

ATTACHMENT 4
AB 176 RCC PROGRESS REPORT

3. How many people participated in training that was funded through the AB176 grant?

A total of 72 new volunteer advocates were trained during the last fiscal year. During the Winter class of Advocate University, we invited all contacts made within the two counties to participate in the training or attend any class. In the class, an advocate was present to represent NOTO as well as 27 other students. Having an advocate from the rural community present allowed feedback and relevant scenarios from the rural areas to be shared and discussed during training, and made others much more aware of the unique challenges of serving the Rural communities. During the Summer class, a new presentation specifically geared towards rural resources and how to serve victims seeking services in the rural areas was introduced, and 26 students were present for the new Rural presentation.

4. How was the training used to improve your staff's ability to respond to sexual assault victims/survivors?

The training and information received was used to create a presentation on serving Rural survivors, and build the resource database for resources and services in the Nye and Lincoln counties, and give all of our advocates access to that information to better serve all survivors that may use our hotline or come to Las Vegas for the sexual assault exam. The rural presentation includes the definition of what a rural community is, information on statistics of the rural areas in the state, explanations of barriers and hardships victims may face in these areas in comparison to the Clark County area, information on what may cause the increase of higher delayed reporting in rural areas, spotlights on the organizations in the rural areas that we partnered with, and the appropriate way to respond to a hotline call if one of our advocates were to get a call from a victim residing in the rural area.

Through participation in training, we learned more about existing organizations in rural communities to help support victims. We developed partnerships with them to offer assistance when they experienced challenges or limitations. The two organizations we partnered up with are smaller, have expertise in domestic violence matters, and most often support victims with delayed reporting rather than provide crisis response services. Talking with these organizations provided a better understanding of what it is like residing in these areas as well as the multiple barriers that they encounter. Though these areas do have organizations available, often barriers may prevent clients from utilizing them, including time and distance to report and receive a forensic exam, and the fact that they often have to travel to Las Vegas for forensic exams. Creating lasting partnerships will help our organizations and the rural based organizations maximize their strengths and resources to better serve victims.

5. How was the training useful to improve your organization's ability to respond to sexual assault victims/survivors?

The Rural project helped us establish relationships with existing organizations to expand options for crisis response services for victims living in rural areas. With assistance from NOTO and Victim and Witness Services for Lincoln County, we were able to identify areas of improvement for The RCC and areas our organization could assist in those rural counties where they were struggling and did not have the capacity to provide resources. Creating a referral system assisted in improving aspects of relocation and shelter access. Due to the lack of shelter options in these rural counties, rural advocates had us develop different options and locations to house victims. Shelters were unable to assist Rural victims due to not residing in Las Vegas, or due to the time frame to travel and having a first-come, first-served policy, in addition to having some limitations. With the use of our organization's partnerships with shelters, we completed the referrals so that sexual assault victims from rural areas could get shelter. The referrals also assist with victims relocating from a rural area to the Las Vegas area, to assist in finding housing in the new area, or continued emotional support from one of our victim advocates. Another improvement is the ability to present different trainings for rural communities. Even though these organizations did have classes to provide to clients, they didn't have a focus on prevention and education programs, which is something our organization can help offer to better educate the rural communities on these issues, and how they can access services. Information was given to organizations on how to set up or request those trainings on our website. Due to covid-19, we were able to do a few of those presentations virtually. During a coalition meeting, it seemed that there was a preference to have in-person trainings available to students when numbers were lower, and it was safe to do so. We hope to be able to do so in the future.

6. How was the training used to improve your staff's ability to respond to sexual assault victims/survivors?

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Purpose Area #2 Sexual Assault Advocacy Training Development & Delivery

1. Describe the development of your curriculum to train advocates on the delivery of sexual assault services/support. *The AB176 funding allowed us to create a whole online learning portal and system to improve Advocacy Training. We also were able to get our training, revised and updated using AB176 funds, nationally accredited. Participants are now able to get certificates as Accredited Advocates from the National Advocate Credentialing Program if they successfully complete our training. The curriculum was completely redesigned (in year 1 of the grant) and the online portal created. This all was planned before the pandemic, and it was a vital resource to continue and maintain training during the pandemic. This allowed our training to continue without any hitches or interruption during the challenges of COVID 19. This year, with the assistance of the already existing rural organizations, NOTO, and Victim and Witness Services for Lincoln County, we identified missing areas in the trainings and created a presentation about serving victims in the rural areas. With the information and statistics, we were able to create a rural presentation and add it to the organization's 50-hour certified training.*

2. If you were funded to deliver services in rural areas, describe these efforts.

N/A. We were not funded to provide services under AB176.

3. How many advocates and/or support persons did you train? Please report these numbers by location.


A total of 72 volunteer advocates attended our Advocate University training in the three trainings during the year. The majority were from Clark County. There were multiple people from rural areas recruited, but only one who completed the entire training in the winter class. Individuals from rural organizations attended a few classes spread out in the other trainings. Our organization was offered a spotlight during the May Lincoln County Coalition meeting. This was designed to introduce the organization to many new people in this rural community, although due to the meeting being online and in person, we do not know how many people were present.

4. How did you advertise your training events? How did you recruit attendees?

After making the connection to the already existing organization (Nevada Outreach Training Organization and Victim and Witness Services for Lincoln County), we discussed all the current trainings we had available. We offered this training to both organizations to assist in training new staff members or their volunteers. We also explained the different trainings we offer to the public, including "Enough Abuse" and "YourSpace". A presentation was given to the Lincoln Coalition to explain our organization and explain the general trainings available. Both the organizations and communities agreed that education for children and prevention education was needed in the area. With assistance from contact in the rural area, our information was able to be given to those who needed it. To help with delayed reporting and anonymity within the rural areas, we are placing ads in local newspapers with our contact information. This will allow victims to contact us through our 24-hour hotline, to get resources within their area. We also have a regular image up on our website regarding volunteer training, and regularly promote volunteer applications and training on our social media and in earned media opportunities.

Additional information relevant to the grant award:

After talking to the rural organizations, we have discovered some of their needs for assistance fall under the following categories: assistance with referrals; transportation issues – including safety, accessibility and cost; lack of shelter within close distance; expanded education for their communities, including on Human Trafficking, and general sexual assault education and prevention for the general community.

Signature - Executive Director	Signature - Board President/Equivalent	Date
	Michelle Walker	8/19/21