

2021 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES

SB 2275

2021 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee Sakakawea Room, State Capitol

SB 2275
2/2/2021 9:02 AM

A BILL for an Act to provide for an appropriation to the department of human services relating to a director for the task force on prevention of sexual abuse of children.

Madam Chair Lee opened the hearing on SB 2275 at 9:02. Senators present: Lee, K. Roers, Hogan, Anderson, Clemens, O. Larsen.

Discussion Topics:

- Family Sexual Abuse Treatment Program
- Inclusion of Child Protective Services in taskforce
- Stand to Protect campaign

[9:03] Senator David Clemens, District 16. Introduced SB 2275 and provided written testimony #4837 in favor.

[9:05] Anna Frissell, Executive Director, Red River Children's Advocacy Center. Provided testimony #4762 in favor.

[9:16] Christopher Johnson, CEO, Rape and Abuse Crisis Center (RACC). Provided oral testimony in favor and provided North Dakota Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force interim report from August, 2020 (testimony #4357).

[9:29] Tom Solberg, Department of Human Services. Provided neutral testimony on behalf of DHS.

Additional written testimony: (1)

Senator Richard Marcellais, District 9. Provided written testimony #4679 in favor.

Madam Chair Lee closed the hearing on SB 2275 at 9:42 a.m.

Justin Velez, Committee Clerk

February 2, 2021

Human Services Committee

Senate Bill 2275

My name is David Clemens, Senator from District 16 in West Fargo and Fargo, and I am here to introduce Senate Bill 2275.

For several years the Task Force on Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children has been working on a plan to prevent Child Sexual Abuse and also help those that may be victims of Child Sexual Abuse.

The Task Force is now at the point of organizing with a full time Director to manage the efforts of the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse. This is the purpose of Senate Bill 2275 before you.

With that, I will yield my time to further testimony on the bill.

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2275
February 2, 2021

Chair and Members of the Committee.

My name is Anna Frissell. I am the Executive Director of the Red River Children's Advocacy Center, located in Fargo and Grand Forks. I am here today to ask for your support for Senate Bill 2275.

From Chris Johnson, the Chair of the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse Task Force, you heard testimony about the roots of the Task Force and our strategy for moving forward. I want to focus once more on the problem and what we can do together.

It is estimated there are 42 million survivors of child sexual abuse in the US and research tells us that 60% of victims never tell anyone about the abuse, living without intervention and dealing with the consequences of trauma for their whole lives^{1, 2}. Nearly 70% of all reported sexual assaults (including assaults on adults) target children aged 17 and under^{3, 4}.

Child abuse happens in North Dakota. Every year Children's Advocacy Centers and other providers see hundreds of children that are sexually abused, raped and threatened. These children have experienced and witnessed violence and may have been exploited through pornography and trafficking. All of these singular incidents of trauma and heinous crimes are what our Prevention Task Force is working to stop. Senate Bill 2275 is a carefully thought out request, which will provide much needed funding for resources/capacity to support the work of the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children Task Force.

Children who are sexually abused are at significantly greater risk for a wide variety of mental health and physical health problems including PTSD, anxiety, depression and suicide ^{5,6}. They are more likely to have substance abuse issues, delinquency, and academic difficulties ^{6,9}. They are at increased risk for teen pregnancy ⁷, other sexual behavior problems⁸ and eating disorders¹⁰. Not only does child sexual abuse affect children, often adults who were abused as children carry this pain with them for a lifetime. Adults with a history of child sexual abuse are 30% more likely than their non-abused peers to have a serious medical condition such as diabetes, cancer, heart problems, stroke or hypertension.¹¹ The Center for Disease Control has estimated the lifetime cost of child abuse to be approximately \$210,012 per victim ¹².

The legislature created a Task Force that is committed to improving the response to and prevention of child sexual abuse. A multidisciplinary group of professionals working to arm North Dakota to join the war against child sexual abuse waging across the country.

The Task Force brought together a proactive, multidisciplinary statewide team looking at strategies that can bring about change in behavior and norms: Focusing on policies and practices that will work toward the goal of preventing child sexual abuse before it happens. At the same time, developing education plans that educate both adults and children: Arming adults with the knowledge to recognize grooming behaviors used by predators to prey on vulnerable young people, and how to report and of course; supporting body safety education for children, as research tells us they are more likely to tell an adult once they have this knowledge.

The Task Force strategy recognizes that intervention is important in helping those who have been victimized to have the ability to heal and to not continue the cycle of their own abuse. But when one works in the area of child sexual abuse you quickly realize you must not only intervene for the sake of those children who have already been abused but also take steps to stop the abuse from happening in the first place. To this end, the Task Force members are all working toward stopping child sexual abuse.

At the same time that the Task Force is looking at a statewide strategy, there are also efforts to build or continue prevention campaigns that are blossoming in numerous North Dakota communities, like in Cass County where the Stand to Protect campaign is the foundation of a movement that will be customized to the community needs and resources; or Red Flag Green Flag, a foundational and long standing program that has made its way into many school systems; or Darkness to Light used by many agencies around North Dakota to bring education to children and communities. Senate bill 2275 will build resources that will allow exploration about and sharing of these community built resources moving toward the common goal....to end the sexual abuse of our children.

I have served on many Task Forces and typically they have a goal, that with the membership each taking a small piece of the puzzle, can be accomplished. This Task Force's mission is different: Stopping child sexual abuse requires not only systemic change but changes to our culture and norms. These kinds of changes take dedicated resources and many years but the end result will save countless lives.

I believe there is little controversy about the laudable goal of the Task Force. The Task Force members recognize that the resources of the State are stretched. We

have accomplished a great deal as a Task Force as we have set up the play book for moving forward. But we are ambitious and believe that when this Task Force was created it was with the idea to get the plays on the field and win the game! To implement our strategy, we will need the resources to make it happen.

We know that child sexual abuse is a serious problem; it is everyone's problem; and something needs to be done about it. The good news is the Task Force is positioned with a well thought out strategy to ramp up the statewide discussion about how North Dakota can lessen the risk to the kids in all of our lives, the children we love.

Chair and Members of the Committee. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify before you today.

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2. Ullman, S. E. (2007). Relationship to perpetrator, disclosure, social reactions, and PTSD symptoms in child sexual abuse survivors. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 16(1), 19-36.
3. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics. Retrieved January 12, 2009 from <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/saycrle.pdf>
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11. Sachs-Ericsson, N., Blazer, D., Plant, E. A., & Arnow, B. (2005). Childhood sexual and physical abuse and 1-year prevalence of medical problems in the National Comorbidity Survey. *Health Psychology*, 24, 32 – 40.
12. Fang, X., Brown, D., Florence, C., Mercy, J. (2012) The economic burden of child maltreatment in the United States and implications for prevention. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 36:2,156–165

#4357

North Dakota Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force



Interim Report
August, 2020

Task Force Overview

Purpose

The purpose of the North Dakota Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force is to develop and implement a comprehensive statewide approach to the prevention of child sexual abuse. (HB 1237)

Background

- 2017 legislative session, Senate Bill 2342 established Child Sexual Abuse Prevention 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>
- 2019 legislative session, House Bill 1237, re-established Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force until 2024
- Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force met Oct., Nov., and Dec. 2019; Jan., Feb., May, June, July 2020
- Testimony provided to Interim Judiciary Committee July, 2020
- COVID19 disrupted monthly meetings (March and April, 2020); status report sent to governor's office end of August, 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

Task Force Membership

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

Goal 1: Primary Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA)

The Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force will seek to end child sexual abuse by developing and implementing a primary prevention strategy for the state of North Dakota.

