

OUR
MISSION

To advance the knowledge base related to domestic violence and sexual assault in an effort to end interpersonal violence. IDVSA accomplishes this through supporting research on domestic violence and sexual assault and by providing training, technical assistance, and information dissemination to the practitioner community and the community at large.

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IDVSA Voice

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IDVSA Readies Self-Care Study for Publication

IDVSA is finalizing its most recent research study: an evaluation of the level of burnout or compassion fatigue in staff and volunteers working with adult and child victims of interpersonal violence in Texas and the status of current efforts to address this issue.

Research questions include:

1. Do administrators in agencies that serve victims of interpersonal violence see a need for self-care programs? If so, what are those needs and what are they doing to meet them?

2. What signs of burnout or compassion fatigue do they observe in staff and volunteers?

3. What are the promising practices in self-care? Are they appropriate in agencies that serve victims of interpersonal violence?

4. How can policy and training efforts meet the needs for a self-care program?

Several steps were undertaken to achieve research goals. Since the purpose of the research was to identify programs initiated by organizations rather than individuals, a Web-based

survey was targeted to executive directors and managers in agencies serving victims of interpersonal violence. Researchers collaborated with Texas' primary statewide organizations serving victims of child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault to distribute the survey to the target audience.

The survey consisted of 23 multiple-choice questions. One hundred and nine (n=109) responses were received from key informants: executive directors or managers of domestic (*continued on page 4*)

IDVSA Assesses Impact of Sexually Oriented Businesses

In March, IDVSA co-published "An Assessment of the Adult Entertainment Industry in Texas," in collaboration with the Bureau of Business Research and the IC2 Institute.

The project assesses the socio-economic impact of Texas'

sexually oriented business industry, analyzes the economic impact of the Adult Entertainment Fee (AEF) imposed by the Texas Legislature, and provides recommendation for further regulating the sexually oriented business industry in Texas.

The report focuses mainly on adult cabarets, both those that have Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission licenses and those that lack licenses but permit the consumption of alcohol on premises. Adult book and video stores are also included in the analysis. (*continued on p. 4*)

Students from
**Master's Course on
Domestic Violence
Host Screening of
*Playground***

On March 10, graduate students of Dr. Busch-Armendariz, hosted a screening of *Playground*, a documentary film about domestic minor victims of human trafficking. Directed by Los Angeles-based filmmaker, Libby Spears, *Playground* sheds light on the commercial sexual exploitation of children, many of whom are survivors of childhood sexual abuse, and focuses on the number of American-born victims who are trafficked in the U.S.



The film, shown in the Utopia Theatre at the UT School of Social Work, was followed by a panel discussion with local service providers and policy-makers. Panel participants from left to right are: Billy Sifuentes, Austin Police Department, IDVSA Director Noel Busch-Armendariz, Adrian Reyna, Office of State Senator Leticia Van de Putte, Lydia Valdez, Lifeworks, Filmmaker Libby Spears, Kate Roche, Refugee Services of Texas, Central Texas Coalition Against Human Trafficking

IDVSA Evaluates Human Trafficking Laws and Social Services in Texas

Copies of IDVSA's *Human Trafficking in Texas: A Statewide Evaluation of Existing Laws and Social Services* are now available from the [IDVSA website](#) or upon request. The study fulfilled two purposes: evaluate the effectiveness of existing laws and social services in meeting the needs of human trafficking victims in Texas, and address efficiencies, shortcomings, and recommended improvements in Texas laws that impact both human trafficking victims and the social services provided to them.

The report includes a complete analysis of relevant Texas codes and statutes, as well as data and analysis from surveys and interviews conducted by IDVSA. Data was gathered from direct service providers, state agency policymakers, and regional task forces on human trafficking.

Findings suggest that the five Texas geographic areas granted funding by the Fed-

eral government have made great progress in the collaborative matrix of investigation and prosecution of cases and the provision of services to victims of human trafficking. Questions and challenges persist, however, and those working to eliminate human trafficking continue to struggle with identifying victims, providing comprehensive and culturally competent victim services, appropriately addressing the needs of domestic victims, and securing the adequate resources and support needed to effectively investigate cases. Opportunities remain for improved information sharing across the state and increased awareness among state agencies and the broader community.

