

# The Governor's Advisory Council Against Sexual Violence

## Council at a Glance

Executive Order 40 established the Advisory Council Against Sexual Violence within the Office on the Prevention of Violence Against Women in the Division on Women within the Department of Children and Families, on November 22, 2002. This multidisciplinary Council, which began meeting on a regular basis on October 21, 2003, is comprised of 29 governmental and non-governmental members from across the state who are charged with reviewing and recommending policies, procedures, protocols, trainings and standards related to sexual violence and recommending solutions in the prevention of sexual violence.

### Overview:

The Advisory Council Against Sexual Violence was charged with the following:

- Review the effectiveness of the current protocols, standards and practices for the examination and treatment of victims of sexual violence and attempted sexual assault and review the implementation of the protocols, standards and practices.
- Develop specific protocols, standards and practices and recommendations to provide for an ongoing review and improvement of services for victims of sexual violence.
- Study the needs, priorities, programs and policies relating to sexual violence throughout the state.
- Monitor the effectiveness of the laws concerning sexual violence and make recommendations for their improvement.
- Review proposed legislation governing sexual violence and make recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature.
- Ensure that service providers and citizens are aware of the needs of victims and services available to victims of sexual violence and make recommendations for community education and training programs.

### Council Committees:

#### ***Prevention and Public Education Committee (PPEC)***

The PPEC was formed to recommend solutions in the prevention of sexual violence and make recommendations for community education and training programs. The PPEC has developed a statewide strategic prevention plan that focuses on the reduction of sexual violence perpetration. A significant focus of the PPEC since 2005 has been to work with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on the EMPOWER (Enhancing and Making Programs and Outcomes Work to End Rape) Project to build New Jersey's capacity to conduct comprehensive planning, implementation and evaluation of sexual violence prevention efforts.

#### ***Data Collection Committee***

This committee is working to bring together the Departments within State government to aggregate data that will allow the State to understand the magnitude of the problem of sexual violence.

#### ***Legislative Committee***

This committee reviews, analyzes and makes recommendations concerning proposed legislation that impact on victims, the service delivery and the response to domestic violence in general.

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### **Membership:**

The Advisory Council Against Sexual Assault is comprised of twenty-nine (29) government and non-government members who represent various agencies and organizations that intersect with or impact upon sexual violence in New Jersey. The membership of the Council includes the following government appointments or their designee:

- ≈ the Commissioner of the Department of Children and Families,
- ≈ the Director of the Division on Women in the Department of Children and Families,
- ≈ the Commissioner of the Department of Health and Senior Services,
- ≈ the Commissioner of the Department of Education,
- ≈ the Attorney General,
- ≈ Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts,
- ≈ Superintendent of the State Police,
- ≈ the Chief of the Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy,
- ≈ the Supervisor of the Office on the Prevention of Violence against Women, and
- ≈ the Coordinator of State Rape Care Program.

Non-government members appointed by the Governor include the following representation:

- ≈ a county assistant prosecutor,
- ≈ assigned to prosecute sexual assault cases,
- ≈ a licensed social worker or licensed clinical social worker,
- ≈ a law enforcement representative with experience in sexual violence,
- ≈ a representative from the New Jersey Hospital Association,
- ≈ a representative of the New Jersey State Nurses Association,
- ≈ a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner,
- ≈ a survivor of sexual violence,
- ≈ a representative from a New Jersey college or university,
- ≈ a representative from the Violent Crime Compensation Board,
- ≈ a representative with expertise in child sexual abuse and treatment,
- ≈ a representative of the New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women,
- ≈ four representatives of the New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault, and

### **Council Publications:**

The following publications of the Governor's Advisory Council Against Sexual Assault can be found at the New Jersey Division on Women's website, [www.nj.gov/dcf/women/rcpp/gacasv/](http://www.nj.gov/dcf/women/rcpp/gacasv/).

#### ***New Jersey Sexual Violence Primary Prevention Plan***

The 2010 – 2020 New Jersey Sexual Violence Prevention Plan is the result of a three year collaborative effort by national, state and local partners. Historically New Jersey focused most of its efforts on crisis response and survivor treatment only after an incident of sexual violence had occurred. Funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, this plan represents a proactive, cutting edge and comprehensive set of actions to stop sexual violence before it occurs in New Jersey.

#### ***Sexual Victimization of Underserved and Understudied Populations Report***

This report focuses on the pervasiveness, victim-offender-relationship, physical, emotional or unique consequences associated with sexual victimization against the most vulnerable, underserved, and understudied victims, identified as: sexual assaults against physically, cognitively or emotionally impaired persons, males, elders, sexual minorities, prisoners, cultural, ethnic, and racial and immigrants, and sex workers.