North Dakota Domestic Violence Programs

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The influx of the transitory labor populations in the northwest region of the state have law enforcement officials expressing concerns regarding an increase in crimes of violence, alcohol, and substance related incidents in their related jurisdictions. These obstacles have exacerbated the problem for law enforcement agencies in finding and providing adequate services such as housing and shelter to domestic violence and sexual assault victims. While it is difficult to determine the long-term impact of the oil exploration, domestic violence/sexual assault programs in the northwest region are responding to the increased demands for services. Service providers such as the Domestic Violence Crisis Center (DVCC) in Minot, the Fort Berthold Coalition Against Violence, the Domestic Violence Program Northwest North Dakota (DVP NW ND) in Stanley, and the Family Crisis Shelter in Williston are providers located in the northwest region of North Dakota responsible for these growing populations. The following program descriptions highlight the domestic violence and sexual assault services.

To illustrate, the Minot Domestic Violence Crisis Center (DVCC) serves Ward County including Minot Air Force Base, Pierce, McHenry, and Renville Counties. The DVCC provides comprehensive services including 24-hour emergency services, shelter, advocacy, support groups, and a SART team. Those individuals wanting to access a full range of services can find information on their website http://www.courage4change.org or by contacting Dena Filler, Director of the DVCC at (701) 852-2258.

The Fort Berthold Coalition Against Violence located in New Town, North Dakota provides services such as a 24 crisis line, victim advocacy, shelter, financial assistance, and counseling. Fort Berthold Reservation has implemented a SART team to respond to sexual crimes
and participates in a Multidisciplinary Team (MDT). These existing Native American services, similar to the Minot’s Domestic Violence Crisis Center, provide comprehensive services in north central North Dakota including 24-hour emergency services, support groups, and a SART team. Those requesting further information may send an email to Sadie Young Bird, Director of the Fort Berthold Coalition Against Domestic Violence at sgyoungbird@mhanation.com or by calling (701) 627-4171.

The Domestic Violence Program Northwest North Dakota (DVP NW ND) located in Stanley, North Dakota provides victims with housing and shelter. The DVP NW ND works collaboratively with the Stanley Police Department, Mountrail County and Burke County Sheriff’s Department, and state’s attorneys for Mountrail and Burke counties. Individuals needing further information may contact Darla Juma, Director at (701) 628-3233.

Lastly, the Family Crisis Shelter located in Williston, North Dakota provides advocacy for domestic violence and sexual assault victims. The shelter has an ongoing women’s support group and temporary shelter for abused women and their children. For more information about the Family Crisis Shelter, please contact Lana Bonnet, Director at (701) 572-0757 or visit their website at http://www.familycrisisshelternd.org/home.

RESOURCES


Parks, Michelle Rivard (2007, December). Enhancing services for the protection of Native American victims across jurisdictional boundaries. Tribal Victim Safety Initiative. Symposium conducted as part of an initiative under the Office of Violence Against Women through Grants to Encourage Arrest Program, Mandan, North Dakota

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