

SPECIAL PROJECTS

WV S.A.F.E. Crosstraining Toolkit

The development, printing, distribution and training on this toolkit was one of the largest projects that FRIS has coordinated. It is available for free on FRIS' website and is being utilized by service providers throughout the state. Currently the 27 modules from the toolkit are being 'transformed' into online, interactive modules and will be available in the fall of 2011. The toolkit will be presented by the state partners in September at a workshop at the National Sexual Assault Conference.



Website

In an effort to maximize the accessibility of the coalition's services, FRIS' website underwent a major redesign to make it user friendly for people who use screen readers. Most sections of the website were updated and a significant amount of additional information added.

Additional Resources

To add to the training modules in the disability crosstraining toolkit, FRIS' Board and staff developed training modules on additional topics to help increase the core knowledge of advocates in the field. Modules were created on topics that included victim resources, sex offenders/power and control, stalking, cybercrimes, and primary prevention. Plans are underway for two final modules to be developed in 2011-12.

Two newsletters were developed and distributed to the state's rape crisis centers. Each focused on a topical issue: one on DNA backlogs and the other on abuse in later life.

Several brochures as well as the comprehensive multidisciplinary protocol for working with victims were revised. Two new brochures were developed—one on working with victims with disabilities and the other on serving victims with disabilities.

Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP)

2010-2011 marked the first full year of implementation of the Sexual Assault Services Program, which significantly increased the number of available victim services in the state. Through this federal grant that is monitored by FRIS, the rape crisis centers were able to increase on-call services and outreach staff and provide services that are tailored to meet the specific needs of their communities.

Sustainability

FRIS continued its focus on creating a sustainable coalition with the development of an extensive Financial Operations Manual. The rape crisis centers created similar written procedures to ensure the continuity of their services.

WV Goes SANE Project

After years of struggling with the challenge of training SANEs both effectively and cost efficiently, FRIS secured a grant from the Benedum Foundation to explore the feasibility of conducting a component of the SANE trainings online. This project is utilizing a work group and surveys to determine the training needs and viable options in West Virginia as well as exploring available national prototypes. The results of the study and a recommended plan will be available in late 2011.

Key Legislative Issues

A bill requiring HIV testing upon arrest for anyone charged with a sex offense was passed in this session and hopefully will result in some peace of mind for many victims. A proposed sexual violence and stalking protection order was not passed but was referred for study in the interim session. We look forward to this much-needed protection to be available to victims after the 2012 legislative session.

National Training Presentations

The expertise of FRIS staff continued to be recognized on a national level. The fiscal year began in July with a staff member as the featured presenter on a national webinar facilitated by the Prevention Connection on coordinating prevention educators. The fiscal year ended with a staff member serving as a presenter for the fifth time at the National SART Training Conference.

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ANNUAL REPORT 2010-11

West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services, Inc.



ANNUAL 2010-11 REPORT



**West Virginia Foundation for
Rape Information and Services, Inc.**

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FRIS would like to thank the following funders who supported our work in 2010-2011: West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, U.S. Department of Justice through the Violence Against Women Office, the West Virginia Division of Justice and Community Services (STOP Violence Against Women and JAG funds) and the Benedum Foundation.

PREVENTION/AWARENESS

Over the past year significant time and energies were invested in working to create prevention resources that will not be finalized for at least another year. This investment in the infrastructure for prevention in the state involved the dedication and efforts of several work groups that FRIS facilitated.

Key Players in Sexual Violence Prevention

Working on activities designated for year two in the state's five year sexual violence prevention plan, this multi-disciplinary group made amazing progress in the development of prevention toolkits for three targeted populations: school aged children, college campuses, and persons with disabilities. The group completed two components that will be standard section, in all three toolkits: one on primary prevention and an extensive background section. The three work groups, comprised of representatives of the identified professions serving the targeted populations and facilitated by FRIS staff, have almost completed their toolkit-specific 'Getting Started' sections that provide detailed information on their target populations. We are in the final stages of reviewing numerous potential resources for inclusion in the toolkits. The final two sections, readiness self-assessment tools and sample policies and procedures, will be tasks completed in the next year.

