

SECTION 2. COMPREHENSIVE STATE PLAN FOR SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Based on a review of the state assessment data and ongoing collaborations within the OSVPPC, the strategic planning process was finalized with the completion of the comprehensive state plan for sexual violence prevention. The plan retains the four priority focus areas from the strategic planning process—K–12 schools, colleges and universities, faith communities, and the media. It was approved by the current OSVPPC membership, many of whom participated in the initial 2006 strategic planning meeting. The comprehensive state plan is summarized below. Additionally, a logic model for the comprehensive plan and a logic model specific to RPE funded activities are included in Appendix L.

TARGET POPULATIONS

- Universal population: The overarching goals and objectives of the Oklahoma sexual violence prevention plan will target the population of the state of Oklahoma.
- Selected populations: The goals and objectives of the Oklahoma sexual violence prevention plan will include working with two selected populations: 1) children in K–12, but predominately middle school and high school youth 10-18 years of age; and 2) college and university students ages 18-24.

GOALS AND OUTCOMES

Goal 1: Reduce first time perpetration of sexual violence.

RPE Funded Strategies/Activities:

- Fund local programs to conduct community-based sexual violence prevention programs that:
 - target youth;
 - reduce risk and increase protective factors for sexual violence;

- incorporate evidence-based practices for addressing sexual violence in K-12 schools, colleges and universities, and faith communities; and
- impact multiple levels of the *Spectrum of Prevention*.
- Collect quality data to monitor the prevalence of sexual violence and evaluate the effectiveness of programs.

Other Activities:

- Support a statewide prevention coordinator to provide training, technical assistance, and coordination of sexual violence prevention programs and activities to a wide range of stakeholders.

Outcome measures:

1. The prevalence of past year sexual assault among persons 18 years of age and older (both genders) and among females will be reduced by 25% by 2015.

Baseline: 2008 BRFSS past year prevalence=0.3% both genders and 0.5% females. Rates for males are not stable and thus not calculated.

Target: 0.2% both genders, 0.4% females by 2015.

2. The prevalence of high school youth who report they have been forced to have sex will be reduced by 25% among both males and females by 2015.

Baseline: 2007 YRBS prevalence of forced sex=8% both genders, 12% females, 4% males.

Target: 6% both genders, 9% females, 3% males.

Goal 2: Increase the number of non-violent interactions and healthy relationships.

RPE Funded activities:

- Fund local prevention educators to provide comprehensive sexual violence prevention and healthy relationship education in K-12 schools using evidence-based curricula and evaluation.
- Provide training to professionals working in DVSA agencies, K-12 schools, colleges and universities, faith communities, and other professions to increase knowledge of primary prevention practice, the *Spectrum of Prevention*, the ecological model, and support for healthy relationship norms.
- Collaborate with colleges and universities in developing and implementing primary prevention programs through training and technical assistance.
 - Develop appropriate policies that support non-violence on campus.
 - Determine appropriate curricula for freshman orientation.
 - Disseminate information on evidence-based and promising models.

Other Activities:

- Pilot test healthy relationship curricula in K-12 schools.
- Support use of healthy relationship media from state and national resources.

Outcome measures:

3. The percentage of colleges and universities that have evidence-based strategies to address sexual violence prevention in freshman orientation/seminars will increase by 40% by 2015.

Baseline: 2008 College and Universities Administrative Policy/Practices Survey estimated that 47% of colleges and universities include sexual violence prevention curricula in freshman orientation.

Target: 66% of colleges and universities will include sexual violence prevention curricula in freshman orientation.

4. The number of public and private K–12 schools that provide education/curricula on healthy relationships, dating and sexual violence prevention will increase by 50% by 2015.

Baseline: Baseline data are not available, but will be established through a superintendents' survey during 2009/2010.

Target: To be determined.

Goal 3: Reduce cultural influences supporting sexual violence.

RPE Funded activities:

- Increase the capacity of DVSA programs to work with the media to encourage accurate representation of sexual violence and promote positive social norms by providing training and technical assistance.
- Identify and support strategies to increase involvement of faith communities in sexual violence prevention and primary prevention programs.
- Sponsor education and training on best practices at faith community conferences.
- Fund informational brochures and other media aimed at reducing cultural norms supportive of sexual violence.
- Include agencies and organizations engaged in other types of prevention activities for youth (e.g., underage drinking, bullying, at risk youth) in professional trainings.

Other Activities

- Participate in annual Sexual Assault Awareness Month activities.
- Produce sample media materials regarding sexual assault prevention.
- Support use of healthy relationship media from state and national resources.

Outcome measures:

5. Increase education among members of faith communities in the Oklahoma City Metropolitan Area regarding modeling and promoting healthy relationships free from sexual violence by 2015.

Baseline: Feasible methods for gathering baseline information from faith groups will be determined.

