

# 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

