



## KCSDV Summer 2019 Newsletter

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## Kansas Conference for Ending Sexual and Domestic Violence 2019



# Register Today!

Featuring speakers from the

**Women of  
Color Network**

and

**Center for Survivor  
Agency & Justice**

[www.kcsdv.org/train](http://www.kcsdv.org/train)

Sponsors:

 **Kansas Coalition**  
against sexual & domestic violence

 **BlueCross  
BlueShield  
of Kansas**

 **Westar Energy**

## Two New Kansas Laws Help Victims

Two Kansas bills from this past legislative session passed and are effective Kansas law as of July 1, 2019.

[Senate Bill 18, known as “Kristin’s Law,”](#) requires all Kansas law enforcement agencies to update their policies to include providing domestic violence victims with information when an arrest is made.



That information includes three parts:

- 1) the fact that in some cases the person arrested can be released from custody, or imprisonment, in a short amount of time after the arrest;
- 2) the fact that in some cases a bond condition may be imposed on the person arrested that prohibits the person arrested from contacting the victim for 72 hours, and if the person arrested contacts the victim during that time, the victim should notify law enforcement immediately;
- 3) any available services within the jurisdiction to monitor custody, or imprisonment, changes of the person being arrested, including, but not limited to, the Kansas Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) service, if available in the jurisdiction.

We thank all the supporters of this bill and especially legislative sponsors Representative Ponka-We Victors of District 103 (Wichita) and Representative Pam Curtis of District 32 (Kansas City).

The second bill, [Senate Bill 78](#), provides new housing protections for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and stalking.

The new law protects victims in three ways:

- 1) from being evicted;
- 2) from being found in violation of rental agreements;
- 3) from being denied a rental because of victimization.

A victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, or stalking may use the protections of this new law as they seek rental housing. Past, present, and imminent danger and abuse situations are all covered by these protections.

Thank you to all the supporters of this bill and especially legislative sponsor Senator Dinah Sykes of District 21 (Lenexa).

## **Statewide Training and Technical Assistance Project**

KCSDV provides almost 100 training opportunities annually, and about 30 percent of those trainings are made possible through KCSDV's Statewide Training and Technical Assistance Project.

The goal of the Statewide Training and Technical Assistance Project is to build and enhance capacity, knowledge, skills, and abilities, of professionals across the state and to improve responses for victims and survivors in Kansas. The project addresses the need for consistent, quality statewide training and technical assistance on trauma-informed and victim-centered services.

Through the project, over 1,050 professionals were trained from July 2018 through May 2019. There were more than 250 contact hours provided.



Training participants and attendees included sexual and domestic violence advocates, prosecutors, attorneys, law enforcement, corrections personnel, school officials, nurses and medical professionals, social workers, home visitors, military personnel, and other allied professionals.

Participants in the trainings reported a high degree of satisfaction with the material presented.

The project is supported by the State General Fund for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault as administered by the Kansas Governor's Grants Program.

To find out what upcoming trainings KCSDV is providing, visit KCSDV's website at <http://kcsdv.org>.

## **Innovative Mentoring Strategy for Youth Exposed to Domestic Violence**

KCSDV began the Empowered Families Kansas Project in 2016 as one of 12 demonstration sites nationally.

Five domestic violence advocacy programs in Kansas serve as project sites, providing mentorship to youth ages 8-18, who have experienced domestic violence, teen dating violence, and co-occurring bullying.

The goal is to provide mentoring relationships for the youth for a full 6-12 month period of time.

The five Kansas project sites are:

- 1) Domestic Violence Association of Central Kansas (DVACK) in Salina
- 2) Safehouse Crisis Center, Inc. in Pittsburg
- 3) Safehope, Inc. in Newton
- 4) Hope Unlimited in Iola
- 5) Family Crisis Services in Garden City

Each site has a youth advocate mentor, working one-on-one with youth and their non-abusing parents and caregivers. These youth mentoring advocates gain mentees through referrals from shelter and outreach services, schools, and the community.

Youth advocacy mentorship focuses on helping youth improve their well-being and personal connections, their communication with non-abusing parents and caregivers, and their personal safety. Mentors build long-term, supportive relationships with the young people and their families. These connections help youth make healthy life choices and responsible decisions as active members of their communities.

KCSDV received feedback from mentors, program directors, youth mentees, and non-abusing parents and caregivers saying, "This program is working." Many participants have shared stories of growth, success, and hopes for healthy futures.



Youth advocate mentors have planned several activities based on common themes identified by the participants. These include promoting the parent/child bond, positive family interactions, healthy relationships, and self-care. Mentors provide creative learning opportunities and healing moments for youth mentees and their families.



The mentors facilitate families sharing feelings, thoughts, and praise in a safe and focused way. Youth mentees and their mentors stream songs and music videos together in order to discuss and view aspects of healthy and unhealthy relationships shown and observed in the music and

music videos. Youth also take relationship quizzes available on the [Loveisrespect](#) and [Break the Cycle](#) websites to understand healthy, unhealthy, and abusive aspects of their own relationships.

