

Engaging Community and Systems to Build a Rural Sexual Assault Program

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MOCSA

Who am I?

What is MOCSA?

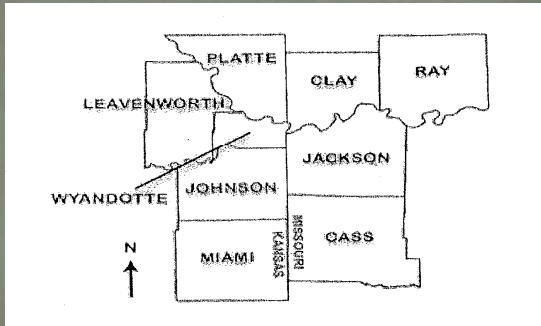
Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault

- Established in 1975 as KC Metro area Rape Crisis Center
- In early 80's merged with the Sexual Abuse Treatment Network to form the Child Sexual Abuse Treatment Program
- Services to Adult Survivors of CSA were added in 1992

MOCSA in 2010

- Comprehensive sexual violence service agency
- Strong commitment to advocacy, support, intervention, and prevention education
- Serves 7 counties in broad KC metro area, covering both Kansas and Missouri
 - Service area is Urban, Suburban, & Rural
 - Key initiatives to reach traditionally underserved communities

MOCSA Service Area



Unique Challenges to Survivors From Rural Areas

- Isolation
- Lack of transportation
- System “not getting it”
- Confidentiality
- Everyone knows everyone
 - Where do you go for services?
- Limited resources
 - One man police department
 - Not enough nurses on staff to send several to SANE training
 - Small hiring pool for advocates

Case Example

“Mary”

MOCSA’s Expansion

- Initial expansion in early 2007 into Miami County, KS.
- In early 2010, MOCSA again expanded into Cass County, MO through a partnership with a local domestic violence shelter.

Miami County, KS

- Just under 31,000 residents, based on 2009 US Census population estimates
- 576 square miles, 49 persons per square mile
- 5th fastest growing county in the state

Population Comparison

- Paola: 5,351
- Osawatomie: 4,488
- Louisburg: 3,940
- Spring Hill: 5,227 *
- Fontana: 207

* Most of Spring Hill is located in an adjacent county

Sexual Assault Center (SAC) Funding in Fall 2006

- 6 communities were selected to establish sexual assault services in Kansas with assistance from funding through the Governor's office.
 - Crisis Line
 - Advocacy
 - Community Outreach & Education

Lessons Learned Along the Way

- Find a Champion to help you get started
- Find a partner
- Talk to everyone
- Keep talking to everyone

Three years later...

- One full-time advocate for Miami County
 - 7 activations for hospital advocacy in the first year.
 - Advocate expanded services to include supportive counseling, support group, and youth-based education.
 - Advocate created a Coalition of Helping Professionals to better meet the needs of Miami County Residents

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Cass County, MO

- Over 100,000 residents, based on 2009 estimates.
- 689 square miles, 117 people per square mile.
- 64% of residents commute to another county to work.
- Northern half of county is suburban, southern half is rural.

Population Comparison

- Belton: 24,591
- Raymore: 17,703
- Harrisonville: 9,749 *
- Pleasant Hill: 7,18
- Peculiar: 4,600
- Garden City, 1,652
- Lake Winnebago: 1,139
- Drexel: 1,097
- Archie: 996
- Cleveland: 679
- Freeman: 599
- Creighton: 346
- East Lynne: 303
- Lake Annette: 164
- Strasburg: 136
- West Line: 111
- Gunn City: 86

* County Seat

• According to www.cass-mo.gov July 2008

Why Cass County?

- Cass County is one of the fastest growing counties in Missouri.
- No sexual assault services available within the county – victims were required to travel up to 75 minutes for services.

How did the project begin?

- MOCSA was approached by a local domestic violence shelter – Hope Haven of Cass County - in 2008 to expand into Cass County.
- Due to limited capacity, MOCSA was unable to provide services on their own.

The collaboration began.

Next Steps...

- MOCSA & Hope Haven met routinely over the next year to formalize collaboration.
- MOCSA & Hope Haven both received approval from their boards to expand.
- MOCSA & Hope Haven held a meeting with local law enforcement, Prosecutor, and two area hospitals to announce project and gather support.

Funding

- Hope Haven sought funding from the Health Care Foundation, MOCSA was included as a collaborative partner.
 - The original funding cycle is for one year, which expired in July 2010.

What did the Expansion look like?

- MOCSA proposed a model using MOCSA's technical knowledge on sexual assault and Hope Haven's local knowledge and connections.
 - Hope Haven would supply volunteers to provide hospital advocacy in Cass County, as well one other hospital in the MOCSA service area to keep volunteers engaged.
 - MOCSA would provide long-term advocacy and supportive counseling.

Training & Technical Assistance

- MOCSA provided 20 hours of initial training to Hope Haven Staff, and 40 hours of sexual assault specific training to volunteers.
- MOCSA brought in a local expert to assist with discussions on creating a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program at Cass Regional Medical Center.

Creating a SART

- MOCSA, along with Hope Haven, met with area law enforcement agencies, the Cass County Prosecutor, and Cass Regional Medical Center to lay the groundwork for a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART).
- It was decided that the Hope Haven Domestic Violence Coalition would be the best place to start.

What we have accomplished so far...

- Expanded presence in community through outreach and SAAM activities
- Created collaboration & secured grant funding
- Creatively laid the groundwork to establish SANE program at local medical center
- Met with individual Police Chiefs to announce project
- Developed protocols to improve the systems' response
- Professional training for law enforcement and medical personnel
- Community outreach & education
- Recruited, screened and trained 7 volunteers
- Went live with initial services January 1, 2010
 - 13 activations in first 5 months

Lessons Learned Along the Way

- Partner with DV
- Coordination is time -intensive
- Identify key players – start with Law Enforcement first
- Creative problem solving
- Importance of supportive counseling
- Sexual Assault vs. Adult Survivors of CSA
- Sometimes, you just have to do it yourself...

SWOT Analysis of Rural Program Expansion

SWOT Analysis - Strengths

- Collaborative partnerships
- Technical expertise
- Set the standard
- Quality training
- Local connections
- Solid history of providing services
- SV is a priority at the Prosecutor's office *
- Engaged giving community
- Volunteers

Weaknesses/Challenges

- Funding
- Off-site team member
- Lack of other social service agencies
- Distance for MOCSA
- SV vs. DV
- Keeping volunteers engaged
- Communication
- Capacity
- Burnout
- Resources: staff, time, s
- SV is low priority for criminal justice system *

Opportunities

- Services for adult survivors
- Youth-based and community-based education
- Little competition with other social service agencies
- Local funding – show the community the need
 - Cass County is a priority area for two major funders

Threats

- Two agencies seeking the same funding
- Capacity is too full
- Burnout
- Belief in rape myths
- Systems of Oppression

Next Steps

- Secure continued funding
- Expand victim services to include therapy, support group for both sexual assault survivors and adult survivors of child sexual abuse
- Expand awareness and prevention programs to middle & high schools
- Continue to secure quality volunteers

Questions?

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