



# REVOLUTION

## TEXAS ASSOCIATION AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT

TAASA Newsletter | Spring 2015

rev•o•lu•tion (rev'loo sh n) n. a sweeping and momentous change

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## A DECADE LATER SEXUAL ASSAULT IS MORE PERVASIVE IN TEXAS

NOËL BUSCH-ARMENDARIZ, PHD, LMSW, MPA & DEIDI OLAYA-RODRIGUEZ, MSSW

### The Prevalence of Sexual Assault in Texas—It's Staggering

More than 33 percent of the population of Texas, or 6.3 million Texans, have experienced sexual assault at some point in their lives. Said another way: more than 400,000 Texans are victimized every year. There is reason for concern.

How do we know? Along with our research colleagues<sup>1</sup> at Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (IDVSA) at the School of Social Work and the Bureau for Business Research at The University of Texas at Austin we recently released findings from our study, *Health and Well-being: The Texas Statewide Prevalence Study on Sexual Assault*.<sup>2</sup> After a decade, we have new research evidence to better understand and inform service delivery for victims, a system of accountability for offenders, and direct policy recommendations in Texas.

### Methods

A representative sample of 1,203 adult Texans participated in the study. Victimization was based on 15 behavioral-specific questions about sexual assault all that meet a State statute definition in Texas. Building on our 2003 prevalence study that used five victimization questions, we added ten additional questions in the current study to follow the protocol of the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (2011) study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). We also asked participants about their general well-being, health, alcohol and drug use, and attitudes about sexual assault, and gender socialization.

<sup>1</sup>When using these data please use this citation: Busch-Armendariz, N.B., Olaya, D., Kerwick, M., Wachter, K., Sulley C. (2015). Health and Well-Being: Texas Statewide Sexual Assault Prevalence. The University of Texas at Austin, Institute on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault: Austin, Texas.

<sup>2</sup>This study is funded by the Department of State Health Services. The research working group includes members of Department of State Health Services, Texas Association Against Sexual Assault, the Office of the Attorney General, and The Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault at The University of Texas at Austin.



The month of April is nationally designated as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM). I know for many of us every month is SAAPM but it is nice to have that designation because many communities and media outlets respond better to a concentrated “theme” or focus rather than a constant bombardment

regarding our issues. As your outreach during SAAPM increases, so does TAASA's. The training team is on the road all through the spring so please check out the schedule and see where you might be able to join us. I also encourage you to reach out to our communication team because they have developed some great collateral materials appropriate for SAAPM or any time of the year.

It was great seeing many of you last month for our annual conference. We appreciate the time we get to spend time with so many of you in the movement. I've seen better weather but it did keep us all in the workshops ;) The conference also gave us the opportunity to have both our outgoing Deputy Director (Morgan Curtis) and incoming Deputy Director (Beth Felker) in attendance. Morgan is now at a vineyard in Italy for a while before her next great adventure and Beth has hit the ground running in the office. I won't speculate about who may have gotten the best of that deal but I do encourage you to reach out to Beth at [bfelker@taasa.org](mailto:bfelker@taasa.org) and extension # 31 anytime. She will be a great resource for y'all and she is really looking forward to working closely with all our members.

Our University Police Sexual Assault Training (UPSAT) is scheduled for the 27-28th of April and the Texas Prevention Summit (held jointly with TCFV) will take place June 29-July 1st. More details can be found on our website, [www.taasa.org](http://www.taasa.org). If you are interested in knowing whether any officers from your local college campuses participated you can reach out to Rick Gipprich ([rgipprich@taasa.org](mailto:rgipprich@taasa.org)) for details. Besides providing quality in-depth training opportunities for these officers we would also love to facilitate stronger working relationships with their local program advocates. Please let us know how we can best help strengthen those critical relationships.

The Texas legislative session is in full swing. We are hoping the session doesn't include special sessions during the summer, there are no threats to stable funding, and no bills passed are detrimental to survivors. To stay briefed on what actually happens at the legislative during these next couple of months I encourage you to follow TAASA on Twitter and Facebook, check out our website often, and for those of you very interested in taking an active role in policy work email Chris Kaiser ([ckaiser@taasa.org](mailto:ckaiser@taasa.org)) so we can keep you invested and involved.

Please enjoy our all too brief Texas Spring. It will be crazy hot in no time at all. When you don't have the luxury of basking in the sunshine with cool breezes let us know how we can make your work a little easier. TAASA is here to serve the needs of sexual assault survivors and those who work to prevent or respond to this crime. Contacting us is never a bother so I hope you reach out often.

In partnership, Annette





### University Police Sexual Assault Training (UPSAT) Conference – April 2015

TAASA in partnership with the University of Texas at Austin's Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will host this year's UPSAT conference April 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> 2015. The conference will provide information on sexual assault response, investigations, and cultural change at Texas colleges and universities.

The conference will take place at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Spa, & Conference Center in San Marcos, TX.

Want to be a part of the conference without leaving your office? Join the online conversation utilizing #UPSAT2015.

### #txsaapm2015

Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Month is in full swing. TAASA's online toolkit "In Your Own Backyard: Survivor Inspired Change" continues to receive positive attention from local, state, and national agencies. To view the online toolkit in its entirety, visit [www.taasa.org](http://www.taasa.org).

TAASA's 2015 SAAPM media coverage features the "Speak Up, Speak Out" campaign. The target audience for this year's media strategy include rural areas, small college towns, military bases, and various central Texas communities. The campaign will be visible via billboards, print ads, and digitally via social media outlets. Let us know if you catch the campaign in your area.

