



20 Annual 22 Report

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LETTER FROM CEO

2022: The year of foreboding and triumph

2022 began with challenges for TAASA as a whole. The unprecedented aftermath of COVID put staff at incredible odds personally and professionally, as well as medically and economically. TAASA withstood pressure and intimidation by external forces and powers from all directions, yet our goal was to maintain a strong and solid anti-sexual violence movement in Texas – and we did.

2022 invited us to shift our mentality to preserve and protect the health and vitality of the movement. We did this by centering survivors in our work, therein challenging the status quo. TAASA's training reflected a shift to trauma-informed protocols for various disciplines and organizational practices, which included an increased demand for prevention strategies, as well as inclusive and innovative SART approaches.

TAASA continued to implement a trauma-informed approach with our work on the Sexual Assault Survivor Task Force by informing statewide policies and practices. To ensure consistent communication and transparency, we hosted quarterly meetings with funders, and worked alongside survivors with both state and federal legislators to reflect sound policy in Texas.

Our commitment to a holistic approach produced “Enkindle,” a learning project, to expand our vision in accountability outside the legal/criminal justice system. Enkindle explored accountability at all levels, including at the individual level with our immediate communities and families.

Our goal at TAASA is to ensure that sexual assault survivors in Texas are centered in the work, and that we have mechanisms to hold each other accountable to that end. TAASA is committed to preserve and protect, meaning we are dedicated to keeping survivors safe from destruction, peril, or other adversity perpetuated over time. The movement faced adversity, yet we were strong and vigorous, and will continue to be.

Idowu Koyenikan said, “There is immense power when a group of people with similar interests gets together to work toward the same goals.” This sums up the collective work and power of the anti-sexual violence movement in Texas. TAASA's triumph in 2022 would not have been possible without our membership and board and the amazing fortitude of TAASA staff.

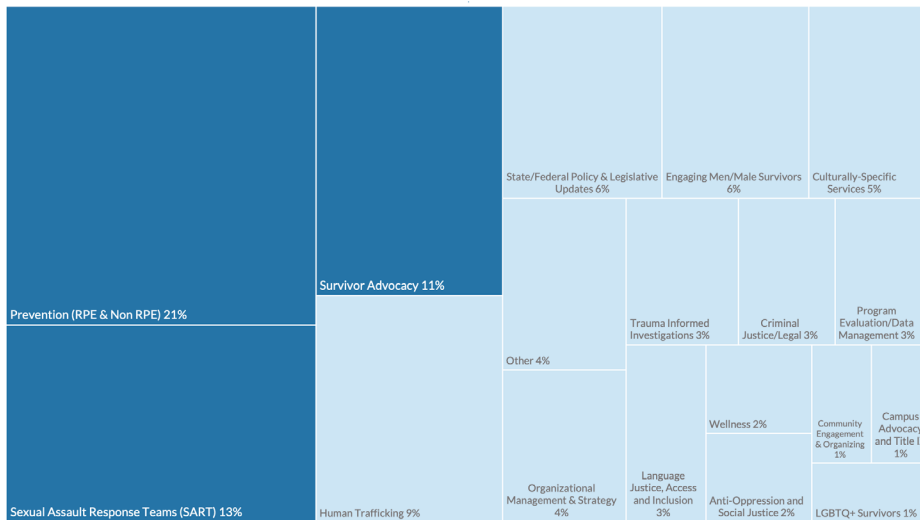
With much gratitude,



Rose Luna
CEO

TRAINING THE MOVEMENT

The most common topics covered in 2022 trainings were **Prevention, SART, and Survivor Advocacy**.



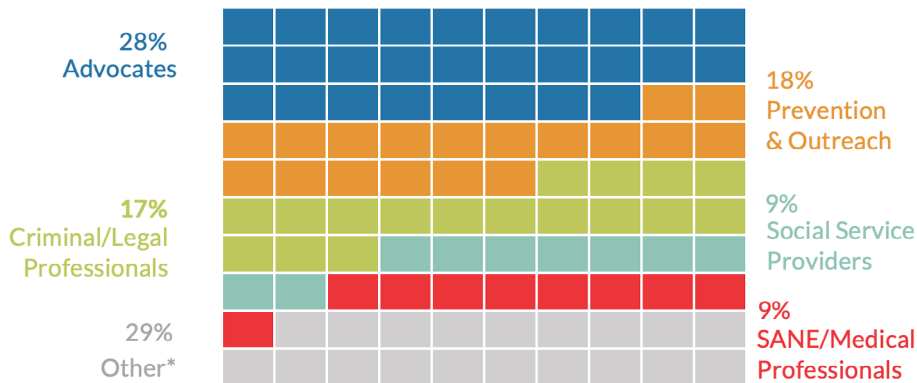
7,324
Attendees

190
Trainings

3
Spanish Trainings

9
Bilingual Trainings

Over half of our 2022 training audience included **advocates, prevention staff, and criminal/legal professionals**.

