

**2023 SENATE JUDICIARY**

**SB 2257**

# 2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Judiciary Committee**  
Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

SB 2257  
2/1/2023

A bill relating to a task force on prevention of sexual abuse of children; and to provide for a legislative management report and a report to the governor.
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9:57 AM Chairman Larson opened the meeting.

Present are Chairman Larson and Senators Myrdal, Luick, Estenson, Sickler, Braunberger and Paulson.

**Discussion Topics:**

- Public Awareness
- Prevention

9:58 AM Senator Clemens introduced the bill and provided written testimony #18493.

10:05 AM Lindsey Burkhardt, Director, North Dakota Child Prevention Task Force, testified in favor of the bill and provided written testimony #18320, 18496.

10:25 AM Chairman Larson closed the public hearing.

**Additional written testimony:**

Mark Jorritsma Provided written testimony #18335.

10:25 AM Chairman Larson closed the meeting.

*Rick Schuchard, Committee Clerk*

# 2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Judiciary Committee**  
Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

SB 2257  
2/7/2023

A bill relating to a task force on prevention of sexual abuse of children; and to provide for a legislative management report and a report to the governor
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10:53 AM Chairman Larson opened the meeting.

Chairman Larson and Senators Myrdal, Luick, Estenson, Sickler, Paulson and Braunberger are present.

**Discussion Topics:**

- Committee action

10:54 AM Senator Braunberger moved to Do Pass the bill. Motion is seconded by Senator Myrdal.

10:54 AM Roll call vote is taken.

<b>Senators</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Senator Diane Larson	Y
Senator Bob Paulson	Y
Senator Jonathan Sickler	Y
Senator Ryan Braunberger	Y
Senator Judy Estenson	Y
Senator Larry Luick	Y
Senator Janne Myrdal	Y

Motion passes 7-0-0.

Senator Braunberger will carry the bill.

This bill does not affect workforce development.

10:55 AM Chairman Larson closed the meeting.

*Rick Schuchard, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2257: Judiciary Committee (Sen. Larson, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** (7 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2257 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

**2023 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES**

**SB 2257**

# 2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Human Services Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

SB 2257  
3/6/2023

Relating to a task force on prevention of sexual abuse of children; and to provide for a legislative management report and a report to the governor.
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Chairman Weisz called the meeting to order at 2:55 PM.

Chairman Robin Weisz, Reps. Karen A. Anderson, Mike Beltz, Clayton Fegley, Kathy Frelich, Dawson Holle, Dwight Kiefert, Carrie McLeod, Todd Porter, Brandon Prichard, Karen M. Rohr, and Gretchen Dobervich. Vice Chairman Matthew Ruby and Rep. Jayme Davis not present.

### **Discussion Topics:**

- Statewide approach
- Environmental scan
- Pilot project
- Statistics

Sen. Clemens introduced SB 2257 with supportive testimony (#22249).

Lindsey Burkhardt, Director of the North Dakota Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task, supportive testimony (#22142) (#22143) (#22144) (#22145).

Rep. Satrom, spoke in favor.

Mark Jorristma, Executive Director of North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action, supportive testimony (#22086).

Dennis Meier, Director in the Three Rivers Human Service Zones, supportive testimony (#22051).

Chairman Weisz adjourned the meeting at 3:12 PM.

*Phillip Jacobs, Committee Clerk*

# 2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Human Services Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

SB 2257  
3/6/2023

Relating to a task force on prevention of sexual abuse of children; and to provide for a legislative management report and a report to the governor.

Chairman Weisz called the meeting to order at 4:23 PM.

Chairman Robin Weisz, Reps. Karen A. Anderson, Mike Beltz, Clayton Fegley, Kathy Frelich, Dawson Holle, Dwight Kiefert, Carrie McLeod, Todd Porter, Brandon Prichard, Karen M. Rohr, and Gretchen Dobervich. Vice Chairman Matthew Ruby and Rep. Jayme Davis not present.

### Discussion Topics:

- Committee work

Chairman Weisz called for discussion on SB 2257.

Rep. Dobervich moved a do pass on SB 2257.

Seconded by Rep. Anderson.

Roll Call Vote:

Representatives	Vote
Representative Robin Weisz	Y
Representative Matthew Ruby	AB
Representative Karen A. Anderson	Y
Representative Mike Beltz	Y
Representative Jayme Davis	AB
Representative Gretchen Dobervich	Y
Representative Clayton Fegley	Y
Representative Kathy Frelich	Y
Representative Dawson Holle	Y
Representative Dwight Kiefert	Y
Representative Carrie McLeod	Y
Representative Todd Porter	Y
Representative Brandon Prichard	Y
Representative Karen M. Rohr	Y

Motion carries 12-0-2.

Carried by Rep. Fegley.

Chairman Weisz adjourned the meeting at 4:25 PM.

*Phillip Jacobs, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2257: Human Services Committee (Rep. Weisz, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** (12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2257 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.



**TESTIMONY**

**SB 2257**

**Testimony: SB 2257**

Good morning, Madam Chair Larson & members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

My name is Lindsey Burkhardt and I'm the Director of the North Dakota Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force. Today I am here to testify in support of **SB 2257**.

I want to provide you with a brief history of the Task Force:

- In the 2017 legislative session, Senate Bill 2342 established Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force.
- During the 2019 session, House Bill 1237, re-established the Task Force through 2024.
- During the 2021 legislative session, funds were appropriated to hire a director for the task force. Funds were appropriated to the Department of Health.
- In January of 2022, I was hired by Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota as the Director of the Task Force.

When it comes to child sexual abuse, the statistics are shocking. According to the 2022 Annual Report of the ND Children's Advocacy Centers, 1 in every 10 children in North Dakota will be a victim of sexual abuse by their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday; approximately 65% of those victims will be female. And those numbers likely underestimate the true scope of the problem...we know that over 30% of victims never disclose their abuse. About 90% of children who are victims of sexual abuse know their abuser. Only 10% of sexually abused children are abused by a stranger. As many as 40% of children who are sexually abused are abused by older or more powerful children.

The North Dakota Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force is committed to developing and implementing a comprehensive statewide approach to the prevention of child sexual abuse.

I'd like to highlight a few of our accomplishments throughout the last year.

**Environmental Scan:** As you will find in our 2022 Annual Report (included in the packet provided), in April we conducted a state-wide environmental scan. Respondents of this survey included: Public, private, and tribal schools across North Dakota. Head Start Programs. Youth-Serving Organizations and Childcare Programs. The survey was open for 18 days and within that period, the Task Force received 203 responses from all ND regions and four tribal nations.

In total, 60% of respondents identified that they felt a lack of an established curriculum was the greatest barrier.

**Resource Guide:** From the feedback received, the Primary Prevention Subcommittee (which operates under the umbrella of the Task Force) began working on a Resource Guide for schools, youth-serving organizations, and childcare facilities. The Resource Guide has now been finalized and will be available in print by mid-February and is currently available online at [www.ndstopcsa.com](http://www.ndstopcsa.com). The Primary Prevention Subcommittee is currently working on a Resource Guide for Caregivers.