For more information contact Rose Luna, Communications Director at ([rluna@taasa.org](mailto:rluna@taasa.org))

### TAASA Welcomes New Deputy Director!

Beth Felker is TAASA's new Deputy Director. Beth has spent her career investing in and supporting health promotion initiatives for underserved communities. She joins TAASA with significant experience in strategic planning, program development, innovative collaborative partnerships, and philanthropic ventures. Drawing on her studies and work in a variety of public health programs, Beth brings to the TAASA

team a deep, abiding passion for cultivating sustainable changes in women's, families', and communities' health and quality of life. She holds a B.A. double major in psychology and intercultural communications from



Southwestern University and a M.A. in sustainable international development from the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University. Highlights of Beth's accomplishments:

- 10+ years entrepreneurial, inclusive leader focused on strategic management for efficiency and growth
- Collaborator who launches multifaceted ventures, stewards partnerships, cultivates effective teams
- Bilingual, multicultural, persuasive, motivational communicator who presents complex concepts and influences significant action

Beth looks forward to learning about the exciting work happening across the state.

### Texas Prevention Summit

TAASA and TCFV are teaming up to bring you Texas Prevention Summit 2015: Transforming Communities. Each summit workshop is carefully designed to deliver a unique learning experience for prevention workers and program leadership. Get ready to explore new prevention strategies, connect with your colleagues, learn new skills, and get inspired to transform YOUR community.

Visit TAASA's calendar of events on our website to find out how to register for the summit.

### TAASA Post-Summit Prevention Curriculum Training

TAASA is excited to provide training at the conclusion of the Texas Prevention Summit 2015: Transforming Communities to prevention workers interested in implementing the first of TAASA's Break the Box Prevention Curricula to be made available to the field. The curriculum explores the dynamics of gender socialization, identifies the problematic effects of components of gender socialization on individuals and communities, and teaches skills for people to have healthy, respectful, and equitable interactions and relationships. This training will be the first step in preparing prevention workers to implement the curriculum. For more information about the training and to register for it, please visit TAASA's calendar of events on our website.

### Membership Update

A robust membership is vital to policy work at the state level to benefit survivors and local rape crisis programs. The dues collected from membership make up about 25% of the funds needed to conduct policy work every year, the rest is supplemented through fundraising. Membership dues help make it possible for TAASA to remain committed to the work in collaboration with advocates and allies across the state.

In an effort to highlight the importance of joining and investing in TAASA's work, membership was front and center at this year's conference. Forty-six individuals became TAASA members and several more renewed. It was heartwarming to see participants gift memberships to friends, colleagues, and loved ones in lieu of a more traditional gift from our wonderful vendors. Thank you and welcome to all new members.



## TAASA UPDATES - SCENES FROM THE 2015 TAASA CONFERENCE





# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

TAASA would like to thank all of you who have helped advocate for survivors at the Texas Capitol, though sound, evidence-based policy!



As of this writing, we're just over halfway through the 84th Legislative Session. (In non-Lege-speak, that means it's crunch-time.) Despite a late start for committee appointments and bill hearings, sexual assault advocates have had a productive beginning of Session, and we're energized to finish the job in April and May.

The six priority items adopted by TAASA's membership, along with several other notable bills, continue to move along through the process. The Public Policy Team wanted to take this opportunity to offer a snapshot of a few victories so far, as well as some action items on the horizon.

## Victories So Far

<p>Issue sexual assault, stalking, and trafficking protective orders at the time of criminal conviction.</p> <p><b>SB 630</b> (Rodriguez, El Paso)  <b>HB 1447</b> (Dale, Round Rock)</p> <p>These companion bills were unanimously approved in March by the Senate Criminal Justice Committee and House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee, respectively, and fast-tracked toward passage. <b>(TAASA Agenda)</b></p>	<p><b>HB 1293</b> (Alvarado, Houston)</p> <p>HB 1293 would give stalking victims the right to use pseudonyms in criminal proceedings, just as sexual assault and abuse victims may do under current law. TAASA supported this bill and worked with Rep. Alvarado to ensure this legislation does not interfere with victims' ability to document stalking for the purpose of breaking a lease for safety.</p>
<p>Eliminate surprise charges for sexual assault forensic exams.</p> <p><b>HB 1446</b> (Dale, Round Rock)  <b>SB 145</b> (Rodriguez, El Paso)</p> <p>Rep. Dale's HB 1446 was approved by the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee in March and is on its way to the Senate. <b>(TAASA Agenda)</b></p>	<p><b>SB 147</b> (Rodriguez, El Paso)  <b>HB 498</b> (Gonzalez, El Paso)</p> <p>These bills strengthen criminal enforcement provisions for sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking protective orders by providing for enhancements for repeated violations and adding several possible prohibitions. Thanks to instrumental help from Travis County and Hood County prosecutors Erin Martinson and Lori Kaspar, SB 147 easily passed the Senate in mid-March.</p>
<p><b>HB 699</b> (Nevarez, Eagle Pass)</p> <p>This bill would add to college and university obligations under Clery Act by requiring schools to implement specific policies on sexual assault and ensure they are easily accessible by students, and to review their policies every two years.</p>	<p><b>HB 496</b> (Gonzalez, El Paso)  <b>SB 1135</b> (Garcia, Houston)</p> <p>These bills propose to outlaw "revenge porn"—the nonconsensual disclosure of sexual explicit photos—in Texas. In March the bills received strong hearings in the House Criminal Jurisprudence and Senate Criminal Justice Committees with testimony from revenge porn victim and activist Hollie Toups, TAASA, and the Harris County District Attorney's Office. As of this writing the bills are on their way toward passage.</p>





## How You Can Help?

Create a Statewide Task Force to Improve Responses to Sexual Violence on Higher-Ed Campuses

### **HB 808** (Dukes, Austin)

We expect HB 808 to receive a hearing very soon in the Higher Education Committee. If you have experience improving campus sexual assault policies, working with student-survivors, or would like to testify before the committee about your own experience as a survivor on campus, please contact us!

