



## **Itasca County Sexual Assault Interagency Council (ICSAIC)**

### **Memorandum of Understanding Interagency Agreement**

#### **I. Partners**

Bigfork Valley Hospital, Coleraine Police Department, Deer River Health Care Center, Inc. d/b/a Essentia Health Deer River, Deer River Police Department, First Call for Help, Grand Itasca Clinic and Hospital, Grand Rapids Police Department, Itasca County Attorney's Office, Itasca County Attorney's Office Victim Assistance Program, Itasca County Health & Human Services, Itasca County Probation, Itasca County SANE Program, Itasca County Sheriff's Office, Keewatin Police Department, Leech Lake Tribal Police, MN Department of Corrections, Nashwauk Police Department, and Support Within Reach.

#### **II. History of ICSAIC**

Itasca County Sexual Assault Interagency Council (ICSAIC) was formed in 2001 to *“organize, implement and monitor an effective interagency and community response with provision of training to responders related to sexual violence; respectfully serving all victims and seeking justice.”* ICSAIC developed guidelines to assist those who respond to sexual violence cases in Itasca County. The team has worked towards its purpose by developing and revising adult and pediatric sexual violence guidelines that are victim centered.

#### **III. Interagency Agreement**

The participating entities share certain community goals and purposes in attempting to investigate, prosecute, and resolve cases of sexual violence. Each participating agency and organization recognizes the requirements to address the needs of sexual violence victims while fulfilling its mandated responsibilities. By combining our respective individual capabilities, each member agency seeks to increase the effectiveness of the response to sexual violence through the continued commitment to the Itasca County Sexual Assault Interagency Council, a community-wide multi-disciplinary, cooperative effort.

As participating agencies in the ICSAIC, we indicate a commitment to implementing and maintaining our work in the following ways:

- Utilize Sexual Violence Justice Institute's 8-step guideline protocol development process in the ongoing work of ICSAIC.
  1. Inventory of existing services
  2. Victim experience survey
  3. Community needs assessment
  4. Write guideline protocol
  5. Renew interagency agreements
  6. Train personnel
  7. Monitor guideline protocol implementation
  8. Evaluate the guideline protocol's effectiveness
- Participate in monthly ICSAIC meetings to monitor guideline protocols, problem solving and case review, etc. keeping in mind that grant standards require a minimum of 10 meetings per year.
- Maintain critical membership of the team.
- Participate in ICSAIC planning and implementation.
- Commit to positive, constructive problem solving for the benefit of the sexual assault victim and the community.
- Ensure victim advocacy and continuity of care for survivors of sexual violence by involving SWR advocates early in the intervention.
- Ensure a culturally competent system of care especially including the planning and availability of interpreters.
- Gather victim experience surveys, tally results, report to team and make necessary changes to guideline protocols.
- Connect with the SANE advisory committee. The Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program provides care to the victims and empowers them through education and support throughout the forensic examination process.
- Create, revise and participate in training for county and city law enforcement, first responders, prosecutors, probation officers, SANE/Non-SANE nurses, sexual violence advocates, etc.
- A commitment to effective case review to identify trends, themes, and system problems.
- Monitor activities to ensure that guideline protocols are being implemented and are having the desired impact.
- Update and reproduce materials for ICSAIC participating personnel.
- Network with Sexual Violence Justice Institute (SVJI) and other SMART Team sites.

Participating agencies and their employees support, but are not legally accountable to carrying out the responsibilities outlined in this agreement. The ICSAIC has created this Interagency Agreement to define roles and expectations toward the goals of improving its response to victims of sexual violence.