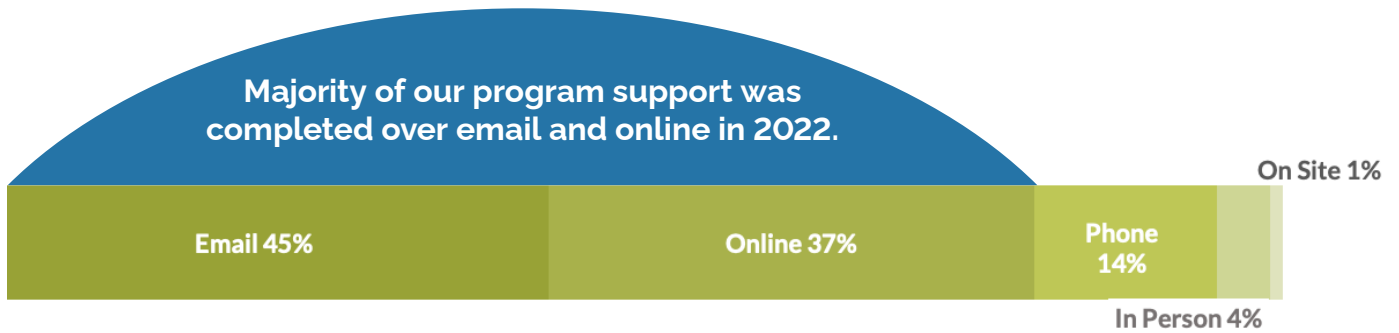


*Audience in the 'Other' category include military, higher education, K-12, college students, grassroots communities, and government staff.

VOICES FROM THE FIELD

"We want to express our heartfelt gratitude for taking the time to train our staff on Friday afternoon. The training session was informative, engaging, and thought-provoking. Your ability to communicate the information to the team was remarkable and you made folks feel comfortable with sharing their experiences. The practical examples you provided during the session were very helpful in enhancing the staff's understanding of what it truly means to be an advocate."

SUPPORTING THE MOVEMENT: PROGRAM SUPPORT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



The word below cloud represents the variety of issues we addressed with program support.



VOICES FROM THE FIELD

"You've been such a fountain of knowledge. It's great to not be on an island by yourself trying to figure this out and talk this through with community."

"It is one of my favorite things when you guys do site visits. When y'all are here able to actually be here in our community it feels like TA is more connected and focused on us. It is so helpful and we love that we get to show you how hard our community works."

Across our trainings, 91% of attendees felt more confident about the topic.



93% of attendees felt they benefited from our trainings.



83% of conference attendees reported they would change something about the way they approach the work because of a workshop.



STEERING THE MOVEMENT: POLICY

Texas Primary Prevention Planning Committee Steering Committee

The Texas Primary Prevention Planning Committee Steering Committee is made up of members from TAASA, the Texas Rape Prevention Education (RPE) state evaluator (Texas A&M University Health Services Center, the Department of State Health Services (or DSHS) as the grant recipient, and the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) as the grant administrator. The group worked collaboratively to make recommendations related to Texas RPE programming guidance and use of funds to the OAG for consideration.

Sexual Assault Survivors Task Force

Established by the 86th Legislature completed its full legislative obligation. The work has just begun and the statewide stakeholders continue the work and are set to be reauthorized. TAASA is a member of the steering committee who works to direct the task force along with Child Advocacy Centers of Texas, and Public Safety Office at the Office of the Governor. In 2022 the group achieved the following statewide efforts:

- Held over 160 meetings, including quarterly meetings attended by SASTF members, and monthly meetings of specialized working groups focused on a variety of topics tied to mandated deliverables.
- Completed major projects including the creation of a trauma-informed rubric, a safety planning framework, a law enforcement investigative protocol, a sexual assault evidence kit pilot project, and a survivors' rights guide

12

policy recommendations proposed for consideration for the 88th legislative session

1000+

comments and recommendations submitted to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement and the Texas Municipal Police Association

50+

comments and recommendations submitted for improving documents pertaining to sexual assault survivors maintained by the Health and Human Service Commission



Policy and Influence

TAASA was invited to participate in a roundtable discussion with officials from Texas A&M University and Senator John Cornyn on the importance of sexual assault nurse examiners (SANEs) and sexual assault advocacy.

