

SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION & CRISIS SERVICES

*The purpose of the Sexual
Assault Prevention & Crisis
Services Program
is to end sexual violence by
improving and enhancing
the quality of services for
victims/survivors through
grants and technical
assistance to sexual assault
programs and by
developing and providing
interagency training and
promoting multi-
disciplinary collaboration.*

ANNUAL REPORT 2000



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
CRIME VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION
JOHN CORNYN



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL · STATE OF TEXAS
JOHN CORNYN

December 8, 2000

To: Governor George W. Bush
Lt. Gov. Rick Perry
Speaker Pete Laney
Members of the Texas Legislature

Survivors of sexual assault and their families and friends often need assistance with the healing process after the assault. Fortunately, there are 70 local sexual assault programs in Texas to provide support and assistance. These local programs receive funding, training, and technical assistance from the Sexual Assault Prevention and Crisis Services Program in my office.

In Fiscal Year 2000, more than \$4.4 million in federal and state grants was distributed to 67 local sexual assault programs, one state association, and four special projects. These programs provide survivors and their families 24-hour access to sexual assault services and trained advocates, many of them volunteers, who provide guidance in complex medical and legal proceedings. Local agencies that are funded also are required to provide community and professional education and awareness programs, as well as individual crisis intervention.

The Sexual Assault Prevention and Crisis Services (SAPCS) staff also administers the State's only victim service-related certification. In 1997, Texas became the first state in the country to certify Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs), the registered nurses who collect forensic evidence from sexual assault survivors. Properly gathered and carefully preserved evidence can greatly strengthen the prosecutor's case against an offender. My office provides one of the most intense training curricula for SANEs in the nation. Certification is available for those registered nurses who work with children, adults, or both.

Survivors, their families, and their communities and deserve accurate information and a better understanding of the laws and issues involved in the complex social and systemic problem of sexual assault. In Fiscal Year 2000, our SAPCS staff trained nearly 7,000 professionals, to enhance their skills in working with a sexual assault survivor or offender.

Our goal is to help Texas communities augment and improve upon the services they provide to sexual assault survivors. This report details our efforts to help sexual assault programs better serve sexual assault survivors, their loved ones, and their communities.

Sincerely,

John Cornyn
Attorney General of Texas

O u r M i s s i o n

Sexual Assault Prevention & Crisis Services

Sexual Assault Prevention and Crisis Services actively commits to the goal of ending sexual violence by improving and enhancing the quality of services for victims/survivors, developing and providing interagency training, and promoting multi-disciplinary collaboration.

Office of the Attorney General

Sexual Assault Prevention & Crisis Services

BACKGROUND



The Sexual Assault Prevention and Crisis Services (SAPCS) Program in the Crime Victim Services Division of the Office of the Attorney General is responsible for distributing

state and federal funds to local sexual assault programs and special projects.

This effort began in 1982, when the United States Congress mandated that five percent of the Public Health and Human Services Block Grant dollars be spent specifically on services for sexual assault victims. Sexual Assault Prevention and Crisis Services, at that time housed in the Texas Department of Health, was responsible for distributing these federal funds.

In 1983, the first year of federal funding, a \$145,000 budget paid for one administrative staff person and grants to the 10 rape crisis centers in the State. These grants added needed dollars to donations, foundations, fund-raising, and grass-roots efforts that had been the sole source of local program support.

In 1984, the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA) petitioned the Legislature for additional dollars and received an annual allotment of \$304,000. A group of specialists from TAASA - then an all-volunteer organization - was asked to develop minimum standards for programs receiving these funds. These standards remain

in place today and are contained in the enabling legislation that directs the efforts of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Crisis Services staff.

In order to receive funding, a local program must offer the following services:

- 24-hour access
- crisis intervention
- accompaniment to medical and legal proceedings
- public education
- volunteer training
- advocacy

These 501(c)3 (non-profit) organizations must offer the required services for at least nine months prior to receiving funding.

In 1996, Sexual Assault Prevention and Crisis Services moved to the Office of the Attorney General, where it became one of 11 divisions under the supervision of the Deputy Attorney General for Criminal Justice. While distribution of funds is a primary focus, the range of functions performed has increased greatly since the program came under the administration of the Attorney General. Increased revenue from the federal Violence Against Women Acts I and II have made the program's growth possible.

New initiatives, such as certification for those performing forensic exams on sexual assault survivors and training on crisis intervention and prevention issues, have been added in an effort to enhance services for sexual assault survivors.

In February 2000, the Attorney General reorganized the agency's victim services efforts and created a single Crime Victim Services Division. Sexual Assault Prevention and Crisis Services is one of four programs within the division, constituting as the only state agency effort dedicated to the issue of sexual assault.

