

## **Report to VSI Board on SafeSport USA Leadership Conference of Jan. 27 – 29, 2013**

Laurie Hynes and David Strider attended the USA Leadership Safesport Conference from Jan. 27 – 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013. 165 participants from 35 USA-S LSCs and twenty other NGBs attended, including representatives from Boy Scouts, NCAA, YMCA, and US Olympic Committee. Speakers included Aaron Lundberg (Praesidium Vice Pres for Account Services), Dr. Anna Salter (Clinical Psychologist- Winconsin, teaching fellow at Harvard and at Tufts Universities), Anne Tiivas (Director of Child Protection in United Kingdom Sport Unit), Dr. Sandy Wurtele (Psychologist and Professor at Univ of Colorado- Colorado Springs), Dr. Sandra Kirby (Professor at Univ. of Winnipeg, Candada and former Olympian and author of numerous books on sexual harassment in sports), Chris Gavagan (Keynote Speaker and writer /director , and creator of the documentary: Coached Into Silence.”)

The Conference was facilitated by Cecil Gordon and Susan Woessner. The speakers shared numerous accounts of actual sexual exploitation in swimming and in other youth sports. Research , articles, and books on the topics of sexual harassment were made available. Practical strategies to decrease opportunities for sexual predators to groom vulnerable youth were discussed, as well as tips to aid in the recognition of such sexual harassment incidents and steps for rapid and comprehensive interventions once the situation was discovered. Laurie and David will share the details of this conference with the VSI SafeSport Committee.