



BJA BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE

GMS Report Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) 2015-AK-BX-K003 Report Period: 01 Oct 2015 - 31 Dec 2015

The following report covers grantee reported activity for grant number 2015-AK-BX-K003 awarded to State of Utah for the period 01 Oct 2015 - 31 Dec 2015. The award, in the amount of \$1,999,680.00, was issued as part of the BJA FY 15 SAKI solicitation. Any funds reported only represent an estimate of dollars allocated or used for activities covered by this award.

This report covers 1 reporting period(s) of data, represented as follows:

- 01 Oct 2015 - 31 Dec 2015

Project Description

The National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) provides funding to state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies, and prosecutor's offices to support multidisciplinary community response teams engaged in the comprehensive reform of jurisdictions' approaches to sexual assault cases resulting from evidence found in previously unsubmitted sexual assault kits (SAKs) - i.e. those SAKs that have never been submitted to a crime laboratory. The goal of the SAKI is the creation of a coordinated community response that ensures just resolution to these cases whenever possible through a victim-centered approach, as well as to build jurisdictions' capacity to prevent the development of conditions that lead to high numbers of unsubmitted SAKs in the future. The holistic program provides jurisdictions with resources to address their unsubmitted SAK issue, including support to inventory, test, and track SAKs; create and report performance metrics; access necessary training to increase effectiveness in addressing the complex issues associated with these cases and engage in multidisciplinary policy development, implementation, and coordination; and improve practices related to investigation, prosecution, and victim engagement and support in connection with evidence and cases resulting from the testing process. The Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice will use this 2015 SAKI award to reform the handling of sexual assault cases in Salt Lake County, Utah, by establishing a multidisciplinary, victim-centered approach to resolve cases from unsubmitted SAKs, and developing community measures to prevent future collections of unsubmitted SAKs. The recipient will establish a multidisciplinary working group, The Salt Lake County Unsubmitted Sexual Assault Kit (USAK) Working Group, to develop comprehensive strategies to track, investigate and prosecute all sexual assault cases stemming from DNA analysis of previously USAKs. The USAK will verify the 2014 inventory of unsubmitted SAKs; establish guidelines for SAK evidence destruction;

track the unsubmitted SAKs; test the unsubmitted SAKs; identify challenges related to testing SAKs; identify solutions to improve efficiency of DNA screening and analysis; produce protocols and policies to support improved coordination between all agencies involved in sexual assault cases; establish resources for investigations and prosecutions resulting from testing the previously unsubmitted SAKs; establish resources to optimize and support victim notification protocols and services; and develop a tracking system linking data on SAKs from UBFS, SANEs, law enforcement, and prosecutors to improve coordination of all services while allowing victims full access to upload information about their SAKs and cases. CA/NCF

Grantee

The grantee indicated the award did not have any grant activity during the report period. Please see the "Comments" and "Goals and Objectives" sections for more information.

Award Synopsis

The following table displays whether the grantee was operational, not operational, or closed out during the report period.

Reporting Period: 01 Oct 2015 - 31 Dec 2015

	Operational	Not Operational	Closed Out
Grantee		Yes	No

Goals & Objectives

The following goals and objectives were entered by the grantee during the report period.

Direct Grantee: (Reporting Period: 01 Oct 2015 - 31 Dec 2015)

#	Goal	Status	Progress & Barriers	Planned Activities
1	Verify the inventory of unsubmitted SAKs. Review of previous inventory protocol. Additional inventory completed within 6 months of grant funding, if needed.	In progress	The past December sent out statewide survey to all LE agencies	Completed kit survey

2	<p>Establish guidelines for SAK evidence destruction.</p> <p>Discussion on the issue that some unsubmitted SAKs have been destroyed by law enforcement, rather than stored. Develop guidelines for law enforcement on SAK evidence destruction.</p>	Not yet started	None	Discussion on the issue that some unsubmitted SAKs have been destroyed by law enforcement, rather than stored.
3	<p>Track the unsubmitted SAKs. monitor each SAK with a unique identifier, tracking SAKs from submission through adjudication. Initially tracking of cases will begin small as recommended by the Detroit Project, by thoroughly tracking the first twenty tested unsubmitted SAKs (Campbell et al., 2015). Site coordinator will work with law enforcement agencies, UBFS, UU and Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office to thoroughly track each SAK. • Public information on aggregated data from unsubmitted kits will be compiled by site coordinator</p>	Not yet started	Funding not released	Send out RFP for tracking system
4	<p>Identify challenges related to testing SAKs, and procedures that have contributed to low levels of SAK submission and resulting DNA analysis. Contract already established with outside agency (BODE Cellmark Forensics) at \$900 per SAK for testing and testing. • All SAKs will be</p>	Not yet started	None	Work with Salt Lake county LE, DA's office, others and lab

