

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



The following services were provided for this month:

Number of Domestic Violence Victims: 6
Number of Sexual Assault Victims: 1
Number of Victims in Shelter: 1 female
Transportation: 0
Number of Restraining Orders Submitted: 4
Number of Restraining Orders Dismissed: 0
Number of Restraining Orders Granted: 1
Number of Restraining Orders Dropped: 0
Number of Protection Orders Filed: 0
Number of Crisis Calls/Evening & Weekends/Holidays: 10
Number of Office Calls: 113

03/05 – ND Human Trafficking Task Force - This morning Anthony Delorme joined this three hour teleconference. Some of the topics were the Bench Book training presented by Michelle Rivard Parks. This training will eventually be brought to Spirit Lake. Palm cards for victims of trafficking, so the victim can easily hide these cards in her shoes, pockets or socks. Pauletta Red willow, consultant with Youth Works hosted a resource informational meeting and invited all tribes from MN, ND, SD and NE, to develop an MDT for reservations. Discussion on developing a protocol for youth who report they are being trafficked when they are placed out of jurisdiction. NAMEUS is a system for tracking missing persons. Currently there are 300 some native people are missing – 1/3 are reported as women, and 2/3 are reported as men, no data was given on youth and children. Jamie Azure, Chairperson from Turtle Mountain has reached out for trafficking training for their casino and programs on the reservation.

03/06 – 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. Lenny facilitates on Two-Spirit/Native LGBTQ topics and is able to discuss mental health issues that impacts this population. The advocates sent out letters of request for donations to assist with the snack and meal. This event will be held at the SL Casino Auditorium.

03/10 – Multidisciplinary Team Meeting (MDT) – there were about 42 cases discussed, some were closed, one youth refused the sexual assault exam and forensics will be set up for her. Many cases are still ongoing and still be investigated.

03/11 – Travel to Chicago – Shayna and Anthony traveled to Chicago to attend the “Conference on Crimes against Women.” This conference was related to sexual assault, elder abuse and neglect, rape, sexual violence, and all sex crimes. The LGBTQ Community was included in this training.

03/12 – Staff Meeting – we updated one another on our victims and services they have received. We completed our planning for the upcoming Gathering of Relatives event which turned out to be a huge success. Making earrings is going to be the craft.

03/13 – Gathering of Relatives Event – today we served ham and bean soup with fry bread and deserts. The people who attended enjoyed their meal and there was enough for those wanting to take a plate with them. They worked on making a mini drum which turned out to be a great success. There were 30 community members in attendance.

03/18 – Staff Meeting – the meeting was related to our upcoming Sexual Assault Awareness event which is scheduled for April 16, 2019. This event will be held at the SL Casino Auditorium. Lenny Hayes will be our presenter and topic is on the LGBTQ community.

03/21 – TSS Coalition Meeting – Lake Social Services informed the group that today is their last CPT meeting and they will no longer have CPT. Their funding will be geared towards prevention, which will be 75% of the funding. There were 50-4E cases and there were:

- 3 sexual assault
- psna babies were removed from their mother
- 46 truancy/educational neglect

There is an upcoming Children’s Advocacy in Fargo on May 8th and 9th, 2019. The Foster Adopt Coalition will be providing Advocacy for the School for the Deaf. Joni Henry reminded the group of the upcoming Suicide Prevention to be held on April 10th. Lindsey Fleming has been hired as the Tribal Adoption person, she will be located in Minot and she is there to speed up the adoption process.

03/25 – SL Executive Board Meeting – the board members came to our program to meet with us and to discuss what services we provide. The staff and myself, provided the services our victims receive and also how some of them are just taking advantage of our program. Some of them would receive a purchase order and sell it. One victim was getting a purchase order and when it was ready, she asked our advocate who helped if she wanted to buy the PO. We also explained to the board members that victims are selling their EBT card, WIC card and not providing for their families. When they come to our program we refer them to the HOPE Center in Devils Lake or the Bdecan Church for food and clothing. We do not provide clothing for any one, except the sexual assault victim. When she does an exam at the ER and her clothes are taken for evidence, then we do have a change of clothes at the ER to be given to the victim to wear home. These clothes were given to our program from the First Nations Women’s Alliance Program. We talked about homeless individuals and families that there are no services for this population. The advocates to assist them in whatever way they can and also make referrals.

03/25 – Elder’s Day Out – today I went to the elder’s day out and had lunch with my sister and got to visit. I returned to the program after eating since I don’t play bingo. Kenny Baker Jr., gave an update on new building projects.

03/26 – Gathering of Relatives Event – today we had another mini event at our office and there were 23 who attended. The activity was to make earrings which they enjoyed making and they got to take them home. Onna Littleghost shared a story of long ago regarding earrings and when a lady got their ear pierced.

03/26-27 – Training in Bismarck – Anthony Delorme and I attended the Sexual Assault training which was held in Bismarck for one day. The topic was “Effective Messaging for our Work Training, focus, framing and facts. The main objectives were (1) to describe components of an effective message; (2) practice using the 5 components of an effective message; (3) understand how to shift from “field lingo” to plain language; (4) incorporate accountability into how we present information; (5) practice staying on topic about the importance of prevention when met with challenges. Through this training we decided that we need to be out in the communities sharing our information and services we provide.

03/27 – Staff Meeting – the advocates updated the others on the victims and their services. SAAF in Devils Lake reported that they bought a phone card for a young lady and her mother stole the card from her and sold it. We continued planning for our upcoming events which are held at our office for the community and we do a cultural craft. We also continued working and finalizing our agenda for the Sexual Assault Awareness Day.

03/28 – Staff Meeting – today we planned the menu and activity for April 4th. At this event we are doing create your own Easter crafts. We did purchase supplies so those who attend could create an Easter decoration and take it home. On April 10th – SLVA will be setting up our booth at the Behavioral Health event at the SL Casino from 6:00-7:00 pm. On April 11th – SLVA will be setting up our booth at CCCC. April 15th will be SLVA Sexual Assault event at the SL Casino Auditorium. We also talked about getting on the agenda for each district, so we can provide our program information and what services are available to our victims.

03/29 – Donation Requests – Mary Ann Ott, DV Advocate drafted a letter and attached the SA Event flyer and went to several businesses in Devils Lake requesting a gift card or any donations which we can use as a door prize. Thanks to her she collected some very nice items we will use as the door prize.

- 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 3** and some did receive some type of services or were referred to another service agency.

➤ **Other: 6 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.

- **1 victim** – referred to Bismarck Abused Adult Resource Center, since they live in the Bismarck area
- **1 victim** – child abuse case, assisted with groceries and First Nations Women's Alliance assisted this case with a phone card.
- **1 victim** – was referred to HOPE Center in DL and to the Bdecan Church
- **3 homeless** – referred to other shelter services available