- Coordinate a statewide environmental scan
- Influence policy and legislation regarding primary prevention of child sexual abuse
- Change organizational practices
- Foster coalitions and networks
- Educate child service / programming providers
- Promote community education

Goal 2: Strengthening the Intervention

The Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force will strengthen the support provided to children and families participating in the 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 Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force will strengthen the network of trauma informed services for children, adult survivors and family members impacted by child sexual abuse.

- Determine current services and gaps in services
- Implement mental health intervention at the first contact for child and family
- Provide culturally relevant 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, understanding and access to the network of trauma informed services

Goal 4: Strengthening Offender Programming

The Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force will strengthen the network of providers who support the needs and behavioral changes of offenders.

- Determine current services and gaps in service
- Increase availability of programs that prevent and deter abuse by adult and 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





NORTH DAKOTA SENATE

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COMMITTEES:

Education
Government and Veterans Affairs

SB 2275 Testimony

Senate Human Services Committee

Sakakawea Room 2/02/21 @ 9:00 am

Chairwomen Lee members of the Senate Human Services Committee for the record my name is Richard Marcellais Senator from Rolette County District 9.

I am here this morning to testify in favor of SB 2275– relating to providing a director for the task force prevention of sexual abuse of children.

Several states have task force to study and identify strategies for preventing child sexual abuse and provide recommendations in a report to the Governor.

Some of the task force responsibilities are as follows:

- *Community-based child abuse prevention*
- *Professional training and technical assistance*
- *Multi-disciplinary team excellence*
- *Mental health services and treatment*
- *Awareness*
- *Funding*

- *Statutory changes*

These recommendations will help in the creation of future goals and guidelines for state and school policies.

Chairwomen Lee members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I urge Do Pass on Senate Bill 2275.

2021 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee Sakakawea Room, State Capitol

SB 2275
2/2/2021 10:11 AM

A BILL for an Act to provide for an appropriation to the department of human services relating to a director for the task force on prevention of sexual abuse of children.

Madam Chair Lee opened the discussion on SB 2275 at 10:11 a.m. Members present: Lee, K. Roers, Hogan, Anderson, Clemens, O. Larsen.

Discussion Topics:

- Administrative duties/procedures
- Child abuse taskforce grant
- Child Protection Services

[10:11] Senator David Clemens, District 16. Provided the committee with an overview of administrative duties and procedures of the sexual abuse of children taskforce.

[10:13] Sara Stolt, Chief Operating Officer, DHS. Provided the committee with an overview of the sexual abuse of children taskforce.

Additional written testimony: N/A

Madam Chair Lee closed the discussion on SB 2275 at 10:19 a.m.

Justin Velez, Committee Clerk

2021 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee Sakakawea Room, State Capitol

SB 2275
2/2/2021 PM

A BILL for an Act to provide for an appropriation to the department of human services relating to a director for the task force on prevention of sexual abuse of children.

Madam Chair Lee opened the discussion on SB 2275 at 3:41 p.m. Members present: Lee, K. Roers, Hogan, Anderson, Clemens, O. Larsen.

Discussion Topics:

- Fiscal impact

Senator Hogan moves **DO PASS, REREFFER TO APPROPRIATIONS**

Senator Anderson seconded

Senators	Vote
Senator Judy Lee	Y
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Howard C. Anderson, Jr.	Y
Senator David A. Clemens	Y
Senator Kathy Hogan	Y
Senator Oley Larsen	N

The motion passed 5-1-0

Senator Hogan will carry SB 2275.

Additional written testimony: N/A

Madam Chair Lee closed the hearing on SB 2275 at 3:46 p.m.

Justin Velez, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2275: Human Services Committee (Sen. Lee, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (5 YEAS, 1 NAY, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2275 was rereferred to the **Appropriations Committee**.

2021 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2275

2021 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee
Roughrider Room, State Capitol

SB 2275
2/9/2021
Senate Appropriations Committee

Relating to a director for the task force on prevention of sexual abuse of children.
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Senator Holmberg opened the hearing at 9:01 a.m.

Senators present: **Holmberg, Krebsbach, Wanzek, Poolman, Erbele, Dever, Oehlke, Rust, Davison, Hogue, Sorvaag, Mathern, and Heckaman.** Senator **Bekkedahl** absent.

Discussion Topics:

- Rape and Abuse Crisis Center
- Job duties and costs of task force

Senator David Clemens, District 16, West Fargo introduced the bill, testifying in favor and presented testimony #6027.

Representative Schneider, District 21, Fargo – bill sponsor – testified in favor.

Dr. Chris Johnson, CEO, Rape and Abuse Crisis Center, Fargo-Moorhead testified in favor of the bill and presented testimony # 5979.

Tom Solberg, Operations Manager – Dept. of Human Services testifying neutrally.

Senator Holmberg closed the hearing at 9:39 a.m.

Rose Laning, Committee Clerk

February 2, 2021

Human Services Committee

Senate Bill 2275

My name is David Clemens, Senator from District 16 in West Fargo and Fargo, and I am here to introduce Senate Bill 2275.

For several years the Task Force on Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children has been working on a plan to prevent Child Sexual Abuse and also help those that may be victims of Child Sexual Abuse.

The Task Force is now at the point of organizing with a full time Director to manage the efforts of the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse. This is the purpose of Senate Bill 2275 before you.

With that, I will yield my time to further testimony on the bill.

5979

North Dakota Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force



Interim Report
August, 2020

Task Force Overview

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- Continue to execute the strategic plan and report progress to state-wide stakeholders



2021 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

SB 2275
2/17/2021
Senate Appropriations Committee

A BILL for an Act to provide for an appropriation to the department of human services relating to a director for the task force on prevention of sexual abuse of children.
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Chairman Holmberg opened the hearing at 10:12 a.m.

Senators present: Holmberg, Krebsbach, Wanzek, Bekkedahl, Poolman, Erbele, Dever, Oehlke, Rust, Davison, Hogue, Sorvaag, Mathern, and Heckaman.

Vice-Chair Kresbach moved DO NOT PASS

Vice-Chair Wanzek seconded the motion

Senators		Senators	
Senator Holmberg	Y	Senator Hogue	Y
Senator Krebsbach	Y	Senator Oehlke	Y
Senator Wanzek	Y	Senator Poolman	N
Senator Bekkedahl	Y	Senator Rust	Y
Senator Davison	N	Senator Sorvaag	Y
Senator Dever	Y	Senator Heckaman	N
Senator Erbele	Y	Senator Mathern	N

Roll Call Vote 10-4-0. Motion passed.