Eliminate the Civil Statute of Limitations for Childhood Sexual Abuse

### **SB 113** (Taylor, Plano)

### **SB 144** (Rodriguez, El Paso)

### **HB 1102** (Thompson, Houston)

This measure is essential to prevent cover-ups that help predators stay hidden. The Senate bill needs a public hearing to allow survivors, mental health experts, and child advocates to have their voices heard. The House bill has been heard, but now the committee needs to approve it. Call the Senate State Affairs and the House Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence office now to let them know you want these bills to be approved!

Senate State Affairs Committee: 512-463-0380

House Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee:  
512-463-0790

We look forward to reporting back on a successful legislative session in a few months. Until then, we'll be working hard to see it through to the end. To learn more about TAASA's public policy work, visit [taasa.org/about/public-policy](http://taasa.org/about/public-policy), or contact me directly at [ckaiser@taasa.org](mailto:ckaiser@taasa.org) to find out how to get involved.



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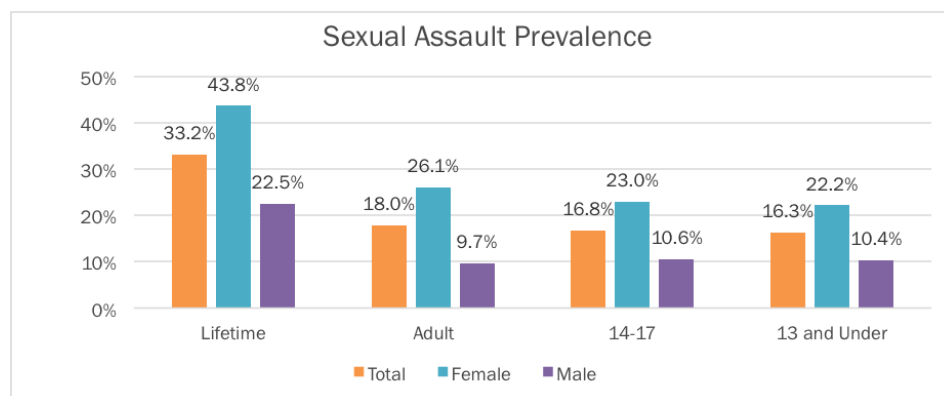
### Other Finding Highlights By Gender

Sexual assault crimes are a concern for both men and women. The rate of women reporting sexual assault victimization is disturbingly high. Women are nearly twice as likely as men to be victims of sexual assault, 43.8 percent and 22.5 percent, respectively. The prevalence for women was also consistently higher across all three age groups (See Graph). In the current study men also reported victimization at surprising high rates and at a much higher rate than a decade ago. Our full understanding of this finding about men in particular is somewhat limited because research in this area is also inadequate. Overall, while these rates are alarming we also view the shift upward positively—that is as a cultural reflection of norms about acceptability of defining what has happened as sexual assault victimization.

### Reporting, Alcohol & Drugs, Injury, and Reaching Out for Help

How many victims<sup>3</sup> reported to the law enforcement? Just over 9 percent of all survivors report to law enforcement. We will include a full analysis of this detail in the final report.

Drug and alcohol use has been an important discussion in sexual assault crimes. The rate of perpetrators under the influence of drugs or alcohol during the sexual assault was 24 percent. Survivors reported using alcohol or drugs about 15 percent of the time.



However, nearly 14 percent of survivors reported being incapacitated or the inability to consent because they were “asleep, drugged or drunk.”

Survivors most experience fear and emotional trauma. Fewer sexual assault involve physical harm or collateral violence. A significant minority of victims did; 10 percent reported physical injuries, about 12 percent receive threats of harm or threats of death of someone close to them, and nearly 16 percent believed they or

someone close to them would be seriously harmed or killed during the assault. Despite this experiences less than seven percent receive medical care and only less than four percent received forensic exam.

Who do victims talk with about their experiences? Survivors trust their friends and family members most often, 45 percent and 32 percent, respectively. Survivors were also nearly equally as likely to reach out to either romantic or intimate partners or professionals (such as social workers, psychologists or counselors, 17 percent and 16 percent, respectively and less often to crisis hotline operator (2 percent of the time).

### Conclusion

An important question persists. Is sexual assault more pervasive in Texas or are we measuring it differently and that is really why our numbers are so much higher than a decade ago? It's a fair question. The answer to both is: yes. In 2003 we reported that 1.9 million Texans were lifetime victims and we admitted this was an underestimate although we did not know by how much. Today, we know that we that was a gross underestimation of sexual assault victims in Texas. We also know that we likely did not have a sudden daily upsurge in sexual assault crimes. Rather, our understanding of accurate measures has evolved; that is, our science has improved.

Thus, the higher prevalence and incidence rates reflect accurate measurements and shifting cultural norms about this crime and increased public awareness about sexual assault.

It is clear that we must continue to propel sexual assault onto our State agenda. Our responses should be swift, strategic, and systematic—with targets from prevention to accountability. We should remember that more than 400,000 yearly victims are our family members, coworkers, students, friends—they are us—they are Texans.