Advocacy visit with Austin Chamber

TAASA was invited to join business leaders the Austin area in Washington D.C. to discuss workforce issues as well as telehealth, tech, and innovation. TAASA's inclusion was well received as business leaders touted the work and requested partnerships and more information.



Policy Interim Charge Work

During the months leading up to session, legislators are tasked by the Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House with "interim charges," whereby they hold hearings and solicit testimony from experts on matters that will inform their policy work.

TAASA was honored to be asked to provide testimony in a few interim charge hearings, with regard to human trafficking enforcement and investigations, availability and accessibility of victim services grants, and rapid DNA analysis.

BROADENING THE MOVEMENT

Working Across Sectors to Prevent and Address Sexual Violence



This chart represents a year of work collaborating with, training and providing assistance to different types of organizations across Texas. While sexual assault programs account for over half of our work, we are expanding the attention to sexual violence by partnering with different types of non-profits and community organizations, key partners within federal, state and local agencies, education, military, medical, and even national organizations.

INFORMING THE MOVEMENT: NEW RESOURCES AND MATERIALS

SARTs

Written materials, guidance and templates were created and widely disseminated, including a bylaws template and conflict resolution guide. **Due to these efforts, the number of SARTs across the state increased from less than 20 to nearly 50 teams covering over 70 counties.**

Human Trafficking

TAASA facilitated a final virtual gathering of the State Adult Trafficking Services project (group collaboration that looks at asset mapping and gaps analysis for trafficking survivors).

Legal Efforts

Transgender Affirming Care

In response to the OAG Opinion defining child abuse, guidance was created and disseminated to the field on the implications for transgender survivors and their families.

Funding Assurance Guidance

In addition, TAASA responded to concerns from Executive Directors about a new assurance document that was attached to OOG funding. This document required grantees to certify that they would not violate immigration laws, and this posed some safety and privacy concerns to RCCs that serve immigrant survivors. The team worked closely with TCFV to provide guidance about how to comply with both Federal mandates as well as this new assurance form.

Survivor Advocacy

With an impending execution date for Melissa Lucio, a sexual assault and family violence survivor accused and convicted of child abuse, our team supported advocacy efforts in support of leniency based on systemic failures in her case, drafting and sending a letter to the Governor, and implementation of a social media communication strategy. The Court of Criminal Appeals ultimately granted a stay of her execution.

Title IX

As a result of a Title IX case against Austin Independent School District, TAASA provided feedback on the District's policies for responding to sexual assault survivors, and created a one-page guidance for teachers, parents and students to learn more about Title IX and the school's duty to respond to sexual violence.

Numerous guidance materials were developed to inform the movement on implementation of policy measures and in response to calls from the field:

- Content for an updated Human Trafficking brochure
- A Sexual Assault Forensic Medical Accompaniment Guide for healthcare providers and advocates
- SART guidance materials: (Conflict Resolution Guidance, a Protocol Framework and an informational webpage).
- Human Trafficking Guidebook for Advocates

GATHERING THE MOVEMENT: EVENTS

Sustaining Change 2022: Primary Prevention Institute *August 10-12th; virtual August 11th*

Annual conference for RPE-funded prevention implementors with interactive workshops tailored to the needs of prevention workers based on the level of experience they have in RPE-funded sexual violence prevention work. In order to meet the wide variety of needs and learning styles of attendees, the Institute incorporates multiple educational approaches including interactive workshops on topics such as community engagement and recruiting, youth engagement, and working in diverse communities; workshops tailored to the needs of prevention workers based on the level of experience they have in RPE-funded sexual violence



prevention work; time to share knowledge, experience, and resources, and challenges with fellow prevention workers; and activities dedicated to promoting wellness.

The 2022 Institute was centered on the concept of a Reunion as we got together for the first time after two years of a collective struggle through multiple pandemics. Reunions are about honoring where we've been as a community, so we can look to what we want to build for our collective future. It is a time of exchange; exchange of intergenerational wisdom, support, laughs, memories, and much more. This reunion brought together 26 attendees from 17 RPE-funded programs across the State.