**Richland County Pilot Project:** In the summer of 2022, we began visioning a pilot project that focused on multi-level prevention practices. Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota, with the support of the Task Force, submitted a grant proposal on October 5<sup>th</sup> that outlined a pilot project to be completed in Richland County North Dakota. The project aims to implement

targeted prevention education to children and to adults, a public awareness and social media campaign, and ongoing data analysis of the project's impacts. Just last week we received notice that we were granted \$130,000 to conduct this project. At the end of the project, our hope is to have a comprehensive approach to CSA prevention that can be duplicated in other counties across the state.

**Education & Awareness:** Over the last year, we've dedicated time offering presentations and education to various professionals, we've had educational booths at events across the state, and have spread awareness of our work through the press.

**Vision:** Our vision for the future is big. The Task Force plans to provide support and guidance throughout the Richland County pilot project and upon completion will seek additional funding to conduct another project within a tribal community. We will continue to build resources and finalize the resource guide for caregivers. The resource guides will be updated annually to ensure best practices are reflected and the newest prevention strategies are encompassed. Our hope is to create a statewide committee focused on CSA prevention efforts by involving prevention educators across the state (to determine what is being done and where gaps exist). We plan to continue working with organizations across the state and provide ongoing education around CSA prevention and aid with strengthening internal policies and procedures. The Task Force will continue raising awareness across North Dakota for the years to come.

On January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022, I joined Prevent Child Abuse ND and took on the role of Task Force Director. Over the last year, I've been asked countless times, "*How can you do the work you do? That must be so hard*". And, in the beginning of my time in this position, it was easy to allow fear to take over. I worried about children. I worried about my daughters and keeping them safe, the statistics scared me, and the headlines consumed me. But I quickly realized that hope is so much stronger than fear. I have hope that we can provide the children of North Dakota with childhoods safe from child sexual abuse.

I wholeheartedly believe that the Task Force is creating meaningful change and through our work prevention is possible.

Thank you. I will now answer any questions you may have.



# NORTH DAKOTA

## *Family Alliance* LEGISLATIVE ACTION

### Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 2257

Mark Jorritsma, Executive Director  
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action  
February 1, 2023

Dear Madam Chair Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action would like to testify in support of Senate Bill 2257 and respectfully request that you render a “DO PASS” on this bill.

Our organization believes that all people are made in the image of God; to be treasured, nurtured, and protected. This is never more true than with our children.

The ND Task Force for the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children is an important link in the chain to make progress on this scourge that happens to the most innocent in North Dakota. It is only by acquiring information, distilling that into knowledge, identifying the underlying causes of sexual abuse in our state, and then finding the best way to attack the problem that we will ever make true progress in eliminating this injustice. This task force seeks to do just that and we commend their efforts.

For these reasons, our organization requests that you render a “DO PASS” on Senate Bill 2257 and extend the important work of this task force. For parents, for children, and for generations of North Dakotans to come.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding my testimony. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mark Jorritsma  
Executive Director

FEBRUARY 1, 2023

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

SB 2257

INTRODUCED BY

SENATOR DAVID CLEMENS

DIST 16

MADAM CHAIR LARSON AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE. I AM DAVID CLEMENS AND SERVE AS SENATOR FROM DISTRICT 16. I AM HERE TO INTRODUCE SB 2257.

THE PURPOSE OF THE BILL IS TO ADDRESS SOME DATES RELATING TO THE TASK FORCE ON CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE. AS OF NOW, THE TASK FORCE PROGRAM IS SCHEDULED TO END ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2024. HOWEVER, IN ORDER FOR THE TASK FORCE TO CONTINUE UNTIL THE END OF THE NEXT BIENNIUM, THIS BILL WILL EXTEND THE EXPIRATION DATE TO JUNE 30, 2025. FUNDING FOR THE 2023-2025 TASK FORCE ON CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IS INCLUDED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BUDGET.

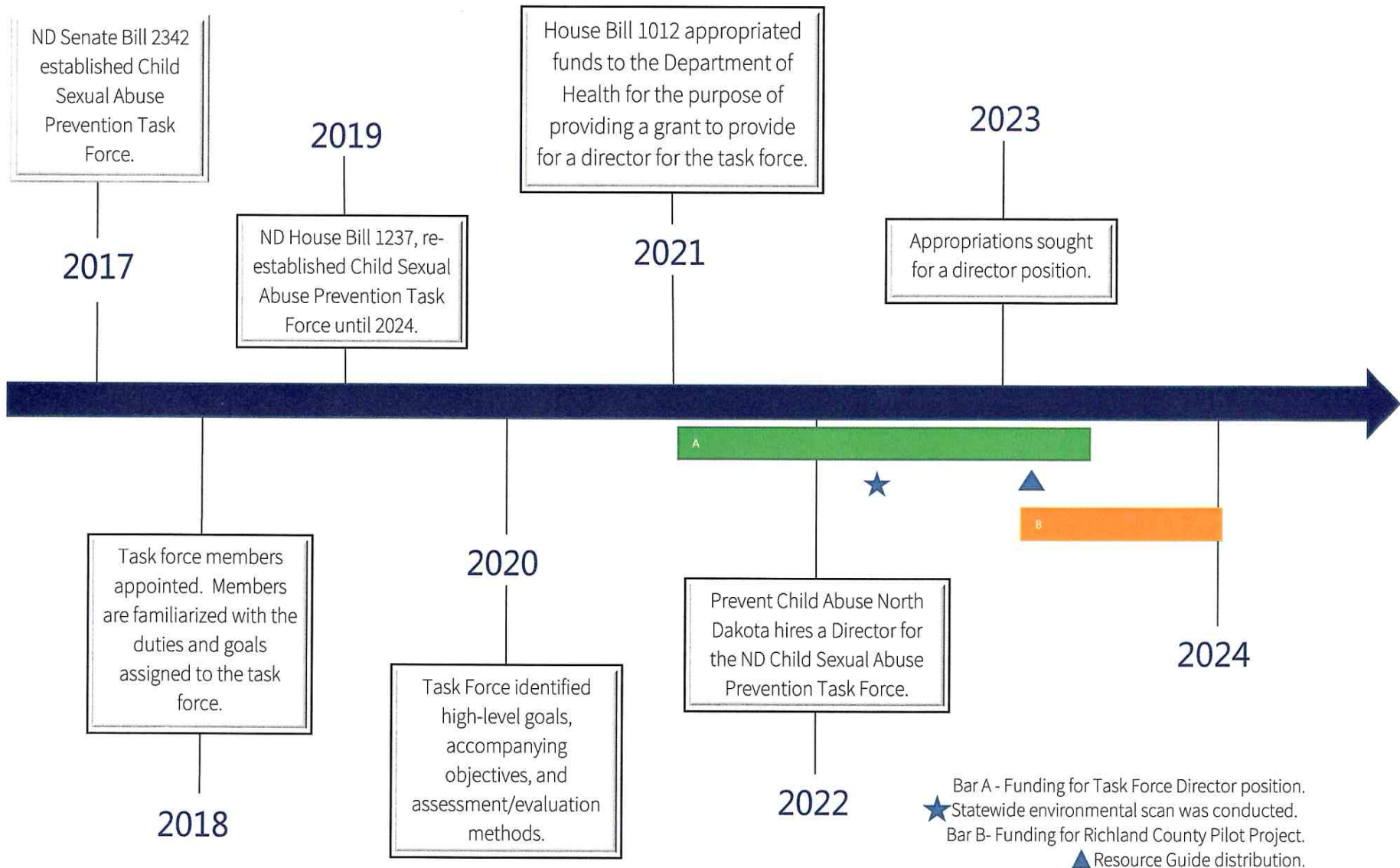
THE TASK FORCE IS A MUCH-NEEDED PROGRAM THAT NEEDS TO CONTINUE. WITH A FULL TIME DIRECTOR, GROUND WORK HAS BEEN LAID AND PROGRAMS ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED TO INFORM NORTH DAKOTA OF THE EVER INCREASING PROBLEM OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE. FAMILIES, AND EXPECIALLY THE CHILDREN, ARE BEING DAMAGED OR THREATENED BY THIS UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR IN OUR SOCIETY.

