

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Academic and Student Affairs

AGENDA ITEM: 5 – O

DATE: October 7-8, 2015

SUBJECT: Jolene’s Law Task Force and USD Budget Request for the Center for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment

The Board of Regents approved a [budget recommendation for FY2017](#) at their August, 2015 meeting for the Center for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment at the University of South Dakota (USD). This information item provides additional context on the corresponding work of the Jolene’s Law Task Force and discussions to create the Center. It is important to note that the efforts of the USD Center and the Task Force are intended in part to change the culture surrounding child sexual abuse; success in this area can have additional positive long-term effects on current system efforts to eradicate sexual violence among college students on campuses.

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 South Dakota resident and victim of childhood sexual abuse, studied the impact and prevalence of child sexual abuse in the state and made policy recommendations to the Legislature. One of the recommendations in the [Jolene’s Law Task Force 2014 Final Report](#) included improving education and training at the undergraduate and graduate levels for disciplines that work closely with children. In 2015, the Task Force continued its work under the authority of [Executive Order 2016-06](#).

In April, Task Force Chair Senator Deb Soholt invited the Executive Director of the Board of Regents (Jack Warner), Board staff (Jay Perry), the Dean of the School of Health Sciences at the University of South Dakota (USD) (Mike Lawler), and the Dean of Education and Human Sciences at South Dakota State University (SDSU) (Jill Thorngren) to discuss ideas for improving child sexual abuse prevention training. Initial conversations focused on a review of existing curricula addressing child sexual abuse in key disciplines. Over the course of several additional meetings, the Task Force proposed a broader, more systematic approach to education, training, research, and public awareness.

The ongoing conversations with the Task Force produced a proposal for a center concept to take the lead in developing curricula and training standards for mandatory reporters of child

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RECOMMENDED ACTION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Information only.

maltreatment, facilitate advocacy partnerships, develop related research areas, and provide assistance to Board of Regents institutions on related degree programs and courses. The Task Force noted USD had expertise in a broad array of fields required in child sexual abuse detection, prevention, and resolution, including psychology, counseling, social work, public health, medicine, nursing, law, and education. As a result, the Task Force proposed a Center for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment at USD. The members of the Jolene's Law Task Force voted unanimously to endorse the Center proposal at their August meeting.