Senator Dever will carry the bill.

Chairman Holmberg closed the meeting at 10:16 a.m.

Rose Laning, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2275: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Holmberg, Chairman) recommends **DO NOT PASS** (10 YEAS, 4 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2275 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2021 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2275

2021 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Brynhild Haugland Room, State Capitol

SB 2275
3/16/2021

BILL for an Act to provide for an appropriation to the department of human services relating to a director for the task force on prevention of sexual abuse of children.

11:42 Chairman Delzer- Opened the meeting for SB 2275

Attendance	P/A
Representative Jeff Delzer	P
Representative Keith Kempenich	P
Representative Bert Anderson	P
Representative Larry Bellew	P
Representative Tracy Boe	P
Representative Mike Brandenburg	P
Representative Michael Howe	P
Representative Gary Kreidt	P
Representative Bob Martinson	P
Representative Lisa Meier	P
Representative Alisa Mitskog	P
Representative Corey Mock	P
Representative David Monson	P
Representative Mike Nathe	P
Representative Jon O. Nelson	P
Representative Mark Sanford	P
Representative Mike Schatz	P
Representative Jim Schmidt	P
Representative Randy A. Schobinger	P
Representative Michelle Strinden	P
Representative Don Vigasaa	P

Discussion Topics:

- Child abuse Task Force and Prevention Plan
- Full Time Director/Coordinator
- Greater Opportunity for Grants

11:43 Senator Clemens- Introduces SB 2275 and testifies in favor (**Testimony # 10005**)

11:45 Anna Frissell- Red River Children's Advocacy Center-Testifies in favor of SB 2275 (**Testimony # 9348, # 9349, #9350 and #9351**)

11:56 Tom Solberg- ND Department of Human Services- Offers neutral testimony (**Testimony # 9398**)

Additional written testimony: No additional testimony

12:00 Chairman Delzer- Closes the meeting for SB 2275

Risa Berube,

House Appropriations Committee Clerk

February 2, 2021

Human Services Committee

Senate Bill 2275

My name is David Clemens, Senator from District 16 in West Fargo and Fargo, and I am here to introduce Senate Bill 2275.

For several years the Task Force on Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children has been working on a plan to prevent Child Sexual Abuse and also help those that may be victims of Child Sexual Abuse.

The Task Force is now at the point of organizing with a full time Director to manage the efforts of the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse. This is the purpose of Senate Bill 2275 before you.

With that, I will yield my time to further testimony on the bill.

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2275
February 2, 2021

Chair and Members of the Committee.

My name is Anna Frissell. I am the Executive Director of the Red River Children's Advocacy Center, located in Fargo and Grand Forks. I am here today to ask for your support for Senate Bill 2275.

SUMMARY of TESTIMONY:

Child sexual abuse has lasting and damaging impact on the victims.

We have interventions in place in North Dakota to help the survivors, including an extensive child welfare system, led by NDDHS and other agencies and non-profits. We can do more with regard to intervention but we have devoted resources that are constantly improving as funding becomes available and practices improve.

The same is not true for prevention efforts. We know that child sexual abuse is preventable, using a public health approach, by reducing children's exposure to sexual abuse and ensuring safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments for all children. North Dakota does not have an effective statewide strategy for the prevention of child sexual abuse.

In 2017, the legislature recognized the lack of such a strategy when it created the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse Task Force focusing on stopping child sexual abuse from happening in the first place.

The Task Force has developed an ambitious statewide strategy (2020 Interim Report attached). In order to implement this strategy, the Task Force requests funding in SB 2275 to hire and equip a position, Director of Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse. The Job Description and Cost Analysis for the position of Director of Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse are attached.

This funding will be appropriated to the Department of Human Services, which will in turn contract with a private contractor. The position would be an employee of the contractor and it has been suggested that could be structured to report to the contractor for administrative purposes and to the Task Force for the implementation of the strategic plan, with accountability to the Department through the granting reporting process.

CONTINUATION OF WRITTEN TESTIMONY:

It is estimated there are 42 million survivors of child sexual abuse in the US and research tells us that 60% of victims never tell anyone about the abuse, living without intervention and dealing with the consequences of trauma for their whole lives^{1, 2}. Nearly 70% of all reported sexual assaults (including assaults on adults) target children aged 17 and under^{3, 4}.

Children who are sexually abused are at significantly greater risk for a wide variety of mental health and physical health problems including PTSD, anxiety, depression and suicide^{5, 6}. They are more likely to have substance abuse issues, delinquency, and academic difficulties^{6, 9}. They are at increased risk for teen pregnancy⁷, other sexual behavior problems⁸ and eating disorders¹⁰. Not only does child sexual

abuse affect children, often adults who were abused as children carry this pain with them for a lifetime. Adults with a history of child sexual abuse are 30% more likely than their non-abused peers to have a serious medical condition such as diabetes, cancer, heart problems, stroke or hypertension.¹¹ The Center for Disease Control has estimated the lifetime cost of child abuse to be approximately \$210,012 per victim ¹².

Child abuse happens in North Dakota. Every year Children's Advocacy Centers and other providers see hundreds of children that are sexually abused, raped and threatened. These children have experienced and witnessed violence and may have been exploited through pornography and trafficking. All of these singular incidents of trauma and heinous crimes are what our Prevention Task Force is working to keep from happening in the first place.

In North Dakota we have built multiple systems to intervene when sexual abuse of a child occurs. We have an extensive web of criminal and civil laws. We also have a strong child protection system, with years of expertise at the Department of Human Services and our County Social Service and Regional Human Service agencies. Likewise, non-profits like the CACs and many others work diligently to fill in with other intervention services. There are areas we could strengthen in our response when serving these victims but we do have safeguards in place and interventions that are helping the victims once the abuse occurs.

This Task Force is about primary prevention: stopping the sexual abuse from ever happening. The Centers for Disease Control tell us that child sexual abuse is preventable, using a public health approach, by reducing children's exposure to

sexual abuse and ensuring safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments for all children.

We have spent time as a Task Force looking at the remarkable work done in other states to stop child sexual abuse. We have also looked at the resources we have in our own state.

Senate Bill 2275 is a carefully thought out request, which will provide much needed funding for resources/capacity to support the work of the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children Task Force.

In 2017 the legislature created the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse Task Force committed to improving the response to and prevention of child sexual abuse. In 2019, it extended the time period to 2024 and it added representation and made adjustments. Now we have a multidisciplinary group of professionals working to arm North Dakota to join the war against child sexual abuse waging across the country.

The Task Force brings together a proactive, multidisciplinary statewide team looking at strategies that can bring about change in behavior and norms: Focusing on policies and practices that will work toward the goal of preventing child sexual abuse before it happens. At the same time, developing education plans that educate both adults and children: Arming adults with the knowledge to recognize grooming behaviors used by predators to prey on vulnerable young people, and how to report and of course; supporting body safety education for children, as research tells us they are more likely to tell an adult once they have this knowledge.

