

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM: 4.F

DATE: June 10, 2015

SUBJECT: Jolene’s Law Task Force

The [Jolene’s Law Task Force](#) began work as an interim study committee of the South Dakota Legislature in 2014. The Task Force, named after a victim of childhood sexual abuse, studied the impact and prevalence of sexual abuse of children in the state and making policy recommendations to the Legislature. One of the recommendations coming out of the [Jolene’s Law Task Force 2014 Final Report](#) included improving education and training at the undergraduate and graduate levels in disciplines that work closely with children.

The Jolene’s Law Task Force has continued its work into the 2015 legislative interim. Representatives from the Board of Regents staff, the University of South Dakota School of Health Sciences, and the South Dakota State University College of Education and Human Sciences met with Task Force members in April and are doing so again in June. Several initiatives have resulted from those meetings, including Regental system participation in planning a statewide conference on childhood maltreatment.

As part of our ongoing responsiveness to the Task Force’s mission and queries, Board staff has discussed existing curricula addressing child sexual abuse in key disciplines in order to provide that information to the Task Force. Board staff would like to continue this discussion with other disciplines at Regental institutions and is requesting the Academic Affairs Council’s support in doing so.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Information and Discussion.