Unheard Voices

This interactive art display continued to undergo a re-design yet was displayed at several venues during the process. The creation of public awareness materials to be utilized with the exhibit and a final revision to the User's Guide will complete the project by September 2011.



Prevention Education Specialists and Programs

The educators developed a series of informational sheets, called "Top Tweets," on sexual harassment, stalking, by-standers, bullying and other key issues. In an effort to unify their activities, they developed the logo "Prevention is Key" and coordinated several activities, including providing lessons and distributing teen dating violence pledge cards during National Teen Dating Violence Awareness month. In 2010-11, the rape crisis centers presented a total of 1288 programs in the schools to 35,961 students; 47 campus programs reaching 2,064 students, and an additional 462 community programs to 9,977 people.

MISSION STATEMENT

Mission: To promote the compassionate and just treatment of survivors and their loved ones; foster collaborative relationships; and create attitudinal and behavioral changes around sexual violence and stalking through education, victim services, and social change.

VISION STATEMENT

Vision: To eliminate sexual violence and stalking and to alleviate the suffering of those who have been victimized.

PARTNERSHIPS

Intercollegiate Council Against Sexual Violence

The Council met twice during the year in addition to networking through the statewide listserv. Members of the Council provided feedback and input into the campus prevention resource toolkit that is in development. Council members are hopeful that a draft of the toolkit will be available for piloting in the fall. The May meeting of the Council centered around the Title IX guidelines that were released in April by the Office on Civil Rights.

Rural Advocate Network (RAN)

Quarterly meetings of the Rural Advocate Network were facilitated during the year. The seven advocates continue to serve a large number of victims (368 primary victims and 428 secondary victims in the past 12 months) in addition to their work in coordinating their local SARTs. The focus of their SARTs this year was on formalizing their SARTs' practices through written protocols. In May the advocates began implementing a modified safety audit to help identify any gaps and barriers to services. Plans were finalized for a series of six regional SART trainings that will begin in July.

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Advisory Board

This partnership continues to work to improve the collection of forensic evidence in sexual assault cases. Two projects, major revisions to the instructions of the sex crimes kit and revisions to the state's protocol for responding to sexual assault, were successfully completed. Several members of the Advisory Board are serving on a special project, WV Goes SANE, which was funded by the Benedum Foundation. The purpose is to address an issue that the advisory board has struggled with for several years: the feasibility of creating distance learning opportunities for SANEs in West Virginia. A feasibility study is currently underway and that question will finally be answered and a plan developed.

WV S.A.F.E. Partnership

Four years of work by the West Virginia Sexual Assault Free Environment disability partnership (FRIS, the Northern West Virginia Center for Independent Living, and the WV Department of Health and Human Resources) culminated in several activities. The state team and members of the three pilot site collaboratives held a retreat, where numerous resources were reviewed and distributed. The cross-training toolkit on working with victims with disabilities, consisting of 27 modules organized into four sections (Collaboration 101, Sexual Violence 101, Disabilities 101 and Tools to Increase Access), was completed and printed. A training on the toolkit was held and follow up regional trainings conducted with Adult Protective Services staff. This project, initially funded by the Office on Violence Against Women, has resulted in systems changes on multiple levels, improved the response to victims with disabilities, and increased access to services in the state.

W.V.S.A.R.T.T.

Our statewide SART—the West Virginia Sexual Assault Response Technical Team or W.V.S.A.R.T.T.—continued its efforts to improve the first response to victims of sexual violence through targeted trainings (18 trainings reaching nearly 700 prosecutors, law enforcement officers, advocates, campus staff and magistrates) and technical assistance. Additionally three hospitals received trainings (reaching 160 staff) and five SANE trainings and advanced SANE trainings were coordinated. Eight counties plus the project's six pilot counties received technical assistance, with four new SARTs formed and a training coordinated for one of those SARTs. Six SARTs finalized their community protocols and began implementing a programmatic accessibility assessment of their services.

