

# SPECIAL PROJECTS

## Training Modules

Through the WV S.A.F.E. project, several training modules were developed to address the core knowledge needed to collaboratively serve victims with disabilities. Module topics include Person First Language, Communication Tips, Intake, Sexual Violence Laws, Sexual Harassment, Victim Compensation Fund, Mandatory Reporting, Confidentiality, Forming a Collaboration, and Assessing a Collaboration.

## Standards for Prevention Education Specialists

The knowledge and skills needed to provide effective prevention education programs were identified and incorporated into a set of standards for the rape crisis centers' Prevention Education Specialists. These standards include a component on how the knowledge and skills will be obtained and monitored.

## Benchbook on Sexual Assault

FRIS is chairing this project for the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals. One meeting of the committee was held to review the progress to date. The projected completion date is 2009.

## Recovery Act Funds

FRIS was the recipient of three Recovery Act grants for projects that will be implemented over the next 24 months. These projects range in scope from updating the reporting data base to include the crime of stalking, to special trainings that will be implemented in the upcoming months.

## Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP)

Over a year after its initial passage by Congress, plans are underway for the implementation of SASP in West Virginia. FRIS will be administering the SASP funds for the WV Division of Criminal Justice Services. The state's SASP application was submitted for the federal funds, which will be available in the fall.

# 2008—09 HIGHLIGHTS

- The WV Sexual Assault Response Technical Team (WV S.A.R.T.T.) was formed through federal funds from the Grants to Encourage Arrest Program. SART and SANE Project Coordinators were hired.
- Adult Protective Services staff were trained on sexual violence for the first time.
- Ten training modules were developed on the topic areas of sexual violence, collaboration, and working with persons with disabilities.
- The prevention focus included the completion of a draft of a five year state prevention plan and the hiring of a Campus Toolkit Coordinator.
- Services and SARTs expanded through the Rural Advocate Network.
- Standards were established for Prevention Education Specialists.
- Capacity building efforts included monthly meetings with key rape crisis center staff and coordinating 15 regional and statewide trainings as well as two retreats.
- The online resident assistant training module was piloted on six campuses.

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**Sera Mathew, Campus Toolkit Coordinator**

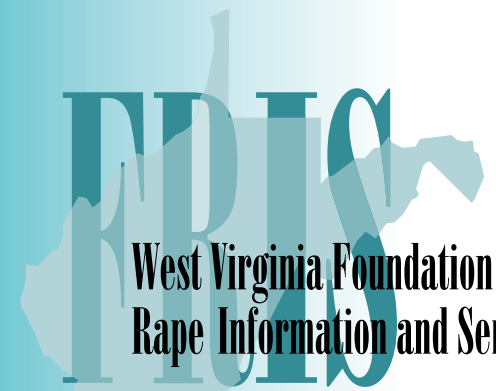
**Barb Sullivan, Special Projects Coordinator**

ANNUAL REPORT 2008-09

West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services, Inc.



# ANNUAL 2008-09 REPORT



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

304-366-9500 Fax 304-366-9501  
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FRIS would like to thank the following funders who supported our work in 2008-2009: West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, U.S. Department of Justice through the Violence Against Women Office, and the West Virginia Division of Criminal Justice Services (STOP Violence Against Women funds).

# PREVENTION/AWARENESS

As the state's sexual assault coalition, FRIS is working to increase the capacity for the rape crisis centers and allied professionals to incorporate effective prevention programs into their work. From establishing a five year prevention plan to purchasing prevention resources, targeted efforts are underway to prevent sexual violence and stalking while working to improve the system's response to its victims.

## Key Players in Sexual Violence Prevention

This state multidisciplinary planning committee developed a draft of a five year sexual violence prevention plan through a series of five full committee meetings and various subgroup activities. West Virginia's plan will focus on three at-risk groups: school-aged children, persons with disabilities, and college students.

Plans include identifying core knowledge and competencies needed to develop and implement prevention programs; reviewing and compiling policies, practices, and programs related to preventing sexual victimization and perpetration; training; and creating a toolkit of suggested policies, practices and materials for preventing sexual violence of the three targeted populations. A part-time Campus Toolkit Coordinator was hired in June to begin working on the college component of the project.

## Awareness and Informational Materials

Informational packets were developed and distributed for Stalking Awareness Month and Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Four agency brochures underwent major revisions: Sexual Harassment, Stalking and Harassment, the SANE/SART Initiative, and the coalition's 'FRIS Is' brochure. The SART Resource Manual was updated and added to the website. Two newsletters were developed: one on prevention and one on Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs).

