
From: Margaret Mikkelsen [mailto:director@sexualassaultresources.org]
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2011 11:09 AM
To: Lisa Frazier
Subject: RE: Questions from the Review Committee

Hi Lisa,

Here are our answers, numbered to match the questions. I hope these are helpful. Please let me know if you need more detail.

1. Page 2 notes a total of 19% minorities served as new clients. Since this percentage is not representative of minorities in our community's population, what activities is the agency doing to reach out to minorities?

This year, SARA has prioritized outreach activities that will help us reach immigrant, migrant, refugee, and rural populations. For example, we have collaborated with a group of Burmese immigrants to bring information and resources to their community. We have created an info sheet for allied professionals in the rural areas to help them reduce barriers to access to our services (such as transportation and concerns about confidentiality). Last summer, our outreach volunteers started a project to bring information, resources, and training to congregations throughout our service area, including churches serving majority minority congregations. This April, we are collaborating with several other community organizations to provide training to clergy and other faith community staff on responding to survivors of sexual violence within their congregations, and keeping children safe. We are partnering with interfaith organizations and a volunteer from Mt. Zion First African Baptist Church to encourage attendees from a broad range of faith traditions. Our Child Advocate is bi-lingual (Spanish/English) and works with the health promoters program of Creciendo Juntos.

Our prevention education staff work in public schools, serving the diverse population of our local schools.

2. Page 6 notes 50 community presentations. Please clarify the nature of these presentations and how the agency is able to serve this many community members.

Our community presentations are customized to meet the needs of the host organization or setting. Most are intended to provide information about our services, and raise awareness of the nature and impact of sexual violence. Some also include a skill-building element, such as how to support a survivor. Many are conducted by SARA staff, including our Executive Director, Adult Advocate, Crisis Services Coordinator, Child Advocate, and Community Relations Coordinator. We are fortunate to have a team of 8-10 outreach volunteers who are trained to make informational presentations on our behalf, enabling us to conduct many more presentations than staff alone could do.

3. How does the agency recruit volunteers? How are volunteers trained? What duties are assigned to volunteers as opposed to staff responsibilities?

SARA recruits volunteers through public advertisement, word of mouth, and networking through other agencies and institutions. Many of our volunteers come to us because a friend or family member has volunteered with us.

Because of the nature of our work, volunteers are very carefully screened and trained. Hotline Advocates undergo a 40-hour training conducted by our Crisis Services Coordinator with assistance from other SARA staff. We run a background check on each of them, and conduct practice calls and evaluations before they are assigned hotline shifts. After each hotline call, the volunteer Hotline Advocate calls the on-call staff member to go over the call. Hotline Advocates also meeting monthly with the Crisis Services Coordinator for ongoing review of protocols and continued training.

Outreach Volunteers undergo a shorter, 4-hour training and also meet monthly. Any Outreach Volunteer that would have sustained contact with children also receives a background check.

Volunteer responsibilities include answering hotline calls and providing crisis intervention to callers, providing informational presentations, conducting outreach projects such as tabling at community events, and distributing materials. Volunteers also help at special events, and with large mailings. Volunteers do not provide counseling, legal advocacy, case management or other client services that are only appropriate for professional staff to provide.

4. Please clarify Outcome #3, specifically what is meant by the term 'affected'. Are you targeting community members that have been victimized?

With one in four girls and one in five boys in Virginia experiencing sexual violence before the age of 18, nearly everyone has a family member, child, friend, or other loved one who has been a victim of sexual violence. Sexual violence in all its forms affects the entire community by changing the way we relate to each other and our surroundings. Many community members are moved by the experience of a loved one or the understanding of the impact of sexual violence on our community to become a volunteer. We do not target community members who have been victimized, though some of our volunteers are survivors.

5. Please describe the breakdown of the staff, specifically the number of therapists and therapist hours. What percentage of the total budget is for therapy hours?

SARA's staff include:

Executive Director

Client Services Team

- Counselor (licensed clinical social worker)

- Adult Advocate
- Child Advocate
- Crisis Services Coordinator

Prevention Education Team

- Child Educator
- Adolescent Educator

Community Outreach

- Community Relations Coordinator

Administration

- Operations Manager

8% of the budget is for licensed therapy hours provided by our counselor, a licensed clinical social worker. We also have an MSW graduate intern providing therapy under our counselor's supervision. An additional 39% of the budget is for providing crisis intervention and advocacy services to clients who have not yet entered therapy.

5. The FY10 actual beneficiaries served in Fluvanna is 1,044, but the FY11 revised projected is 100. Why the drop in beneficiaries?

During FY11, our prevention education programs will be concentrated in Charlottesville and Nelson Counties. We do not expect to work in Fluvanna schools, so our beneficiaries there will be limited to victims, allied professionals who attend trainings, and community members reached through outreach activities.

Best,
Margaret