



Joint News Release

Alachua County Sheriff's Office

Gainesville Police Department



For Immediate Release:

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Prepared by: Lt. Brandon Kutner and Officer Ben Tobias

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Media Advisory: ACSO and GPD Awarded Excellence in Sexual Assault Response Grant

The Alachua County Sheriff's Office and the Gainesville Police Department have been awarded a \$10,000 grant by the Florida Council Against Sexual Violence (FCASV) as part of their Excellence in Sexual Assault Response Project (ESARP).

The Excellence in Sexual Assault Response Project is a collaboration between FCASV and the criminal justice community and is funded by the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women. The Project offers training, policy development consultation, and technical assistance to law enforcement organizations and state attorneys' offices on responding to sex crimes against victims 12 years old and above.

This Project is unique in several respects, including its focus on a victim-centered, offender-focused response to sexual assault. Over the last year, the Project has drawn on law enforcement officers, 911 dispatchers, prosecutors, and FDLE subject matter experts from across Florida and the nation to create an intensive curriculum. The curriculum is designed to strengthen the criminal justice response to sexual assault and incorporate the most up-to-date knowledge and practices. The Project differs in many ways from traditional training, chiefly because of the educational focus on responding in a trauma informed manner, which is shown to improve investigations, case progression, prosecutions, and victim healing.

The Alachua County Sheriff's Office will receive a site visit from ESARP trainers on Wednesday, July 20, 2016, and the Gainesville Police Department will be visited on Thursday, July 21, 2016. These training sessions will also include train-the-trainer courses. Each agency will designate their own in-house instructors who will be certified to teach the trauma informed response curriculum to their remaining staff and new hires, thus ensuring ongoing application of the new practices.

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PIO LT. Brandon Kutner
Office: (352) 367-4041
Cell: (352) 260-7681

PIO Officer Ben Tobias
Office: (352) 393-7525
Cell: (352) 318-2245