

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Data Base

For the first time, all of the state's rape crisis centers will be using the same software program for collecting data. A training was held on the new data base. Significant delays were encountered in its availability, but expanded data that will be collected in the new fiscal year.

Monitoring

FRIS serves as the pass-through entity for several federal grants, so a formal process was created to monitor grant implementation. Monitoring visits were conducted with each of the rape crisis centers and a monitoring manual completed. The visits were a wonderful opportunity for information sharing and technical assistance as well as to put faces to the names and voices of the financial staff at the centers.

SAKITA

The upgrade to the online Sexual Assault Kit Tracking Application was completed and implemented. A partnership of the WV State Police Crime Lab, Marshall University's Forensic Science Center and FRIS, SAKITA will help identify training needs in the area of evidence collection.

SASTA

FRIS' online Sexual Assault Services Training Academy was created to increase access to training materials. This collaboration between FRIS and West Virginia University resulted in the conversion of 27 training modules into an interactive web-based training format. SASTA is still being tweaked and tested and should debut in late 2012.

RECOGNITION

2012 Visionary Voice Award

Renee Yokum, an advocate with Women's Aid in Crisis (WAIC) since 2001, was West Virginia's 2012 Visionary Voice Award recipient. In recent years Renee was named as WAIC's Sexual Assault Services Coordinator, which utilizes her skills as an advocate as well as that of supervisor and mentor to new staff working in the field of sexual violence. She is an active (and founding) member of the Randolph County Sexual Assault Response Team/Stop Violence Against Women Team. Renee is a vital link between WAIC, FRIS, WAIC's three area college campuses and Youth Health Services. She recently created a brochure to "speak" to adult survivors of childhood sexual violence. Renee is the prototype of a true advocate, working tirelessly and selflessly toward the goal of assisting those she serves in seeking renewed health, safety, and a life free from sexual violence.



Visionary Voice Award winner Renee Yokum (left) with the National Sexual Violence Resource Center's Director of Special Projects, Sally Laskey.

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ANNUAL REPORT 2011-12

West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services, Inc.



ANNUAL 2011-12 REPORT



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

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PREVENTION/AWARENESS

Key Players in Sexual Violence Prevention

This multi-disciplinary collaborative, co-facilitated by the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources and FRIS, completed activities designated for year three of the state's five year sexual violence prevention plan. Overseeing the efforts of three work groups tasked with creating comprehensive resource toolkits for targeted at-risk populations, the collaborative began shifting its focus from toolkit completion to toolkit dissemination.

Several prevention resources that have been in development for the past two years were completed. A number of the resources featured in the toolkits were also purchased for the rape crisis centers.

- Disability Training and Prevention Resource Toolkit. The first of the three toolkits to be completed, it consists of the six standard sections found in each toolkit: Self-Assessment Tool; Are You Ready?; Prevention; Target Population-Specific Information; Resources and Sample Policies.
- Campus Training and Prevention Resource Toolkit. This toolkit was piloted by several campuses that found it to be a reservoir of information for both conducting prevention programs and training campus staff. FRIS received permission from the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape to adapt two resources: a 243-page training curriculum ("Reconstructing Norms") and a guide for transitioning to college for first year students ("PACT—Promoting Awareness of the College Transition"). For the latter FRIS created a User's Guide, which was printed with PACT and distributed to the colleges and the state's Prevention Resource Officers. Additionally, a drug-facilitated sexual assault training resource was developed for campus law enforcement.
- School-aged Children and Youth Training and Prevention Resource Toolkit. This work group had the largest volume of resources and policies to review. They are completing that process and the toolkit is progressing to the final draft stages.

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.



A national anti-violence campaign, NO MORE, was launched to help raise awareness about sexual and domestic violence. Access it at <http://www.nomore.org>.

PARTNERSHIPS

Intercollegiate Council Against Sexual Violence

This statewide network of college campuses, rape crisis centers, the Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC) and FRIS met three times during the year to share resources and ideas as the colleges continue to work to meet Title IX compliance standards. FRIS provided several prevention and awareness resources. The Council decided to apply for an Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) Campus Grant as a consortium consisting of ten campuses, seven rape crisis centers, HEPC and FRIS. The proposed project will focus on trainings for judicial boards and campus law enforcement, a coordinated response to interpersonal violence and prevention programs.

