

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | June 26, 2019

Sexual violence prevention program expands in North Dakota

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health’s (NDDoH) Rape Prevention and Education Program announces the expansion of Green Dot, a sexual violence primary prevention strategy to Bismarck-Mandan, the fourth community in North Dakota.

Green Dot is an evidence-based strategy that engages all members of the community as bystanders who can identify behaviors that lead to harm (red dots) and respond in a way that will make it less likely the harm occurs or gets worse (green dots). It focuses on the actions everyone can take on a daily basis to set new norms that violence is not tolerated, and everyone is expected to do their part in contributing to a safer community.

Currently in North Dakota, the Rape and Abuse Crisis Center (Fargo), Community Violence Intervention Center (Grand Forks) and Abused Persons Outreach Center (Valley City) are part of the worldwide movement to end sexual violence, dating/domestic violence and stalking in their communities. Between the three sites, community teams have been created and seven bystander trainings have taken place.

During the 2019 Legislative Session, an additional \$200,000 specifically for sexual violence primary prevention was added to the NDDoH’s budget. The Abused Adult Resource Center (AARC) in Bismarck was selected as the fourth agency to implement Green Dot in their community.

“It is exciting to have received increased funding for prevention, thanks to the efforts of legislators and prevention advocates,” said Mallory Sattler, Domestic Violence/Rape Crisis Program Coordinator with the NDDoH. “The three current sites are experiencing great community support, and we look forward to seeing how Green Dot positively impacts Bismarck-Mandan.”

Green Dot coordinating agencies recruit a diverse team of community members that may include non-profit organizations, business leaders, and influential community members to attend a four-day certification training. Team members then coordinate trainings to teach bystander intervention skills and promote new community norms through social marketing and events.

The AARC will be recruiting a team in the next few months to attend a four-day certification training in August. Anyone interested in becoming part of the Bismarck-Mandan Green Dot Team can contact Renee Stromme at the AARC at 701-222-8370.

For more information, contact Mallory Sattler, NDDoH, at 701-328-4562.

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