Our comprehensive final report will include many more analysis such as, the relationship of perpetrator to victim, use of alcohol and drugs, reports to law enforcement, informal help seeking, and many other details. Our report will be released summer 2015. Please visit our website: <http://www.utexas.edu/ssw/cswr/institutes/idvsa/>

<sup>3</sup>Survivors of sexual assault may be referred to as “victims” because this project is grounded in the criminal justice system and the usage acknowledges that a crime has been committed. The word victim is not meant to be demeaning. The project team recognizes that individuals have likely survived a combination of physical, emotional, and sexual trauma. As researcher-advocates, our aim is to honor every person's choice in language to describe themselves and to name their experiences.



# NEW STANDARDS FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAMS ON THE HORIZON



TORIE CAMP

New standards for the delivery of sexual assault services in Texas are currently under review by the Office of the Attorney General (OAG). The OAG expects to release details of the implementation process, requirements and timeline with the FY 2016/2017 SAPCS - State application kit. The anticipated target date for implementation is September 1, 2016, in order to provide ample time for sexual assault programs to review and prepare for the new requirements.

The proposed standards are currently available for preview at [www.taasa.org](http://www.taasa.org). In addition, a document titled Tips and Strategies for Meeting the Minimum Services Standards for Sexual Assault Programs in Texas is available. TAASA is also prepared to provide technical assistance to any sexual assault program that may need assistance. "I hope advocates will take the opportunity to look through the standards carefully as soon as they are officially approved by the OAG," said Lisa Y. Zapata, TAASA Technical Assistance Coordinator, who served on the committee that developed the standards. "That way, any needed programmatic changes can be made gradually and smoothly before the required implementation date. Advocates should feel free to call me directly if they have any questions about the standards."

Currently, sexual assault programs are required to provide each of the five statutorily required minimum services (Chapter 420, Government Code) to receive funding from the OAG. The five minimum services include: 24-Hour Crisis Hotline; Crisis Intervention; Accompaniment to Hospitals, Law Enforcement Offices Prosecutor's Offices and Courts; Advocacy; and

Publication Education. Using these five minimum services as a framework, the new standards provided added depth and meaning to each service by addressing topics such as training, confidentiality, supervision, and response times.

The standards were developed in an effort to achieve two things. First to ensure that every survivor in the state of Texas has access to a minimum level of consistent services regardless of demographic characteristics or location in the state; and second, provide a formalized framework for describing and defining the components of each of the five minimum services that must be provided by sexual assault programs in Texas. These standards are not intended to serve as a best practice model nor as a comprehensive outline for sexual assault services, but rather as the most basic level of service.

The standards were initially developed in 2014 by a sixteen member committee made up of executive directors from local sexual assault programs, community stakeholders, OAG staff and TAASA staff. Committee member and Executive Director Debbie Moseley, said, "Working on the committee to develop the standards was hard, but rewarding work. It was interesting to hear the different perspectives of my colleagues and the unique challenges they face; whether their program was large or small, urban or rural. It was a challenge to develop standards that could be applied to every program, but that allowed enough flexibility for each program to be successful. I'm proud of the final standards we developed and look forward to hearing about their implementation across the state."





**Standards Committee** (alphabetical by last name):

**Sonia Corrales**

Chief Program Officer, Houston Area Women's Center

**Judy Cox**

Executive Director, FamilyTime Crisis and Counseling (Humble)

**Morgan J Curtis**

Deputy Director (former), TAASA

**Miriam Elizondo**

Co-Executive Director, The Rape Crisis Center (San Antonio)

**Mary Farmer**

Executive Director (former), Healing Hearts Ministry (Terrell)

**Rebecca Farrell**

Executive Director, Family Crisis Center (Harlingen)

**Peggy Helton**

OAG Primary Prevention Program Coordinator, OAG

**Norma Luginbyhl**

Executive Director, Hutchinson County Crisis Center (Borger)

**Bonnie Martin**

Executive Director, Resource and Crisis Center of Galveston County

**Deborah Moseley**

Executive Director, The Bridge (Pasadena)

**Sherry Murphy**

Executive Director, Family Crisis Center (Bastrop)

**Karla Payne**

Executive Director, Concho Valley Rape Crisis Center (San Angelo)

**Julia Spann**

Executive Director, SafePlace (Austin)

**Kim Stark**

Executive Director, Lubbock Rape Crisis Center

**Patty Wilford**

Sexual Assault Training Program (SATP) Administrator, OAG

**Lisa Y. Zapata**

Technical Assistance Coordinator, TAASA

"Robust standards not only directly benefit survivors, but they also are good for our agencies and our field," said Debbie Moseley. "The standards are, first and foremost, a tool for advocates and agencies to assess their success in providing the best possible services to survivors. In addition, standards provide a baseline against which advocates and agencies may be measured if their services are ever called into question. Strong standards increases the credibility of our sexual assault programs with survivors and the community at large."



# Office of the Attorney General Sexual Assault Training Program (SATP)

## AN OVERVIEW

LISA ZAPATA

In 2013, there were three Office of the Attorney General (OAG) certified sexual assault training programs (SATP) in Texas. Today in 2015, there are over 30 and this count grows weekly. The goal of this article is for all sexual assault programs in Texas to obtain OAG SATP certification.

All survivors who seek medical attention after a sexual assault have a legal right to an advocate who has completed an OAG sexual assault training program. (TCCPS6.045)<sup>1</sup>

The OAG SATP certification is multipurpose and includes, but is not limited to, preparing employees and volunteers of a Sexual Assault Program (SAP) to:

- Provide all the minimum services as defined in the Texas Government Code, Section 420.003(1-e), and
- Satisfy the statutory requirement in the Texas Code of Criminal Procedures, Article 56.045, which requires that prior to a medical forensic examination, the medical services personnel who will conduct the examination must offer the survivor an advocate who has completed a SATP described by Government Code, Section 420.001 (b) to be available to the survivor and present during the examination, if the advocate is available at the time of the examination.