Several resources were purchased for the rape crisis centers, including Students Success With Prevention (Grades 6–8); The Educator's Emotional Intelligence and Academic Achievement; Once Upon A Time—Storytelling to Character; Cyberbullying and Cyberthreats; Nobody Knew What To Do: A Story About Bullying; Playing the Game 2—High School/College; Say No to Sexual Harassment; When You See Bullying Happening-What a Bystander Can Do; Help I'm A Bully; Dealing with Teen Dating Abuse—Matters of Choice (grades 7–12); Wise Owl—Don't Be A Bully Bystander (K-2); Too Good for Violence (Kits for grades 1–4); Steps to RESPECT —Level 1 (3–4); Recess Queen; and King of the Playground. Funding for the purchase of these materials was provided by the Office of Community Health Systems and Health Promotion of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources and a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office on Women's Health.

Rural Advocates received copies of several curricula and resources: Because Things Happen Every Day; Internet Safety; Sexual Abuse Volunteer Education; Three Kinds of Touches; and May I Kiss You?

Two promotional items advertising the national hotline number were purchased: 6530 flashlight/whistle key chains and 5000 lip balm.

## Prevention Education Specialists and Programs

During the year FRIS coordinated five capacity building meetings of the centers' Prevention Education Specialists to review materials and techniques in providing effective prevention programs. Collectively the 9 rape crisis centers provided 934 programs in the schools, reaching 28,698 students. Additionally they provided 36 programs on college campuses to 1,485 students as well as 422 community programs reaching 9,751 people.

## Interactive Art Display

Over ten years ago FRIS brought an art display from *Project Face to Face*® called *Unheard Voices* to several college campuses. The display is a set of plaster face castings of sexual assault survivors and their stories, told in their own words and voices, on audio tape. FRIS was able to purchase for permanent use the final existing set of face castings from the national exhibit. Currently the display is being 're-designed' for portability and will be available for use statewide in the fall of 2009.

# PARTNERSHIPS

## Campus Health Care Provider Initiative

WVFREE, Advocates for Youth, FRIS and the WV Intercollegiate Council completed the implementation phase of a survey of campus health care providers regarding victim services. The results of that survey helped identify existing campus services, referral processes, and informational needs. Requests for information from specific campuses were shared with the local rape crisis centers.

## Intercollegiate Council Against Sexual Violence

The Council met only once during the year, but a major project that was two years in development was completed and implemented. Six college campuses piloted the web-based resident assistant training module on sexual assault, stalking and prevention. The module was very well received. Feedback from the pilot sites is currently being incorporated into a revised version which will be implemented on at least six campuses in August 2009. A survey of campus health centers on victim services was completed. The feedback from the survey—which included requests for additional information and resources—was shared with the local rape crisis centers. The Council was featured in an article in the Fall-Winter 2008 National Sexual Violence Resource Center's newsletter, The Resource.

## Rural Advocate Network (RAN)

The second year of this partnership, created through the Rural Grant Project funded by the Office on Violence Against Women, resulted in a major focus on training and capacity building for the advocates at the seven pilot sites. A two day training/retreat was held, with subsequent monthly meetings and trainings conducted. The advocates have not only increased their knowledge and skills, but are sharing the information and resources with their developing SARTs at monthly meetings. The advocates served a 133% increased number of victims over the previous year. Many have newly established on-call protocols with their local hospitals. This project has resulted in changes in policies/practices among community service providers within the seven rural communities as well as increased awareness in those communities about the issues of sexual violence and stalking.

## SANE Mobile Project

The regional project received a national technical assistance grant to further its development and strengthen its sustainability. The project has a new coordinator and the participating hospitals have renewed their contracts for another year. This project has received significant national attention since the publication last June of a project replication guide by the federal Office for Victims of Crime.

## Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Advisory Board

Through four meetings and interim committee work, this partnership continued efforts to create a smooth process for transporting non-reporting victims' kits to Marshall University Forensic Science Center for storage. No kits were stored the previous year, but eight kits were collected this year. SAKITA, the web-based sexual assault kit tracking application, is completing phase I of a major revision, and funding was secured for the second and final phase of the revision. The SANE evaluation project, under the direction of the state's Statistical Analysis Center, was completed and the results will be available in August 2009.