From the recommendations made by study participants, the most common across all groups are: maintain a victim-centered approach; increase focus on and understanding of domestic victims, particularly underage victims of human traffick-

ing; develop and improve mechanisms for collaborative efforts across disciplines and jurisdictions, and consider a statewide organizational structure for improved services; and increase efforts toward prevention, investigation, and prosecution.

While additional study is necessary to better understand human trafficking in Texas, this research indicates that those working to combat human trafficking are highly committed to justice. They also face many challenges in that pursuit.

IDVSA's research was cited by the Attorney General and HHSC in legislation addressing human trafficking this past session. The focus on this issue demonstrates that by drawing on existing capacities and narrowing gaps, the State of Texas has the opportunity to lead the nation in combating and eliminating human trafficking.



Highlights from Texas' 81st Legislative Session

Interpersonal Violence Related Bills Worth Noting

When the Texas Legislature's 81st Session ended in May, a number of bills addressing domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking were added to the law books.

Many bills addressing victims of human trafficking and vulnerable children were filed and survived committees, only to be stymied in the final days of the session. However, SB 89, which was written with the support of IDVSA and contributions from its *Human Trafficking in Texas*

report, survived the legislative process by being amended onto HB 4009, by Representative Randy Weber (R-District 29). The bill's provisions include services for domestic victims of human trafficking, training for law enforcement, a Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force and a study of alternatives to the juvenile justice system for children who engage in acts of prostitution.

HB 2626 was also passed and provides DPS-funded Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner exam kits to sexual assault survivors who have not filed a police report. Payment will be provided through the OAG's Crime Victim's Compensation program. Previously, victims choosing not to file a police report were

responsible for paying for their own kits.

Other successful bills of interest include SB 83, which expands the lease termination option to victims of sexual assault and family violence victims *not* living with their abusers; HB 2240, which elevates serial domestic violence (two or more misdemeanor incidents within twelve months) to a 3rd degree felony; and SB 82, which requires a family violence offender who is granted community supervision to pay a \$100 fee to a local family violence center.

IDVSA also followed HB 167, authored by UT School of Social Work Alum Rep. Elliott Naishtat (D-District. 49).

(continued on p. 4)

Gov. Perry is hosting an official bill signing for HB 4009 on August 20th at 1:30 p.m. in the Governor's Public Reception Room at the State Capitol.

RGK Grant Supports Infrastructure

The RGK Foundation awarded IDVSA a grant to support our collaborative research-to-practice efforts to end violence and assist victims. The one year grant supports our one full-time staff person, Associate Director Karen Kalergis, who provides the strategic direction to IDVSA's training, technical assistance, and collaborative efforts. In this position, Karen ensures that our research results get to the field through curriculum development and sponsored educational programs, as well as

through journal articles and presentations to victim services professionals. With RGK's support, more people will be working with victims and survivors using research and evidence-based practices as their guide.

"RGK's long-standing support of IDVSA brought the Institute where it is today," said Dean Barbara White of the UT School of Social Work. "We are deeply appreciative of the RGK Foundation and its support of IDVSA's mission."

Side note: Karen recently authored an article for Affilia, the journal for women in social work. "[A Passionate Practice: Addressing the Needs of Commercially Sexually Exploited Teenagers](#)," was published in the June 10th issue of nationally distributed journal. The article features interviews with three women who are providing services to girls and young women who are domestic victims of human trafficking.

Self-Care Study continued from p. 1

violence programs, sexual assault centers, children's advocacy centers, and CASA programs. Researchers gathered data on what signs of stress administrators observed, what self-care program elements were in place, the reasons why self-care programs may not be available, and interest in self-care program information and training on self-care.

Findings suggest that the leadership in programs serving adult and child victims of interpersonal violence in Texas observe many of the symptoms and behaviors associated with burnout and compassion fatigue in their staff and volunteers. Leadership has initiated both formal and informal mechanisms to address this problem and foster healthy work environments and settings more conducive to healing for clients.

The challenges that remain include a lack of knowledge about self-care programming, a lack of time to implement programming when administrators have the competency on self-care and a lack of funding to bring in external resources when competency and time are lacking. Leadership's commitment to address the issue is demonstrated by the interest in more information and training on how to develop a self-care program, with interest being higher in programming directed towards those who work with child victims.