Note:

- The terms “employees” and “volunteers” are inclusive of all advocates within a program.
  - SAPT is designed for both employees and volunteers.

- An “advocate” is defined as anyone who provides the minimum services available at a sexual assault training program.
- “Minimum services” include crisis intervention, hotline, advocacy, accompaniments, and education.

To be eligible to apply for the OAG SATP certification, the applicant organization must be either a current SAPCS –State grantee or provide information on their organization’s provision of minimum services. The OAG makes the final determination on what is considered a sexual assault program, more commonly referred to as a rape crisis center (RCC).

While certification is not connected to funding, it is connected to the new victim’s rights as stated in the Texas Criminal Code 56.045 and the training is required in the new minimum service standards that must be provided by a sexual assault program in Texas.

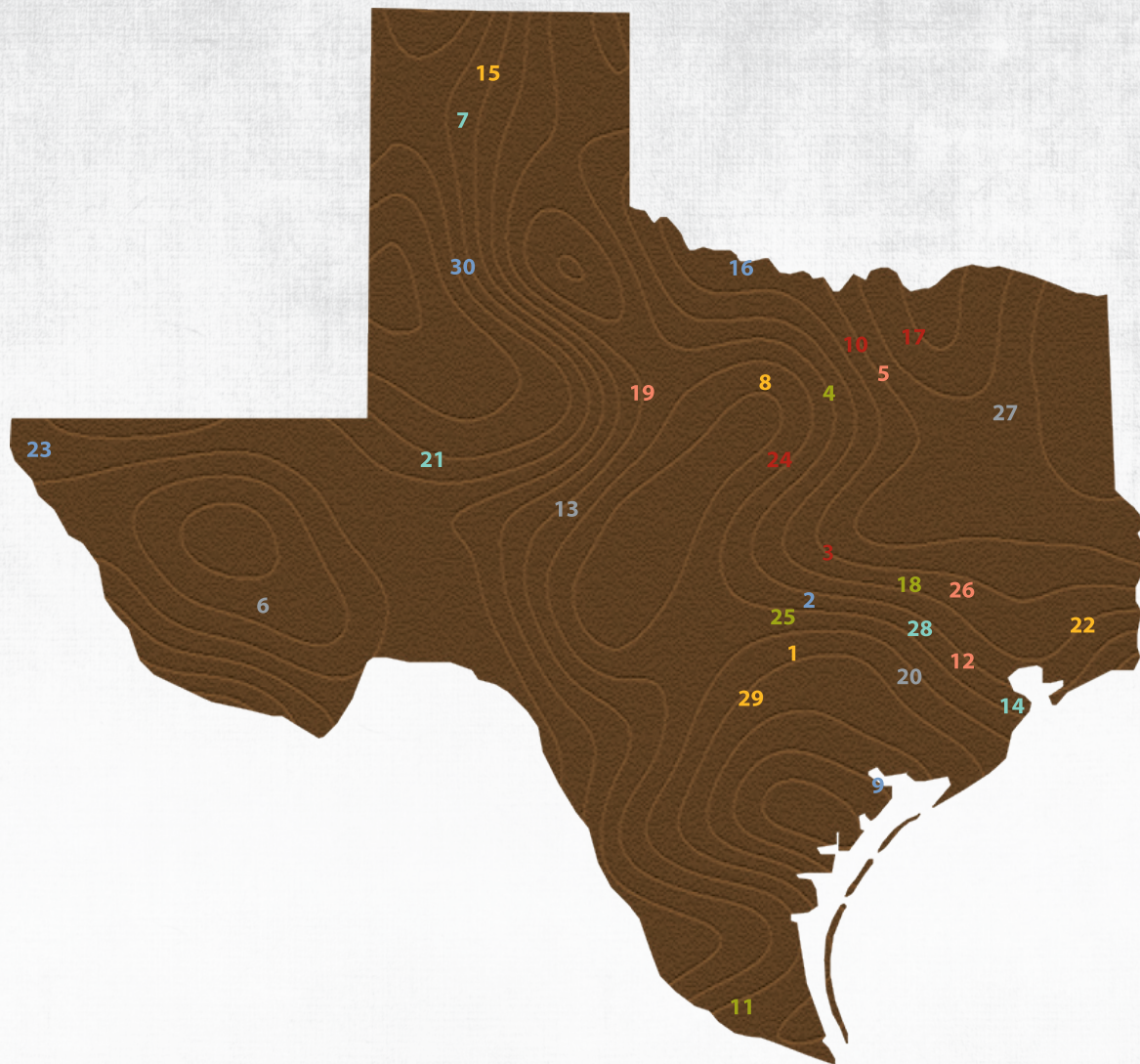
The OAG SATP requires 30 hours of instruction in a classroom setting on specific topics and up to 10 hours of on-the-job training. The revised guidelines do not specify the amount of time spent on each topic.

TAASA worked with the OAG’s SAPCS team to develop an application process that is easier, including a new application that requires less documentation, and TAASA is available to help apply for the certification.

For technical assistance completing the OAG SATP application, email Lisa Zapata at [lzapata@taasa.org](mailto:lzapata@taasa.org).