Target: To be determined.

6. Increase the technical skills of DVSA programs, including RPE funded programs and other providers, on working with the media, including traditional media and new and diverse media such as blogs, viral media, and social networking by 2015.

Baseline: Surveys to assess media usage and skills of DVSA programs will be conducted.

Target: To be determined.

Existing Programs and Resources

Existing resources, personnel, and programs will be used to develop an implementation plan for achieving the goals and outcomes stated above. OSDH RPE personnel, the OCADVSA statewide prevention coordinator, and prevention specialists in the RPE funded programs will work together to implement sexual violence prevention activities in the four focus areas to achieve the goals and outcomes. OSVPPC members will be asked to contribute to the implementation plan in an active role. The OSVPPC will be asked to restructure the function and focus of the existing subcommittees to focus on statewide policy development activities and to also create a new subcommittee to focus on the implementation of the comprehensive sexual violence prevention plan.

Local Prevention Specialists. The state RPE program will continue to fund local DVSA programs to conduct community-based sexual violence prevention programs and provide a local full time

prevention educator/specialist. Similar to *Enhancing and Making Programs and Outcomes Work to End Rape (EMPOWER)* states, having local prevention staff provides a laboratory to explore new ideas and to increase knowledge of what works in prevention in Oklahoma. Local prevention specialists have been and will continue to be a valuable part of assessing and implementing prevention programming. Working at the forefront of the sexual violence prevention movement, they have been the test-cases for many of the curricula and strategies that the OSVPPC has considered. The on-the-ground perspective allows the OSVPPC to consider their successes and challenges and lessons learned, which help to develop and refine training and technical assistance needs. Additionally, local staff will serve as resources and form networks to provide training and technical assistance to groups interested in prevention and serve as an outside body to evaluate the overall RPE statewide program.

Determining What Works

Existing Programs/Best Practices. One of the greatest challenges and key to the success of the program has been to determine what programs, curricula, and activities work. Using information from conference presentations, trainings, and information available on the Prevention Connection Wiki, available evidence-based or promising practices in prevention education were identified to consider for implementation in Oklahoma.

Ideally, we want to increase sustainability of prevention education by institutionalizing sexual violence prevention education within public and private schools, higher education, and faith organizations in the state. Media activities can reinforce the education by strengthening accurate representation of rape and sexual assault and increasing media messaging about healthy relationships.

Because there are few evaluated prevention programs available to prevent first-time perpetration/victimization of sexual violence in both universal and selected populations, an obstacle remains for implementing a statewide sexual violence prevention program. We have determined that a focus on healthy relationships (promoting pro-social behavior and recognizing and avoiding anti-social behavior) and bystander intervention (empowering individuals to recognize and work against anti-social behavior) are the most promising basis for sexual violence prevention at this time. The OSVPPC has not endorsed one particular mode of education/curricula for either bystander education and/or healthy relationships but is considering several including *Safe Dates*, *Second Step*, *Expect Respect*, *Men of Strength*, *Green Dot*, and *Ending Violence* (see Appendix M for a complete list and description of the programs).

Needs. The state assessment activities identified areas in which prevention capacity needs to be strengthened. For DVSA service providers, funding remains a significant barrier as well as appropriate curricula and materials. Given the current economic downturn, local agencies must be able to make a very strong case for both need and effectiveness to move funding towards prevention activities or to ask for additional funding. DVSA service providers also indicated a need for appropriate materials and resources. Additionally, funding for violence prevention in K–12 schools will likely be an issue as federal funding for Title IV is expected to change dramatically for FY 2010. The IPS plans to fund pilot programs in local K–12 schools to implement dating violence prevention curricula by providing curricula and training for school personnel. The IPS will also continue to fund prevention educators/specialists through DVSA service providers to conduct community-based sexual violence prevention, including programs in schools as well as other efforts in their communities.

The second major area of need is in training and technical assistance for organizations that may have resources to implement programming, but lack the necessary knowledge about effective programming. Colleges and universities often fall into this category. Oklahoma State University, the University of Oklahoma, and RUSO universities have staff to implement prevention programming and serve more than 79,000 college students. These institutions have expressed an interest in working with state level RPE program and the OCADVSA statewide prevention coordinator to increase the effectiveness of their prevention programs. State DVSA service providers have also expressed a need for training in best practices in prevention and technical assistance in developing, implementing, and evaluating sexual violence prevention programs in their communities.

PLAN COMPONENTS

K–12 Schools

Funding will be provided to schools using non-RPE funds to implement pilot projects, purchase evidence-based curriculum and fund training. The RPE program will identify pro-active schools/personnel that are already looking for assistance—“innovators” and “early adopters” (*Diffusion of Innovation Theory*) in preventing sexual violence. Allowing schools to maintain local control of curriculum decisions while increasing the use of evidence-based and evidence-informed practice will remain a priority.