Sexually Oriented Businesses continued from p. 1

The report addresses multiple facets of the adult entertainment industry. First, it describes the cabaret industry and its contributions to the Texas treasury. It then describes the AEF and its potential effects on clubs and tax revenues. The report also compares TABC infractions at regular bars and at adult cabarets. Finally, the report examines regulations undertaken by other jurisdictions to regulate the adult entertainment industry and presents recommendations and options for reform and regulation in Texas.

Key findings of the report include the substantial economic impact of adult entertainment as part of the larger media industry—about two-thirds as large as the Texas media industry as a whole. The report summarizes a range of research to find that sexually oriented

businesses, alcohol, and the victimization and perpetration of sexual violence against women are indeed connected. While some assert that exotic dancing, or nude stripping, is empowering to women, there is a multitude of evidence that such work is not only demeaning and dangerous for women, but also violent, traumatizing, and exploitative. It remains unknown if there is a causal relationship between sexually oriented businesses and the perpetration of sexual violence.

Recommendations in the report include leaving the current Adult Entertainment Fee unchanged, but improving collection rates, penalties for noncompliance, and regulation. The executive summary and full report are available on [IDVSA's website](#).

Legislative Update

continued from p. 3

The bill required a court to permit a victim of a violent crime to provide an oral victim impact statement *before* sentencing. The bill sought to change the current law permitting victim statements only *after* sentencing, and focus attention on the human impact of violence by increasing victim participation in the justice process. However, the bill did not make it out of the Senate.

Other IPV-related legislation can be found at the [TAASA](#) and [TCFV](#) websites. IDVSA thanks each organization warmly for their support in gathering this information.

Contracts Focus on Refugee Services

Through contracts with the state's leaders in refugee services, IDVSA has provided training and technical assistance on a number of topics.

One project was the first national conference for the newly-organized, Association for Refugee Professionals, headed by Bob Palm of Refugee Services of Texas. This February training focused on self-care and ethics. The second event was in collaboration with Jeremy Solomons, President of

Jeremy Solomons & Associates, and author of "The Truly Global Organization." "Communicating Effectively Across Cultures" presented strategies for providing services to the many cultures who turn to refugee service programs for assistance. The latter project was produced by Caitriona Lyons, State Coordinator for Refugee Affairs at the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

IDVSA has its third contract to evaluate Refugee Services of Texas, the program that coordinates the Central Texas Coalition Against Human Trafficking through funding provided from the Office for Victims of Crime.

Senior Project Manager Laurie Cook Heffron leads IDVSA's efforts in this area, drawing on her experience working directly with refugees.

IDVSA Graduate Student News

Our current graduate students ...

Tara Buentello joined us this spring and is now entering her second and final year in the MSSW program. Tara led the way in developing IDVSA's new online learning community for expert witnesses, and put together this issue of *IDVSA Voice*. In addition to providing editing and research support to IDVSA this summer, Tara has been working with Dr. Cal Streeter, also at UT's Center for Social Work Research, assessing Texas' Medicaid program through surveys of Medicaid consumers with disabilities.

Tuti Alawiyah, M.Hum is a third year PhD student at the School of Social Work and an international Ford Foundation fellow. She earned her Master's in women's studies from the University of Indonesia Jakarta. She was a researcher and lecturer at the Center for the Study of Religion and Culture State Islamic University (UIN) Jakarta. Her research focus is civil society and non-profit organizations, volunteerism and women's issues. She also spent several years working with women's grassroots organizations in Indonesia.

Where are they now?

Our 2008 cohort of graduate students and fellows are still doing great work. **Alison Little** is a Policy Associate at Texans Care For Children, where she focuses on child health, especially obesity prevention, health care coverage, and infant health, and organizes the Texas Infant Health Alliance. While IDVSA hosted Alison as a Soros Justice Fellow, she co-authored a policy paper with the Center for Public Policy Priorities, "The Texas School Disciplinary System and Foster Care Children." Alison also served as Project Manager on IDVSA's evaluation of the Texas Team's Teen Dating Violence toolkit.

Jacqueline Garza is a licensed social worker at El Franco Lee Health Center, a community clinic in Houston. Jacqueline works with patients on a variety of psychosocial issues, including health care coverage, chemical dependency, and mental health. Her projects at IDVSA included the teen dating violence evaluation and the self-care study. Jacqueline will co-present the results of the self-care study at the Texas Victim Services Association conference in September.