LISA ZAPATA IS THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR AT TAASA



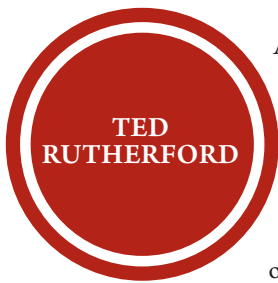
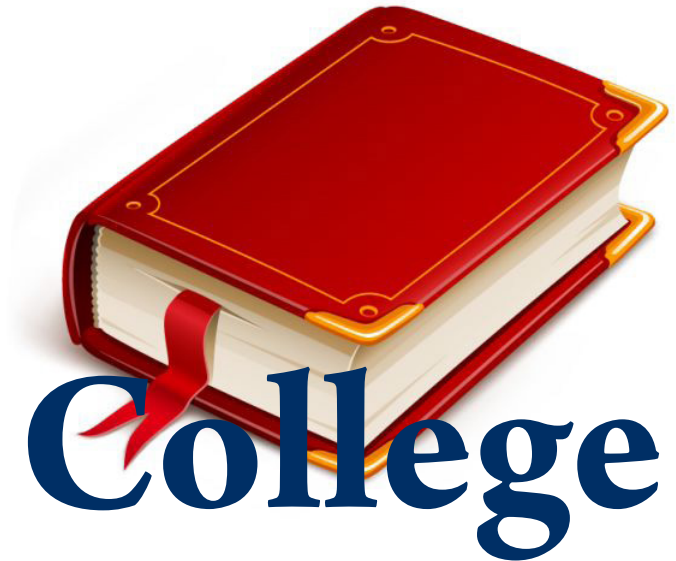


1. Hays Caldwell Womens' Center, San Marcos, TX
2. Hope Alliance, Round Rock, TX
3. Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children, Waco, TX
4. Cross Timbers Family Services, Stephenville, TX
5. Dallas Area Rape Crisis Center, Dallas, TX
6. Family Crisis Center of Big Bend, Inc., Harlingen, TX
7. Family Support Services, Amarillo, TX
8. Mission Granbury, Granbury, TX
9. Shelter of South Texas, Corpus Christi, TX
10. Turning Point Rape Crisis Center, Plano, TX
11. Women Together Foundation, Inc., McAllen, TX
12. Houston Area Women's Center, Houston, TX
13. Concho Valley Rape Crisis Center, San Angelo, TX
14. Crisis Center of Galveston County, Galveston, TX
15. Hutchinson County Crisis Center, Inc., Borger, TX
16. First Step, Inc., Wichita Falls, TX
17. Hunt County Rape Crisis Center, Inc., Greenville, TX
18. Brazos County Rape Crisis, Center, Inc., Bryan, TX
19. Eastland County Crisis Center, Inc., Eastland, TX
20. Fort Bend County Women's Center, Inc., Richmond, TX
21. Odessa Rape Crisis Center, Odessa, TX
22. Rape and Suicide Crisis of Southeast Texas Inc., Beaumont, TX
23. Center Against Sexual & Family Violence, Inc., El Paso, TX
24. Women's Center of Tarrant County, Fort Worth, TX
25. Safeplace Inc., Austin, TX
26. SAAFE House, Huntsville, TX
27. Women's Center of East Texas, Longview, TX
28. Focusing Families, Hempstead, TX
29. Rape Crisis Center, San Antonio, TX
30. Lubbock Rape Crisis Center, Lubbock, TX

<sup>1</sup>Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Chapter 56, Section 56.045 <http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/?link=CR>



# MMTF Goes to College



At the 2015 TAASA Conference in early March, the Mobilizing Men Task Force (MMTF) celebrated its 7th birthday. Over the last 7 years, MMTF has served as a vehicle for delivering strategies for engaging men in sexual violence prevention. Over the years we have offered a wide variety of trainings, panel discussions, webinars, film screenings, and networking opportunities all aimed at helping folks from across Texas bring more men to sexual violence prevention work. We have been very fortunate to work with many thoughtful, inspiring, and dedicated preventioners and advocates who recognize the benefits of engaging men in sexual violence prevention.

By all accounts, MMTF has been a success from a training and technical assistance perspective. The feedback TAASA has received about MMTF indicates that the trainings and networking events we have conducted over the last 8 years have been of tremendous value. These opportunities have sparked or enhanced a number of men's engagement efforts around the state. A few examples include Men of Action Cooke County in Gainesville, TX ([www.facebook.com/menofactioncookecounty](http://www.facebook.com/menofactioncookecounty)), South Plains Men Challenging Men in Lubbock, TX ([www.facebook.com/pages/South-Plains-Men-Challenging-Men](http://www.facebook.com/pages/South-Plains-Men-Challenging-Men)), and Bro Models in McAllen, TX ([www.facebook.com/RGVBroModels](http://www.facebook.com/RGVBroModels)).

Men-Challenging-Men/505749379560832), and Bro Models in McAllen, TX ([www.facebook.com/RGVBroModels](http://www.facebook.com/RGVBroModels)).

In 2014, MMTF took a step in a slightly different direction and formed the MMTF Advisory Group – a collection of leaders in the men's engagement movement from across the state. The purpose of the group was to help guide the direction of MMTF toward a more focused purpose. The Advisory Group met bimonthly and developed a plan to engage men of faith in sexual violence prevention. They hatched plans to host a Men of Faith Summit in January of 2015. The Summit featured roundtable discussions with faith leaders from 3 different faiths – Muslim, Jewish, and Christian. These guided discussions were designed to tease out specific strategies that could be employed by individuals or agencies interested in working with men of those faiths. Each of the faith leaders talked at length about existing structures within their belief systems that could be leveraged to appeal to men



that subscribe to those beliefs. They also had frank discussions regarding structures within their systems that are areas for growth and improvement.