PLEASE SUPPORT SB 2257 WITH A DO PASS RECOMMENDATION IN YOUR COMMITTEE.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

SENATOR DAVID CLEMENS

# North Dakota Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force Timeline





## 2022 Year in Review

### North Dakota Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force



234

Meetings with  
stakeholders and  
various organizations



28

Task Force &  
Subcommittee Meetings

18

### Task Force Members

John Alstad, *Minot Elementary School*  
Jared Bollom, *Glen Ullin Public School*  
District Senator David A. Clemens  
Christy Dodd, *Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota*  
Seth Engelstad, *Milnor High School*  
Tracy Famias, *Bismarck Public Schools*  
Anna Frissell, *Clay County Attorney's Office*  
Brad Hawk, *North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission*  
Tim Helmer, *North Dakota BCI*  
Dr. Christopher Johnson, *Taskforce Chair, Rape and Abuse Crisis Center of Fargo-Moorhead*  
Greg Kasowski, *Children's Advocacy Centers of ND*  
Robin Lang, *DPI*  
Cory Pedersen, *NDDHHS*  
Hope Rush, *Bismarck Public School District*  
Representative Bernie Satrom  
Mallory Sattler, *NDDHHS*  
Stacy Schaffer, *31:8 Project*  
Representative Mary Schneider

### Richland County Pilot Project

**\$130,000**

*This project aims to address multi-level prevention practices to prevent child sexual abuse across Richland County.*

#### The Project will Implement:

- Targeted prevention education to children
- Targeted prevention education to adults
- Public awareness & social-media campaign
- Data analysis

Grant proposal submitted by Task Force to Otto

**Bremer Trust: 10/5/2022**

**Notice of award: 1/25/2023**

*The Richland County Pilot Project is projected to launch in January 2023. The project will conclude in December of 2023.*

*The project will be implemented in two phases: Phase 1 is January - June and Phase 2 is July - December.*



## Pages in Resource Guide

The Task Force conducted an environmental scan in April of 2022. Respondents included: Public, private, and tribal schools across North Dakota, Head Start Programs, Youth-Serving Organizations, Licensed childcare programs.

Overall, the Task Force received 203 responses from all ND regions and four Tribal Nations.

93% of respondents indicated that providing CSA education to teachers/coaches is “very important”.

In total, 60% of respondents identified that they felt a lack of an established curriculum was the greatest barrier. Respondents also reported that another barrier may be the social implications of providing the training, due to the topic being uncomfortable/sensitive in nature.

The Task Force felt the responsibility to create and share a Resource Guide devoted to Child Sexual Abuse Prevention.

The guide is available at: [www.ndstopcsa.com](http://www.ndstopcsa.com)

Print version available February 2023.



**5**

## Media Appearances

**500+**

## Individuals reached from trainings and booths at various events





# NORTH DAKOTA

CHILD SEXUAL  
ABUSE PREVENTION  
TASK FORCE

ANNUAL REPORT

2022

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# TASK FORCE OVERVIEW

## *Purpose*

The purpose of the North Dakota Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force is to develop and implement a comprehensive statewide approach to the prevention of child sexual abuse. (HB 1237)

## *Background*

- 2017 legislative session, Senate Bill 2342 established Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force
- Task Force met Feb. 2018 through Nov. 2018
- Final report submitted to legislative council and governor's office; and 2019 legislators
- 2019 legislative session, House Bill 1237, re-established Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force until 2024
- Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force met Oct., Nov., and Dec. 2019; Jan., Feb., May, June, July 2020
- Testimony provided to Interim Judiciary Committee July, 2020
- COVID-19 disrupted monthly meetings (March and April, 2020); status report sent to governor's office end of August, 2020
- 2021 ND Legislative Assembly, Senate Bill 2275 was introduced. This bill was to appropriate funding to the Department of Human Services for the purpose of providing a grant to provide for a director for the task force on the prevention of sexual abuse of children, an amendment was added to the Department of Human Services' budget (House Bill 1012) that appropriated funds to the Department of Health
- January 2022 Task Force Director was hired by Prevent Child Abuse ND

## *Task Force Director*

- ♦ Lindsey Burkhardt, Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota

## *Task Force Membership*

- ♦ John Alstad, Principal, Minot Elementary School
- ♦ Jared Bollom, Counselor, Glen Ullin Public School District
- ♦ Senator David A. Clemens
- ♦ Britta Demello Rice, Assistant Attorney General, ND Office of Attorney General, Special Prosecutions Unit
- ♦ Seth Engelstad, Principal, Milnor High School
- ♦ Tracy Famias, Social Worker, Bismarck Public Schools
- ♦ John Foss, Sherriff, Grant County
- ♦ Anna Frissell, Executive Director, Red River Children's Advocacy Center
- ♦ Dan Halverson, Executive Director, Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota
- ♦ Brad Hawk, Indian Health Systems Administrator, North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission
- ♦ Tim Helmer, Special Agent, North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation
- ♦ Dr. Christopher Johnson, Taskforce Chair, Chief Executive Officer, Rape and Abuse Crisis Center of Fargo-Moorhead
- ♦ Robin Lang, Office of Educational Improvement and Support Assistant Director, Department of Instruction
- ♦ Cory Pedersen, Child & Family Services Division Director, Department of Human Services
- ♦ Hope Rush, Counselor, Dorothy Moses Elementary School, Bismarck Public School District
- ♦ Representative Bernie Satrom
- ♦ Mallory Sattler, Domestic Violence/Rape Crisis Program Coordinator, Department of Health
- ♦ Representative Mary Schneider

# GOAL 1

## PRIMARY PREVENTION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE (CSA)

*The Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force will seek to end child sexual abuse by developing and implementing a primary prevention strategy for the state of North Dakota.*

- Coordinate a statewide environmental scan
- Influence policy and legislation regarding primary prevention of child sexual abuse
- Change organizational practices
- Foster coalitions and networks
- Educate child service/programming providers
- Promote community education



