

## **Jolene's Law Task Force & University of South Dakota**

### **Proposal for a Center for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment**

Since 2014, the Jolene's Law Task Force has studied the devastating impact of child sexual abuse in South Dakota. The Task Force's work has included policy recommendations to improve the State's recognition of, response to, and prevention of child maltreatment and sexual abuse through victim support, public and private collaboration, and the use of research and evidence based practice. This work has created an opportunity for South Dakota to emerge as a regional and national leader in the identification and prevention of this problem. The research is clear – prevention efforts are a successful strategy in stopping the cycle of child abuse. With this context in mind, the University of South Dakota (USD) in partnership with the Jolene's Law Task Force proposes a *Center for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment*. The Center aims to contribute to the State's overall public health by playing a significant role in strengthening the State's culture related to preventing and responding to child maltreatment.

Professional education in health and human services is critical in translating policy into practice. USD's broad expertise in psychology, counseling, social work, public health, medicine, nursing, law, and education provides unparalleled opportunities to offer education related to the prevention of child maltreatment and sexual abuse. The USD *Center for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment* will coordinate education, outreach, and research initiatives that increase public awareness and prevention of child maltreatment and sexual abuse throughout the State. The Center will actively engage education partners (public and private universities, Tribal colleges, and technical schools), State and Tribal governments, and professional organizations in determining training needs. In addition, the Center will develop and deliver learning competencies and training programs appropriate for all levels – from students' first learning about child maltreatment, to skills for counselors, teachers, and social workers who work with victims, to legal and health professionals who may require specialized training for licenses and certifications. Research within the Center will benefit the State by identifying the latest prevention and treatment techniques and providing data management and analysis assistance to State agencies. The *Center for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment* at the University of South Dakota will operate under the following broad guidelines:

1. Develop competencies, curricula, consistent training standards, and professional development opportunities for mandatory reporters of child maltreatment and sexual abuse in partnership with state, community, and academic organizations;
2. Facilitate the creation of community, state, and education partnerships to advocate against child maltreatment and sexual abuse;
3. Identify potential funding sources and develop inter-professional grant proposals for research and practice related to treating and preventing child maltreatment and sexual abuse;
4. Collaborate with state, regional, and national stakeholders, and provide leadership in developing research areas addressing child maltreatment and sexual abuse; and
5. Provide assistance/expertise to Board of Regents institutions on creating new degree programs related to child maltreatment and sexual abuse as well as revising/creating courses in fields requiring mandatory reporter training.

Proposed Costs

<u>Personal Services</u>	
Salaries	\$160,000.00
Benefits	\$26,675.00
Subtotal PS	<u>\$186,675.00</u>
OE	<u>\$24,050.00</u>
<b>Total Base Expansion</b>	<b><u><u>\$210,725.00</u></u></b>

Budget request includes support for a 1.0 FTE position to lead the Center as well as inter-professional teams at USD and across the state (12-month professor in social work and/or public health with a doctorate, expertise in child maltreatment issues, and strong research and grant experience). Two graduate assistants to perform data compilation, analysis and management assistance. Operating resources will support general supplies and materials, professional development, office equipment and technology and statewide travel needs. Long-term funding strategies include extramural support for the graduate assistants thus base budget needs will be reassessed in year five.