## WV S.A.F.E. Partnership

The West Virginia Sexual Assault Free Environment disability partnership (FRIS, WV Department of Health and Human Resources, and the Northern West Virginia Center for Independent Living) is completing its third year. After compiling both a Needs Assessment Report and a Strategic Plan, the implementation phase of the project began in the three pilot site counties: Marion, Ohio, and Preston. The plan includes bi-weekly meetings of the individual pilot site teams to implement the training modules developed by WV S.A.F.E. Since January ten modules have been reviewed, a programmatic accessibility survey designed, and a training conducted on the survey tool. Once these products are reviewed and approved by the Office on Violence Against Women, they will be available for distribution. Participating pilot site agencies have already made changes to their policies, practices and training content because of information contained in the modules and survey.

## WV S.A.R.T.T.

This newly formed partnership, the West Virginia Sexual Assault Response Technical Team, was established under the newly acquired Grant to Improve Arrests Program (Arrest Grant). FRIS' SART Project Coordinator and SANE Project Coordinator are funded through this grant. The project is working to increase sexual violence arrest rates in the state by developing six SARTs and conducting regional/statewide trainings. WV S.A.R.T.T. is comprised of FRIS, WVDHHR, the WV Prosecuting Attorneys Institute, the Regional Community Policing Institute, the Statistical Analysis Center, and the directors of the 6 participating regional rape crisis centers. A modified safety audit was developed by the statewide partnership and is currently being implemented by the six local SART Coordinators. Results of the audits will be used locally to identify training needs and strengthen services.

## Violence Against Women (VAW) Collaborative Group

FRIS participates in this partnership that addresses the implementation of VAWA requirements. Collaborative members also include the Division of Criminal Justice Services, the WV Department of Health and Human Resources, the WV Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and the Family Protection Services Board.

# MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services is 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.

# TRAININGS

The major focus during 2008–2009 was on targeted training and capacity building. Work began to standardize the training of advocates and allied professionals in the state through the development of a series of training modules. Additionally, numerous discipline-specific and topic-focused trainings were held.

## Adult Protective Services (APS)

After learning that the state did not train APS staff on sexual violence, FRIS partnered with DHHR to provide a series of five regional trainings. A total of 108 professionals attended the three hour trainings that FRIS developed. Although attendance was mandatory for the state's 59 APS staff members, the feedback was excellent and additional training was requested.

## Board Development

A training on personnel issues and labor laws was held with the rape crisis center directors and key financial staff.

## Rural Advocates

A two-day training for 16 rural advocates/staff was held to provide core knowledge on sexual violence, advocacy, and building collaborations.

## Prevention Resource Officers (PRO)

Sixty PRO officers were trained on healthy relationships, dating violence and sexual assault during a four hour workshop.

## SART Coordinators

A training was held with SART coordinators (16 in attendance) from around the state and their rape crisis center directors to explore resources and how to develop a coordinated community response team.

## Sexual Assault and Stalking Annual Symposium and Pre-Symposium Conference

A total of 146 participants attended the annual symposium. The Office for Victims of Crime sponsored a pre-symposium conference on 'Civil Liberties in West Virginia,' with 94 professionals attending.

## Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Trainings

The four SANE trainings had record attendance: 2 adult SANE trainings (Huntington/23 attending and Clarksburg/27 attending) and 2 pediatric SANE trainings (Huntington/24 attending and Clarksburg/24 attending).

## Stalking Train the Trainers

Twenty-seven participants were invited to attend an all-day 'train the trainers' session on stalking. Rural Advocates, Prevention Education Specialists, and SART Coordinators received the newest statistics on stalking and the updated laws in a training format they can utilize in their agencies and communities.

## WV S.A.F.E.

A two-day retreat was held to cross-train the three different disciplines (rape crisis centers, disability service providers, DHHR staff) represented on the project's three pilot site teams. Twenty-three people participated in the retreat. A training with 16 participants was later held on programmatic accessibility assessment.

# RECOGNITION

## 2009 Visionary Voice Award

Dr. Stephen Haas was our 2009 Visionary Voice Award recipient, an award sponsored by the National Sexual Violence Resource Center. Dr. Haas has served as the Director of West Virginia's Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) since 2003. He has worked with FRIS on implementing a victim-service satisfaction survey; serves on the state SANE Advisory Board (which is working to evaluate the collection of sexual assault evidence); participates on the Key Players in Sexual Violence Prevention Committee (where he also serves on the data committee); and serves on the West Virginia Sexual Assault Response Technical Team (for which he coordinated the development of a modified safety audit and facilitated three focus groups).

# STALKING RESOURCE CENTER

Governor Manchin again proclaimed January as Stalking Awareness Month. Stalking Awareness Packets were developed for advocates. The stalking brochure was revised and special resource materials on stalking compiled to distribute with the stalking Train the Trainer module.

# VISION STATEMENT

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