

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP)

In December 2009, West Virginia became one of the first states to implement SASP. These first-time federal funds for sexual assault services enabled the state's nine rape crisis centers to expand services for victims. Service expansion includes counseling, advocacy, and crisis intervention.

Interpreter Fund

FRIS partnered with the WV Supreme Court of Appeals and the WV Coalition Against Domestic Violence in the development of guidelines for a fund to pay for language interpreters for victims of sexual and/or domestic violence.

Sustainability

FRIS continued its focus on creating a sustainable coalition with the development of a Standard Operating Procedures Manual and templates for staff orientation and staff program manuals. The rape crisis centers are developing similar resources to ensure continuity in their organizations.

National Projects

FRIS staff contributed to several national discussions on sexual violence through serving on work groups for the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, presenting at the national meeting of the Sexual Violence Resource Sharing Project and contributing to related national publications.

RECOGNITION

2010 Visionary Voice Award

Sharon Pressman, Executive Director of CONTACT Huntington Inc., was our 2010 Visionary Voice recipient. The annual award is sponsored by the National Sexual Violence Resource Center.

Sharon began as a volunteer for CONTACT in 1985. As a board member in 2001, the agency was on the verge of closing due to no staff and significant debt. Sharon worked tirelessly as a volunteer to assist the agency in recovering and continuing to provide crisis intervention services. Under her leadership CONTACT has expanded to five full-time staff serving a four-county area.



Award recipient Sharon Pressman, left, pictured with FRIS State Coordinator Nancy Hoffman.



CONTACT Huntington partnered with Marshall University for a 'human ribbon' for Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

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304-367-1100

**Upper Ohio Valley Sexual Assault
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Wheeling
304-234-1783 / 304-234-8519 / 1-800-884-7242

Women's Aid In Crisis
Elkins
1-800-339-1185 / 304-636-8433

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ANNUAL REPORT 2009-10

West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services, Inc.



ANNUAL 2009-10 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 2009-2010: 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 Justice and Community Services (STOP Violence Against Women and JAG funds).

PREVENTION/AWARENESS

Targeted projects were initiated in 2009–10 and are in various stages of development. Their collective purpose is to increase the capacity of the rape crisis centers and allied professionals in developing and implementing effective prevention strategies.

Train the Trainers

A one-day training was held in April to train rape crisis center staff and disability service providers on conducting prevention programs for persons with disabilities. This was the first-ever training in the state on this topic, and numerous resources were provided to the attendees to supplement the training.

State Prevention Plan

West Virginia's five-year sexual violence prevention plan was completed and submitted to the Centers for Disease Control.

Key Players in Sexual Violence Prevention

This multi-disciplinary group, tasked with implementing the state's sexual violence prevention plan, actively worked to provide structure and guidance for that process. The end result in five years will be the creation of prevention toolkits for three targeted populations: school aged children, college campuses, and persons with disabilities. Three workgroups, comprised of representatives of the identified professions serving the targeted populations and facilitated by FRIS staff, each began the process of identifying the necessary core knowledge and competencies for prevention work, reviewing data and risk/protective factors, and compiling resources for the toolkits.

Unheard Voices®

This interactive art display underwent a major 're-design' to increase its portability. It debuted in January and has since been displayed at several college campuses and at the annual sexual assault symposium. A detailed User's Guide for the exhibit was developed.

Prevention Education Specialists and Programs

FRIS staff coordinated monthly capacity-building meetings with the nine rape crisis centers' Prevention Education Specialists. A training was held on evaluating prevention programs. A grant from the Department of Health and Human Services Office on Women's Health enabled FRIS to both purchase curricula for the centers and provide a training on the materials. During the past year the centers provided a total of 1868 programs in the schools to 36,167 students; 64 campus programs reaching 2,303 students, and an additional 361 community programs to 14,296 people.

On-Line Resident Assistant Module

FRIS' on-line resident assistant module received an 'up-grade', with graphics added and a User's Guide created to assist trainers in utilizing the tool on their campuses. Feedback on the module continues to be received from individuals from around the state and country who have used the module. One in-state campus requested permission to utilize the module as the basis for a component of its freshmen orientation classes.

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.

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

Networking through the statewide listserv and two working meetings, Council members continued sharing resources and ideas. After successfully piloting the on-line resident assistant module in 2008 and making suggestions for a User's Guide, the revised module was utilized on 14 campuses last year. The Council provided input for the User's Guide for *Unheard Voices* as well as served as a source for disseminating information on the exhibit.

Rural Advocate Network (RAN)

The continuation of funding for this project by the Office on Violence Against Women was a testimony to its impact in seven rural counties in the state. After an initial focus on county-wide SART trainings, (two of which occurred in the past year), the newly formed SARTs are meeting monthly. The Rural Advocate Network continued to meet monthly to focus on SANE Program development, partnering with medical facilities, volunteer management and recruitment, formalizing and expanding collaborations, and developing prevention efforts.

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Advisory Board

This partnership addressed the issue of retrieving the stored sex crimes kits of victims that do not report. Because the non-report law only went into effect in July 2007, victims are just beginning to request that the kits be retrieved and processed. That procedure was streamlined and instructions disseminated to key professionals throughout the state. The Board is also examining the issue of SANE training and exploring the possibility of creating distance learning opportunities for SANEs, with the goal of increasing the accessibility of those trainings. SAKITA, the sexual assault kit tracking application, underwent phase one of a two phase re-design.