A commitment to end sexual violence and provide the best in services to its victims underscores the staff's efforts in six functional areas: Grants and Contracts, Certification, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE), Education/Awareness Training, Integrated Tracking Systems, and Prevention.

GRANTS & CONTRACTS


Fiscal Year 2000 marked the end of the first two-year cycle for contracts between the Office of the Attorney General and sexual assault service providers. Those programs that were in good standing and had been receiving funding for at least five years - more than 75 percent of funded programs - qualified for this new grant cycle. This system benefits both the State and the communities by eliminating the paperwork previously required of grantees on an annual basis. The grant application is now available electronically, another initiative that has simplified and expedited the application process.

Fiscal information, such as budgets, requests for changes, and invoices also are accessible electronically. A one-day training session on the grant process is available annually to any interested organization or new staff member of a currently funded organization. Technical assistance on topics such as current services, future applications, budget amendments, state-of-the-art non-profit accounting systems, invoice preparation, and budget management are provided on a daily basis. SAPCS staff allocated for this effort, a Contract and Program Development Specialist and a Financial Services Specialist, have provided some type of assistance to every funded agency this year.

Funded programs are scheduled to be monitored every three years. Twenty-three monitoring visits were made to program sites in Fiscal Year 2000. The Financial Services Specialist performed nine on-site fiscal monitorings.

SAPCS uses a risk assessment tool developed by the OAG Internal Audit Division to determine which programs will be monitored in any given year. Internal Audit also performs an analysis of the required annual audits from all funded entities and participated in several site monitoring visits.

CERTIFICATION

 Certification efforts are managed by a Certification and Community Development Specialist.

The Sexual Assault Advocate Training Certification and the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Currency of Practice Certification were instituted through legislation in 1997. Both certifications are voluntary.

Advocate training certification is intended to help standardize the assistance given to sexual assault survivors throughout Texas and to enhance the knowledge and skill levels of staff and volunteer advocates.

To date, eight sexual assault programs have been certified:

Regional Crime Victim Crisis Center, Abilene
The Women's Center of Tarrant County, Fort Worth
The Bridge Over Troubled Waters, Pasadena
Rape Crisis Center of Collin County, Plano
Assault Victim Services of the Concho Valley, San Angelo
Bay Area Turning Point, Webster
Montgomery County Women's Center, The Woodlands
Sexual Trauma and Assault Response Services, El Paso

The SANE certification is designed to document those medical personnel with advanced education who have undergone the SANE training, successfully completing the course and clinical work required. Fifty-seven registered nurses have been certified since this program started. Texas is the first state in the country with certification for SANES.

New in Fiscal Year 2000 was the formalization of Texas Sexual Assault Response Teams (TXSART). TXSART is case management of a sexual assault from outcry to case disposition. It is an important service for survivors in those communities that have adopted this practice.

The Certification and Community Development Specialist is responsible for this initiative.

SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE EXAMINER

During Fiscal Year 2000, 80 registered nurses were trained in Kerrville, Midland, Waco, San Antonio, Texarkana, Lufkin, and Victoria to become SANEs. The Office of the Attorney General has the most comprehensive program for training adult and pediatric SANEs.

Training was offered in communities to enhance the skills of medical professionals in this medical forensic model. Several classes were held to enhance skills and provide up-to-date information on the latest forensic techniques used in the field. The *Evidence Collection Protocol for the Forensic Examination of a Sexual Assault Survivor* is used as the core curriculum for the SANE training.

Students must complete 56 classroom hours and 96 clinical hours. The classroom hours include sessions on courtroom testimony, documentation, history-taking skills, advocacy and Texas law.

An informational quarterly newsletter assists sexual assault nurse examiners in connecting with each other, learning about new developments in the forensic field, and keeping up with continuing education.

EDUCATION / AWARENESS TRAINING

In Fiscal Year 2000, staff conducted 127 presentations and trained nearly 7,000 allied professionals - more than three times the number trained in FY1998.

Allied professionals are those who interact for some purpose with sexual assault victims: district attorneys, law enforcement officers, emergency and hospital medical personnel, probation and parole officers, sex offender treatment providers, clergy, counselors, judges, school officials, polygraphers, and defense attorneys.

Basic "Sexual Assault 101" topics were expanded to include:

- Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault
- Survivors with Disabilities
- Investigation and Interviewing Techniques
- Courtroom Testimony
- Internet Child Pornography
- Sex Offender Registration/Notification
- Best Practices for Volunteers Delivering Crisis Intervention
- Case Management
- Training for Boards of Directors
- Act on Suspicion: The School Nurse's Role in Protecting Children from Sexual Assault/Abuse
- Evidence Collection
- Rape by Intimate Partner
- The Sexual Assault Response Team: Developing the Community
- Stress and Burnout
- Vicarious Traumatization

This training and education has assisted many communities in developing the Texas Sexual Assault Response Team (TXSART).

