



Victim Assistance Academy for North Dakota (VAAND)



SVAA Overview

- The goal of the Office for Victims of Crime's State Victim Assistance Academy initiative is:
 - *To assist states in developing effective strategies for establishing their own SVAAAs as a means to increase the knowledge of victim service personnel.*



SVAA Overview

- The first SVAA was funded in Michigan in 1998
- 37 states have received funding
- Overall goal is to have an academy in every state



- **The Victim Assistance Academy for North Dakota offers a rare opportunity to live, work, study, and interact with allied professionals who routinely work with victims of all crimes.**



Vision

- *To provide consistent and quality services to victims of crime in North Dakota.*

Mission

- *To develop, implement, and maintain a statewide structure to expand and enhance the level of skills and knowledge for those who interact with victims of crime.*



VAAND Overview

- **Purpose:** Provide comprehensive training to those professionals who interact with victims of crime in order to provide quality services in North Dakota.
- Designed to meet the entry-level educational and training needs of crime victim services and allied professionals.
- Week-long (40 hour) curriculum that is North Dakota focused.



VAAND Overview

- Letters of support were obtained from:
 - Minot State University
 - NDVAA (North Dakota Victim Assistance Association)
 - VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) administration



VAAND Steering Committee

Professionals representing:

- Advocacy
- State's Attorneys
- District judges
- State legislators
- Tribal services
- Victim/Witness Coordinators
- Law Enforcement
- Probation & Parole
- University faculty
- Health services
- Child & Family services



Academy Partnership and Faculty

The VAAND is proud to be partnered with Minot State University.

Academy students are housed on the campus of MSU in Crane Hall in single occupancy rooms as part of the interactive experience at the VAAND.





Training Participants

- The VAAND encourages the attendance of individuals with at least one year of work experience from victim service organizations and other allied professions who routinely work with crime victims.



VAAND Curriculum Topics

- CJ System Overview
- Basic Advocacy Skills
- Ethical Considerations
- Collaboration
- Domestic Violence, Stalking and Strangulation
- Child Victimization
- Working with People with Disabilities
- Sexual Assault
- Cultural Diversity and Immigration
- Recognizing the Effects of Trauma
- Property and Financial Crime
- Victimization in the Aging Population
- Bias Crimes against Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (GLBTQ) Persons
- Building Relationships with Native American Crime Victims



2010 Academy Cost for Students

- The cost to students for registration, all course materials, lodging, breakfasts, and lunches is \$270.00.
- For the 2010 Academy, the grant paid \$150.00 of the total cost. **Therefore the student's responsibility is \$125.00.**



Available Credit Options

- Law Enforcement - POST Credit
- CEU/CLE's
 - Social Work
 - Addiction Counselor
 - Licensed Counselors
 - Licensed Attorneys
- National Advocate Credentialing Program (NACP)
- Undergraduate college credits



Evaluations

- Pre/Post tests (students)
- Daily Evaluations (students)
- Faculty Feedback Evaluation
- 6 Month Follow up Evaluation (students)

Inaugural Victim Assistance Academy for ND – Class of 2009





Current Funding

- Funding was available for up to 3 years through the Department of Justice (DOJ)
 - FY 2008 to FY 2010
- VAAND is currently on Year 3 of DOJ funding



Cost to Operate the VAAND

- 2008 - \$38,789
 - Federal \$26,775 + RCJC \$12,014 (match)
- 2009 - \$100,419
 - Federal \$65,992 + RCJC \$34,427 (match)
- 2010 - \$80,000
 - Federal \$59,835 + RCJC \$20,165 (match)
- 2011 and beyond total cost - \$70,000 per Year



Sustainability

- VAAND is looking to expand and offer advanced training sessions in addition to the week-long basic academy.
 - Use technology to make trainings accessible
- VAAND can look to expand training focused on at-risk populations:
 - Native Americans
 - Children
 - Aging Population