WV S.A.F.E. Partnership

The West Virginia Sexual Assault Free Environment disability partnership (comprised of FRIS, the Northern West Virginia Center for Independent Living, and the WV Department of Health and Human Resources) is completing the fourth and final year of a project funded by the Office on Violence Against Women. The project includes the creation of a training and collaboration toolkit consisting of modules organized into four sections: *Collaboration 101*, *Sexual Violence 101*, *Disabilities 101* and *Tools to Increase Access*. The modules were piloted in three counties—Marion, Ohio, and Preston—and will be available online in the fall of 2010. During the year the pilot site partners conducted programmatic and physical accessibility assessments and implemented transition plans to increase the accessibility of their services.

WV S.A.R.T.T.

The West Virginia Sexual Assault Response Technical Team completed its first full year of existence with an extremely active year of training and technical assistance. In addition to coordinating and providing 7 regional SART trainings, the project coordinated a series of 6 regional law enforcement trainings (reaching 316 participants), presented at the 2 RAN SART trainings, coordinated four statewide capacity-building trainings and participated in several other county, regional and state training events. Technical assistance was provided to areas interested in initiating SARTs as well as to several hospitals inquiring about establishing SANE programs. A four hour block of training time was negotiated and implemented with the State Police Academy for training new cadets on sexual violence and stalking. A quarterly newsletter was initiated and distributed throughout the state to law enforcement, prosecutors, and advocates.

Additional Partnerships

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

2009—10 HIGHLIGHTS

- The West Virginia S.A.F.E. Training and Collaboration Toolkit came closer to completion with the development of 14 additional modules. The toolkit is scheduled for release in the fall of 2010.
- FRIS coordinated/participated in a record 30 trainings.
- New partnerships were formed for several projects, including trainings (WV Division of Corrections, WV Sheriff's Association) and services (Interpreter Fund).
- Six county SARTs worked to develop service infrastructure through the implementation of safety audits and the creation of written protocols.
- Increasing the accessibility of services to victims with disabilities was a focus with the development/implementation of both programmatic and physical assessment tools and the first-ever statewide training on the issue.

TRAININGS

In 2009–10 FRIS provided a record number of training opportunities to professionals from multiple disciplines.

10th Annual Sexual Assault Symposium and Pre-Conference

Serving victims with disabilities was the focus of the 2010 statewide sexual assault symposium. A total of 184 participants took part in the training. Topics covered all aspects of services, from effective communication and creating an accessible environment to risk reduction and guardianship. A pre-conference Training of Trainers on prevention was attended by 62 rape crisis center staff and disability service providers. The trainings were led by Dr. Beverly Frantz and Dr. Nora Baladerian.

Diversity Training

Staff of the state's nine rape crisis centers and members of FRIS comprised the 58 attendees of the coalition's first diversity training. Presenter Valda Boyd Ford addressed issues of why cultural competency is so important in our work to end sexual violence and in developing a foundation of respect for ourselves and others.

SART Capacity-Building Trainings

A two-day training opportunity was held for first responders to victims of sexual assault. The first day's training, facilitated by Dr. Kimberly Lonsway of End Violence Against Women, focused on interviewing strategies and investigative techniques to overcome credibility challenges in successfully investigating sexual assault cases (129 participants). The second day, presented by Trinka Porrata and reaching 124 attendees, centered on reviewing the 40+ drugs that have been identified in drug-facilitated sexual assault cases, the common difficulties in investigating these cases and how to overcome these challenges.

SART Trainings

WVFRIS, along with participating members of the WVSARTT, sponsored nine trainings. These trainings brought together members of Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs) to learn about the challenges victims of sexual assault face and the role each first responder has in assisting those victims. Trainings were held in Braxton, Kanawha, Preston, Harrison, Monongalia, Fayette, Cabell, Ohio and Berkeley counties and reached a total of 381 participants.

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Trainings

This year, five SANE trainings were held providing opportunities for registered nurses to learn pertinent information on the assessment, evaluation and collection of forensic evidence in sexual assault cases. The trainings included 2 two-week adult SANE training courses and a one-week pediatric SANE course. Additionally, two three-day courses on advanced techniques and issues were held. The 46 participants had the opportunity to learn from highly esteemed trainers Shalotta Sharp, Diana Faugno and Linda Ledray.

WV S.A.F.E.

The disability project held a training for pilot site partners on increasing the physical accessibility of their services. Eighteen participants attended the training.

WV Sheriffs' Association Regional Trainings

FRIS partnered with the WV Sheriffs' Association to present two in a series of four regional trainings for law enforcement officers on Abuse in Later Life. A total of 89 officers participated in the two trainings.

Additional Trainings

Over the course of the year, several discipline-specific trainings were held across the state. These included a training on the response to prison rape for juvenile detention facility staff of the WV Department of Corrections (34 in attendance); a workshop at the state's Social Work Conference (20 participants), a training for the Prevention Resource Officers (66 officers), the National Guard advocates (17 participants) and the state's Emergency Medical Services' (EMS) annual training (36 attendees). Two targeted trainings were held with the state's Prevention Education Specialists.

- The *Unheard Voices* exhibit debuted in January 2010 and was displayed at several venues during the year.
- User's Guides for both the online resident assistant training module and the *Unheard Voices* exhibit were completed.
- Creating infrastructure for the prevention of sexual violence began a five year process with the creation of three workgroups.