Additional Partnerships

In addition to the collaboratives listed above that are coordinated by FRIS, staff participated in numerous additional multi-disciplinary initiatives including the Key Players in Sexual Violence Prevention, the Children's Justice Task Force, the Dating Violence Workgroup, and the Violence Against Women Collaborative.



Cabell County SART meeting

TRAININGS/CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES

Although FRIS' focus in 2010-2011 was on resource development, over 25 regional, state and national trainings were still presented.

11th Annual Sexual Assault and Stalking Symposium

The 2011 statewide symposium addressed an emerging topic pertinent to our state's population: abuse in later life. Conference participants received the latest information from two national speakers and several in-state experts in addition to electronic resources to assist them in their work.

Capacity-Building Trainings

Four full-day trainings focusing on specific topics were conducted throughout the year. Two outstanding trainings were held as part of a summer training series: one on 'The Consent Defense,' presented by Jennifer Long from AEquitas and one on 'Sexual Misconduct on College Campuses' facilitated by Brett Sokolow. A Cyber-Summit was held in the fall to provide first responders with the latest information on the use of technology to commit stalking and facilitate sex crimes, with trainers from the National Stalking Resource Center, the National Network to End Domestic Violence's Safety Net Project, and several excellent presenters from West Virginia. The capacity-building trainings ended in February with a day examining the disability toolkit and its potential uses.

Targeted Trainings/Workshops

Several regional and statewide trainings were presented to specific disciplines upon request. These included four regional trainings for Adult Protective Services staff, two regional trainings for the WV Sheriff's Association, a SART training in Mercer County and workshops at several conferences: Emergency Medical Services, Prevention Resource Officers and the WV Collegiate Initiative to Address High Risk Alcohol Use. Each of these events provided an opportunity to provide information specific to a targeted discipline as well as to network and distribute resource materials.

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner/Forensic Exam Trainings

A focus on improved evidence collection continued in 2010-11. FRIS staff again assisted in coordinating 2 one-week adult SANE courses and a week-long pediatric SANE course as well as 2 three-day courses on advanced techniques and issues. National trainers Shalotta Sharp, Diana Faugno and Dr. Pat Speck facilitated these learning opportunities. In addition, FRIS' SANE Project Coordinator trained 160 staff at three medical facilities on forensic exams and evidence collection.

Additional Capacity-Building Activities

In addition to the above-mentioned events, continued FRIS facilitated several activities to help increase the capacity of service providers around the state. A new project, the SANE Connection, was initiated, which involves a bi-monthly facilitated conference call for SANEs and hospital nurse managers on emerging issues in the field of forensic evidence. A two-day retreat was facilitated with the pilot site members of the WV S.A.F.E. initiative to distribute and review resources that will assist them in their work with victims with disabilities. Staff co-facilitated a webinar to train advocates from around the state on the newly implemented Interpreters Fund. Two staff became trained facilitators of the national child sexual abuse prevention curriculum, Stewards of Children, and subsequently facilitated four trainings utilizing the materials. FRIS facilitated quarterly meetings of the state's rural advocates, prevention education specialists and SART Coordinators and conducted mini-trainings on numerous issues from drug facilitated sexual assault to bullying prevention.

RECOGNITION

2011 Visionary Voice Award

West Virginia's 2011 Visionary Voice award recipient is Jan Derry, Executive Director of the Northern West Virginia Center for Independent Living. Ms. Derry was selected for this award, which is sponsored by the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, because of her ongoing work with FRIS and other partners in addressing the sexual victimization of persons with disabilities. Ms. Derry is a founding partner of the WV S.A.F.E. initiative, serves on the Key Players in Sexual Violence Prevention committee, participates in the work group for the prevention toolkit for persons with disabilities and is an active member of her local SART. In the spring of 2010 she secured funding to jointly sponsor the first statewide symposium on working with victims with disabilities as well as a pre-conference training on prevention. Ms. Derry also secured funding to purchase training resources for the state's rape crisis centers. She exemplifies the term 'ally' and has served in a pivotal role in increasing access to services for all victims in our state.