Each institution faces unique challenges to the implementation of age and culturally appropriate activities. K–12 schools are increasingly aware of sexual violence as a problem, which is usually recognized as part of the broader topic of teen dating violence. The *Sexual Assault Prevention Surveys* conducted in Ottawa and Cherokee Counties indicated that the vast majority of parents were supportive of including “healthy relationship” curricula into their children’s education. Although there is general support, schools face strict time

constraints and rarely have funding available to purchase necessary materials for sexual or dating violence prevention education. Additionally, administrators often express concern regarding parents' reaction to inclusion of "sexual violence prevention" curricula, equating it with "sex education," which may be a contentious subject. Recognizing that community ownership and inclusion are essential to prevention programs, we feel it is important to use language and activities that are respectful of community norms.

The OSVPPC developed a list of programs/curricula identified as best or promising practices for K–12 schools and colleges and universities. Criteria examined were evidence basis (research v. anecdotal field evaluation), appropriateness for identified target population, alignment with Strategic Plan and goals pertaining to K–12 schools and colleges and universities, perceived benefits and perceived deficits/drawbacks (Appendix M). The OSVPPC and RPE team will continue to review the programs/curricula and expand the list as new and emerging programs/curricula are identified. Funded schools will choose from the list or may propose other prevention programs that meet the principles of effective prevention programming and promote healthy relationships and/or bystander intervention.

Colleges and Universities

The College and Universities Administrative Policy/Practices Survey data indicated there was a great deal of support for sexual violence prevention education and training among college and university leadership. Risk reduction strategies were prevalent among all the institutions responding to the survey, but it was not apparent that comprehensive prevention programming was being utilized. State RPE personnel will provide technical assistance to colleges and universities, disseminate information on evidence-based and promising curricula/programs, and support training. State RPE personnel and the OSVPPC membership will: 1) develop working relationships

through the college and universities subcommittee with RUSO institutions, the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University, and colleges and universities in RPE funded program areas; 2) determine appropriate policies that support non-violence on campus; and 3) determine appropriate curricula for freshman seminar/orientation sessions.

Anecdotal evidence and data from the college administrator's survey suggest that Oklahoma colleges and universities are aware of the problem of sexual violence on campus and are addressing the issue in some way. Efforts on this front have been diverse, ranging from schools that have policies reflecting minimum mandated standards (sexual harassment policies, sexual harassment training for staff and compliance with Cleary Act standards) to schools that are working towards implementing broad bystander interventions and peer-education programs. As with K–12 schools, funding for prevention programming is a concern as is potential resistance from administration.

Faith Communities

Working with faith communities has been a more challenging focus area than K–12 schools, colleges and universities, and media. Since the OSVPPC was created, there has not been an active faith communities subcommittee. Potential strategies for beginning to engage the faith community include: 1) conducting a survey of faith leaders in the Oklahoma City Metropolitan area, 2) sponsoring training at faith conferences, and 3) presenting at group meetings. The faith communities component of the comprehensive sexual violence prevention plan has not been sufficiently addressed and will be developed in future months.

Evaluation

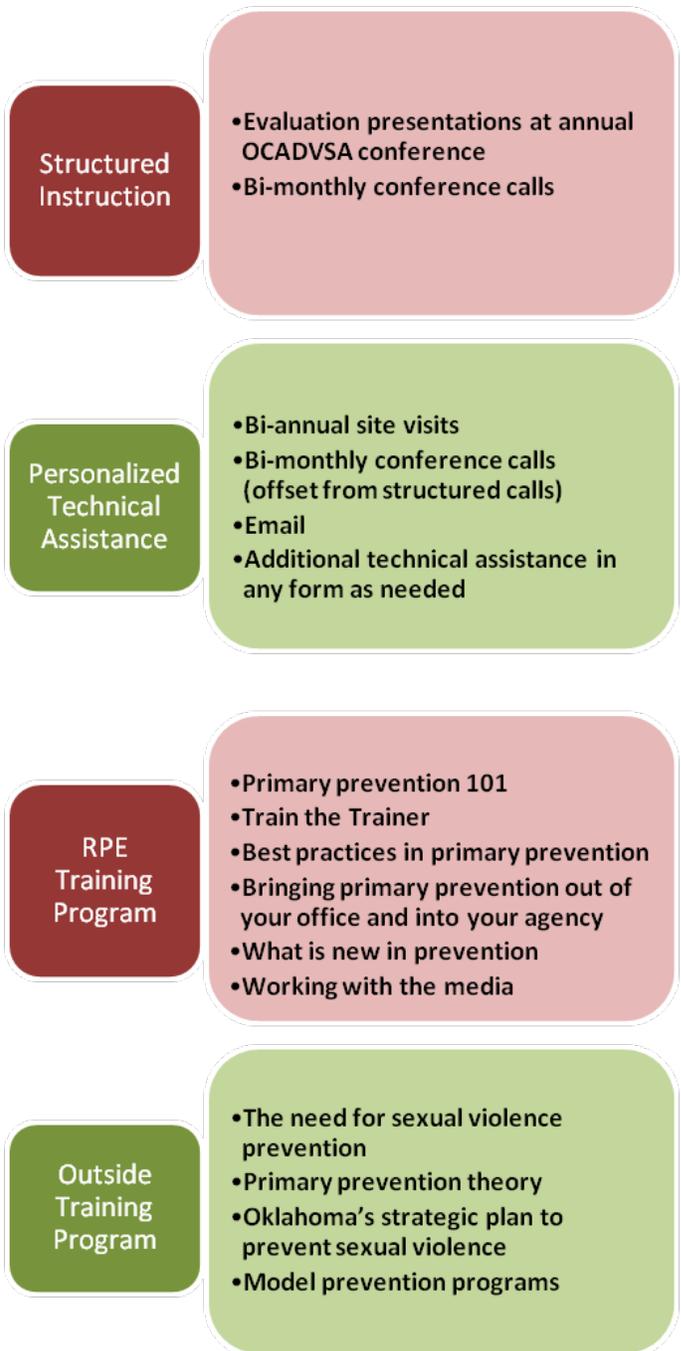
Because evaluation has become increasingly necessary, both to justify funding and as a tool to persuade state and local leaders to implement and sustain prevention activities, RPE funding will also