Please note the 2020 Interim Report outlining the strategy of the Task Force is attached to this testimony.

The Task Force strategy recognizes that intervention is important in helping those who have been victimized to have the ability to heal and to not continue the cycle of their own abuse. But when one works in the area of child sexual abuse you quickly realize you must not only intervene for the sake of those children who have already been abused but also take steps to stop the abuse from happening in the first place. To this end, the Task Force members are all working toward stopping child sexual abuse.

The Task Force's statewide strategy, will include the promotion of efforts to build or continue effective prevention campaigns that are blossoming in numerous North Dakota communities, like in Cass County where the Stand to Protect campaign is the foundation of a movement that will be customized to the community needs and resources; or Red Flag Green Flag, a foundational and long standing program that has made its way into many school systems; or Darkness to Light used by many agencies around North Dakota to bring education to children and communities. Senate bill 2275 will build resources that will allow exploration about and sharing of these community built resources moving toward the common goal....to end the sexual abuse of our children.

I have served on many Task Forces and typically they have a goal, that with the membership each taking a small piece of the puzzle, can be accomplished. This Task Force's mission is different: Stopping child sexual abuse requires not only

systemic change but changes to our culture and norms. These kinds of changes take dedicated resources and many years but the end result will save countless lives.

I believe there is little controversy about the laudable goal of the Task Force. The Task Force members recognize that the resources of the State are stretched. We have accomplished a great deal as a Task Force as we have set up the play book for moving forward. But we are ambitious and believe that when this Task Force was created it was with the idea to get the plays on the field and win the game! To implement our strategy, we will need the resources to make it happen. The bill will appropriate funding to the Department of Humans Services, which will likely in turn contract with a private contractor. The Department will of course determine the way the funding is implemented but a typical scenario would be an employee of the contractor for administrative purposes reporting to the Task Force for the implementation of the strategic plan, with accountability to the Department through the granting reporting process.

Please note Job Description for the Director of Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and the Cost Analysis for the position are attached.

We know that child sexual abuse is a serious problem; it is everyone's problem; and something needs to be done about it. The good news is the Task Force is positioned with a well thought out strategy to ramp up the statewide discussion about how North Dakota can lessen the risk to the kids in all of our lives, the children we love.

Chair and Members of the Committee. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify before you today.

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COST ANALYSIS

Category	Description	Amount (2 years)
Salary	\$87,000 / year	\$174,000
Fringe	\$35,000 / year	\$70,000
Travel	1000 miles / month @ \$0.575	\$16,000
	Hotel / Meal	
Minor Equipment	Computer purchase (\$2000), Desk (\$1500)	\$3500
Office and	Cell phone purchase (\$200), Printing, Office	\$1800
Program Supplies	/ Program supplies (\$100 / month), Hot Spot (WIFI) (\$200), Projector (\$200)	
Recruiting	Position listing and search	\$3000
Total Direct Cost		\$268,300
Indirect Costs	Rent, Utilities, Office Phone, Finance / Accounting, Payroll, Supervision, IT maintenance (5% of project cost)	\$13,415
Total Indirect Cost		\$13,415
Total		\$281,715

#9350

North Dakota Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force



Interim Report
August, 2020

Task Force Overview

Purpose

The purpose of the North Dakota Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force is to develop and implement a comprehensive statewide approach to the prevention of child sexual abuse. (HB 1237)

Background

- 2017 legislative session, Senate Bill 2342 established Child Sexual Abuse Prevention 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>
- 2019 legislative session, House Bill 1237, re-established Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force until 2024
- Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force met Oct., Nov., and Dec. 2019; Jan., Feb., May, June, July 2020
- Testimony provided to Interim Judiciary Committee July, 2020
- COVID19 disrupted monthly meetings (March and April, 2020); status report sent to governor's office end of August, 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

Task Force Membership

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

Goal 1: Primary Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA)

The Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force will seek to end child sexual abuse by developing and implementing a primary prevention strategy for the state of North Dakota.

- Coordinate a statewide environmental scan
- Influence policy and legislation regarding primary prevention of child sexual abuse
- Change organizational practices
- Foster coalitions and networks
- Educate child service / programming providers
- Promote community education

Goal 2: Strengthening the Intervention

The Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force will strengthen the support provided to children and families participating in the 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 Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force will strengthen the network of trauma informed services for children, adult survivors and family members impacted by child sexual abuse.

- Determine current services and gaps in services
- Implement mental health intervention at the first contact for child and family
- Provide culturally relevant 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, understanding and access to the network of trauma informed services

Goal 4: Strengthening Offender Programming

The Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force will strengthen the network of providers who support the needs and behavioral changes of offenders.

- Determine current services and gaps in service
- Increase availability of programs that prevent and deter abuse by adult and 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



Job Description
Director of Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse

Goals

Implement the task force's strategic plan that will identify and assist in the promotion of strong barriers and reduction of the risk of child sexual abuse for children and within families and organizations and develop innovative outreach strategies and leads coalitions to achieve measurable impact in the incidence of child sexual abuse in North Dakota.

Expectation

An individual who is a passionate servant leader interested in dramatically improving the health of children in our region.

Key work responsibilities would comprise of but are not limited to

- Coordinate implementation of the strategic plan, including ongoing development and implementation
- Lead community coalitions and work groups to refine strategies and improve impact over time
- Develop and advance impactful partnerships and collaborations with businesses, nonprofits, schools, and other entities to promote awareness and education on the issues presented by the public health consequences of child sexual abuse
- Ensure adherence to the budget, budget preparation, program development and promotion, policy formulation and compliance with all pertinent government regulations and standards
- Serve as central clearing house for information about education efforts and related programs in North Dakota
- Develop, coordinate and oversee public policy activities, including legislative and other public policy agencies, tracking and informing the Task Force of legislation concerning child sexual abuse issues, and attending appropriate legislative and public policy meetings and events
- Organize, schedule and attend Task Force meetings. Create agenda for meetings as coordinated with the Chair of the Task Force
- Regularly communicate with membership of the Task Force
- Act as Task Force liaison at local, state, regional and meetings, as appropriate
- Monitor and update the task force's planned social media presence
- Other responsibilities as designated by the Task Force

Qualifications

- Bachelor's Degree Experience in providing training and technical assistance in teaming, strategic planning, and organizational development
- Knowledge of local, state and federal legislative process
- Outstanding communication skills – written and interpersonal
- Strong public speaking skills
- Ability to work as part of a team, as well as independently
- Ability to work professionally and collaboratively with a variety of individuals and groups

Job Description
Director of Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse

- Must be highly organized and detail-oriented
- Must be results-driven and possess a strong capacity to positively influence others
- Must have valid driver's license, satisfactory background checks and willingness to travel

Minimum Requirements

- Bachelor's degree
- Experience managing or coordinating community and/or health-related initiatives

#9398

North Dakota Task Force on the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse



Final Report
November 2018

Acknowledgements

The North Dakota Task Force for the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children would like to acknowledge victims of child sexual abuse and their families. The injustices faced by this population are those that the task force has dedicated their careers to combatting. The task force recognizes the challenges and barriers faced and the bravery and strength that guides victims through. The task force would also like to thank the North Dakota Legislature and Governor for providing the recommendation to convene the task force to study the problem. This action sends a clear message to all North Dakotans that the problem of child sexual abuse is recognized, and state leadership is committed to providing comprehensive services to those impacted by these issues and supporting efforts to prevent it from continuing.

