**Sexual Assault Support Center
Position Description**

**POSITION TITLE:** Rural Advocate

**POSITION OBJECTIVE:** The Rural Advocate is charged with supporting and expanding services for victims of sexual violence in rural populations. This role will enhance strengths and address gaps unique to rural communities by building relationships with other systems and providers, building capacity within the agency to ensure accessible and appropriate sexual assault advocacy services for specialized populations.

**ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Relationship Building and Training

* Develop and maintain relationships with other service providers and systems (such as law enforcement, medical providers, etc).
* Create cross-referral protocols and outreach plans in collaboration with other service providers and community partners.
* Represent the agency and the needs of survivors of sexual violence at coalitions, task forces and network meetings, or wherever collaboration could enhance the regional response to sexual violence.
* Provide educational presentations and training programs in the community, to advocates and services providers in order to build their capacity to work more effectively with victims of sexual violence.
* Provide general and rural-specific awareness and outreach in community settings (tabling, distributing outreach materials, etc).

Advocacy Services

* Assist victims following a sexual assault in obtaining necessary social/community services and resources.
* Provide support and information to victims of sexual assault so they can access systems such as: criminal justice, legal advocacy, educational supports, emotional support, victims’ compensation or safety planning.
* Ensure that services are known and accessible to victims by building relationships in community-based settings.
* Offer support groups and direct services specialized to the rural populations.
* Support agency program and policy growth in order to increase accessible and appropriate services to rural populations.
* Provide crisis and support line and/or in-person crisis support services to victims and family members following a sexual assault.

Other

* Maintain relevant records and provide timely reports as required.
* Participate in agency events and programs.
* Assist \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as requested.
* Adhere to the philosophy and policies of the [Sexual Assault Support Center].

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

* Awareness of and sensitivity to issues of sexual victimization.
* Experience in crisis and/or other human or advocacy services.
* Understanding of the needs and challenges specific to supporting victims within rural communities.
* Proven training skills.
* Strong communication and interpersonal skills; experience with coalition-building, community organizing, team-building or facilitation preferred.
* Ability to work independently, and to show initiative and creativity.
* Bachelor’s degree in related field and/or equivalent work experience.