Mayra A. Hernandez is a Bilingual Counselor for SafePlace where she did her field internship. She facilitates individual, family and group work with domestic violence and sexual assault survivors. She is a presenter with SafePlace's Community Education Department. Her work with IDVSA focused on human trafficking.

Anna Jackson is with Refugee Services of Texas as the Program Manager for Green Leaf which provides mental health education and direct mental health services to refugees, asylees, and human trafficking survivors in Central Texas. Anna's work with IDVSA focused on our collaboration with the Dubai Foundation for Women and Children in the United Arab Emirates, where Anna did her final field placement.

Neely Mahapatra is an assistant professor at Lamar University in Beaumont. At IDVSA, Neely worked on human trafficking projects and helped us host the first conference for refugee services professionals.

TSTOP and IDVSA Student Projects

Make a Difference

Darrell MacLearn shares information about TSTOP on Upstream, a social **work program at UT's student**-run radio station, 91.7 FM, KVRX Austin. Because Darrell spoke during prime time hours, thousands of radio and online listeners were educated on human trafficking issues and prevention.



What happens when students combine their course requirements with a state wide human trafficking project? A Lot!

TSTOP – Texas Sex Trafficking Obliteration Project is an “End Demand” project of the [Houston Rescue and Restore Coalition](#) in partnership with [Concerned Women for America in Texas](#).

TSTOP’s objective is to lessen the number of victims of sex trafficking in the state by impacting the market “demand” for sex. TSTOP just completed working with a second group of graduate students enrolled in “Contemporary Issues in Domestic Violence” with Dr. Noël Busch-Armendariz.

Students engaged in conversations about the realities of sex trafficking in Texas and created a Facebook page to help communicate with fellow students and the technological world beyond. A quick Google search for “facebook tstop” will quickly find this page that now has 260 fans with a goal of reaching 2500.

“This is only the beginning of the possibilities as we begin to partner together,” said Darrell MacLearn, Anti Trafficking Project Manager for TSTOP. “Other ideas include having students tap into other technological resources such as Myspace and Youtube.

“We also want to engage other departments and disciplines and provide opportunities for a broad cross section

of the UT campus to engage in the issue of human trafficking in Texas.”

Dr. Busch-Armendariz agrees that this collaboration between students and the community works. “Projects like this engage students in research and learning, and help them strategize and implement ways of making a difference in their world,” she said. “What happens when we partner? Students learn, several hundred more people are now informed and lives will forever be changed because of this collaboration.”

Become a fan of TSTOP on [Facebook](#) and join them at www.causes.com/tstop, then invite your friends to do the same.

Crime Victims' Institute Introduces Texas to Lethality Program

The Crime Victims' Institute at Sam Houston State University hosted a full-day conference on *Reducing the Risk of Homicide for Victims of Intimate Partner Violence*.

The July 8th conference introduced law enforcement and family violence professionals from all over Texas to the Lethality Assessment Program for First Responders (LAP), a program developed by the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence in 2005.

The program centers around creating relationships between police officers and hotline advocates. A key aspect of the LAP includes officers on scene at domestic violence calls conducting an evidence-based lethality assessment with all victims.

When victims screen-in as High Danger, having a high risk of lethality, officers contact hotline advocates at local domestic violence centers and follow a script that includes coordinated safety planning, exchange of important information, and educating the victim around issues of risk and available services.

The LAP initiative is based on twenty-five years of research by Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell, of The Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing. Of the 4,000 victims who were killed or nearly killed throughout this research, 90% would have screened in as High Danger. In Maryland, 12,000 screens have been administered since 2006.

Of these, 56% of victims were assessed as High Danger, and officers on scene connected 57% of these victims to hotline advocates. Further, 28% of High Danger victims who were connected to hotline advocates later used domestic violence services.

For more information about the Lethality Assessment Program for First Responders, contact Dr. Glen Kercher, Director, Crime Victims' Institute, P.O. Box 2180, Huntsville, TX 77341-2180

Phone: 936-294-3100
Email: ICC_GAK@shsu.edu

Online Forum Established to Build Capacity for Expert Witnesses

IDVSA recently established our first ever interactive online learning community!