One of the most popular activities has been making self-care boxes. These crafts promote emotional regulation, healthy coping, and self-compassion. Many youth report decreased anxiety, improvements in sharing their feelings, and positive responses to upsetting situations thanks to their self-care boxes.

Youth join in many other activities with their mentor at their side. They enjoy outdoor adventures like nature hikes, yoga exercise, visits to the zoo, and bike rides. Teens participate in local PRIDE events, volunteer work, and job hunting. Youth mentees talk about relationships and what it means to be in a healthy relationship. They work on setting goals and expressing creativity and healing through art. They also share these moments of learning and growth with their non-abusing parents and caregivers.

Many youth mentees and their parents at the project sites have been involved in the program for more than a year now and say they want to continue.

Information collected from anonymous surveys tell us non-abusing parents and caregivers and youth mentees feel they have grown while in the program and are better able to communicate with their families, control their emotions, and have successful family, peer, and intimate relationships. Youth mentees and their families also shared the positive impacts of the program and their continued use of the tools and knowledge they gained.

Positive impacts of the youth advocacy mentorship program have spread throughout the communities of the project sites, and more youth and their families have sought and continue to seek involvement.

As the fourth year of the project approaches, project sites are looking at how they can serve more youth and their non-abusing parents and caregivers through volunteer mentors and additional staff members.

For questions about KCSDV's Empowered Families Kansas Project, contact KCSDV's Child and Youth Project Manager Carolyn Allred at [callred@kcsdv.org](mailto:callred@kcsdv.org).

This project is featured nationally on the U.S. Government's Family and Youth Services Bureau website at <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/success-story/innovative-mentoring-strategy-for-youth-exposed-to-violence>.

The project is funded by the U.S. government's Family and Youth Services Bureau FVPSA (Family Violence Prevention and Services Act) grants under the Specialized Services for Abused Children and Parents Program.



## **Mental Health, Substance Use, and Trauma**

Over the last several years, there has been an increase in the number of survivors accessing Kansas sexual and domestic violence services who have substance use- and mental health-related needs, often connected to the complex trauma they have experienced.

To address the need to improve advocacy responses related to substance use, mental health, and trauma, KCSDV hosted three days of training in May 2019 in Wichita for its member organizations. The trainings were led by subject matter experts Cathy Cave and Gabriella Zapata-Alma of the [National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma, and Mental Health](#).

The first two days of training focused on building advocacy knowledge and skills, and the third day, for directors, focused on the same topics specific to policies, procedures, and practices.



Participants learned mind-body practices, the importance of physical and sensory environments, how to support survivors in recovery, best practices for organizational policies and procedures, and how advocates can better meet the needs of survivors with substance use- and mental health-related needs.

The lack of community resources, particularly in rural Kansas, makes it difficult for survivors to access services for substance use and mental health.

“Given the scarce resources, it is time we shift our thinking around these issues,” said KCSDV’s Director of Advocacy, Education, and Rural Projects Kathy Ray.

“Being trauma-informed means we meet all people where they are and help them

find physical and emotional safety, including survivors who have these complex needs.”

Over 50 advocates and directors participated in the training in addition to a team of staff from KCSDV.

## **SOS, Inc.'s Capital Campaign**

In February 2019, leaders of SOS, Inc. (SOS) in Emporia, Kansas announced a capital campaign in efforts to create a new home base in Emporia.



The new home base combines SOS' emergency shelter and advocacy services in one location, helping improve client service delivery and enhance access to services. Right now, the emergency shelter and advocacy services offices are separate.

SOS has raised about \$2.3 million of the \$3.1 million capital campaign goal.

"Victims of sexual and domestic violence, children and adults, across six counties will directly benefit from this campaign," said Mark Schreiber, Co-chair of the campaign. "The capital campaign will consolidate all SOS' services under one roof of operation, allowing for both new and existing clients to be served more effectively and efficiently."

Founded in 1976 to assist local rape survivors, SOS is the only organization offering integrated sexual and domestic violence, crisis, and educational services in Lyon, Chase, Osage, Coffey, Greenwood, and Morris counties.

"The need for this center cannot be overstated. The children, women, and men SOS serves are in immediate, physical danger. The safety and security provided by the shelter is paramount," said Honorary Campaign Chair Don Cannon.

For more information and to discuss benefactor opportunities, contact SOS' Executive Director Connie Cahoon by email at [cjcahoone@soskansas.com](mailto:cjcahoone@soskansas.com) or by phone at 620-343-8799.

## Glad You Asked



### What is Financial Abuse?

Domestic violence is a pattern of coercive, controlling behavior by an abuser inflicted on another that can include physical, emotional/psychological, sexual, and/or financial abuse. Financial abuse is domestic violence and is often one of the many tactics an abuser inflicts upon their victim.