The Men of Faith Summit was very informative and inspiring for all that attended. We got lots of feedback that let us know the Advisory Group had hit the nail on the head. It seemed as if a more focused direction was a good decision and that we could





*Newest MMTF member Chief Deputy Manuel Jimenez, Travis County Constable PCT 4, Emiliano C. Diaz de Leon, Men's Engagement Specialist, and Ted Rutherford, Prevention Programs Specialist*

really go deeper with our work. What we needed was a “task” for our task force. With this in mind, we began to discuss (internally) ideas for other directions that would be a good fit for engaging men. We also took a look at what are some areas that TAASA, as an agency, has identified as areas of need across the state. This was based on the feedback we have received directly from folks at rape crisis centers who are on the ground doing the work.

As we looked at all of the needs and opportunities, it became clear that one area in particular was the obvious choice for the MMTF focus moving forward. During the 2015 TAASA Conference we hosted a MMTF Engaging Men Meet-Up to announce that MMTF would be focused on engaging men on college campuses. We know that the college years are a time when many men perpetrate some form of sexual violence. There are many reasons for this. We also know, at least anecdotally, that campus culture and perceptions about “campus life” normalize aggressive sexual behavior in college

age men. Finally, we know that rape crisis centers around the state are seeing a significant number of reports of sexual violence from college aged women and men in their service areas. Taking on the task of campus-based men's engagement seemed like an obvious choice for MMTF.

Moving forward we will work with the members of MMTF to develop a plan for this task. We will meet quarterly with task force members to discuss our goals and capacity for the work. In the beginning we will start small – perhaps work with 2-3 campuses to develop a plan for engaging their male students and to gain an understanding of what it takes to change campus culture to prevent sexual violence.

We are looking for people that are interested in being part of this exciting work. If you would like to be a member of the Mobilizing Men Task Force, please contact Emiliano Diaz de Leon ([ediazdeleon@taasa.org](mailto:ediazdeleon@taasa.org)) or Ted Rutherford ([trutherford@taasa.org](mailto:trutherford@taasa.org)). Below you will find our web meeting schedule for the year. Please contact us for details on how to participate in the next meeting on April 24.

#### **SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:**

April 24, 2015 at 10:00 am CST  
 July 24, 2015 at 10:00 am CST  
 October 23, 2015 at 10:00 am CST  
 January 22, 2016 at 10:00 am CST

# 2014 TAASA Award Recipients



## **Samantha Dean Rising Star Award 2014**

*Samantha Elizabeth Dean*

Samantha Elizabeth Dean, (May 12, 1985 - February 4, 2015) can be described as being compassionate, determined, genuine, inspiring, and friendly to everyone she met. Samantha joined the Kyle Police Department in her mid-twenties as their Victim Services Coordinator. She had always wanted to serve as a police officer; however, her battle with

sarcoma cancer left her with a disability that forced her to do the next best thing. This position allowed her to pursue her dreams "to bring closure and comfort to victims of crime." Samantha showed her true commitment to serving others by staying actively involved with the Texas Victim Service Association (TVSA) and Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA) Diversity Task Force which provided her with resources and continuing education to help her better serve victims including marginalized victims in her community. She was a valued member of the Hays County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) and Hays County Multidisciplinary Team (MDT), as well as a volunteer for CASA and Austin Police Department's Victim Services.

Samantha and her unborn child, Madeline, tragically lost their lives on February 4, 2015. Samantha will be remembered for her beautiful smile and wonderful sense of humor. She was kind to all and showed true care and concern for helping others. The Samantha Dean Rising Star Award will acknowledge a young advocate in the field who displays a true passion and dedication to serving others. The future recipients will rise above and go beyond what is asked of them to help victims in their community. Samantha was a rising star and had the potential to be a future leader in the movement to end violence against women. Samantha Dean will be missed by many, but will never be forgotten.



## **Edith Rust Medical Services Award of Excellence 2014**

*Paula Spears*

Paula is a driving force behind Texas Health Resources response to sexual assault. Currently the Texas Health Resources System has many different facilities in North Texas with three of them having 24/7 Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) availability. Most recently, Paula has been leading a new endeavor to implement a system wide SANE

program that will allow survivors to be transferred to one of the three "flagship" SANE centers or to have a certified SANE travel to meet the patient. This means being able to bring the comfort and expertise of a certified SANE to the bedside of the patient at the facility where they first reported, eliminating the need for a transfer during a time of fear and uncertainty.

Without Paula's leadership, this exciting and groundbreaking feat would not even be fathomable. Paula's dedication to live the Texas Health Resources promise of "Individuals Caring for Individuals Together," has made it possible to unveil this new system-wide SANE program in the near future.



## **Excellence in Advocacy Award 2014**

*Robert Gomez*

Robert Gomez started out volunteering with the San Antonio Rape Crisis Center providing hospital accompaniment to survivors during the medical forensic exam process. From May of 1999 until October of 2007, Robert was on call almost every Friday night for hospital accompaniments.

In October of 2007, Robert became a paid advocate where he has become an integral part of the crisis department and ensures quality care at the hospital and on the hotline. Robert is compassionate, caring and puts his whole heart into his work. His genuine care for each survivor and family he works with always shines through.

One SANE nurse says, "When I see Robert walk in the room it makes me smile, knowing that Robert brings with him a calm and comforting presence. When survivors see a male walk in the room they are sometimes hesitant. I let them know that Robert is my friend and together we will help them thru this process. He is like a big teddy bear I tell them."



## **Champion for Social Change Award 2014**

*Gena Curtis*

Lieutenant Gena Curtis of the Austin Police Department (Violent Crimes II [Sex Crimes/Domestic Violence] Division) is a clear, steadfast voice for sexual assault survivors in the City of Austin/Travis County. Lt. Curtis is essential in the ongoing work to bring Travis County into compliance with Senate Bill 1191, serving in a task force convened to

address the law's requirements. Three of the task forces top goals were: medical forensic exam wait times of under two hours for every patient, a 24/7 out-of-hospital forensic exam site and no fees/charges for patients.

