

Sexual Assault Victims' Rights Amendment Act
Task Force
Credentialing Sub-Committee Report Out

Issue: Advocate Credentialing

Please accept the following as the recommendation of the Credentialing Sub-Committee, formed at the SAVRAA Task Force meeting on December 10, 2014. The Credentialing Sub-Committee met in-person on January 9, 2015 to synthesize the recommendations of the three original workgroups and submit a recommendation. The following is the recommendation of this Sub-Committee.

After reviewing the three sets of recommendations, the Credentialing Sub-Committee recommends the following:

- (1) For FY 2016, credentialing of advocates should only include the advocates referenced in SAVRAA, i.e. those advocates who are working as part of the DC SANE program and employed by the Network for Victim Recovery of DC or their successor program.
- (2) A Request for Applications should be published by the Office of Victim Services no later than October 1, 2015 to solicit applications from organizations and agencies for the purpose of developing a curriculum to credential advocates. The curriculum should include “tiers” or “levels” of certification, methods for trained advocates to demonstrate competency and proficiency, a process and curriculum for continuing education, and a well-established system of performance management which will enable the curriculum and certified advocates to be evaluated for success after one year of operation. The proposal should also include a “steering committee” or “advisory board” of DC-based service providers and professionals to guide the curriculum development. **For this stage, the Sub-Committee recommends a budget of \$50,000.**

NOTE: The curriculum developed by the “steering committee” or “advisory board” shall be guided by the curriculum outline developed by Workgroup A.

- (3) After the curriculum is complete, a second Request for Applications should be published by the Office of Victim Services no later than October 1, 2016 to solicit applications from organizations and agencies for the purpose of implementing the curriculum. Implementation of the curriculum shall include training the identified advocates and certifying their competency and proficiency to the Office of Victim Services. Once proficiency is certified to the Office of Victim Services, the Office of Victim Services shall certify these advocates. Certification of advocates shall be completed no later than April 1, 2017. A plan for evaluation of the training, demonstration of proficiency, and outcomes of the advocacy program shall be included in the proposal. An evaluation report shall be delivered no later than April 1, 2018. **For this stage, the Sub-Committee recommends a budget of \$60,000.**

- (4) The Network of Victim Recovery of DC, or its successor program, shall be the program to employ the advocates who will be initially credentialed and certified for proficiency.
- (5) Upon review of the evaluation report, the Office of Victim Services shall convene an advisory board for the purpose of recommending expansion of advocates. The advisory board shall recommend to the Office of Victim Services whether the curriculum for certification of advocates shall be made available at additional stages in the victimization process, the process by which advocates may be contacted, and a system of accountability for credentialed advocates. At this point a budget for implementing of the advisory board's recommendations shall be included.