## GOAL 2

### STRENGTHENING THE INTERVENTION

*The Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force will strengthen the support provided to children and families participating in the interview, investigation, and prosecution processes.*

- Compile and analyze demographic discrepancies
- Ensure child and family access to teams coordinating intervention processes
- Mandate ongoing education in the field of child maltreatment
- Coordinate the facilitation of interagency information sharing
- Incorporate cultural, linguistic, and physical accessibility needs throughout the intervention process
- Ensure trauma-informed, culturally appropriate, and non-discriminatory approaches are incorporated and accommodations are made to provide quality services to all children and their families
- Support access to information for parents and caregivers about resources and referrals

# GOAL 3

## STRENGTHENING THE NETWORK

*The Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force will strengthen the network of trauma-informed services for children, adult survivors, and family members impacted by child sexual abuse.*

- Determine current services and gaps in services
- Implement mental health intervention at the first contact for child and family
- Provide culturally relevant training to professionals involved early in the process
- Collaborate with Treatment Collaborative for Traumatized Youth and victims service providers to improve access to evidence-based trauma treatment training to fill service gaps for children and adolescents, adults, and the general public
- Improve the public's awareness, understanding, and access to the network of trauma-informed services

# GOAL 4

## STRENGTHENING OFFENDER PROGRAMMING

*The Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force will strengthen the network of providers who support the needs and behavioral changes of offenders.*

- Determine current services and gaps in service
- Increase availability of programs that prevent and deter abuse by adult and juvenile offenders who engage in problematic sexual behavior
- Review the appropriateness and effectiveness of offender management programs
- Review penalty, treatment, assessment and other options for juvenile offenders and youth who engage in problematic sexual behavior

# ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN

## Overview

The North Dakota Task Force on the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse's Primary Prevention subcommittee initiated an environmental scan regarding the processes and perspective of the prevention of child sexual abuse for the state of North Dakota. The thirteen-question environmental scan instrument was developed in Survey Monkey and disseminated through a snowball sampling process to public, private, and tribal schools as well as preschool/childcare settings and other youth-serving organizations. The survey was initially sent on April 4th, 2022, with a follow-up request on April 12th. The survey was closed on April 22nd, 2022. Overall, the Task Force received 203 responses from all ND regions and four Tribal Nations.

## *Environmental Scan Questions / Objectives*

1. What are the current processes and perspectives on preventing child sexual abuse of various youth-serving agencies in the state of ND?
2. Are there differences in the processes and perspectives of preventing child sexual abuse between urban and rural community stakeholders?
3. Are there differences in process and perspectives of preventing child sexual abuse within institutional roles?
4. Provide qualitative analysis regarding utilized curricula, feedback on strengthening CSA prevention response, and barriers to incorporating CSA prevention techniques/strategies.



## Results

A Comprehensive Logic Model (Attached) highlights the descriptive data within the major categories:

- Region and Institution (Demographic)
  - Eight Regions and Four Tribal Nations
  - Representative cross-section of small, mid, and large community populations
  - Various Institutional types and roles
- Community Education and Institutional Policy (What is)
  - Over half of respondents indicated that they provide no CSA education to children
  - Over half of respondents indicated that they provide no CSA education to employees and volunteers
  - Over 80% of respondents indicated that they provide no CSA education to parents and caregivers
- Community Education Importance (What should be)
  - Sixty-four to ninety-five percent (depending on child age group) of respondents indicated that providing CSA education to children is “very important”
  - Ninety-three percent of respondents indicated that providing CSA education to teachers/coaches is “very important”
  - Ninety percent of respondents indicated that providing CSA education to parents/caregivers is “very important”

## Community Size and CSA Education

Communities were categorized into groups of small (pop. 1-1000), mid (pop. 1001-49,999), and large (pop. 50,000 +). Education was the focus of the comparison with survey questions 5, 6, 7, and 8 providing insight on what education is being provided and perspective on the age of recipients.

*CSA education stakeholder groups based on community size*

	Child/Student CSA Education	Employee/Volunteer CSA Education	Parent/Caregiver CSA Education
Small Community n=76	16 (21%)	9 (12%)	3 (4%)
Mid Community n=76	19 (25%)	14 (18%)	6 (8%)
Large Community n=50	11 (22%)	19 (38%)	19 (38%)

*CSA education importance based on age by community size*

	CSA education importance for age 0-5	CSA education importance for age 6-10	CSA education importance for age 11-14	CSA education importance for age 15-18
Small Community n=76	44 (58%)	65 (86%)	70 (92%)	61 (80%)
Mid Community n=76	45 (59%)	65 (86%)	71 (93%)	65 (86%)
Large Community n=50	40 (80%)	50 (100%)	49 (98%)	48 (96%)

Variations within the frequency distributions are highlighted in grey to indicate a strong difference between the three groups. It would seem that the larger the community is; the more likely it is that CSA education will be provided to various stakeholder groups. There is also a sense that the larger communities place greater importance on providing CSA education to younger children.

### *Institutional Role and CSA Education*

Administrators included superintendents, principals, assistant principals, directors, and assistant directors. Non-administrators included teachers, counselors, social workers, domestic violence/sexual assault advocates, community educators, and others that would be considered direct service professionals.

#### *CSA education administrator and non-administrator roles*

	Child/Student CSA Education	Employee/Volunteer CSA Education	Parent/Caregiver CSA Education
Administrators n=129	29 (22%)	29 (22%)	13 (10%)
Non-Administrators n=63	16 (25%)	12 (19%)	7 (11%)

#### *CSA education importance based on age by community size*

	CSA education importance for age 0-5	CSA education importance for age 6-10	CSA education importance for age 11-14	CSA education importance for age 15-18
Administrators n=129	75 (58%)	113 (88%)	120 (93%)	107 (83%)
Non-Administrators n=63	48 (76%)	58 (92%)	61 (97%)	59 (94%)



Variations within the frequency distributions are highlighted in grey to indicate a strong difference between the two groups. There was consensus between the two groups as to what is being provided. However, there were differing perspectives regarding the importance of providing CSA education to very young and older children.

### *Qualitative Data Assessment (curricula, barriers, additional feedback)*

In total, 23% of institutions identified that they implement a CSA prevention education curriculum into their programming. Specific CSA curricula identified included: Red Flag, Green Flag (8), Amaze (3), Lauren's Kids (1), and Child Safety Matters (1). Some respondents indicated social-emotional curricula such as Second Step (3) and AI's Pals (1) as the CSA prevention education, however, these curricula do not focus specifically on CSA. Many respondents (28) indicated that they utilized no specific curriculum, however, the school nurse/counselor delivered lessons around good touch / bad touch, body anatomy, and puberty. Some indicated they collaborated with advocacy centers or crisis centers to deliver presentations; however, lessons are limited in time/scope.