The "Expert Witness Learning Community" is a blog for practitioners interested in serving as expert witnesses in cases involving intimate partner violence. The blog is not only an arena to build the skill and knowledge-base needed to be an expert witness, but also allows members to be part of a supportive social network of like-minded professionals.

Members of the blog can post questions, articles, announcements, or other items they want to share with colleagues. IDVSA hopes that the blog will help members grow as expert witnesses and as members of a strong professional community.

If you are interested in joining the Learning Community, contact us at IDVSA@mail.utexas.edu. While everyone is able to read our blog, only members can

contribute. We welcome all who are interested in joining us in the important work of educating judges and juries about the dynamics of domestic violence and its impact on survivors, families, and communities.



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Start Strong Initiative



Partners gather for a photo at the Start Strong program launch, Austin City Hall

As part of the national program, RWJF will use RTI International, an independent research group, to conduct a national evaluation of Start Strong that will run concurrently with the program. Best practices from Start Strong Austin will be documented and could serve as a model for teen dating violence prevention programs across the country.

Austin's SafePlace is one of eleven community organizations nationwide to receive \$1 million in funding through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's national program, *Start Strong: Building Healthy Teen Relationships (Start Strong)*. SafePlace and its community partners are implementing *Start Strong Austin*, as part of the largest national initiative ever funded to target 11- to 14- year-olds to promote safe and healthy relationships and prevent teen dating violence and abuse. As part of its project plan, *Start Strong Austin* will bring together teens, parents, caregivers, educators, and community leaders to build environments that support healthy relationships and ensure violence and abuse are never tolerated.

"We are thrilled to be part of this nationwide initiative," said Dr. Barbara Ball, *Start Strong Austin* Project Director at SafePlace. "*Start Strong Austin* will make Austin safer for teens and families and a leader in effective prevention programming."

Data gathered by SafePlace demonstrates the need for educational programs and broad community engagement to reinforce positive teen relationships. According to results from community and teen focus groups with more than 100 participants, Austin middle school students are already engaged in unhealthy relationships that impact their mental, emotional and physical well-being. Participants conveyed their concerns about high levels of disrespect, provocation and aggression in teen peer and dating relationships.

SafePlace and its partners developed a comprehensive plan for this four-year collaborative community effort. The Austin Independent School District will integrate teacher-led prevention education with school initiatives for building safe and healthy learning environments. The Boys and Girls Clubs will implement an out-of-school curriculum, and the Seton Family of Hospitals/Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas will lead outreach efforts to students and families. The Austin Project and the St. John Community/School Alliance, along with Representative Dawonna Dukes and parents who tragically lost their children to dating violence, Carolyn Mosley and Elizabeth Crecente, will help engage community members.

Start Strong Austin hopes to transform dialogue about relationships between teens through theatre and music. Austin Voices, Theatre Action Project, Artists in Hospitals and The Cipher – Austin's Hip Hop Project - are partnering with SafePlace to support youth in speaking out through theatre, spoken word poetry, music and community arts projects.

This summer, Austin teens from various high schools are creating an original production focusing on healthy relationships as part of the Changing Lives Youth Theatre Ensemble. KLRU-TV, Austin's local PBS station, will be closely following "Changing Lives" and produce an 11-minute documentary about the ensemble and how teens are stepping up to address teen dating abuse prevention.

SafePlace will be training partners, such as after-school program staff, parent support specialists, and nurses in preparation for working with students, parents and other community members throughout the next four years.



IVPC Pivotal to Texas Efforts to Prevent Interpersonal Violence Before It Happens

As local domestic violence and sexual assault programs juggle the dual tasks of intervention to today's victims and prevention to make the "No More Victims" rallying call a reality, it's useful to look back at the start of prevention efforts in Texas.

Like those around the country, Texas' efforts take a public health approach with groups working collaboratively to strengthen protective factors that make violence less likely to happen and reduce those factors making interpersonal violence more likely to occur.

In 2002, the Texas Department of Health (Department of State Health Services-DSHS) received funds from the Center for Injury Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to develop a strategic plan to prevent initial perpetration of sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking. A diverse group of 36 representatives of government, community-based organizations, nonprofit agencies, health care, and research professionals formed the Violence Against Women Prevention Advisory Committee

(VAWPAC) including a "virtual council" of 83 members to provide feedback from groups across the state. Throughout 2003 the VAWPAC used a collaborative, participatory process to develop A Strategic Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women in Texas, published in January, 2004. http://www.taasa.org/publications/VAW_Strategic_Plan_FINAL.pdf

The VAWPAC then became the Interpersonal Violence Prevention Collaborative (IVPC), a name better reflecting the broader perspective of including men as both critical partners in prevention and as victims of interpersonal violence.