The Office of the Attorney General, Sexual Assault Prevention and Crisis Services Program, co-sponsored the annual Texas Association Against Sexual Assault Conference, which this year was a national conference in conjunction with the Centers For Disease Control. Other conferences co-sponsored were: Texas Association of Polygraph Examiners, El Paso's Border Conference and the Association of Traumatic Stress Specialists.

INTEGRATED TRACKING SYSTEM (ITS)

SAPCS is the repository for all data collected by the funded sexual assault programs. For the past 10 years, there has been a collaborative effort to make data collection easier for local programs, particularly for those programs that have to report to more than one state agency - which is 99 percent of the programs working with victims of crime. In 1997, the Texas Department of Human Services, Family Violence Unit, and the Office of the Attorney General jointly funded an effort to make ease of reporting a reality. ITS was created.

All funded family violence shelters and sexual assault programs received a computer, software and training to afford them the ability to "upload" their data monthly to a central server located at the Office of the Attorney General. The project went on line in Fiscal Year 1999, and the data contained in this Fiscal Year 2000 report is the first data extrapolated from this effort. Not only has this assisted local programs in their reporting efforts, but the data collected will be invaluable. Each individual case will come in as raw data, allowing analysis of programs, services and victim needs. To maintain confidentiality, there are no identifiers on the data except the program code.

PREVENTION

Since May 1998, SAPCS has been involved in identifying areas of primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention and implementing changes in local sexual assault programs that will benefit the citizens of Texas. This prevention program - the newest addition to SAPCS - is managed by a Prevention Specialist.

This program also addresses issues involving young offenders and the cycle of violence that seems to become a part of so many young victims' lives. How do we make sure that all young victims receive assistance after a crime so that healing may begin? How do we prevent their becoming offenders themselves as they get older? These are some of the many challenges this program tries to address.

In FY2000, SAPCS brought together an adult sex offender treatment therapist, a child sex offender treatment therapist, an advocate, a probation officer, a district attorney, a defense attorney, a polygraph examiner, a law enforcement officer, a child protective services administrator, and a judge in a collaborative effort to assist communities in forming a response to sexual assault.

This work group developed the "Texas Communication Protocol" which will be released at a Spring 2001 conference. The conference is designed to adjust communities in the implementation of these "best practices."

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA) - the statewide organization for rape crisis centers, sexual assault nurse examiners, and other interested individuals - develops curricula in accordance with federal guidelines, specifically for those in grades 6-12 statewide.

Montrose Counseling Center - provides individual and group counseling to gay and lesbian survivors of sexual assault in the Harris County area.

Rape Crisis Center in San Antonio - a special task force created a document on communication issues within communities. This document will serve as a "best practices" guide for all communities.

El Paso's Sexual Trauma and Resources Services (STARS) program - a border liaison assists in establishing a sister program in Juarez and providing collaborative working arrangements with criminal justice, medical, and advocacy systems on both sides of the border.

Chaperone Project - Tarrant County CSCD, in collaboration with the Women's Center of Tarrant County, provides sexual assault support services to persons acting as chaperones for paroled/probated sex offenders.

H i g h l i g h t s F i s c a l Y e a r 2 0 0 0

Training

Trained more than 6,900 allied professionals in 127 presentations, including

- National Center for Women in Policing
- Collaborated with Crime Victims' Compensation to provide community training

Memberships

- Board Member, Association of Traumatic Stress Specialists
- Board Member, Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers Public Policy Committee
- President, International Association of Forensic Nurses
- OAG Representative, Interagency Committee for the Council on Sex Offender Treatment
- OAG Representative, Violence Against Women Committee for the National Association of Attorneys General

Funding Sources

CDC* Violence Against Women Act (VAWA I)	\$ 3,028,237
CDC Public Health Block Grant	496,657
State General Revenue	316,744
OAG - Crime Victims' Compensation Fund	500,000
Probation Fees	186,000
Balance Forward Fiscal Year 1999	459,096
Total Revenue	\$ 4,986,734