Overall, 21% of respondents indicated their institution provided regular opportunities for employees and volunteers to learn about CSA prevention. Approximately 10% of institutions provided opportunities for parents / caregivers to learn about CSA prevention. Qualitative data indicated that CSA prevention education curricula utilized for adults in North Dakota included the Dakota Medical Foundation's Child Sexual Abuse Prevention (8) and Darkness to Light (3). Secondary & tertiary prevention training was more predominantly noted, including mandated reporter training and training regarding childhood trauma.

Respondents were asked to report what they determined to be the greatest barrier to providing CSA prevention education to children, youth, and adults in their local community. In total, 60% of respondents identified that they felt a lack of an established curriculum was the greatest barrier. Respondents also reported that another barrier may be the social implications of providing the training, due to the topic being uncomfortable / sensitive in nature.

Survey respondents were given an opportunity to provide additional comments on the CSA prevention topic, 28 responses were gathered. Of the responses, 50% welcomed training opportunities, guidance, and support on how to further educate on CSA prevention.

## *Conclusions / Recommendations*

1. There was a high desire among those surveyed to provide CSA education to all stakeholder groups indicating a high level of buy in but a lack of intellectual resources and subject matter expertise.
2. Less than a quarter of institutions surveyed indicated that they are providing CSA education to children / students. More concerning, only half of those (12%) reported providing evidence-based, developmentally appropriate education for children, volunteers, staff, parents, administrators, and other community stakeholders. The Taskforce will compile resources and begin the development of the educational component of the primary prevention strategy.
3. Institutional policies should be strengthened by increasing the formality of incorporating CSA screening into the hiring and onboarding process. Additional background check options such as consulting the CAN Registry and providing a public/direct statement to those demonstrate that CSA prevention is important to that organization. The Taskforce will develop a best practices guide to hiring that incorporates a CSA screening process.

Testimony Prepared for the  
**House Human Services Committee**

March 6, 2023

By: Dennis Meier Three Rivers Human Service Zone Director

**SB 2257: Relating to the development of a Task Force on Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children.**

My name is Dennis Meier, I am Director in the Three Rivers Human Service Zone. I am here today to provide testimony in support of SB 2257, to develop a task force on prevention of sexual abuse of children by creating a comprehensive statewide approach to address this highly important issue. It is the request of the Zone Director Association, that we have at least one representative on this task force.

Human Service Zones provide child protection services to this increasingly vulnerable population. A significant portion of the mandated services we provide are to children and their families, focusing on child safety, permanency, and well-being.

Human Service Zones are charged with providing services to children who have been victims of abuse, neglect, as well as those who are exhibiting disruptive behaviors such a truancy and running away. Sexual abuse of children is a persistent issue that human service zones contend with every day. It is the opinion of the Zone Director Association, we have a plethora of knowledge, experience, and expertise that could enhance the overall effectiveness of this taskforce.

Please accept my testimony in support of SB 2257 with the addition of zone director representation. I stand for any questions you may have. Thank you.



# NORTH DAKOTA

## *Family Alliance* LEGISLATIVE ACTION

### Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 2257

Mark Jorritsma, Executive Director  
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action  
March 6, 2023

Good afternoon Chairman Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee. My name is Mark Jorritsma and I am the Executive Director of North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action. We are here today to testify in support of Senate Bill 2257 and ask that you issue a "DO PASS" out of committee.

Our organization believes that all people are made in the image of God; to be treasured, nurtured, and protected. This is never more true than with our children.

The ND Task Force for the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children is an important link in the chain to make progress on the scourge of sexual abuse that happens to the most innocent in North Dakota. It is only by acquiring information, distilling that into knowledge, identifying the underlying causes of sexual abuse in our state, and then finding the best way to attack the problem that we will ever make true progress in eliminating this injustice. This task force seeks to do just that, and we commend its efforts and support the continuation of its important work through passage of this bill.

North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action asks that you render a "DO PASS" on Senate Bill 2257; for parents, for children, and for generations of North Dakotans to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and now I'd be happy to stand for any questions.



**Testimony: SB 2257**

Good afternoon, Chairman Weisz & members of the Human Services Committee:

My name is Lindsey Burkhardt and I'm the Director of the North Dakota Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task. My position is funded through a grant from the Department of Health and Human Services. Today I am here to testify in support of **SB 2257**.

I want to provide you with a brief history of the Task Force:

- In the 2017 legislative session, Senate Bill 2342 established Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force.
- During the 2019 session, House Bill 1237, re-established the Task Force through 2024.
- During the 2021 ND Legislative Assembly an amendment was added to the Department of Human Services' budget (House Bill 1012) that appropriated funds to the Department of Health. For the 2023-2025 biennium, this funding was included in the base budget for the Public Health Division (HB 1004).

When it comes to child sexual abuse, the statistics are shocking. According to the 2022 Annual Report of the ND Children's Advocacy Centers, 1 in every 10 children in North Dakota will be a victim of sexual abuse by their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday; approximately 65% of those victims will be female. And those numbers likely underestimate the true scope of the problem...we know that over 30% of victims never disclose their abuse. About 90% of children who are victims of sexual abuse know their abuser. Only 10% of sexually abused children are abused by a stranger. As many as 40% of children who are sexually abused are abused by older or more powerful children.

The North Dakota Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force is committed to developing and implementing a comprehensive statewide approach to the prevention of child sexual abuse.

I'd like to highlight a few of our accomplishments throughout the last year.

**Environmental Scan:** As you will find in our 2022 Annual Report (included in the packet provided), in April we conducted a state-wide environmental scan. Respondents of this survey included: Public, private, and tribal schools across North Dakota. Head Start Programs. Youth-Serving Organizations and Childcare Programs. The survey was open for 18 days and within that period, the Task Force received 203 responses from all ND regions and four tribal nations.

In total, 60% of respondents identified that they felt a lack of an established curriculum was the greatest barrier.

**Resource Guide:** From the feedback received, the Primary Prevention Subcommittee (which operates under the umbrella of the Task Force) began working on a Resource Guide for schools, youth-serving organizations, and childcare facilities. The Resource Guide has now been finalized and will be available in print by mid-February and is currently available online at [www.ndstopcsa.com](http://www.ndstopcsa.com). The Primary Prevention Subcommittee is currently working on a Resource Guide for Caregivers.

**Richland County Pilot Project:** In the summer of 2022, we began visioning a pilot project that focused on multi-level prevention practices. Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota, with the



support of the Task Force, submitted a grant proposal on October 5<sup>th</sup> that outlined a pilot project to be completed in Richland County North Dakota. The project aims to implement targeted prevention education to children and to adults, a public awareness and social media campaign, and ongoing data analysis of the project's impacts. Just last week we received notice that we were granted \$130,000 to conduct this project. At the end of the project, our hope is to have a comprehensive approach to CSA prevention that can be duplicated in other counties across the state.

**Education & Awareness:** Over the last year, we've dedicated time offering presentations and education to various professionals, we've had educational booths at events across the state, and have spread awareness of our work through the press.