Thanks to Lt. Curtis's leadership, Travis County will have an out-of-hospital medical forensic exam site in 2015. It will be staffed to eliminate long wait times and will provide free services to rape survivors, including preventive medications. It is estimated that 96% of sexual assault survivors who do not need emergency department care will be able to take advantage of this new option. Austin/Travis County is incredibly fortunate to have an ally like Lt. Curtis - a forward-thinking collaborator and advocate committed to creating, maintaining and supporting robust system responses to sexual assault survivors.



## **Community Empowerment Award 2014**

*Sheila Wynn and Betty Arvin*

Sheila and Betty are a dynamic duo of prosecutors from Tarrant County that have demonstrated it is possible to win difficult



and complicated sexual assault cases in court, and in that process, give a voice to the disenfranchised. Twice, Sheila and Betty have been successful in prosecuting serial rapists who preyed on women who were working as prostitutes. Because of the support given to these victims by both the prosecutors and law enforcement, the women did not sink back in fear or shame, but instead were empowered to take the stand and state their truths. Not only did Wynn and Arvin help obtain justice for these women, but they added dignity and respect to these bruised and battered lives.

As evidenced time and time again, perpetrators of these deeply personal crimes will target the vulnerable and the voiceless. And then, the same victims will ask the questions: "Who will believe me?," "Who will care that this happened to me?," "Who will fight for my justice?." Sheila Wynn and Betty Arvin believe them, care that this has happened to them and insist they receive justice. Sheila Wynn's own words say it best, "Rape is rape no matter who you are or what your past is, and every victim deserves to be treated with respect and dignity."



### **Harold Cottle Justice Award 2014**

*Lynn Prudente*

Investigator Prudente has been protecting and serving for most of her adult life. First as a member of the United States Air Force, and now with the Hempstead Police Department. When Investigator Prudente was assigned to patrol she responded to frequent reports of sexual assault, particularly incidents involving children and college students from the

nearby university. It was on these calls that she developed not only a passion for protecting the victims of these violent crimes, but also the skill set to ensure strong cases against those that commit these crimes. While there can be a tendency for law enforcement officers to focus on arresting the bad guys – which Investigator Prudente has done many times – her priority has always been helping victims first. She empathizes and communicate with victims in a manner that brings comfort to those that are struggling with difficult times.

Although often challenged with a large volume of cases, Investigator Prudente takes pride in her work and makes every effort to bring justice and closure to each and every one. Her success can be attributed to her ability to work well with others, including advocates, fellow officers, prosecutors and members of the community. She has the strength and ability of a skilled offer and the heart of an advocate, which is a unique combination only found in the finest of men and women in blue.



### **Program Volunteer of the Year 2014**

*Deborah Callaghan-Shea*

Deborah is so professional and so often present at the San Antonio Rape Crisis Center that she is sometimes mistaken for a staff member instead of a volunteer. A mother of four, her passion and personal investment of time and energy into the Center exhibits a level of commitment that is inspirational. She has taken on a myriad of tasks throughout her

nine years of service with the Center, from the sometimes mundane, day-to-day activities that keep the doors open, to an invaluable member of our fundraising leadership team.

Deborah lends her voice as a survivor and board member multiple times a month to help spread awareness about the center and motivate people to get involved. She is kind, open and takes her volunteer work seriously. She is an exemplary example of the passion and dedication it takes to help end sexual violence.



### **Community Engagement Award 2014**

*Lisa Miller*

Lisa Miller is the founder and president of Hope Rising, an organization committed to creating change through arts-related events that foster education about sexual and domestic violence. Hope Rising has lead events such as The Vagina Monologues (donating proceeds to The Turning Point), a candle light vigil in honor of domestic

violence survivors and staged readings of plays shining a light on the experiences faced by women. Under Lisa's leadership, Hope Rising has become an important partner in the effort to increase awareness regarding sexual and domestic violence.

Lisa is passionate about making Collin County a community that is supportive of all survivors and has become an integral member of the team in Collin County working to end sexual and domestic violence. Because of her efforts, prevention and awareness education has expanded to more areas of Collin County than ever before.



### **Vivian Miles Lifetime Achievement Award 2014**

*Patricia Keaton*

Pat has served as an advocate for victims and a member of the victim service community for over 30 years. Her career as a social worker began with the Dallas Social Services Unit in a now long-gone area of Dallas known as little Mexico. Since 1996, she has served as the Victim Services Coordinator for the Dallas Police Department, providing advocacy and

support to families struggling with domestic and sexual violence. With patience, determination, and humor she played a key role in the development of the Sexual Assault Cold Case Program at the Dallas Police Department, the SANE program at the Dallas Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital program and the formation of the Dallas Area Rape Crisis Center.

Pat's passion for helping survivors extends far beyond her professional role. On her own time she began a cold case survivors group and supported those survivors as they successfully advocated for a change in law to include a notation on defendant's criminal history if they had been identified through DNA as the perpetrator of a sexual assault, but not prosecuted because of the statute of limitations. She attends just about every event supporting a local victim service agency, will go out of her way to make sure survivors have support within and beyond the criminal justice system and is always there to encourage and support her colleagues. She is generous of time and spirit, is a valued mentor and colleague and has made a true difference in the lives of many victims in the Dallas community.

*Mission Statement: The Texas Association Against Sexual Assault is committed to ending sexual violence in Texas through education, prevention and advocacy. In the meantime, we desire to support survivors on their paths to hope, healing and justice. TAASA is the voice of the sexual assault movement in Texas. We are a unifying force bringing together parties involved in and affected by sexual assault as a catalyst for change.*

## TAASA BOARD

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