The IVPC is a collaborative project, not a separate non-profit. There are no membership dues. The only criterion for partnership is support of IVPC's vision to see Texas free from sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking and its mission to establish the primary prevention of interpersonal violence as a public health priority in Texas.

The IVPC strategic goals include serving as a resource center for

information and training opportunities on the prevention of interpersonal violence and supporting implementation of the Strategic Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women in Texas

The IVPC-Texas listserv is a vital tool to accomplish these goals. To date, it includes 110 organizations representing state agencies, state membership associations, foundations, and other community-based organizations from colleges and universities, law enforcement, social services, medical, military, public education, and faith-based among others.

You can participate in this collaboration and help prevent interpersonal violence before it happens, creating safer, healthier communities free from violence.

To become an IVPC partner and to subscribe to the IVPC-Texas listserv, contact:

Linda Hunter, IVPC Coordinator
Email: lhunter@taasa.org;
Phone: 512-474-7190, Ext. 17.

"Due to the sheer size and complexity of the problems and their social and economic consequences, sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking affect the well-being of every sector, every community, every Texan."

(A Strategic Plan to End Violence Against Women in Texas, 2004)



Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

IDVSA

UT School of Social Work
1 University Station, D3500
Austin, TX 78712

Fax: 512-233-0982

E-mail: IDVSA@mail.utexas.edu

It is the vision of IDVSA that its multi-disciplinary, researcher-practitioner, collaborative approach will enhance the quality and relevance of research efforts and their application in service provision. That vision has been realized in our recent research focus in the areas of teen dating violence, sexual assault and human trafficking.

Our efforts are supported through generous contributions from the RGK Foundation, the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health, the Shield-Ayres Foundation, Alice Kleberg Reynolds Foundation, and Dean Barbara White of The University of Texas School of Social Work.

... advancing the knowledge on domestic violence and sexual assault in order to end interpersonal violence for adult and child victims.



Mark Your Calendars!

For **October 10th from 4 to 10 pm** for a benefit concert to raise funds to honor the work of two amazing women whose efforts yielded an incredible library of resources for domestic violence practitioners and researchers. Nancy Flanakin started the collection while she was at the National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence. Assisting her was Dr. Patricia Cole who served as the Associate Director of NCDSV until her death in 2001. The Library has been housed at the UT-School of Social Work since 2006, and Nancy continued to protect and grow the collection until her death in 2007.

On its 10th Anniversary in October 2008, the National Center decided to donate the collection to the University of Texas in cooperation with the schools of Law and Social Work. Books, DVDs, videos and other materials that may be helpful to students will go to the UT Library system, and include a plate acknowledging these two women. NCDSV will establish the Flanakin and Cole National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence Collection at the University of Houston Women's Archives to preserve the items in the library deemed historical.

The October 10th benefit concert kicks off fundraising efforts to secure \$25,000 for a work-study student to help determine where each item goes and help get the collection to its appropriate spot. Duggan Flanakin, Nancy's husband, has arranged a great line-up of remarkable bands and performers to entertain you at Central Market at 40th and Lamar. For more event details, visit: www.flanfire.com
For information about the National Center, visit www.ncdsv.org

IDVSA Staff and Colleagues

Noël Bridget Busch-Armendariz, Ph.D.
Director and Principal Investigator
The University of Texas at Austin
School of Social Work,
Center for Social Work Research
nbusch@mail.utexas.edu

Karen Kalergis
Associate Director
idsa@mail.utexas.edu

Laurie Cook Heffron, LMSW
Senior Project Manager
lcookheffron@mail.utexas.edu

Sarah Buel, JD
Co-Investigator
The University of Texas at Austin
School of Law
sbuel@law.utexas.edu

Regina Johnson, Ph.D.
Co-Investigator
The University of Texas at Austin
School of Nursing
rjohnson@nur.utexas.edu

Graduate Research Assistants
Tara Buentello
tara.buentello@gmail.com

Tuti Alawiyah
sophia_faira@yahoo.com