

NORTH DAKOTA CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION TASK FORCE

REPORT TO THE NORTH DAKOTA JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

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PRESIDING OFFICER

TASK FORCE OVERVIEW

PURPOSE: HB 1237: DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE APPROACH TO THE PREVENTION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE.

Membership

- Senator David A. Clemens
- Representative Bernie Satrom
- Representative Mary Schneider
- Dr. Christopher Johnson, Chief Executive Officer, Rape and Abuse Crisis Center of Fargo-Moorhead
- Anna Frissell, Executive Director, Red River Children's Advocacy Center
- Amanda Peterson, Director, Education Equity and Support, Department of Public Instruction
- Britta Demello Rice, Assistant Attorney General
- Scott Davis, Executive Director, North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission
- Brad Hawk, Indian Health Systems Administrator, North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission
- Laura Just, School Social Worker, Mandan Public School District
- Seth Engelstad, Principal, Milnor Public High School
- John Alstad, Principal, Miller Elementary
- Hope Rush Dorothy, Counselor, Moses Elementary School, Bismarck Public School District
- Jared Bollom, Counselor, Glen Ullin Public School District
- Tom Solberg, Deputy Director Department of Human Services
- Leslie Brunette
- Sandra Tibke, Executive Director Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota
- John Foss, Sherriff Grant County
- Tim Helmer ND BCI Agent
- Cori Hilzendeger Principal St. Anne Elementary School
- Mallory Sattler, Domestic Violence/Rape Crisis Program Coordinator, Department of Health

CSA TASK FORCE BACKGROUND

- 2017 legislative session, Senate Bill 2342 established task force
 - Task Force met Feb. 2018 through Nov. 2018
 - Final report submitted to legislative council and governor's office; and 2019 legislators <http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/pubs/docs/cfs/final-report-nd-task-force-prevention-child-sexual-abuse-2018.pdf>
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- 2019 legislative session, House Bill 1237, re-established task force until 2024
 - Task Force met Oct., Nov., and Dec. 2019; Jan., Feb., May, June, July 2020
 - COVID19 disrupted monthly meetings (March and April, 2020); status report will go to governor's office end of July, 2020

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

- Identified purpose and guiding theoretical frameworks (primary prevention)
- Engaged Sara Stolt, Chief Operating Officer, Department of Human Services
- Identified high level goals, accompanying objectives and assessment / evaluation methods
- Developing logic model that will serve as a framework document for the next 4 ½ years

GOAL 1: PRIMARY PREVENTION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE (CSA)

The CSATF will seek to end CSA by developing and implementing a primary prevention strategy for the state of ND.

- Coordinate a statewide environmental scan
- Influence policy and legislation regarding primary prevention of CSA
- Change organization practices
- Foster coalitions and networks
- Educate providers
- Promote community education

GOAL 2: STRENGTHENING THE INTERVENTION

The CSATF will strengthen the support provided to children and families participating in interview, investigation and prosecution processes.

- Compile and analyze demographic discrepancies
- Ensure child and family access to teams coordinating intervention processes
- Mandate ongoing education in the field of child maltreatment
- Coordinate the facilitation of interagency information sharing
- Incorporate cultural, linguistic, and physical accessibility needs throughout the intervention process
- Incorporate ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic status, disability, gender and gender identification and expression and sexual orientation accommodations and affirmation
- Support access to information for parents and caregivers about resources and referrals

GOAL 3: STRENGTHENING THE NETWORK

The CSATF will strengthen the network of trauma informed services for children, adult survivors and family members impacted by CSA.

- Determine current services and gaps in services
- Implement mental health intervention at the first contact for child and family
- Provide culturally appropriate training to professionals involved early in the process
- Collaborate with Treatment Collaborative for Traumatized Youth and victims service providers to improve access to evidence-based trauma treatment training to fill service gaps for children and adolescents, adults and the general public
- Improve the public's awareness and access to the network of trauma informed services

GOAL 4: STRENGTHENING OFFENDER PROGRAMMING

The CSATF will strengthen the network of providers who support the positive needs and behavior of offenders.

- Determine current services and gaps in service
- Increase availability of programs that prevent and deter abuse by adult, juvenile offenders who engage in problematic sexual behavior
- Review the appropriateness and effectiveness of offender management programs
- Review penalty, treatment, assessment and other options for juvenile offenders and youth who engage in problematic sexual behavior

MOVING FORWARD

- Finalize logic model with data type, analysis and reporting mechanism
- Secure funding to assist with task force coordination, data collection / analysis / reporting, printing, marketing and other human resource costs.
- Establish sub-committees to focus on specific aspects of the strategic plan
- Continue to execute the strategic plan and report progress to state-wide stakeholders

QUESTIONS / COMMENTS / DISCUSSION?

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