**Vision:** Our vision for the future is big. The Task Force plans to provide support and guidance throughout the Richland County pilot project and upon completion will seek additional funding to conduct another project within a tribal community. We will continue to build resources and finalize the resource guide for caregivers. The resource guides will be updated annually to ensure best practices are reflected and the newest prevention strategies are encompassed. Our hope is to create a statewide committee focused on CSA prevention efforts by involving prevention educators across the state (to determine what is being done and where gaps exist). We plan to continue working with organizations across the state and provide ongoing education around CSA prevention and aid with strengthening internal policies and procedures. The Task Force will continue raising awareness across North Dakota for the years to come.

On January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022, I joined Prevent Child Abuse ND and took on the role of Task Force Director. And, in the beginning of my time in this position, it was easy to allow fear to take over. I worried about children. I worried about my daughters and keeping them safe, the statistics scared me, and the headlines consumed me. But I quickly realized that hope is so much stronger than fear. I have hope that we can provide the children of North Dakota with childhoods safe from child sexual abuse.

I wholeheartedly believe that the Task Force is creating meaningful change and through our work prevention is possible.

Thank you. I will now answer any questions you may have.

## 2022 Year in Review

# North Dakota Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force



# 234

## Meetings with stakeholders and various organizations



# 28

## Task Force & Subcommittee Meetings

# 18

## Task Force Members

- John Alstad, *Minot Elementary School*
- Jared Bollom, *Glen Ullin Public School*
- District Senator David A. Clemens
- Christy Dodd, *Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota*
- Seth Engelstad, *Milnor High School*
- Tracy Famias, *Bismarck Public Schools*
- Anna Frissell, *Clay County Attorney's Office*
- Brad Hawk, *North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission*
- Tim Helmer, *North Dakota BCI*
- Dr. Christopher Johnson, *Taskforce Chair, Rape and Abuse Crisis Center of Fargo-Moorhead*
- Greg Kasowski, *Children's Advocacy Centers of ND*
- Robin Lang, *DPI*
- Cory Pedersen, *NDDHHS*
- Hope Rush, *Bismarck Public School District*
- Representative Bernie Satrom
- Mallory Sattler, *NDDHHS*
- Stacy Schaffer, *31:8 Project*
- Representative Mary Schneider

## Richland County Pilot Project

# \$130,000

*This project aims to address multi-level prevention practices to prevent child sexual abuse across Richland County.*

### The Project will Implement:

- Targeted prevention education to children
- Targeted prevention education to adults
- Public awareness & social-media campaign
- Data analysis

### Grant proposal submitted by Task Force to Otto Bremer Trust: 10/5/2022

**Notice of award: 1/25/2023**

*The Richland County Pilot Project is projected to launch in January 2023. The project will conclude in December of 2023.*

*The project will be implemented in two phases: Phase 1 is January - June and Phase 2 is July - December.*

## Pages in Resource Guide

The Task Force conducted an environmental scan in April of 2022. Respondents included: Public, private, and tribal schools across North Dakota, Head Start Programs, Youth-Serving Organizations, Licensed childcare programs.

Overall, the Task Force received 203 responses from all ND regions and four Tribal Nations.

93% of respondents indicated that providing CSA education to teachers/coaches is “very important”.

In total, 60% of respondents identified that they felt a lack of an established curriculum was the greatest barrier. Respondents also reported that another barrier may be the social implications of providing the training, due to the topic being uncomfortable/sensitive in nature.

The Task Force felt the responsibility to create and share a Resource Guide devoted to Child Sexual Abuse Prevention.

The guide is available at: [www.ndstopcsa.com](http://www.ndstopcsa.com)

Print version available February 2023.



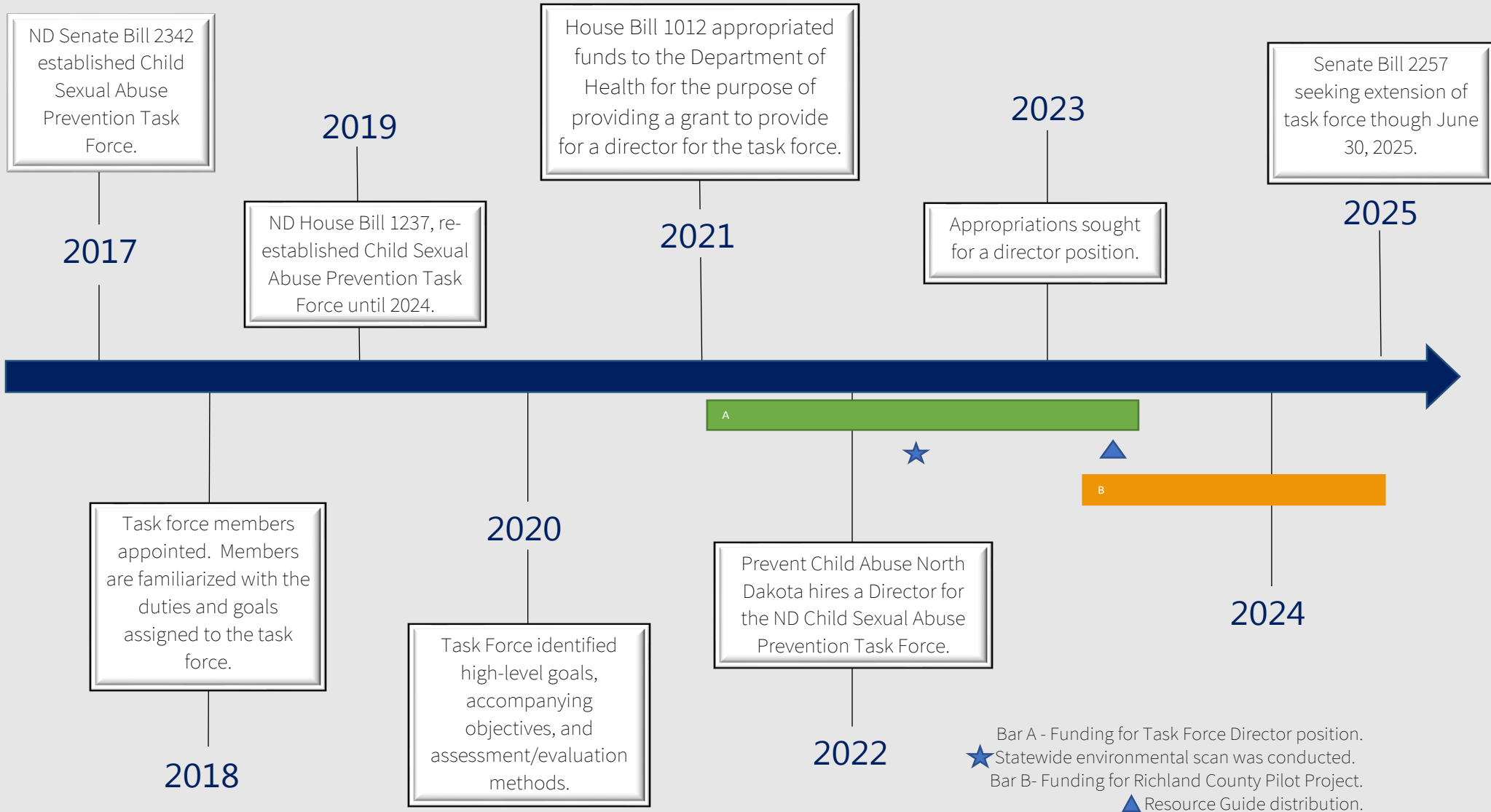
5

## Media Appearances

500+

Individuals reached from trainings and booths at various events

# North Dakota Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force Timeline







# NORTH DAKOTA

## CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION TASK FORCE

ANNUAL REPORT

# 2022

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# TASK FORCE OVERVIEW

## *Purpose*

The purpose of the North Dakota Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force is to develop and implement a comprehensive statewide approach to the prevention of child sexual abuse. (HB 1237)