Disclaimer

The North Dakota Task Force for the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children was convened to study the issue of child sexual abuse and make recommendations to the North Dakota Legislature and Governor's Office. This report is not intended to be a comprehensive research study; rather it is a succinct overview of the scope of the problem, the impact of the problem, the current response and recommendations to continue to combat this destructive social problem.

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Taskforce Overview

Introduction

Child sexual abuse (CSA) is a problem with short and long term effects for those who are victimized. One in five girls and one in 20 boys is a victim of child sexual abuse. The National Center for Victims of Crime¹ showed that 20% of adult females and 5-10% of adult males recall a childhood sexual assault or sexual abuse incident. In 2016, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reported 56,382 cases of child sexual abuse to state child and family service agencies. In 2016, the North Dakota Department of Human Services responded to over 14,000 reports of suspected child abuse and neglect, and the North Dakota Attorney General's Office (2017) reported 587 child sexual abuse victims. In 2017, in the course of a social service or law enforcement investigation, 774 children were referred to North Dakota Children's Advocacy Centers for sexual abuse allegations. With significant cost to families and communities, including primary and rehabilitative health care costs, education and welfare assistance, child protection and justice system costs, the consequences of CSA are far reaching.

SB 2342 Objectives

- a. Gather information concerning child sexual abuse throughout the state
- b. Receive reports and testimony from individuals, state and local agencies, community-based organizations, and other public and private organizations
- c. Create goals for state policy that would prevent child sexual abuse
- d. Submit a final report with its recommendations to the Governor and the Legislative Management

Taskforce Development

In January 2017, the Legislative Assembly of North Dakota passed SB 2342 which stated that "During the 2017-18 interim, a Task Force on Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children shall gather information concerning child sexual abuse throughout the state and develop recommendations to reduce child sexual abuse." The North Dakota Task Force on the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse began meeting in March 2018 with the overall goal of delivering a report to the Governor's Office and the Legislature Management in the fall of 2018.

Taskforce Members

- Senator David Clemens, North Dakota Senate
- Valerie Fischer, North Dakota Department of Public Instruction
- Anna Frissell, Red River Children's Advocacy Center (Chair)
- Lonnie Grabowska, Bureau of Criminal Investigation / North Dakota Office of the Attorney General
- Dr. Christopher Johnson, Rape and Abuse Crisis Center of Fargo-Moorhead
- Representative Shannon Roers Jones, North Dakota House of Representatives
- Representative Mary Schneider, North Dakota House of Representatives
- Tom Solberg, North Dakota Department of Human Services
- Sandy Tibke, Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota
- Erica Thunder, North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission

¹ National Center for Victims of Crime. (2018). *Child Sexual Abuse Statistics*. Retrieved from: <http://victimsofcrime.org/media/reporting-on-child-sexual-abuse-sstatistics>.

CSA Definitions

CSA Taskforce

Child sexual abuse includes a wide range of sexual behaviors and activities that take place between a child and another person seeking sexual gratification or exploitation of the child that causes harm to a victim or victim's family.

Administrative

Sexually abused child means an individual under the age of 18 years who is subjected to abuse by a person responsible for the child's welfare, or by any individual who acts in violation of sections 12.1-20-01 through 12.1-20-07, sections 12.1-20-11 through 12.1-20-12.2, or chapter 12.1-27.2. While the administrative system (Child Protection Services) uses the same definitions that are used in the criminal code, the standard of evidence or "level of proof" required in order to support a decision that services are required for the protection and treatment of an abused or neglected child is a simple preponderance of evidence (more than 50%) versus proof "beyond a reasonable doubt" required by the criminal court (NDCC Chapter 50-25.1-02).

Legal

The State of North Dakota has multiple applicable criminal laws contained in the North Dakota Century Code (NDCC). The most commonly used criminal laws applied to child sexual abuse are located in NDCC, Chapter 12.1-20. Commonly applied laws are gross sexual imposition, continuous sexual abuse of a child, sexual assault, corruption or solicitation of minors, luring minors by computer, incest, indecent exposure, promoting obscenity to minors, minor performing in obscene performance and human trafficking.

Tribal

Confusion regarding jurisdiction in Indian Country remains a problem. Jurisdiction continues to be a patchwork of tribal, state and federal jurisdiction that varies depending on the crime, identity of the perpetrator, identity of the victim and the location of the offense. Congress has passed a web of laws that assert federal jurisdiction over crimes that occur on Indian reservations, including child sexual abuse. State jurisdiction exists when two non-Indians commit crimes against one another within the boundaries of Indian Country. Every tribe has a unique tribal code that may include further laws defining child sexual abuse. Tribes also have several law enforcement agencies with jurisdiction that may be involved in the investigation of a child sexual abuse case. The agencies include tribal law enforcement, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Current Impact

Scope of the Problem: Nationally

Child sexual abuse (CSA) is a problem with both short and long term effects for those who are victimized. It is reported that one in five girls and one in 20 boys is a victim of child sexual abuse². Self-report studies show that 20% of adult females and 5-10% of adult males recall a childhood sexual assault or sexual abuse incident³. Reported across all socioeconomic and ethnic groups, both male and female, CSA is a problem of great magnitude⁴. With significant cost to families and communities, including primary and rehabilitative health care costs, education and welfare assistance, child protection and justice system costs, the consequences of CSA are far-reaching⁵.

Proving to be a problem of considerable proportion, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reported that 56,382 cases of child sexual abuse had been reported to state child and family service agencies in 2016. Due to the nature of CSA, it is likely that incidences are underreported due to children being afraid of the repercussions they may face from their abuser, feeling ashamed, embarrassed or blaming themselves for the abuse. Further, some children may not report being a victim of sexual abuse due to their lack of understanding of child sexual abuse.

Violent victimization of Indians and Alaska natives is 2.5 times greater than that of other ethnic and racial subgroups within the United States⁶. Shocking homicide rates, skyrocketing levels of juvenile justice issues, child abuse (including child sexual abuse), an exhausted child welfare system, staggering numbers of tribal youth in out-of-home placements, high levels of turnover and lack of resources for law enforcement and substance abuse plague the over 1.4 million people who populate tribal land.

Scope of the Problem: North Dakota

North Dakota is not exempt from what is seen on the national level. In 2018, the ND Department of Human Services responded to 1307 reports of suspected child sexual abuse. In 2017, the North Dakota Attorney General's Office reported 587 child sexual abuse victims, North Dakota Children's Advocacy Centers interviewed 826 children who presented primarily for sexual abuse, and North Dakota crisis centers provided services to 364 child sexual abuse victims. Confusion regarding criminal jurisdiction and lack of resources contribute to an increased crime rate in Indian Country. These and other contributing factors have an undeniable impact on North Dakota tribal youth who are victim to falling through gaps in services, lack of services or geographic barriers to services.

