SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS DESERVE JUSTICE:

In crisis services, in counseling, and in processing rape kits

1.	**DOH: "SASPs"/rape crisis ctr. services:**	$1,000,000 - reoccurring
2.	**HSD/BHSD: increase for counseling:**	$ 500,000 - Medicaid savings, no request
3.	**DPS: processing "backlogged" rape kits:**	$1m to $2m- For 2,000 of the 5,000 kits
	TOTAL 2017 BUDGET REQUEST:	$1m DOH; $2m DPS

- **DOH**: Over the last 12 years, funding to rape crisis center services lagged behind the increase in sexual violence reporting and victim needs. Legislators thankfully moved services partway to meeting the need with an increase of $200,000 in 2012 and $675,000 in 2013. $1m more is needed in the DOH budget to meet victims' needs.

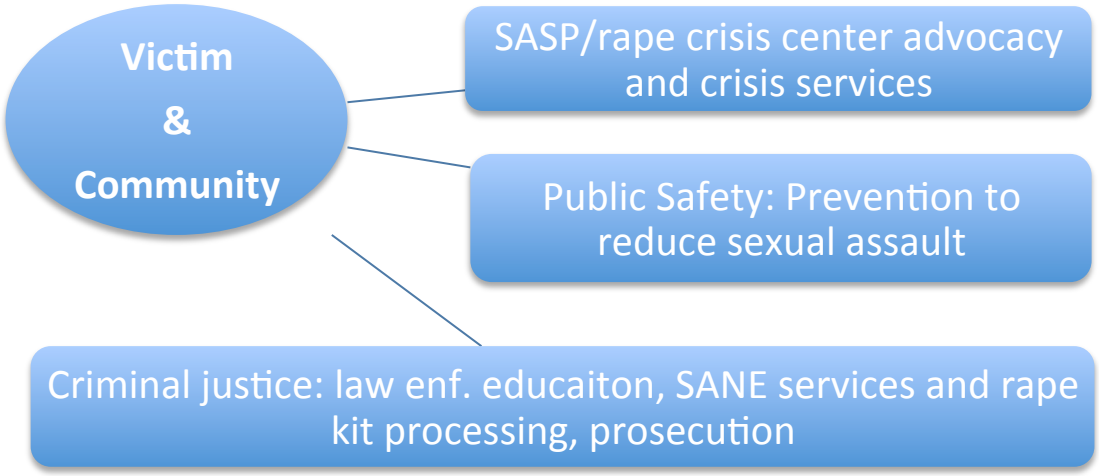
- **HSD/BHSD**: As SASPs continue to do great work in educating the public that sexual violence is a crime, more people report it as a crime. Increased reporting means an increased demand for services. HSD/BHSD have increased the budget for counseling services to sexual assault victims by $500,000.

- **DPS**: It is estimated that there are more than 5,000 unprocessed or "backlogged" sexual assault exam kits (SAEK) in NM. This is a problem that exists across the country.

SAEK backlog SOLUTIONS:

- Continued work by small group to conduct inventory of unprocessed kits
- State Auditor inventory to get more details on why kits were not processed
- Policies & Procedures and possibly legislation to establish prioritizing system
- Hire crime lab staff to address backlog and prevent continuing backlog
- Require that rape crisis centers contact victims of backlogged kits

3 AREAS OF NEED FOR ADDRESSING SEXUAL VIOLENCE:



THE COST OF RAPE:

Rape is the **most costly** of all crimes to its victims. Researchers estimate that each rape cost approximately $151,423 (DeLisi, 2010). Additional negative economic impacts include:

- Lifetime income loss of $241,600 (MacMillan, 2000: from adolescent assaults).
- 50% of sexual violence victims quit/are forced to leave jobs in the year after the their assaults (Ellis, Atkeson, & Calhoun, 1981).

THE PREVELANCE OF SEXUAL ASSAULT IN NEW MEXICO:

- 1 in 4 women (24%) and 1 in 20 men (5%) are victims of an attempted or completed rape in their lifetimes (Caponera, 2007).
- 66% in NM, compared with 54% nationally, of sexual violence incidents are committed against NM children, (Caponera, 2007) (Tjaden & Thoennes, 2000).
- Victims of sexual violence have much higher rates of addiction, depression, suicide and suicide attempts, physical health problems, loss of job, and loss of education.

THE GOOD NEWS: WE CAN ADDRESS & REDUCE SEXUAL VIOLENCE:

- Competent & comprehensive responses to survivors reduce PTSD symptoms & mental and physical health problems (Foa & Rothbaum, 1998; Levine, 2008; Scaer, 2005).
- Services incorporate new research and evidence-based best practices.
- The human suffering caused by sexual violence demands no less of a response.

1. SASP (rape crisis center) crisis services and advocacy:

Should a victim of sexual assault be forced to travel for hours to receive crisis services? Should that victim have to wait for crucial and time sensitive services?

SASPs provide:

- Assistance filing police reports
- 24/7 hotline responses
- Community prevention & education
- Advocacy for medical, legal, educational, and financial accommodations
- Information about STDs
- Services that guide the victim in healing from sexual assault

Without SASP services, victims will more likely experience:

- Loss of job or drop out of school
- Psychological distress
- Physical health struggles
- Sexual risk- taking behaviors
- Self-blame, guilt, or depression
- Reluctance to seek further help
- An emotional and financial toll on victims and New Mexico

2. INCREASED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH/COUNSELING SERVICES:

BHSD funding for counseling services for sexual assault victims at SASPs has not increased in over a decade. Imagine being the victim of a sexual assault and then being placed on a two to six week waiting list for trauma-informed counseling. Most of us would think that is unacceptable and outrageous, but this is the reality for victims seeking services at half of our ten rape crisis centers due to funding shortages. **Just four of the ten SASPs in New Mexico have access to funding through BHSD to fund counseling services**. HSD/BHSD's increased funding ($500,000) will:

- Provide trauma-informed counseling from trained professionals who understand the sexual assault victim's increased risk of: PTSD, depression, substance abuse, somatic disorders, and disruptions in personal relationships and daily functioning
- Increase outreach to disparate communities by providing counseling at all ten SASPs
- Eliminate waiting lists and expand hours to meet survivors' needs.

3. PROCESSING SEXUAL ASSAULT EXAM KITS (see DPS item on p.1)

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