## *Background*

- 2017 legislative session, Senate Bill 2342 established Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force
- Task Force met Feb. 2018 through Nov. 2018
- Final report submitted to legislative council and governor's office; and 2019 legislators
- 2019 legislative session, House Bill 1237, re-established Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force until 2024
- Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force met Oct., Nov., and Dec. 2019; Jan., Feb., May, June, July 2020
- Testimony provided to Interim Judiciary Committee July, 2020
- COVID-19 disrupted monthly meetings (March and April, 2020); status report sent to governor's office end of August, 2020
- 2021 ND Legislative Assembly, Senate Bill 2275 was introduced. This bill was to appropriate funding to the Department of Human Services for the purpose of providing a grant to provide for a director for the task force on the prevention of sexual abuse of children, an amendment was added to the Department of Human Services' budget (House Bill 1012) that appropriated funds to the Department of Health
- January 2022 Task Force Director was hired by Prevent Child Abuse ND

## *Task Force Director*

- ♦ Lindsey Burkhardt, Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota

## *Task Force Membership*

- ♦ John Alstad, Principal, Minot Elementary School
- ♦ Jared Bollom, Counselor, Glen Ullin Public School District
- ♦ Senator David A. Clemens
- ♦ Britta Demello Rice, Assistant Attorney General, ND Office of Attorney General, Special Prosecutions Unit
- ♦ Seth Engelstad, Principal, Milnor High School
- ♦ Tracy Famias, Social Worker, Bismarck Public Schools
- ♦ John Foss, Sherriff, Grant County
- ♦ Anna Frissell, Executive Director, Red River Children's Advocacy Center
- ♦ Dan Halverson, Executive Director, Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota
- ♦ Brad Hawk, Indian Health Systems Administrator, North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission
- ♦ Tim Helmer, Special Agent, North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation
- ♦ Dr. Christopher Johnson, Taskforce Chair, Chief Executive Officer, Rape and Abuse Crisis Center of Fargo-Moorhead
- ♦ Robin Lang, Office of Educational Improvement and Support Assistant Director, Department of Instruction
- ♦ Cory Pedersen, Child & Family Services Division Director, Department of Human Services
- ♦ Hope Rush, Counselor, Dorothy Moses Elementary School, Bismarck Public School District
- ♦ Representative Bernie Satrom
- ♦ Mallory Sattler, Domestic Violence/Rape Crisis Program Coordinator, Department of Health
- ♦ Representative Mary Schneider

# GOAL 1

## PRIMARY PREVENTION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE (CSA)

*The Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force will seek to end child sexual abuse by developing and implementing a primary prevention strategy for the state of North Dakota.*

- Coordinate a statewide environmental scan
- Influence policy and legislation regarding primary prevention of child sexual abuse
- Change organizational practices
- Foster coalitions and networks
- Educate child service/programming providers
- Promote community education



# GOAL 2

## STRENGTHENING THE INTERVENTION

*The Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force will strengthen the support provided to children and families participating in the interview, investigation, and prosecution processes.*

- Compile and analyze demographic discrepancies
- Ensure child and family access to teams coordinating intervention processes
- Mandate ongoing education in the field of child maltreatment
- Coordinate the facilitation of interagency information sharing
- Incorporate cultural, linguistic, and physical accessibility needs throughout the intervention process
- Ensure trauma-informed, culturally appropriate, and non-discriminatory approaches are incorporated and accommodations are made to provide quality services to all children and their families
- Support access to information for parents and caregivers about resources and referrals

# GOAL 3

## STRENGTHENING THE NETWORK

*The Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force will strengthen the network of trauma-informed services for children, adult survivors, and family members impacted by child sexual abuse.*

- Determine current services and gaps in services
- Implement mental health intervention at the first contact for child and family
- Provide culturally relevant training to professionals involved early in the process
- Collaborate with Treatment Collaborative for Traumatized Youth and victims service providers to improve access to evidence-based trauma treatment training to fill service gaps for children and adolescents, adults, and the general public
- Improve the public's awareness, understanding, and access to the network of trauma-informed services

**“Our guiding star is trauma-informed services that support all North Dakotans impacted by sexual abuse.”**

# GOAL 4

## STRENGTHENING OFFENDER PROGRAMMING

*The Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force will strengthen the network of providers who support the needs and behavioral changes of offenders.*

- Determine current services and gaps in service
- Increase availability of programs that prevent and deter abuse by adult and juvenile offenders who engage in problematic sexual behavior
- Review the appropriateness and effectiveness of offender management programs
- Review penalty, treatment, assessment and other options for juvenile offenders and youth who engage in problematic sexual behavior

# ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN

## *Overview*

The North Dakota Task Force on the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse's Primary Prevention subcommittee initiated an environmental scan regarding the processes and prospective of the prevention of child sexual abuse for the state of North Dakota. The thirteen-question environmental scan instrument was developed in Survey Monkey and disseminated through a snowball sampling process to public, private, and tribal schools as well as preschool/childcare settings and other youth-serving organizations. The survey was initially sent on April 4th, 2022, with a follow-up request on April 12th. The survey was closed on April 22nd, 2022. Overall, the Task Force received 203 responses from all ND regions and four Tribal Nations.

## *Environmental Scan Questions / Objectives*

1. What are the current processes and perspectives on preventing child sexual abuse of various youth-serving agencies in the state of ND?
2. Are there differences in the processes and perspectives of preventing child sexual abuse between urban and rural community stakeholders?
3. Are there differences in process and perspectives of preventing child sexual abuse within institutional roles?
4. Provide qualitative analysis regarding utilized curricula, feedback on strengthening CSA prevention response, and barriers to incorporating CSA prevention techniques/strategies.

## Results

A Comprehensive Logic Model (Attached) highlights the descriptive data within the major categories:

- Region and Institution (Demographic)
  - Eight Regions and Four Tribal Nations
  - Representative cross-section of small, mid, and large community populations
  - Various Institutional types and roles
- Community Education and Institutional Policy (What is)
  - Over half of respondents indicated that they provide no CSA education to children
  - Over half of respondents indicated that they provide no CSA education to employees and volunteers
  - Over 80% of respondents indicated that they provide no CSA education to parents and caregivers
- Community Education Importance (What should be)
  - Sixty-four to ninety-five percent (depending on child age group) of respondents indicated that providing CSA education to children is “very important”
  - Ninety-three percent of respondents indicated that providing CSA education to teachers/coaches is “very important”
  - Ninety percent of respondents indicated that providing CSA education to parents/caregivers is “very important”

## Community Size and CSA Education

Communities were categorized into groups of small (pop. 1-1000), mid (pop. 1001-49,999), and large (pop. 50,000 +). Education was the focus of the comparison with survey questions 5, 6, 7, and 8 providing insight on what education is being provided and perspective on the age of recipients.