² National Center for Victims of Crime. (2018). Child Sexual Abuse Statistics. Retrieved from: <http://victimsofcrime.org/media/reporting-on-child-sexual-abuse/child-sexual-abuse-statistics>.

³ National Center for Victims of Crime. (2018). Child Sexual Abuse Statistics. Retrieved from: <http://victimsofcrime.org/media/reporting-on-child-sexual-abuse/child-sexual-abuse-statistics>.

⁴ Walsh, K.Z., Woolfenden, S., & Shlonsky, A. (2015). School-based education programs for the prevention of child sexual abuse (Review). Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, 4(CD004380), 1-121.

⁵ Fang, X., Brown, D.S., Florence, C.S., & Mercy, J.A. (2012). The economic burden of child maltreatment in the United States and implications for prevention. Child Abuse & Neglect, 36(2), 156-65.

⁶ United States U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, Public Law 280 and Law Enforcement in Indian Country: Research Priorities (Washington, DC, 2005). <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/209839.pdf> (accessed October 16, 2018).

Cost of CSA

The estimated cost can be determined by using North Dakota Children's Advocacy Numbers. However, there are two important limitations to this method: (1) these numbers represent only the allegations of children who can actually make their way to a Children's Advocacy Center, and (2) the majority of child sexual abuse victims do not disclose the abuse. In 2017, the North Dakota Children's Advocacy Centers reported 826 children and youth (540 female and 286 male) who were provided a forensic interview. It is estimated that the lifetime cost of child sexual abuse for a female = \$282,734 and a male = \$71,691⁷. For those children who were sexually abused, reported their abuse and received services at a North Dakota Children's Advocacy Center in 2017, the estimated lifetime expense is \$154,813,120.

Current Response

Systems of Care

There are a multitude of agencies that make up a comprehensive system of care. The criminal justice system, juvenile justice, judicial system at large, law enforcement, child welfare, human service centers, healthcare providers, Indian health systems, education institutions, youth-serving organizations, childcare providers, faith communities, non-profit organizations and informal networks of family and friends create a safety net for those at-risk or impacted by child sexual abuse. By providing education to all and strengthening the formal response system, North Dakota can join other states that have drastically decreased instances of child sexual abuse by providing in-school education, adult education, advocacy, and behavioral health services and increasing primary prevention efforts.

Prevention

Many organizations have adopted and incorporated primary, secondary or tertiary prevention efforts into their work. Though these efforts look similar across industries, the three levels of prevention are distinctively different. Primary prevention is preventing damage from occurring in the first place, secondary is intended to identify and intervene in situations of high risk and tertiary prevention seeks to lessen the damage that has already been done. Most programs across the state have focused on secondary and tertiary with the intent to incorporate more primary prevention programming.

In-school Education

The task force acknowledges that evidence-based, age-appropriate education is a benefit for children as it empowers them to discuss feelings of discomfort and / or betrayal and assists them in identifying helpers that can interrupt and end the abuse. In addition, teachers and parents should receive complementary education and / or status notification that enables everyone to speak common language and monitor the health and safety of children.

⁷ Letourneau, E. J., Brown, D. S., Fang, X., Hassan, A., & Mercy, J. A. (2018). The economic burden of child sexual abuse in the United States. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 79, 413-422.

Adult Education

The task force recognizes that the safety of children is ultimately the responsibility of adults. Adults need to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. In order to fulfill this duty of protection, adults need to be given the information they need to act. The more information adults hold about the prevalence and nature of child sexual abuse, the more empowered people will act when confronted by child sexual abuse warning signs.

Advocacy

Advocacy for children varies but is commonly provided by interdependent organizations that deliver services to victims and their families or may offer policy and statewide efforts on their behalf. Advocates are employed throughout the state, most commonly in the non-profit sector. The primary role of advocates is to get resources together that will ultimately protect the child and family from future harm, assist in coordinating the criminal justice process and refer to others that can assist the child and family in addressing trauma.

Therapy

Providing therapy to child sexual abuse victims and their families requires a variety of evidence-based approaches that have demonstrated effectiveness at reducing post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in children. Some examples of evidence-based treatments for PTSD in children are trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy (TF-CBT); child and family traumatic stress intervention (CFTSI); alternatives for families, a cognitive behavioral therapy (AF-CBT); and problem sexual behaviors cognitive behavior therapy (PSB-CBT). Mental health services have the primary objective of assisting the child and their family in processing trauma and developing skills to reduce the long-term impact of trauma and help the child and family move forward in life.



Information Presented

ND Reported Cases

- North Dakota and National Statistics / National initiatives / North Dakota Children's Alliance, North Dakota Department of Human Services Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Efforts (Marlys Baker, North Dakota Department of Human Services)
- Child Sexual Abuse Statistics (Lonnie Grabowska, Bureau of Criminal Investigation)

Population Specific

- Tribal Child Welfare, Native American Cultural Awareness Training and Culturally Appropriate Responses for Native American Victims of Sexual Assault (Erica Thunder, North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission)
- North Dakota MIECHV Program (Sandy Tibke, Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota)
- Human Trafficking Prevention Efforts (Emily Schwartz, North Dakota Human Trafficking Task Force)
- The State of Child Sexual Abuse Prevention and Intervention in Indian Country (Sandra Bercier, First Nations Women's Alliance)

Law Enforcement / Legal / Legislative

- Law Enforcement Role in CSA Investigations (Scott Betz, Bismarck Police Department)
- Introduction to Senate Bill 2342, Creating the Task Force (Rep. Bernie Satrom)
- Legal Perspective, Criminal Law and Prosecution (Britta Demello-Rice, North Dakota Attorney General's Office)
- Risk Assessment for Community Notification (Jonathan Byers, North Dakota Attorney General's Office)

Education and Programming

- Red Flag Green Flag® (Melanie Fierstine and Dr. Christopher Johnson, Rape and Abuse Crisis Center of Fargo-Moorhead)
- Children's Advocacy Centers of North Dakota Statistics and Prevention Education (Paula Condol, North Dakota Chapter of Children's Advocacy Centers)
- North Dakota Children's Caucus (Tara Mulhauser, North Dakota Children's Caucus)
- Prevention Overview and Discussion, Handle with Care (Sandy Tibke and Jennifer Boub, Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota)
- North Dakota Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Crisis Centers' response to Child Sexual Abuse (Janelle Moos, CAWS North Dakota)

Prevention

- Health Prevention Education in ND Schools (Valerie Fischer, North Dakota Department of Public Instruction)
- Vermont Prevent Child Abuse Initiative (Linda Johnson, Prevent Child Abuse Vermont)
- West Virginia Prevention Initiative (Jim McKay, Prevent Child Abuse West Virginia)
- Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse (Dr. Janet Rosenzweig, The American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children)
- Pledge to Protect Campaign and Community Prevention Education (Anna Frissell, Red River Children's Advocacy Center)

Recommendations

Proposed Legislation

The task force recommends legislative action to establish a standing Committee which shall serve for no less than five years and build on the work of the Task Force on Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse (65th Legislative Session 2342). The standing Committee established by this legislative action shall develop and implement a comprehensive statewide approach to the prevention of child sexual abuse, ensuring that appropriate policies, funding, staffing, resources and programming are available to prevent child sexual abuse before it happens.

