

Spirit Lake Victim Assistance Program
Imogene Belgarde, Director
April 2019 – Monthly Report

The following services were provided for this month:

Number of Domestic Violence Victims: 20
Number of Sexual Assault Victims: 3
Number of Victims in Shelter: 6 female and 2 children and 2 males
Transportation: 1
Number of Restraining Orders Submitted: 3
Number of Restraining Orders Dismissed: 0
Number of Restraining Orders Granted: 3
Number of Restraining Orders Dropped: 0
Number of Protection Orders Filed: 1
Number of Crisis Calls/Evening & Weekends/Holidays: 8
Number of Office Calls: 125



04/03 – Staff Meeting – This morning we reviewed our current victims and what services has been provided. We also begun planning for our upcoming Sexual Assault Awareness Event. This year we have a commitment from Lenny Hayes, who is an enrolled member of the Sisseton Wahpeton-Oyate. Lenny is the owner and operator of the Tate Topa Consulting, LLC, in Minnesota. We completed all the follow up for the SA event and are ready to go. We received \$500 donation from the Native Women’s Society of the Great Plains, Carmen O’Leary to do a cultural project. With these funds we will be making red ribbon skirts and have an MMIW walk on May 5th, which is the National Day for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. We are also including the LGBTQ community to join the walk.

04/04 – Easter Crafts – Today we invited our victims and community members to our office to create Easter crafts for their homes. We provided the craft supplies and served a lunch. There were **20** participants who signed in.

04/10 – Spirit Lake Rising – The staff set up the DV booth at the casino for this event. There were **40** participants who signed up at our booth.

04/11 – Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) – Due to the weather this meeting was held by teleconference. There were **13** in attendance by phone.

- One new case has jurisdiction issues – Open Case
- One SA Forensic is Negative/Child Abuse reported – Open Case
- One SA is consensual – Ongoing Investigation
- One case is still being investigated

- One unruly child – referred to Behavioral Health
- One no SA disclosure
- Three have appointments for forensic interviews
- One possible SA – ongoing investigation
- 20 ongoing/active cases
- 2 closed cases

04/15 – Staff Meeting – This morning we reviewed our current victims and what services has been provided for sexual assault and domestic violence. Discussion on our upcoming SA event which is being held at the SL Casino Auditorium. Topic this year is on the LGBTQ community, which our grants are funded to service. Discussion on our upcoming MMIW event set for May 5th at 10 am. May 5th is the National Day for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. We talked about having a mother’s day event on May 10th, share a lunch and mother’s will be able to receive information regarding our program services.

04/16 – Sexual Assault Awareness Event – Keynote Speaker – Lenny Hayes. Lenny is the Founder/Owner of Tate Topa (Dakota Sioux word for four Directions or Four Winds) Consulting, LLC, which provides consulting services related to mental health issues, Native American Historical and Intergenerational Trauma training, and Two-Spirit and LGBTQ trainings related to mental health issues. He believes that is important to educate American Indians as well as non-Natives on the topic of Historical and Intergenerational Trauma and how it has impacted the American Indian Community. He recently completed a project with the MN Indian Women’s Sexual Assault Coalition in which he assisted in creating a curriculum to train advocates to work with sexually assaulted victims as well as Two-Spirit individuals. The assaults on both populations are astonishing as well as devastating knowing of the unreported sexual assaults. There were 71 participants who signed in.

04/18 – TSS Coalition Meeting – I attended this meeting, and I waited for 1/2 hour and the meeting didn’t begin so I came back to the office, because we were busy with victims and their families.

04/18 – St. Michael District Meeting – I gave a presentation on our monthly report and what services we do provide. I did mention that we provide limited transportation since we provide our personal vehicles and our personal insurance. Should anything happen while we have a victim in our personal vehicle, our personal insurance will be affected. I did stress the importance of not leaving children alone, since we have been receiving more sexual assault calls.

04/23-24-25 – Domestic Violence Training – Anthony Delorme, Shayna Black and Tony Dauphinais attended this training which was held in DL by the First Nations Women’s Alliance Program. DV is defined as domestic violence as a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner. Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or treats of actions that influence another person. Some of the connections the staff learned were. Similarities include: primarily violence perpetrated again women; power and control; use of relationship and trust; similar short and long term needs; exposure to various forms of abuse; conflicted about leaving situations; abuse of leads to health problems, mental, physical, acute or chronic; reluctance to disclose situation; fear, shame, guilt, low self-esteem; strong bond to trafficker/abuser and vulnerable to victimization.

04/23 – Recovery and Wellness Planning – today we met with other SL prevention programs to plan a walk against alcohol. Darla Thiele stated she was approached by some people and they wanted to know what our community is going to do before the general election, since alcohol is on the general election ballot.

04/24 – FT Apartment Fire – today we worked with the Fort Totten Police Department, Marty Alex, EMS and Fort Totten Housing Authority. Together we were able to plan and best provide services for the **seven (7) families** whom lost their belongings due to the fire. Our program has the ND Crime Victims Compensation Grant. This VOCA grants provides services to Innocent Victims who have been physically or emotionally injured, in a violent crime in ND or where a compensation program is not available, and required medical care. Where ND residents are injured by an act of terrorism. They are dependents of a homicide victim. Individual who assume responsibility for funeral and/or medical expenses of a homicide victim. These crimes must be reported to law enforcement with 96 hours. Through this grant we were able to assist the seven families.

04/26 – Four Winds Parent Fair – Today we set up our domestic violence and sexual assault booth at the Four Winds School. There were **83 parents/community** members who signed in at our booth.

04/29 – Elder’s Day Out – today I attended the elder’s event and topics discussed were: SL Health Center and Senior Services Elder Abuse Updates.

- A variety of items were received from the **Partnership with Native Americans Program (formerly known as National Relief Charities) located in Rapid City, SD**. These items are given to our victims. There are staff issues with NRC regarding no drivers, so we were informed that deliveries will be quarterly. We have finally received delivery for February 2019. All items were sorted and bagged and they are given to our victims before they leave the office.
- We also receive children’s blankets from **“Project Linus” in Fargo, ND**. These blankets are given to the parents who have children and they are very thankful to receive these blankets.
- **Follow up victims 11** and some did receive some type of services and some are continued with seeking housing, employment and other services
- **Other: 7** victims listed below individually. These individuals are either homeless or looking for a place to stay, or are looking for groceries, pampers or seeking other services.