be used to provide technical assistance for evaluation activities to all funded projects. Recent research regarding evaluation has shown that a combination of structured instruction and site-specific technical assistance is a promising format.

A structured instruction program including training on formative and outcome evaluation will be created by state RPE personnel and OCADVSA and will be presented at the annual OCADVSA conference. Additionally, bi-monthly conference calls will be held so that project personnel can share successes, observations, challenges and new ideas. This format has been successfully used among current state and local RPE funded program staff. The participants have given positive feedback about this format saying that it provided both feedback and contact with state level personnel at OSDH and OCADVSA and created a sense of community among all the projects.

Site-specific technical assistance provides the opportunity to engage local programs “where they are,” both in terms of physical location and unique needs based on their goals. This form of assistance includes help with their program evaluation, gathering data for related grant applications or to increase community participation. Together, technical assistance and structured instruction programs will create a statewide prevention network of local programs working together and sharing lessons learned directly with their counterparts while maintaining close contact with statewide prevention experts.

Finally, collection of high quality data is essential for evaluation. RPE funds will continue to be used to fund sexual violence surveillance to monitor prevalence and incidence with a cap of 2% of the total RPE budget. Typically, these funds are used for the inclusion of sexual violence prevention questions on the annual state BRFSS questionnaire. In addition to surveillance data, RPE funds will be used to collect data to measure programmatic success, including process and outcome data.



Training

Making training available and accessible for groups engaged in sexual violence prevention and groups interested in learning about sexual violence prevention is a high priority of the comprehensive state plan. Through the funding and technical assistance pieces of the comprehensive plan we have identified some

innovators and early adopters. The characteristics of these groups indicate that they are interested in having access to the most up-to-date information and contact with other innovators. An annual training track (in conjunction with DELTA PREP) on primary prevention as part of the OCADVSA annual conference will provide an established venue and opportunity for the RPE program to continue to engage individuals in RPE funded and non-funded programs with new information and reinforce best practices.

Inclusion of a prevention training track at the state conference reinforces the position of primary prevention as a part of the violence against women movement which includes preventing sexual violence, investigating rape and sexual assault crimes, prosecuting offenders, and providing services to victims rather than activities in competition with traditional activities. Conference participants represent a diverse range of experts from many fields that will have access to information about sexual violence prevention. These state and community experts are respected voices in their communities (opinion leaders) and can be engaged as allies when working in their areas.

Selection of training topics will be based on feedback from funded programs and groups

receiving technical assistance, and sessions will be open to all conference participants. Providing competency-based training in primary prevention will continue to be a priority for the RPE program.

In order to identify and recruit additional opinion leaders, RPE staff will also develop conference presentations and training to engage leaders of K–12 schools, colleges and universities, and faith groups in sexual violence prevention. RPE staff will identify state and regional conferences and present in these focus areas and be available to present on request to small or large groups.

Diverse training topics, formats, and dissemination will be necessary to achieve the goals and desired outcomes of this ambitious comprehensive plan and to impact all of the four focus areas: K–12 schools, colleges and universities, faith communities, and the media. Of particular importance to all of the focus areas at this time is adapting to a rapidly changing communications field. Increasing the skill level of DVSA service providers and others in working with the media, especially new and diverse electronic media impacting our culture, will be a high priority.