The standing Committee is to focus on:

- increasing child sexual abuse prevention education for tribal and non-tribal children and adults
- increasing interagency data collection, sharing and collective analysis
- supporting resource development for investigations and prosecutions of child sexual abuse, including sentencing, supervision and treatment of sex offenders
- increasing trauma-informed services for children, adult survivors and their families

The standing Committee shall review and, as it deems appropriate, implement the recommendations and suggestions in this report, using them as a foundation for the development of the statewide, cross-agency, cross-jurisdictional strategy to prevent child sexual abuse.

Ongoing Considerations

1. Public forums / meetings to be held in eight regions of the state to build awareness of the issue and to gather information regarding the community's resources for victims of child sexual abuse and their families /caregivers, treatment for offenders and community response for victims. These public forums / meetings will inform the development of community-based education adopted by the Department of Human Services / Department of Public Instruction.
2. A survey to be drafted and disseminated by the Department of Human Services regarding child sexual abuse prevention education available and delivered to licensed child care provider employees and foster parents, inquiring as to the training they have received or if they have any additional training needs. The standing Committee's recommendations presented from the survey may include requiring training be delivered to the child care provider employees or foster parents as a prerequisite to licensing or payment. Any costs associated with this survey will be funded by the legislature, including staffing and resources needed.
3. The creation and funding of Statewide regional investigative units with a primary focus of assisting law enforcement / advocacy / prosecutors (municipal, county, state and tribal) with response to investigations involving alleged child sexual abuse. These regional units (eight distinct regions) would consist of State Criminal Investigators teamed with Licensed Social Workers / Advocates that work directly with Assistant Attorney Generals to ensure proactive, timely and successful victim services; Children's Advocacy Centers when appropriate; detailed and comprehensive criminal investigations and successful prosecution of offenders against children. These regional teams would also be tasked with training peer groups (law enforcement, provider services and prosecutors) in the proper response to child sexual abuse cases.

4. The Office of the North Dakota Attorney General will review provisions in the current North Dakota Century Code for the purpose of ensuring that there are legal charges and penalties for the infliction of emotional or psychological injury on a child as a result of child maltreatment (abuse and neglect), particularly when the maltreatment is of a sexual nature. The review should include statutes pertaining to both adult and juvenile offenders and may result in new legislation to enact such law.
5. After reviewing this report, surveys of schools and child care providers, input at public hearings and other appropriate documentation and information, the standing Committee may make recommendations that it deems appropriate.

Proposed Administrative and / or Legislative Action

1. North Dakota school districts will annually adopt developmentally appropriate, evidence-based curriculum as approved by each local school board for all prekindergarten to grade twelve tribal and non-tribal students. The curriculum may include instruction on topics such as promoting healthy and respectful relationships, developing and maintaining effective communication with trusted adults, recognizing sexually offending behaviors and gaining awareness of available school and community resources. Curriculum resources will be compiled and disseminated by the Department of Public Instruction.
2. North Dakota Public Schools, with the approval of the local school board, will deliver prevention education to parents or caregivers of students. Development of education materials and surveys by the Department of Public instruction shall be funded by the legislature. The prevention education may be delivered in any number of ways as proposed by each local school board. The methods of delivering the education may include delivering the information in a publication such as a school handbook that is distributed to every student annually, in-person, e-learning or other mechanisms determined by the Department to be appropriate. A school survey will be developed and disseminated by the Department of Public Instruction. The purpose of the survey will be to assess North Dakota Public Schools' current sexual violence prevention and intervention practices and parent, guardian and student education and to provide baseline data for future comparison. Data gathered from surveys will inform understanding of the current response and the development of new and existing curricula.
3. North Dakota Public Schools will ensure that adults employed in schools receive orientation information on the identification of and reporting of child sexual abuse. The Department of Public Instruction and the Department of Human Services, with adequate funding from the legislature for staff and resources, shall provide materials to any school board that requests assistance in implementing this requirement. Data gathered from school surveys will inform the development of the curriculum.

4. The Department of Human Services will receive additional funds necessary for Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota (PCAND) staff and resources to expand existing efforts by PCAND to implement and manage the Handle with Care program in North Dakota Public Schools. The Department of Public Instruction will encourage schools to participate in Handle with Care when the program becomes available in their area, and the North Dakota Attorney General's Office will encourage law enforcement jurisdictions to cooperate with the program protocol.
5. The Department of Human Services, in collaboration with the Department of Public Instruction, shall develop and fund community-based awareness education delivered to adults, youth serving organizations and other organizations, about the following: a) nature and extent of child sexual abuse, including topics such as the role of adults in protecting children, b) community services and resources to help child victims and c) how to report incidents of abuse. The Department of Human Services shall receive legislative appropriations to fund the prevention education. Non-profit and other community-based organizations may in turn apply for funding from the Department to deliver adult education in their communities.



2021 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Brynhild Haugland Room, State Capitol

SB 2275
3/31/2021

BILL for an Act to provide for an appropriation to the department of human services relating to a director for the task force on prevention of sexual abuse of children.

3:58 Chairman Delzer- Opened the meeting for SB 2275

Attendance	P/A
Representative Jeff Delzer	P
Representative Keith Kempenich	P
Representative Bert Anderson	P
Representative Larry Bellew	P
Representative Tracy Boe	A
Representative Mike Brandenburg	P
Representative Michael Howe	P
Representative Gary Kreidt	P
Representative Bob Martinson	P
Representative Lisa Meier	P
Representative Alisa Mitskog	P
Representative Corey Mock	P
Representative David Monson	P
Representative Mike Nathe	P
Representative Jon O. Nelson	P
Representative Mark Sanford	P
Representative Mike Schatz	A
Representative Jim Schmidt	P
Representative Randy A. Schobinger	P
Representative Michelle Strinden	P
Representative Don Vigesaa	P

Discussion Topics:

- Study Task Force
- Sex Crimes on Children
- Executive Director

3:58 Chairman Delzer Reviews the bill and the results of the study, committee waiting on More information.

4:01 Chairman Delzer- Closes the meeting for 2275

Risa Berube,

House Appropriations Committee Clerk

2021 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Brynhild Haugland Room, State Capitol

SB 2275
4/1/2021

BILL for an Act to provide for an appropriation to the department of human services relating to a director for the task force on prevention of sexual abuse of children.

9:12 Chairman Delzer- Opened the meeting for SB 2275

Attendance	P/A
Representative Jeff Delzer	P
Representative Keith Kempenich	P
Representative Bert Anderson	P
Representative Larry Bellew	P
Representative Tracy Boe	P
Representative Mike Brandenburg	P
Representative Michael Howe	P
Representative Gary Kreidt	P
Representative Bob Martinson	P
Representative Lisa Meier	P
Representative Alisa Mitskog	P
Representative Corey Mock	P
Representative David Monson	P
Representative Mike Nathe	P
Representative Jon O. Nelson	P
Representative Mark Sanford	P
Representative Mike Schatz	A
Representative Jim Schmidt	P
Representative Randy A. Schobinger	P
Representative Michelle Strinden	P
Representative Don Vigasaa	P

Discussion Topics:

- Task Force through 2024
- Director
- Appropriating from the general fund

Chairman Delzer Reviews the bill and its purpose

Additional written testimony: Informational page passed out #11410

9:17 Chairman Delzer- Closes the meeting for 2275

*Risa Berube,
House Appropriations Committee Clerk*

**Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Thursday, January 3, 2019**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1237
(Representatives Roers Jones, Satrom, Schneider)
(Senator Clemens)

A BILL to provide for a task force on prevention of sexual abuse of children; and to provide for a report to the legislative management and the governor.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. TASK FORCE ON PREVENTION OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN - REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT AND THE GOVERNOR.

1. Beginning with the effective date of this Act and ending September 30, 2024, the task force on the prevention of sexual abuse of children is established to develop and implement a comprehensive statewide approach to the prevention of child sexual abuse. The statewide approach must ensure appropriate policies, funding, staffing, resources, and programming are available. The task force shall build upon the efforts of the 2017-18 North Dakota task force on the prevention of sexual abuse of children.
2. The task force consists of the following members:
 - a. One member of the senate appointed by the majority leader of the senate, one member of the house of representatives appointed by the majority leader of the house of representatives, and one member of the minority party appointed by the minority leaders of the senate and the house of representatives;
 - b. The executive director of the department of human services, or the executive director's designee;
 - c. A representative of a children's advocacy center or similar organization that assists in the investigation, prosecution, and treatment of child sexual and physical abuse cases, appointed by the executive director of the department of human services;
 - d. A representative of a domestic violence rape crisis center involved in the prevention of child abuse or the treatment of child abuse victims, or both, appointed by the executive director of the department of human services;
 - e. The superintendent of public instruction, or the superintendent's designee;
 - f. A representative of law enforcement, appointed by the attorney general;
 - g. The executive director of the Indian affairs commission, or the executive director's designee;
 - h. One school social worker from a public school district in the state, appointed by the superintendent of public instruction;
 - i. Two school principals, one from an urban school district and one from a rural school district in the state, appointed by the superintendent of public instruction from a list provided by the North Dakota council of educational leaders;
 - j. One member from the faith-based community, appointed by the attorney general;

- k. Two school counselors, one from an urban school district and one from a rural school district in the state, appointed by the superintendent of public instruction from a list provided by the North Dakota school counselors association; and
 - l. Any other organization or individual the task force deems appropriate.
3. The executive director of the department of human services, or the executive director's designee, shall convene the task force. The task force shall elect a presiding officer by a majority vote of the membership of the task force. The task force shall meet at the call of the presiding officer.
4. The task force shall focus on:
- a. Increasing child sexual abuse prevention education for tribal and nontribal children and adults;
 - b. Increasing interagency data collection, sharing, and collective analysis;
 - c. Supporting resource development for investigations and prosecutions of child sexual abuse, including the sentencing, supervision, and treatment of sex offenders;
 - d. Increasing trauma-informed services for children, adult survivors, and families; and
 - e. Implementing the remaining recommendations of the November 2018 final report of the North Dakota task force on the prevention of child sexual abuse.
5. The recommendations of the task force may include proposals for specific statutory changes, actions the task force deems necessary and appropriate to initiate awareness education of adults and children, and methods to foster cooperation among state agencies and between the state and local governments in adopting and implementing a policy addressing sexual abuse of children which may include:
- a. Developmentally appropriate resources for students in prekindergarten through grade twelve;
 - b. Training for school personnel on child sexual abuse;
 - c. Educational information to parents or guardians provided in school handbooks regarding the warning signs of a child being abused, along with any needed assistance, referral, or resource information;
 - d. Available counseling and resources for students affected by sexual abuse;
 - e. Emotional and educational support for a child of abuse to continue to be successful in school; and
 - f. Any other action deemed appropriate.
6. Before July first of each even-numbered year, the task force shall submit a report, together with any findings and recommendations, to the legislative management and the governor. Before July 1, 2024, the task force shall submit a final report, together with any findings and recommendations, to the legislative management and the governor.

2021 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Brynhild Haugland Room, State Capitol

SB 2275
4/2/2021

BILL for an Act to provide for an appropriation to the department of human services relating to a director for the task force on prevention of sexual abuse of children.

9:10 Chairman Delzer- Opened the meeting for SB 2275

Attendance	P/A
Representative Jeff Delzer	P
Representative Keith Kempenich	P
Representative Bert Anderson	P
Representative Larry Bellew	P
Representative Tracy Boe	P
Representative Mike Brandenburg	P
Representative Michael Howe	P
Representative Gary Kreidt	P
Representative Bob Martinson	P
Representative Lisa Meier	P
Representative Alisa Mitskog	P
Representative Corey Mock	P
Representative David Monson	P
Representative Mike Nathe	P
Representative Jon O. Nelson	P
Representative Mark Sanford	P
Representative Mike Schatz	P
Representative Jim Schmidt	P
Representative Randy A. Schobinger	P
Representative Michelle Strinden	P
Representative Don Vigasaa	A

Discussion Topics:

- Task Force Director
- Prevent of Sexual Abuse for Children

9:11 Representative Mitskog – Found that the money doesn't need to be allocated at this time.

9:12 Representative Jon O. Nelson Do Not Pass

Representative Meier Second

Further discussion

9:12 Roll Call Vote was Taken;

Representatives	Vote
Representative Jeff Delzer	Y
Representative Keith Kempenich	Y
Representative Bert Anderson	Y
Representative Larry Bellew	Y
Representative Tracy Boe	N
Representative Mike Brandenburg	Y
Representative Michael Howe	Y
Representative Gary Kreidt	Y
Representative Bob Martinson	Y
Representative Lisa Meier	Y
Representative Alisa Mitskog	Y
Representative Corey Mock	Y
Representative David Monson	Y
Representative Mike Nathe	Y
Representative Jon O. Nelson	Y
Representative Mark Sanford	Y
Representative Mike Schatz	Y
Representative Jim Schmidt	Y
Representative Randy A. Schobinger	Y
Representative Michelle Strinden	Y
Representative Don Vigesaa	Y

Motion Carries 20-1-0 Representative Meier will carry the bill

Additional written testimony: No Additional Testimony

9:14 Chairman Delzer- Closes the meeting for SB 2275

Risa Berube,

House Appropriations Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2275: Appropriations Committee (Rep. Delzer, Chairman) recommends **DO NOT PASS** (20 YEAS, 1 NAY, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2275 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.