



## **SAVE the DATE**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Annual Victim Assistance Academy of Nevada (VAAN) Weaving a Tapestry of Advocacy in Nevada August 18-22, 2014 Silver Legacy Resort and Casino in Reno, Nevada**

The Nevada Division of Child and Family Services, in partnership with public, private and statewide agencies, will be holding the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Victim Assistance Academy of Nevada (VAAN). This weeklong academy will be held August 18-22, 2014 at the Silver Legacy Resort and Casino in Reno, Nevada. The goal of VAAN is to provide, expand and enhance foundational skills and knowledge for those who interact with victims of crime and has been designed to reflect Nevada's changing needs. This first academy will be open to 35 participants, geared towards advocates and victim assistants, so space is limited. The application for VAAN will be released mid-April, so keep an eye on your email. Topics covered include an overview of victims' rights, ethics, boundaries, confidentiality, cultural considerations, homicide, sexual and domestic violence, human trafficking and other special classes of victims. VAAN will utilize the experience of national and local trainers to incorporate group activities and simulation exercises to foster learning and fellowship. CEUs may also be available.

**Cost:**

\$200 registration fee includes:

- 5 full days of training from local and national experts
- Resource information
- Binder of presentation materials and flash drive
- Opportunities to network throughout the state
- Some meals (still in the planning phase)

Travel assistance and per diem reimbursement will be available for those participants traveling more than 50 miles to attend.

**Do you want to attend or send staff to the Inaugural VAAN? What is standing in your way? Do any of these sound familiar?**

- Funding – Does your agency have limited training funds and this just isn't possible?
- Staff Coverage – Does your agency have such limited staff that sending someone to this training would dramatically hinder your agencies ability to serve victims of crime? Or, it would be too difficult for the employee left in the office to cover?
- You have been doing this for years and don't think you would benefit from this. Or, your staff was sent to training when they were hired.
- Too busy to leave the office for an entire week.

We believe this academy will be valuable to each agency and individuals who serve victims of crime.

The Steering Committee has made it a priority to work creatively and individually with those wanting to attend but face some of the issues above. If you are interested in attending or sending someone from your agency to VAAN, please contact Karlie Callahan at (775) 657-4610 so we can discuss how we may be able to help. We are working with service providers around the state on some creative solutions to assist other agencies with coverage of phones, offering advocacy services, applying for scholarships, and even free volunteer training to get some well-trained volunteers into your agency. We realize there may be some unique geographical challenges but let us try to help make this training opportunity a reality.