2019 MNCASA Legislative Agenda

Maintain Crime Victim Services (CVS) Funding at Current Level of 23.8 million.

- Crime victim services are essential core public safety services that are a first line of intervention for victims/survivors and their families. CVS programs include: community based advocacy programs and shelters, criminal justice intervention programs, legal programs, culturally specific advocacy programs and shelters.

Pass the legislation proposed by MNCASA in the 2018 legislative session.

- **Position of Authority (HF 480, SF 111):** This will create a 120-day lookback period for criminal sexual conduct cases involving position of authority and add language to define position of authority when someone assumes a parent’s rights, duties and responsibilities. For example, if a student is being groomed during the school year, the current statute would not consider teachers, coaches, etc. a “person in a position of authority” during the summer break. This adjustment will correct that.

- **Repeal the Voluntary Relationships (Minn. Stat. 609.349) statute (HF 15, SF 235):** This will remove any potential cohabitation loophole to criminal sexual conduct. The existing statute is problematic as it is similar to a “marital rape” exception.

- **Remove language in Minn. Stat. 609.3451 (HF 74, SF 22) that excludes the intentional touching of clothing covering the immediate area of the buttocks. This is a loophole in Minnesota’s criminal sexual conduct statute.**

- **Bar sexual contact by peace officers (HF 341, SF 111) when an individual is physically or constructively restrained.**

Create a work group to redraft the criminal sexual conduct statute.

- **Create a multidisciplinary work group to comprehensively review and redraft Minnesota’s Criminal Sexual Conduct statutes (HF 418):** This must include an intentional focus on meaningful input from victim/survivors, advocates, and marginalized communities. This will address the definition of mental incapacitation to improve prosecution of some alcohol or other substance related criminal sexual conduct cases.

Sexual Harassment.

- **Clarify the definition of sexual harassment (HF 10, SF 1307).** Add the following language to Minn. Stat. 363A.03 subd. 4(b): An intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment under paragraph (a), clause (3), does not require the harassing conduct or communication to be severe or pervasive. Currently an individual would have to experience severe and pervasive harassing conduct before they could seek relief under this statute.

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MNCASA
The Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MNCASA) is a membership organization that supports the work of sexual assault programs state-wide. We represent 70 plus agencies throughout Minnesota and tribal lands, most of whom are community based advocacy agencies providing direct service to victims/survivors within their communities. For over 40 years MNCASA has provided leadership and resources for sexual assault agencies and allies to prevent sexual violence while promoting a comprehensive, socially just response for all victims/survivors.

MNCASA works to provide (1) **Victim and Survivor Support** by helping partner programs and medical personnel, law enforcement, and legal and social service providers deliver state of the art victim advocacy and support, (2) **Prevention Support** by developing the capacity of partner programs and others to design and implement effective community level primary prevention strategies, (3) **Policy Reforms** through public policy education and advocacy, and (4) **Systems Change** by developing capacity in medical, criminal justice, social service and judicial systems to incorporate a coordinated and victim-centered approach into their responses.

Mission
MNCASA provides leadership and resources for sexual assault programs and allies to prevent sexual violence while promoting a comprehensive, socially just response for all victims/survivors, regardless of immigration and/or refugee status, nationality, religion, citizenship, race, ability, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, veteran status, or any other protected class.