

**Safety First Initiative:
Kansas City Collaborative to End Violence
Against Women with Disabilities**

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault (MOCSA) enters into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Rose Brooks Center (Rose Brooks), and the University of Missouri Kansas City Institute for Human Development (UMKC-IHD).

History of Relationships

There has been a long collaborative history among the three project partners. The Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault (MOCSA) and Rose Brooks Center were both formed in the 1970's and have served as sister agencies addressing violence against women since that time. There has been cross training, collaboration related to hospital advocacy and services to for adult survivors of child sexual abuse, cooperation in housing sexual assault victims on an emergency basis, and joint work on a number of common issues and community task groups.

MOCSA has also worked in partnership with the University of Missouri Kansas City Institute for Human Development (UMKC-IHD), a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities established in the 1970's. In the 1980's, UMKC-IHD joined with MOCSA and other community groups to address the special needs of persons with disabilities related to sexuality and sexual assault and abuse. Those efforts resulted in MOCSA's Developmental Disabilities Resource Center, which for over ten years provided a library, professional and community education programs, information, referral and technical assistance for persons with disabilities, their families and service providers. The two organizations jointly participated in a number of state and federally funded collaborative projects.

MOCSA, Rose Brooks and UMKC-IHD came together in 1998 to develop Safety First, a project designed to prevent domestic violence and sexual assault in the lives of women with developmental disabilities. During the one-year grant period, a needs assessment was conducted, training was provided, and resource materials and a website were developed. Commitment to addressing violence against women with disabilities has continued, as have the collaborative relationships as the agencies share resources and call upon one another for support. In 2005, these three organizations jointly applied for and received a three-year grant that continued this work: Safety First: Kansas City Collaborative to End Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Against Women with Disability. Over the past three years, these three organizations have collaborated with a mission to *“to change the mindset in the Kansas City metropolitan area resulting in a sustained collaborative response that provides culturally competent, respectful, accessible, empowerment based services to women with disabilities who are victims/survivors of violence.”*

Development of the Application

The current solicitation for proposals provided an opportunity for the three partners to consider accomplishments and the development of the Safety First Initiative going forward. The collaborative’s management team met on several occasions where all contributed to the development of the proposal for continued funding.

Roles and Responsibilities

Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault (MOCSA)

- MOCSA will continue to be the lead organization for the Safety First Initiative, and coordinating day-to-day grant activities. These activities include coordinating meetings,

managing communications, administering grant funds, and providing fiscal and program accountability.

- MOCSA is a key in this collaborative through staff expertise of sexual violence, strategic planning, victim advocacy and treatment, as well as connections with a vast network of community entities.
- **Palle Rilinger** will be the project **Lead Principal Investigator** and serve on the collaborative's management team. She will be responsible for the overall administration of this project including management of grant funds, maintaining working relationships community agencies and strategic planning.
- **Sarah McCoy-Harms** will continue to be the **Project Director** and serve on the collaborative's management team. She will be responsible for overall coordination of grant initiatives, activities, and progress reporting. She will coordinate the relationship building activities of Objective 3 of this proposal. She will be assisted by **Alison Jones-Lockwood**, Director of Advocacy and Outreach Services and **Nicole Christy**, Director of Community Education. Both Alison and Nicole have been involved with Safety First for the last two years.

Rose Brooks Center

- Rose Brooks Center is a key partner in this collaborative through staff expertise to support knowledge of domestic violence, safety planning, outreach and advocacy with other service providers, and training development.
- The CEO, **Susan Miller**, will serve as Co-Principal Investigator and serve on the collaborative's management team.

- **Lisa Fleming**, Chief Operating Officer at Rose Brooks Center, will serve on the collaborative's management team and coordinate the safety planning activities under Objective 2 of this proposal. Her responsibilities will include arranging for and coordinating all training for staff of victim service and disability support agencies and for outreach efforts to other domestic violence service agencies. This includes the development of cross-discipline collaborations as a vehicle to provide training.

University of Missouri Kansas City Institute for Human Development

- The Institute for Human Development is a key partner in this collaborative through staff expertise to support strategic planning, product development, outreach and advocacy with disability providers, and knowledge of project evaluation.
- The Director, **Carl Calkins**, will serve as Co-Principle Investigator.
- **Ronda Jenson**, Director of Research at IHD, will serve on the collaborative's management team and coordinate the accessibility and responsiveness activities of Objective 1 of this proposal. Dr. Jenson will be assisted by **Sheli Reynolds**, M.O.T. and **Stacie Williams**, M.S. Both Sheli and Stacie have been involved in last three years of the Safety First project. They bring their expertise in working with women with disabilities around issues of health, safety, and self-advocacy.

Development and Implementation

The individuals named under Roles and Responsibilities will be key in concept planning and development for the project. The agency directors/principal investigators will serve as the management team for the development and implementation of the project, meeting monthly with

key named project staff and others to be determined. There will be quarterly meetings with the expanded multi-disciplinary team/advisory council.

Partner Contributions

While cost sharing or agency match is not required under this grant program, our collaborative commitment is demonstrated through resources and services supported through funds leveraged outside of the current award and dissemination of information. Based on resources and services rendered in 2008, it is estimated that MOCSA and Rose Brooks Center will provide approximately \$210,000 and \$435,000 respectively through leveraged funds during the FY 2009 24-month period for services and supports for women with disabilities. [Note: Due to current reporting practices, these estimates do not account for increase in services anticipated for survivors with disabilities as a result of Safety First Initiative outreach efforts. These estimates also do not include community education provided to women with disabilities.] As a leader in providing technical assistance, resources, training, and information regarding services and supports for people with disabilities, IHD will provide connections to existing partners; infuse information into peer support services, women's health projects, Missouri Disability Resource Center; and facilitate expanded relationships with disability service providers to pilot tools.

Commitment and Approval

We, the undersigned have read and agree with this MOU. We are fully committed to working in a collaborative partnership in order to achieve Safety First Initiative goals.

By _____
Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault

Date

By _____
Rose Brooks Center

Date

By _____
University of Missouri Kansas City
Institute for Human Development

Date