



Michael K. Sweeney



Michael Sweeney is a Training Specialist for the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault and brings with him 28 Years of Law Enforcement experience. Mike started his Law Enforcement career in the Aurora Police Department, Aurora Colorado, and served as a Narcotics Detective from 1984-1998 receiving two Meritorious Service Awards, and in 1998 relocated to the Mississippi Gulf Coast joining the Ocean Springs Police Department, Ocean Springs Ms., rising to the Rank of Chief of Detectives. During his service with the Ocean Springs Police Department Mike served as a Commander over Logistics and Operations throughout Hurricane Katrina, was Commander over Internal Affairs, Director Jackson County Mississippi Multi-Agency Training Academy as well as the Accreditation Manager for the Ocean Springs Police Department. In 2008 Mike attended and graduated the 233rd Session of the FBI National Academy, specializing in interview interrogation and statement analysis. From 2011-2012, Mike was a Master Trainer for National Alliance of Chaplains Corps., instructing courses on Conflict Resolution, Domestic Violence, Suicide, Death Notification and Critical Incident Stress Management & Debriefings. 2013-2014 Mike was a Law Enforcement Trainer for Texas Association Against Sexual Assault. 2014-2017 Mike was the Director of Investigations and Law Enforcement Development for International Justice Mission in Ghana Africa, Training and conducting Human Trafficking investigations of children on Lake Volta. Mike returned to TAASA August 1st 2017.

Rick Gipprich, Jr.

Rick Gipprich, Jr. is the Director of Program Support & Training and Campus Sexual Assault Specialist for the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA). Prior to working at TAASA, Rick served as Deputy Director of Education & Development and Director of Prevention Education for The Rape Crisis Center in San Antonio. Rick started his career in the anti-sexual violence movement 19 years ago as a dedicated hospital advocate and hotline operator. Understanding the need and the importance of education, Rick eventually started working with neighborhoods, other nonprofits, professionals, and schools by engaging them in dialogue surrounding the prevalence of sexual violence in our community and the ways we can prevent it. In addition to training on issues related to sexual assault, Rick works daily to ensure that communities across Texas understand the impact of sexual violence and its effect on the people of our state.

