SAATURN Celebrates Second Anniversary

The Southern Arizona Anti-Trafficking Unified Response Network (SAATURN) celebrated its second anniversary at the November 16 Quarterly Meeting. This meeting welcomed new attendees, recognized 20 SAATURN volunteers, and highlighted a survivor’s story (“I am a Survivor: Faith’s Story”). In addition, the meeting focused on labor trafficking and included three speakers to assist our understanding of the complexities of labor trafficking and services available to victims of labor trafficking. The speakers included Monica Ryan, of the United States Attorney’s Office in the District of Arizona, Lynn Marcus of the University of Arizona - Immigration Law Clinic, and Margaret Palmer of Catholic Community Services - Migration and Refugee Services.

SAATURN Executive Committee members (left to right: Eddie Ornelas—CODAC, Roy Tillgren—Gospel Rescue Mission, Sheila Kembel—Pima County Juvenile Court, Monica Ryan—Assistant U.S. Attorney, Margarita Hallisy—CODAC, Candace Black—SIROW, Frank Hand—Tucson Police Department) at the 2nd Anniversary Celebration and Quarterly Meeting

As noted by the Evaluation Team, SAATURN made substantial progress during Year 2. SAATURN’s successes include:

- Improving communication (formalizing a bimonthly newsletter and creating a SAATURN website)
- Involving survivors in SAATURN activities (survivors participating on panel presentations and serving as keynote speakers)
- Connecting with Cochise and Santa Cruz counties (the August 2017 Quarterly Meeting held in Nogales; representation from Cochise County on SAATURN’s Executive Committee)
- Volunteer engagement (volunteer sign-up form developed and available on SAATURN’s website; follow-up facilitated with volunteer applicants)
- Advancing client services, advocacy and financing (formalizing a flow chart and protocol for engaging victims; presenting at the Governor’s Council; applying for additional funding)

Human Trafficking Awareness Month is right around the corner in January 2018. SAATURN will be hosting a number of outreach and education events, including a film screening of “I am Jane Doe” followed by a panel discussion at the Bisbee Royale in Bisbee (January 16) and at the Loft Cinema in Tucson (January 18). For more information, visit SAATURN’s website at www.saaturn.org or contact Margarita Hallisy at CODAC Health, Recovery & Wellness at mhallisy@codac.org. SIROW contacts for more SAATURN information are Candace Black at cjblack@email.arizona.edu or Sally Stevens at sstevens@email.arizona.edu.
Goals

- Engage in collaborative feminist research on topics pertinent to the lives of girls, women, and families;
- Develop and conduct outreach, education, service, research, and trainings with regard to mental and physical health, sexuality, legal matters, education, workforce, equity, diversity, and other issues;
- Address social inequalities and group-based disparities;
- Examine and support women’s contribution to literature, the arts, and Southwest heritage;
- Advocate for women and families by linking researchers with community organizations and policy makers;
- Identify, illuminate, and disseminate research on girls, women, families, and gender differences.

SAMHSA Awards SIROW and Community Partners Five Year Grant to Expand Local HIV Prevention Efforts

Congratulations to SIROW researchers who were recently awarded $2,488,875 over 5 years, by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to increase HIV prevention efforts in Southern Arizona. Claudia Powell, SIROW’s Associate Director, will serve as Project Director for the newly awarded Spectrum project, and will work alongside Courtney Waters (Program Coordinator) and Corrie Brinley (Evaluator). Spectrum aims to provide HIV prevention and education services (including HIV and Hepatitis testing and counseling) and to expand and enhance substance use and co-occurring disorder screening and treatment for 400 LGBTQ+ identified youth and young adults ages 13-24 through an existing collaborative effort among SIROW, the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) and Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health (Devereux). The primary target population includes youth who might not be identified as having substance abuse and related behavioral health problems and/or those who might not otherwise receive needed interventions in culturally responsive ways. All 400 participants will receive either the SIROW Health Education for Youth (SIROW HEY) curriculum or the SIROW Sexual Health Education-Queer (SIROW SHE-Q) curriculum, facilitated by staff from SIROW, SAAF and Devereux. The curriculum will be delivered in a group format at various facilities including the Spectrum project space, SAAF youth spaces, and Devereux treatment sites and schools. All youth will be offered screening services, and those identified as having treatment needs will be referred to treatment and supported using evidenced-based strategies. Spectrum aims to enroll 120 participants in substance abuse and co-occurring treatment, and continuing care services at Devereux over the course of the project. All participants will be offered HIV testing, and those who are HIV-negative, but have elevated risk factors will be referred to SAAF’s HIV Prevention Navigation Services. Spectrum services are scheduled to begin in February 2018. For more information, please contact Claudia Powell at claudiap@email.arizona.edu.