

PLAN FOR  
VICTIM SERVICES INFORMATION SYSTEM

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Legislative Report  
February, 1984

## LEGISLATIVE MANDATE

Minnesota Statutes 1983 Supplement 611A.02 directed the Commissioner of Corrections in cooperation with the Executive Director of the Crime Victims Reparations Board to develop a plan to provide victims with information on services in the geographic area where the crime occurred. This plan is submitted in accordance with statutory mandate.

## METHODOLOGY

This plan is based primarily on the work of an advisory committee of citizens and victim professionals (see appendix A). The committee began work in early August of 1983 and submitted its recommendations to the Commissioner of Corrections on January 26, 1984. This recommendation was based upon the study of information delivery systems statewide and nationally.

## PLAN ELEMENTS

1. Primary source of information transfer shall be through informational brochures or cards which will be supplied to law enforcement officers, prosecutors, probation/parole agents, crisis center staff, social service department staff who come in contact with victims and appropriate medical personnel.
2. Secondary source of information will be provided through public service announcements on radio and television as well as posters distributed to locations where victims are likely to come in contact with them.
3. A 24-hour statewide no-toll hotline will provide the same information to victims as provided on the cards/brochures and will provide additional information on services available as well as instructions as to how to best make use of those services.
4. Specific information shall be made available concerning victim services by economic development region except in the seven-county metropolitan area where information will be developed on a county by county basis.
5. An ongoing system will update victim information on a regular basis.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Department of Corrections be designated the agency responsible for statewide provision of information to victims of crime and that \$102,520 be appropriated for implementation of this plan (see budget detail, appendix B).
2. That the Department of Corrections be directed to operationalize the elements listed in this report through the employment of appropriate staff and the expenditure of appropriate funds.
3. That funding be for a one year period with a progress report to the 1985 legislative session with a request for continuation funding.

4. That the legislature enact statutes requiring personnel of law enforcement agencies, hospitals, city and county prosecutors, social service departments, county and state probation/parole agents, crisis center staff, staff of battered women programs and programs for victims of sexual assault to provide information on services available to victims with whom they come in contact.

#### DISCUSSION

The advisory committee which undertook planning of the system recommended that the project be implemented through contract(s) for service by Minnesota based consultants. The department has, instead, developed a plan whereby this project will be implemented in-house utilizing department staff and inmates from the correctional facility at Shakopee. The department plan is slightly less costly than that recommended by the advisory committee and features a system to provide five work slots for women service program inmates at the Shakopee correctional facility. These individuals will be trained to operate the 24-hour hotline and provide necessary information to victims. The Department of Corrections feels that this will not only provide quality services to victims but also provide the following:

1. Training for female inmates.
2. A less costly service delivery system.
3. An opportunity for offenders to contribute to the welfare and service of victims.

VICTIM SERVICES INFORMATION SYSTEM  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tom Lawson, Chairman	Director, Community Services Support Unit, Minnesota Department of Corrections
Duane Woodworth	Executive Director, Crime Victims Reparations Board
Jamie Tiedemann	Coordinator, Mower County Crime Victim Center
Donna Anderson	Communications Coordinator, BIHA Women in Action
Maggie Arzdorf-Schubbe	Director, Programs and Services for Battered Women, Minnesota Department of Corrections
Autumn Cole	Social Abuse Program, West Central Community Center, Willmar
Mary Ellison	Director, Victim Witness/Sexual Assault Program, Hennepin County Attorney's Office
William Kosiak	M.D., Minneapolis
Holland Laak	Executive Secretary, Minnesota Sheriffs' Association
Fern Sepler-King	Sexual Abuse Treatment Specialist, Minnesota Department of Public Welfare
Jim Smith	Coordinator, Minneapolis/St. Paul Crime Victim Centers
Peggy Specktor	Director, Minnesota Program for Victims of Sexual Assault, Minnesota Department of Corrections

## VICTIM SERVICES INFORMATION SYSTEM

## PROPOSED BUDGET

Staff

Community Services Program Specialist II	\$27,937
Clerk Typist III	16,200
Fringe at 17%	<u>7,503</u>

Inmate Staff (Hotline)

\$ 51,640

5 Service Program Workers (5 x 2088 hrs @ \$2.00)	<u>20,880</u>
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20,880

Staff Total

\$ 72,520

Wats Line - Two-Way

(300 three-minute calls) 15 hrs/mo @ \$19/hr. x 12 mo.	3,420
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Annual line charge	540
Equipment and installation	<u>450</u>

4,410

Office Supplies

General supplies	800
Postage (300 pieces/mo @ .20¢ x 12 mo.)	720
Development and printing of cards	6,000
Public service announcements	7,200
Posters	1,200
Distribution	<u>2,000</u>

17,920

Travel

500 mi/mo. @ .26¢/mi. x 12 mo.	1,560
Lodging - 20 nights @ \$35/night	700
20 day meals @ \$20.50/day	<u>410</u>

2,670

Office Equipment5,000\$102,520