Prevention staff also hosted a 1-day virtual prevention institute to meet the needs of other sexual assault programs doing prevention work in their communities. The Virtual Institute offered workshops on providing strategies and skills that prevention workers in Texas can use to implement effective primary prevention programming to 84 total attendees.



Disproportionality Data Gathering

January 9th & 10th, 2023



At this event, TAASA, in partnership with TAMU shared data related to which populations in Texas are most likely to be targeted for sexual violence or other forms of violence, and are most likely to suffer more significant negative consequences as a result of that violence. We shared data that may help inform primary prevention work in Texas moving forward. The data came from the FY 21 Disproportionality Report which showed available data for which populations in Texas are disproportionately impacted by

sexual violence and the risk and protective factors for sexual violence. We sought feedback from preventionists, and their community partners—including youth (38 total attendees) to tell the story behind the data, discuss any context from various communities that will help make sense of the information and start thinking about what the needs would be for communities in Texas to use the data to help guide prevention programming. The data captured from the conversations at the retreat will be used by TAASA to complete a Disproportionality Report, and will likely impact prevention efforts and guidance at the state level moving forward.

Policy Preparation Gatherings for 87th Legislative Session

Funding

In May, TAASA hosted two Town Hall Virtual Meetings with programs in rural areas and along the border, and followed up with a survey sent to all attendees to learn about their most critical needs. In June, urban centers were surveyed with similar questions. It was discovered that across the board there are still imperative needs for increased funding based on staff shortages and increased workloads at programs. Rural areas in particular are stretched thin, and programs that serve multiple counties are unable to provide the same level of care to outlying programs in underserved counties. This data will help to establish our legislative advocacy in the 88th Legislative Session.

Abortion

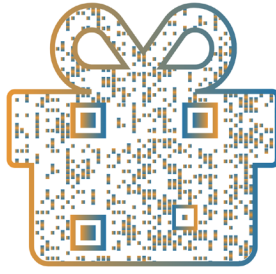
Reproductive healthcare was a major topic of focus in the aftermath of the Dobbs decision and the activation of the abortion ban in Texas. The team drafted and sent out legal guidance on the Dobbs decision to members, and also hosted two separate listening sessions, for the purpose of understanding how to meaningfully draft rape and incest exceptions to the abortion ban. Our Human Trafficking Specialist also participated in a Reproductive Coercion & Control Podcast Interview during this time.

SPOTLIGHT: ENKINDLE

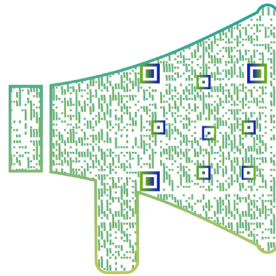
In 2022, TAASA staff in the Collective Healing Initiative, VOICES and Aspiring Allies working groups came together in a learning cohort model to expand our learning on what community accountability can look like in our families and immediate communities apart from the criminal justice and legal systems. Staff at sexual assault and community organizations across Texas and TAASA facilitators met for 12 sessions over 9 months. The Enkindle learning cohort space was conceptualized as a virtual space to try out and exercise what Sonya Shah calls our “muscle of accountability.”

Using the Barnard Center for Research on Women’s Building Accountable Communities video series, we explored topics critical to our ideas of accountability. This included questions like: what is accountability, how can shame block accountability, and what does justice look like for survivors? The cohort started with small bites: thinking about the ways we have learned to make apologies and practicing empathetic listening. Gradually, we moved into deeper practices: noticing within ourselves what shame feels like, recognizing how taking accountability might activate a fear of loss of belonging and connection, and exploring the way shame separates and keeps us focused on ourselves rather than on repair. We grappled with the complexities of centering the needs of survivors and how to best do that with a lens of community accountability.

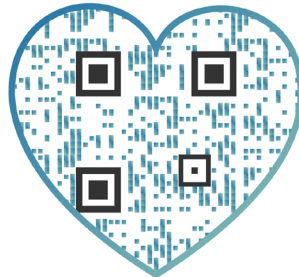
In the space, participants grappled with tough questions, worked through individual experiences, shared our personal orientations to addressing sexual violence, and engaged in the self-reflection required to be in deep relationship with others. This opportunity challenged cohort members to see ourselves as contributing to the many emergent strategies needed to end sexual violence.



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