Funded Programs Report

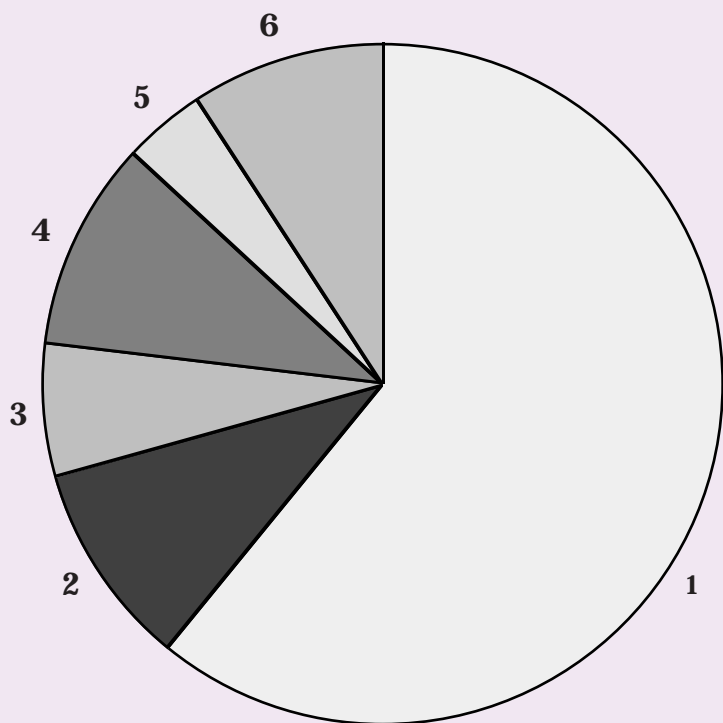
Number of Local Programs Funded	67
Special Projects Funded	5
Survivors Seeking Assistance from Funded Programs	16,637
Educational Programs Delivered	16,473
Participants at Educational Programs	627,990

Expenditures

Local sexual assault program awards	\$4,028,588
Special projects awards	396,386
Administrative costs	561,760
Total Expenditures	4,986,734

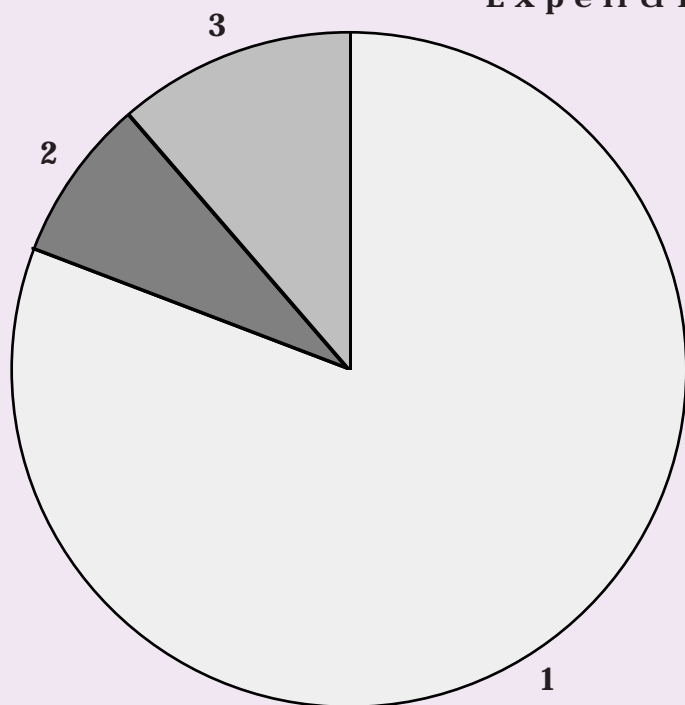
* Centers for Disease Control

Funding Sources



1	CDC* Violence Against Women Act (VAWA I)	61%
2	CDC Public Health Block Grant	10%
3	State General Revenue	6%
4	OAG Crime Victims' Compensation Fund	10%
5	Probation Fees	4%
6	Balance Forward Fiscal Year 99	9%
* Centers for Disease Control		

Expenditures



1	Local Sexual Assault Program Awards	81%
2	Special Projects Awards	8%
3	Administrative Costs	11%

S A P C S S T A F F

Director

Cecelia McKenzie

Administrative Support

Becky Borgeson

Training Specialist

Sgt. Alice Bybee

Prevention Specialist

Grace Davis

Administrative Assistant

Lynda Edmonson

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner/Forensic Training Specialist

Jamie Ferrell

Certification and Community Development Specialist

Jo Halligan

Financial Services Specialist

Mark Hernandez

Technology Information Support Specialist

Lynn LeFave

Contracts and Program Development Specialist

Pam Rodgers

The work of SAPCS is enhanced by the fact that its staff members have a combined total of 107 years experience in the field of sexual assault prevention and crisis services.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT US AT:

Sexual Assault Prevention and Crisis Services
Crime Victim Services Division
Office of the Attorney General
P.O. Box 12548
Austin, Texas 78711

(512)936-1270

<http://www.oag.state.tx.us>

<http://www.sapcsd@oag.state.tx.us>



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