tested without concern of statute of limitations as there is no statute of limitations on rape and sexual assault in Utah. USAK Working Group will encourage remaining unsubmitted SAKs to be taken to UBFS by endorsing the “fork-lift” approach of testing all SAKs. • The primary challenge is covering the expense of testing the 1,589 SAKs from Salt Lake County (total cost of \$1,430,100). Legislative allotment of \$750,000 was for analysis of all unsubmitted SAKs in Utah. This equals \$279/SAK, leaving a deficit of \$621/SAK or \$986,769 additional funds needed to test unsubmitted SAKs in Salt Lake County. Funds will be requested from the New York County District Attorney’s Sexual Assault Kit Backlog Elimination Program to cover the costs of testing unsubmitted SAKs.

5 Produce protocols and policies to support improved coordination between all agencies involved in sexual assault cases. USAK Working Group will evaluate individual-level, organization-level and systemic factors that lead to high numbers of unsubmitted SAKs to develop protocols and

Not yet started

None

USAK Working Group will evaluate individual-level, organization-level and systemic factors that lead to high numbers of unsubmitted SAKs to develop protocols and policies to improve

policies to improve coordination between all agencies.

coordination between all agencies.

6 Establish resources to optimize and support victim notification protocols and services. All law enforcement agencies will receive \$100 per unsubmitted SAK when submitted for analysis to offset agency investigative costs. • Create a full-time investigator position dedicated to unsubmitted SAK cases through Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office. Create a full-time prosecutor position dedicated to unsubmitted SAK cases through Salt Lake County

Not yet started

None

Subcontract will be established with Rape Recovery Center to create a Victim Advocate position dedicated to victim notification and services from CODIS hits from unsubmitted SAK findings.

7 Develop a tracking system linking data on SAKs from UBFS, SANEs, law enforcement, and prosecutors to improve coordination of all services while allowing victims full access to updated information about their SAKs and cases. ZFind automated tracking system will contain the following data: date of SAK leaving crime laboratory, date of SAK collection by SANE, date and agency of SAK retrieval by law enforcement, date of SAK submission to UBFS, status of testing at UBFS, date of SAK analysis findings transmitted to law

Not yet started

No funding

State will send out an RFP for vendor

enforcement, and date when law enforcement confirmed receipt of SAK analysis findings. Additional data will be entered by law enforcement and District Attorney's office to track case from investigation through screening with District Attorney's office. Victims will be given a unique identifier at the time of their forensic examination to allow them to track their SAK and case through the system. Standardized reports for site coordinator and USAK Working Group will be developed. The tracking system will also provide useful contact numbers and resources for victims.

8	<p>-Establish resources to optimize and support victim notification protocols and services. Subcontract will be established with Rape Recovery Center to provide a Mental Health Therapist position will also be established to insure adequate therapy resources are available for notified victims with unsubmitted SAKs.</p>	Not yet started	They are currently in the hiring process for the therapist position	Have position filled
9	<p>-Identify solutions to improve efficiency of DNA screening and analysis. • UBFS is initiating DNA screening and analysis in lieu of serology. Study findings indicated a large</p>	Not yet started	None	Begin screening and analysis

number of submitted SAKs did not progress to DNA analysis due to communication challenges between UBFS and law enforcement agencies. To combat this problem, UBFS is moving straight to DNA screening. A pilot program, UQuik, was begun in Salt Lake County, Utah, November 2014, to improve efficiency of DNA analysis. In the UQuik program, SANEs are educated on determining the swabs most likely to yield a probative profile and package these in a separate envelope. The 11 law enforcement agencies have been trained on this program. All UQuik envelopes are taken directly to UBFS for DNA screening and analysis. In a pilot trial of the UQuik program, DNA screening went from 120 days to 25 days. USAK Working Group will aid in evaluating effectiveness, validity, and reliability of UQuik program.

Other Goals and Objectives Measures (Reporting Period: 01 Oct 2015 - 31 Dec 2015)

Option	Text Response(s)
	<p>Did you receive or do you desire any assistance from BJA or a BJA-funded technical assistance provider?</p>

A. Yes, we received assistance
B. Yes, we would like assistance or additional assistance
C. No

A. Yes, we received assistance

If yes to A or B above, please explain:

D. If Yes, please explain

D. Yes we have had telephone and email contact with Rose Werth who has been very helpful and we plan on cultivating that relationship even more.

Based on your knowledge of the criminal justice field, are there any innovative programs/success stories that you would like to share with BJA?

A.

A. No

Grantee Comments

The following grantee comments were entered into the PMT as an addendum to the GMS report.

01 Oct 2015 - 31 Dec 2015

None