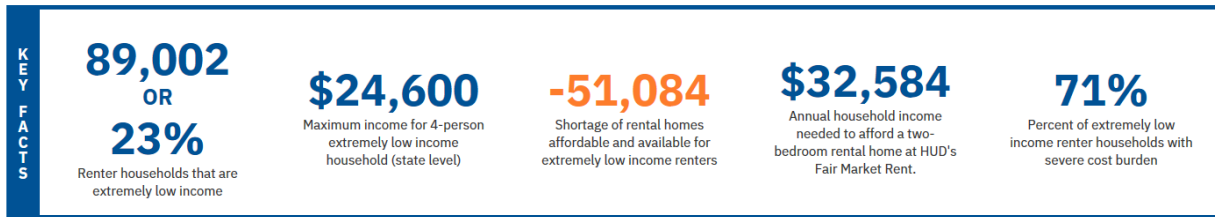
Financial abuse occurs in [99 percent](#) of domestic violence cases. It can have far-reaching and devastating effects. Examples of financial abuse might include: forcing a partner to miss, leave, or be late to work; harassing a partner at work; controlling how money is spent; withholding money or basic living resources; giving a partner an “allowance;” stealing money, credit, property, or identity from a partner; and/or forcing a partner to file fraudulent legal financial documents or overspend on credit cards.

Learn more about financial abuse on the National Network to End Domestic Violence’s website at <https://nnedv.org/content/about-financial-abuse/>, on Women’s Law’s website at <https://www.womenslaw.org/about-abuse/forms-abuse/financial-abuse/getting-your-money-back-and-other-help>, and on Women’s Health’s website at <https://www.womenshealth.gov/relationships-and-safety/other-types/financial-abuse>.

### How does Financial Abuse Affect Stability?

One of the effects of financial abuse is the loss of housing when a victim is forced to leave the perpetrator due to abuse. Finding available, affordable housing can be very difficult for a victim who has left their home.

The following graphic shows statistics from 2018 for the availability and cost of rental housing in Kansas. It can be seen on the National Low Income Housing Coalition's website at <https://nlihc.org/housing-needs-by-state/kansas>.

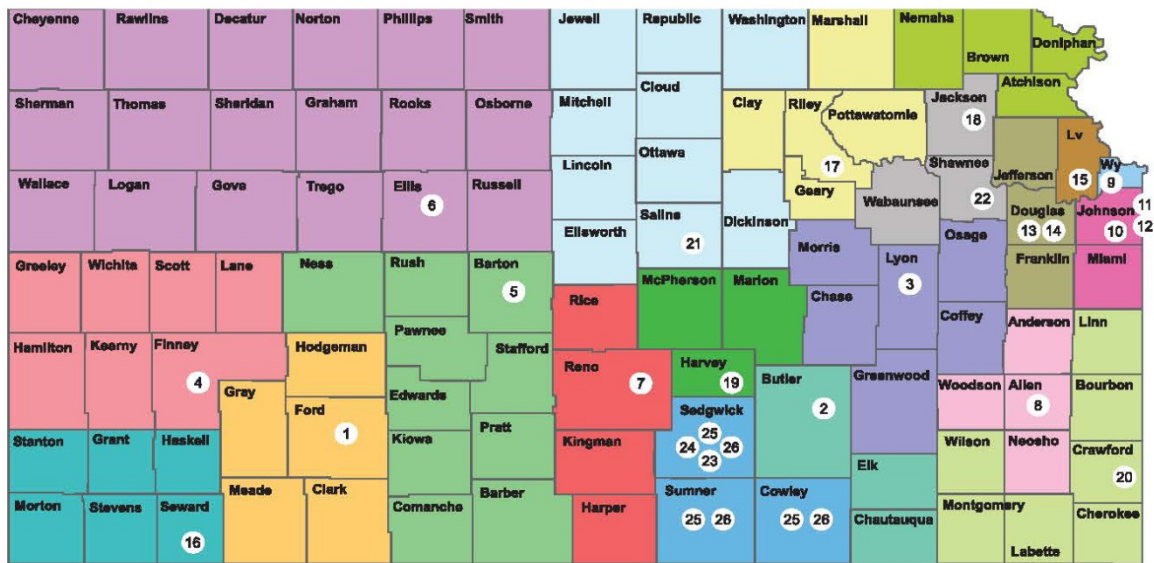


Because of the shortage and cost of rental housing, many victims who have been forced to leave their home spend more than half of their income on housing. This high percentage of income spent just on housing means that victims likely sacrifice other necessities like food and healthcare to pay the rent. They also continue to experience unstable housing situations like evictions.

Learn more on the National Low Income Housing Coalition's website at <https://reports.nlihc.org/oor>.

Learn more about financial abuse and on resources for recovery on the National Network to End Domestic Violence's website at <https://nnedv.org/mdocs-posts/financial-abuse-fact-sheet/>.

## Resources



- 1) [Find a Kansas victim advocacy services program near you](#)
- 2) [Find a Kansas sexual assault nurse examiner near you](#)
- 3) [Help in Another State or Nationally](#)
- 4) [Contact KCSDV](#)

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