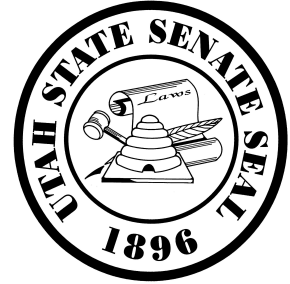




**Performance Note**  
**HB0129S03 - Office on Domestic**  
**and Sexual Violence**  
Sponsor: Rep. Snow, V. Lowry



Performance Note Report

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Author: David Walsh  
Agency: CCJJ Commission

Funding For:

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New Services or Benefit

Public Benefit:

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**Purpose:** To support and improve Utah's domestic and sexual violence response and improve treatment for domestic violence offenders.

**Services:** The Utah Office on Domestic and Sexual Violence (UODSV) is a state government entity located in the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice that deals with problems of domestic violence, rape, sexual assault and other issues connected to these crimes. UODSV was created in 2002 to strengthen the State and judicial systems, addressing obstacles while recommending solutions by encouraging the development and coordination of policies that increase a positive response, strengthen language in statute that negatively affect these issues, support department heads and State agencies, private and public organizations which work to reduce and end domestic and sexual violence in all of Utah's communities. UODSV responds to requests for technical assistance, consultation, problem solving and fosters improved statewide coordination while strengthening collaboration efforts with the Utah Domestic Violence Coalition, the CCJJ Domestic Violence Council, the CCJJ Sexual Violence Council and the Utah Coalition Against Sexual Assault. UODSV preserves a partnership with the Sheriffs, Chiefs and Prosecutors Associations, to ensure the consistent, uniform and timely implementation and enforcement of Utah's domestic and sexual violence laws by law enforcement, prosecution, and the courts. UODSV promotes statewide violence prevention, unites and sustains coordinated community responses, expands resources, and supports victim interests and offender management. The Utah Domestic Violence Offender Taskforce (DVOT) was authorized by the Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice to initiate and create its work in 2016. The statement and charge for the DVOT is consistent and comprehensive for the evaluation, implementation and continued monitoring of domestic violence offenders at each stage of the criminal justice system. This is necessary to lessen the likelihood of re-offense, to work toward the elimination of recidivism and to enhance the protection of current survivors and potential victims. The DVOT was charged with the development, endorsement and announcement of standards for the evaluation, treatment and monitoring of convicted domestic violence offenders and the establishment of an application and review process for approved therapists who provide services to convicted domestic violence offenders within the State of Utah. The treatment of domestic violence offenders in the State of Utah includes a variety of theories, modalities, and techniques. Court ordered domestic violence offenders are a separate category of violent offenders requiring a specialized approach. The primary goals are the interruption and termination of abusive behaviors while enhancing victim safety. It is the belief of the DVOT that

setting standards for domestic violence offender treatment and advancing minimum requirements for approved treatment providers could greatly improve public safety. In addition, the process by which domestic violence offenders are assessed, treated, and managed by the criminal justice system and social services should be coordinated and improved. Domestic violence offender treatment is a developing field. The DVOT will remain current on the emerging research and literature and will modify these standards based on an improved understanding of the issues. The DVOT must also make decisions and recommendations in the absence of clear research findings. Therefore, the governing mandate being the priority of public safety and attention to commonly accepted standards of care as we work towards reducing the violence, helping survivors remain safe and holding offenders of domestic violence accountable for their choices. Additionally, the DVOT will endeavor to create state standards that reflect Utah's communities which will include our unique geographic features, challenges, and resources. All of these principles are designed to assist and guide the work of those involved in the management and containment of domestic violence offenders. The management of domestic violence offenders involves the knowledgeable, accountable participation of all systems involved in the lives of the individual offender. The preferred approach in managing offenders is to utilize a containment process. Those involved in the containment process are directly responsible for holding offenders accountable while under supervision of the court or probation. The DVOT is committed to carrying out its mandate to enhance public safety and the Protection of survivors through the development and maintenance of comprehensive, consistent and effective standards for the evaluation, treatment and monitoring of adult Domestic violence offenders. The DVOT will continue to explore the developing literature and research on the most effective methods for intervening with domestic violence offenders and continually identify best practices in the field.

Expected Outcome: Intimate Partner Violence intervention services should provide offenders with the opportunity to develop and demonstrate healthy intra and interpersonal skills and thinking. Accordingly, IPV services should address victim empathy, accountability, sexist attitudes, emotional regulation, stress management, anger management, relationship building, conflict resolution, communication, parenting practices, impact of violence on children, violence/abuse prevention and IPV services should also assist offenders with addressing life stability concerns (e.g. employment, housing, food, etc. via community referrals and/or in-house services). Services should make use of social learning via in-session exercises and between-session assignments. While psychoeducational services may be one appropriate modality for facilitating the Development of prosocial skill and thinking patterns, these services should not represent the primary modality for Medium, High and Elevated High-risk offenders. With these offenders, skill-building and process-focused interventions should serve as primary modalities. Treatment services should be provided in ways that are respectful and responsive to issues of difference and diversity including language and communication needs. Services for women should include a focus on addressing issues of victimization including safety planning, addressing parenting stress and parenting skills, and a focus on stress reduction with emotion regulation and acceptance and mindfulness strategies. Services for racial and ethnic minority groups should be responsive to social conditions and stressors including oppression and discrimination, historical trauma, and cultural norms including religion and spirituality. Intimate Partner Violence intervention services should be provided on a continuum of care according to offender risk levels and readiness for change. This continuum includes early intervention/prevention for low-risk offenders; outpatient or amplified outpatient services for medium and high-risk offenders; and incarceration-based or intensive supervision services for elevated high-risk offenders. Residential services may be appropriate for some medium or high risk offenders. Offender accountability and victim safety are more likely to be achieved when services are supported by appropriate levels of community supervision which are referenced in the following guidelines. Providers will indicate how the recommended interventions should be delivered in a treatment plan. The suggested time frames are guidelines regarding the time required to

complete a treatment plan within each risk level. Treatment plans should address individual offender circumstances that might prevent them from learning or adopting healthy relationship attitudes and behaviors.

Implementations and Resources: The Utah Office on Domestic and Sexual Violence has been serving the citizens of the State of Utah for 19 years and no resources would need to be provided to maintain the office. It is an established office within the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice. The Domestic Violence Offender Taskforce has been working since 2016 and is set up as a volunteer organization using experts from within the community. It also will need no resources to continue to do its work. It is under the direction of the Office on Domestic and Sexual Violence.

How: The Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice will support the Office on Domestic and Sexual Violence to complete the implementation of the Domestic Violence Offender Taskforce.

**Performance Measures**

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Goal

Title: Train domestic violence offender therapists on the most current evidence-based treatment of domestic violence offenders.

Description: Training will be offered at the annual offender therapists conference and at quarterly training to offender treatment clinicians.

Collection Method: The Domestic Violence Offender Taskforce will collect attendance records from the quarterly training and the annual conference. The Office for Domestic and Sexual Violence will tabulate the attendance records and report the findings to stakeholders.

	2021	2022	2023
Percent of Therapists Trained	0.00	75.00	90.00
Baseline	40.00	0.00	0.00

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By rule, performance notes are provided by the governmental entity that will supervise the new agency or administer the new program. Performance notes are not written by the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst.