if applicable) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail address _____

I do not wish to join at this time, but I would like to support
SDNAFV&SA with the enclosed donation \$ _____