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, Confidentially, 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 creating 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.

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304-367-1100

Upper Ohio Valley Sexual Assault Help Center
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Women’s Aid In Crisis
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1-800-339-1185 / 304-638-8433

Women’s Resource Center
Beckley
304-295-2559 / TTY 1-888-825-7835

2008—09 HIGHLIGHTS

- The WV Sexual 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.

STAFF
Libby D’Auria, Disabilities Project Coordinator
Bonnie Fields, SANE Project Coordinator
Niki Godfrey, SART Project Coordinator
Nancy Hoffman, State Coordinator
Marsha Kieran, Rural Prevention Project Coordinator
Debra Lopez-Bonasso, Education/SANE Coordinator
Lori Mans, Stalking Project/College Council Coordinator
Sera Mathew, Campus Toolkit Coordinator
Barb Sullivan, Special Projects Coordinator

West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services, Inc.
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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 (TFDP Violence Against Women Funds).

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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. To establish a five-year prevention plan to purchase 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 statewide multi-disciplinary 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 all-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 solutions 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 college campuses of the project.

**Awareness and Informational Materials**

Informational packets were developed and distributed for Stalking Awareness Month and Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Four agencies brochure underwent major revisions: Sexual Harassment, Stalking and Harassment, the SANE/SART Initiative, and the coalition's FRIS b' 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 (SANE).

Several resources were purchased for the rape crisis centers, including Students Success With Prevention (Grades 4–6); The Educator’s Emotional Intelligence and Academic Achievement. Once Upon A Time—Storytelling to Character: Cyberbullying and Cyber-tres; Nobody Knows What To Do: A Story About Bullying; Playing the Game—High School College; Say No To Sexual Harassment: You Don’t Follow; Happening—What A Bully Can Do; Help! I’m A Bully; Dealing with Teen Dating Abuse—Monsters of Others’ (grades 7–12). Wise Choice: Don’t Be A Bully bystander; Too Good for Violence (Kits for grades 1–4), Steps to RESPECT—Levels 1–2 (Respect, Queen, and King of the Playground, Fund for the purchase of these materials was provided by the Office of Community Health and Health Systems 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/wrist 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 and programs. Collectively the 9 rape crisis centers provided 934 programs in the schools, reaching 28,696 students. Additionally they provided 36 programs on college campuses to 1,485 students as well as 422 community programs reaching 9,771 people.

**In the News**

Over ten years 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 casts of sexual assault survivors and their stories, told in their own words and voices, on audio tapes. FRIS was able to purchase for permanent use the final existing set of face casts from the national exhibit. Currently the display is being re-designed for permanent use and will be available for use statewide in the fall of 2009.

**Campus Health Care Provider Initiative**

WVFREE, Advocates for Youth, FRIS and the WV Intercollegiate Council coordinated 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 information 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 are now connected to the web-based resource center on sexual assault. Stalking pre-test survey was well received and 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 center 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 NACF/WV Nurse 2009 Sexual Violence Resource Center’s newsletter.

**Rural Advocate Network (RAN)**

The RAN has a new membership, created through the Rural Grant Project funded by the Office on Violence Against Women, which is a major focus on training and capacity building to advocate at the seven site pilot sites. At the start of each training retreat, 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 recently established on-line chat-rooms with their local hospitals. This project has resulted in changes in policies/operations 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 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 implementation 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 to a rural site. The team was reminded to coordinate their efforts with SART at monthly meetings. The advocates served a 133% increased number of victims over the previous year. Many have recently established on-line chat-rooms with their local hospitals. This project has resulted in changes in policies/operations 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.

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**Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Training**

The four SANE trainees had record attendances: 2 adult SANE trainees (Huntington 03/23 and Charleston 02/27 and 2 pediatric SANE trainees (Huntington 02/26 and Charleston 02/04). Stalking Training the Trainers Twenty-seven participants were invited to attend an all-day train-the-trainers session on stalking. Rural Advocates, Prevention Education Specialists, and SANE Coordinators received the newest statistics on stalking and the updated laws in a training format they will offer in their agencies and organizations.

**Stalking Training the Trainers**

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

**Recruitment**

**2009 Visionary Voice Award**

Dr. Stephen Hass was our 2009 Visionary Voice Award recipient, an award sponsored by the National Sexual Violence Resource Center. Dr. Hass has served as the Director of West Virginia’s Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) since 2000. He works closely with the WV fleeing, victimization program (WVFVP) and SANE Project Coordinator is funded through this grant. The project is working to increase sexual violence arrest rates in the state by developing six SARTs and coordinating regional/statewide trainings. WV S.A.R.T. is comprised of WVHRR, WV State’s Attorney General’s Office, the WV Probation Officers, the WV Department of Health and Human Resources, the State Crime Laboratory, and the WV and participating local/county rape crisis centers. A modified safety audit was developed by the statewide partnership and is currently being implemented by the six SART/GCRT. Resources of the audit will be used locally to identify training needs and strengthen services.

**Violence Against Women (VAW) Collaborative Groups**

Healthy Relationships Education: This partnership that promotes the implementation of URM requirements. Collaborative members also include the Division of Criminal Justice Services, the WV Department of Health and Human Resources, the WV Coalition Against Sexual 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 attitudes and behavioral changes around sexual violence and stalking through education, victim services, and social change.