Rural Advocate Network (RAN)

Created through an OVW Rural Program Grant that was renewed for a three year period, the RAN provides a linkage among advocates providing services in rural areas. In addition to facilitating a listserv, FRIS facilitated three RAN meetings during the past year, providing technical assistance, resources and guest speakers to build the capacity of the advocates in their extensive prevention and intervention efforts and focus on service accessibility.

SANE Advisory Board

This group of dedicated multidisciplinary professionals took on several challenging tasks. These included working with the legislature's Women's Caucus and its interest in standards for the forensic medical exams, which will be studied in the interim legislative session.

WVSARTT

The West Virginia Sexual Assault Response Technical Team continued its monthly meetings as the planning team for an OVW Arrest Grant and as a true collaborative working to enhance training and SART development in the state. The WVSARTT and FRIS staff collaborated with the WV State Police Crime Lab in developing the curriculum for the 12 SART trainings. WVSARTT members participated in 10 regional law enforcement trainings in partnership with the West Virginia Prosecuting Attorneys Institute. SARTs finalized written protocols in their communities and assessed programmatic service accessibility.

STALKING

FRIS' commitment to increase awareness on the crime of stalking was evidenced through several initiatives: legislatively (personal safety order and stalking rules for law enforcement); awareness (packets of information were created and distributed to advocates for Stalking Awareness Month) and training (workshops targeting stalking at the annual symposium and a 'train the trainer' event with 22 rape crisis center advocates). Grant funds were secured and resources purchased for the creation of 1500 Stalking Resource Kits for law enforcement distribution.

SANE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Several initiatives surrounding the development of SANE programs put this issue on the radar screen of the medical community. A major success was West Virginia University Hospital's January 2012 creation of a 24/7 SANE program. Technical assistance was provided to 15 additional hospitals interested in improving forensic evidence collection. Four SANE trainings were held—with individual hospitals now stepping up and sponsoring trainings. A bi-monthly technical assistance call, the SANE Connection, is facilitated to keep SANEs updated. The West Virginia Goes SANE project, an initiative funded by the Benedum Foundation, completed its task of determining the feasibility of creating/utilizing on-line resources for 24 of the 40 hours comprising an adult SANE training. Consultants assisted FRIS in identifying available online courses, assessing costs of adapting those for state-specific information, and outlining a curriculum.

TRAININGS

Training continued to be a core activity of the coalition, with collectively 27 trainings coordinated reaching 1089 professionals.

SANE Trainings

FRIS staff assisted Marshall University's Forensic Science Center in coordinating two (one adult and one pediatric) SANE trainings. Additionally, City Hospital in Martinsburg and WVU hosted adult SANE trainings. Collectively 81 were trained at these week-long trainings.

SART Trainings

A marathon 12 community SART trainings were held in the fall focusing on advanced skills for first responders. A total of 200 SART members were trained. The first-ever SART Summit was held with 187 professionals attending. The Summit not only energized the existing SARTs, it inspired other communities to explore SART development.

Symposium

The 12th Annual Sexual Assault and Stalking Symposium was attended by 201 professionals from around the state. The evaluations indicated that the focus on trauma equipped attendees with better insight into the impact of rape as well as the importance of their own self-care.

Targeted Trainings/Workshops

Several trainings were provided to specific professionals in the past year. A total of 44 Prevention Resource Officers received both training and resources to assist them in their prevention programs in high schools throughout the state. Information on the new personal safety order was presented at two trainings reaching all of the state's magistrates. A teleconference on the personal safety order was held with 87 advocates participating. The rape crisis center advocates also attended the training event on stalking. FRIS' State Coordinator facilitated a workshop on the WV S.A.F.E. Disability Training and Collaboration Toolkit at the National Sexual Assault Conference. A training on the new data base was presented to 29 financial and administrative staff and advocates.

LEGISLATION

The 2012 legislative session was a landmark period for sexual assault victims and victim services. A personal safety order providing protection for victims of sexual violence and stalking who are not in domestic relationships passed and went into effect June 5, 2012. This legislation was the culmination of an interim legislative session study and the collaborative work of many allies. Legislative rules were passed detailing the process for implementing the 2011 legislation mandating HIV testing of individuals charged with sex offenses. First time funding for rape crisis centers was appropriated for the 2012–13 fiscal year. Legislative rules for law enforcement's implementation of the stalking laws were created for submission in the 2013 session.



Governor Earl Ray Tomblin signing the newly created personal safety order at the State Capitol with Marcia Drake (from left), Marsha Kisner, Lois Manns, Nikki Godfrey and Nancy Hoffman observing.