### CSA education stakeholder groups based on community size

	Child/Student CSA Education	Employee/Volunteer CSA Education	Parent/Caregiver CSA Education
Small Community n=76	16 (21%)	9 (12%)	3 (4%)
Mid Community n=76	19 (25%)	14 (18%)	6 (8%)
Large Community n=50	11 (22%)	19 (38%)	19 (38%)

### CSA education importance based on age by community size

	CSA education importance for age 0-5	CSA education importance for age 6-10	CSA education importance for age 11-14	CSA education importance for age 15-18
Small Community n=76	44 (58%)	65 (86%)	70 (92%)	61 (80%)
Mid Community n=76	45 (59%)	65 (86%)	71 (93%)	65 (86%)
Large Community n=50	40 (80%)	50 (100%)	49 (98%)	48 (96%)



Variations within the frequency distributions are highlighted in grey to indicate a strong difference between the three groups. It would seem that the larger the community is; the more likely it is that CSA education will be provided to various stakeholder groups. There is also a sense that the larger communities place greater importance on providing CSA education to younger children.

### *Institutional Role and CSA Education*

Administrators included superintendents, principals, assistant principals, directors, and assistant directors. Non-administrators included teachers, counselors, social workers, domestic violence/sexual assault advocates, community educators, and others that would be considered direct service professionals.

#### *CSA education administrator and non-administrator roles*

	Child/Student CSA Education	Employee/Volunteer CSA Education	Parent/Caregiver CSA Education
Administrators n=129	29 (22%)	29 (22%)	13 (10%)
Non-Administrators n=122	16 (25%)	12 (19%)	7 (11%)

#### *CSA education importance based on age by community size*

	CSA education importance for age 0-5	CSA education importance for age 6-10	CSA education importance for age 11-14	CSA education importance for age 15-18
Administrators n=129	75 (58%)	113 (88%)	120 (93%)	107 (83%)
Non-Administrators n=63	48 (76%)	58 (92%)	61 (97%)	59 (94%)

Variations within the frequency distributions are highlighted in grey to indicate a strong difference between the two groups. There was consensus between the two groups as to what is being provided. However, there were differing perspectives regarding the importance of providing CSA education to very young and older children.

### *Qualitative Data Assessment (curricula, barriers, additional feedback)*

In total, 23% of institutions identified that they implement a CSA prevention education curriculum into their programming. Specific CSA curricula identified included: Red Flag, Green Flag (8), Amaze (3), Lauren's Kids (1), and Child Safety Matters (1). Some respondents indicated social-emotional curricula such as Second Step (3) and AI's Pals (1) as the CSA prevention education, however, these curricula do not focus specifically on CSA. Many respondents (28) indicated that they utilized no specific curriculum, however, the school nurse/counselor delivered lessons around good touch / bad touch, body anatomy, and puberty. Some indicated they collaborated with advocacy centers or crisis centers to deliver presentations; however, lessons are limited in time/scope.

Overall, 21% of respondents indicated their institution provided regular opportunities for employees and volunteers to learn about CSA prevention. Approximately 10% of institutions provided opportunities for parents/caregivers to learn about CSA prevention. Qualitative data indicated that CSA prevention education curricula utilized for adults in North Dakota included the Dakota Medical Foundation's Child Sexual Abuse Prevention (8) and Darkness to Light (3). Secondary & tertiary prevention training was more predominantly noted, including mandated reporter training and training regarding childhood trauma.

Respondents were asked to report what they determined to be the greatest barrier to providing CSA prevention education to children, youth, and adults in their local community. In total, 60% of respondents identified that they felt a lack of an established curriculum was the greatest barrier. Respondents also reported that another barrier may be the social implications of providing the training, due to the topic being uncomfortable/sensitive in nature.

Survey respondents were given an opportunity to provide additional comments on the CSA prevention topic, 28 responses were gathered. Of the responses, 50% welcomed training opportunities, guidance, and support on how to further educate on CSA prevention.

## *Conclusions / Recommendations*

1. There was a high desire among those surveyed to provide CSA education to all stakeholder groups indicating a high level of buy in but a lack of intellectual resources and subject matter expertise.
2. Less than a quarter of institutions surveyed indicated that they are providing CSA education to children / students. More concerning, only half of those (12%) reported providing evidence-based, developmentally appropriate education for children, volunteers, staff, parents, administrators, and other community stakeholders. The Taskforce will compile resources and begin the development of the educational component of the primary prevention strategy.
3. Institutional policies should be strengthened by increasing the formality of incorporating CSA screening into the hiring and onboarding process. Additional background check options such as consulting the CAN Registry and providing a public/direct statement to those demonstrate that CSA prevention is important to that organization. The Taskforce will develop a best practices guide to hiring that incorporates a CSA screening process.

MARCH 6, 2023

HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

SB 2257

SUBMITTED BY SEN DAVID CLEMENS

DISTRICT 16

I AM DAVID CLEMENS AND REPRESENT DISTRICT 16 IN THE SENATE. I AM HERE TO INTRODUCE SB 2257.

SB 2257 IS CONCERNING THE CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE TASK FORCE AND WOULD EXTEND THE AUTHORITY OF THE TASK FORCE UNTIL JUNE 30, 2025. THIS EXTENDED DATE WILL ALIGN THE TASK FORCE DATES WITH THE FUNDING EXPIRATION DATE OF JUNE 30, 2025. THE TASK FORCE HAS A FULL TIME DIRECTOR FUNDED THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

THE TASK FORCE IS COMPRISED OF FOUR MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, ONE MEMBER EACH FROM HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND RAPE CRISIS CENTER, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION, LAW ENFORCEMENT, INDIAN AFFAIRS, SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER AND A MEMBER OF THE FAITH BASED COMMUNITY. THE TASK FORCE ALSO HAS TWO MEMBERS FROM SCHOOL PRINCIPALS AND TWO SCHOOL COUNSELORS.

THE TASK FORCE IS TO FOCUS ON INCREASING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION INFORMATION FOR TRIBAL AND NON-TRIBAL CHILDREN AND ADULTS. THE FORCE SHALL ALSO COLLECT DATA, SUPPORT INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE, INCREASING SERVICES FOR CHILDREN, ADULTS AND FAMILIES, AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN A FINAL REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT AND THE GOVERNOR. THE FINAL REPORT SHALL LIST RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SPECIFIC STATUTORY CHANGES, AND ACTIONS DEEMED NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE TO INITIATE AWARENESS EDUCATION OF ADULTS AND CHILDREN.

I HEREBY ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF SB 2257 WITH A DO PASS RECOMMENDATION.

SINCERELY,

SEN DAVID CLEMENS