



Deaf Community Accountability

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About Us






Today's Focus

- What we know about...
 - Survivors
 - Abusers
 - Community Responses
- Lessons and learning
- Where do we go from here?



Survivors: What We Know

- Face complex choices and multiple risks
 - Action(s) taken by Survivors to improve their circumstances involves risks
 - Survivors are greatly influenced by their communities
 - Experience direct and indirect abuse
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Survivors: What We Do

- Place burden on Survivors
 - Decision-making
 - Safety plans, action plans
 - Encourage them to leave the Abuser
 - Encourage them get help from legal system
 - Question them if they do not leave
 - Ask for proof of the abuse



Abusers: What We Know

- Power and Control; ongoing use of tactics
 - Expose partners and children to multiple sources of psychological harm
 - Present as good men/fathers in public (Bancroft)
 - Boys who are exposed to abusers have a dramatically higher rate of growing up to be abusers (Bancroft)
- 



“The Golden Girls” Episode





Abusers: What We Do

- Law Enforcement
 - Give warnings, make reports and arrests
- Criminal/Legal System
 - Orders of Protection
 - Abuser Intervention/Treatment Programs
 - Jail



What We Don't Do

For Survivors

- Create a safe space for sharing of stories
- Believe them
- Help lessen their burdens

For Abusers

- Require Abusers to prove they are “rehabilitated”
- Give them consequences
- Community cohesiveness



Our Language

- “Blanche’s abuser” vs. “The person abusing Blanche”
- “DV/SA Survivor” vs. “Survivor of DV/SA”
- “DV in the home” vs. “Abuser in the home”
- “Bystanders” vs. “Community Accountability”
- “Abuser” vs. “Person causing harm”
- “Survivor” vs. “Person being harmed”
- “How not to be a Victim” vs. “How not to abuse”



Deaf Community Accountability:

- What strategies will work for the Deaf community?
Coordinated Community Action Model (2003)
- Look at strategies other marginalized groups have used



Taking Accountability means...

- 1) Stop violence
- 2) Acknowledge violence
- 3) Acknowledge the harms resulting from violence
(even if unintended)
- 4) Repair those harms
- 5) Fundamentally change those attitudes and actions
responsible for the violence



What Community Accountability is NOT:

- Victim blaming and victim displacing
- Thee said, Thou said
- Ostracizing, criticizing, shaming

- Misconceptions and Misuses of CA



What Community Accountability IS:

- Breaking the silence
- Discourages victim blaming
- Encourages shared responsibility
- A social change movement
- A process (short-term, long-term, lifetime)
- Different situations = different strategies and responses



Lessons

- Personal vs. Professional Roles
 - Individual & Organizational learning & participation
 - Confidentiality and Public Disclosure
 - Helping with Financial Support
 - Who is “Expert” (DV orgs as Intervention Teams)
 - Where are the “ToolKits” or guidelines/principles
 - Use of Social Media
 - “Innocent until proven guilty”




DCA Examples

- Social Media: Deaf PSAs
 - [But She Knew Better](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sleb-WKmBY0&feature=share&list=PL0BF7AB6D54246752): available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sleb-WKmBY0&feature=share&list=PL0BF7AB6D54246752>
 - [Consent is Sexy](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KdrbNGmuw0k): available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KdrbNGmuw0k>
 - [Community Accountability](http://youtu.be/wCBUF10C7MM): available at <http://youtu.be/wCBUF10C7MM>
- Support for Deaf Survivors (word of hands, Facebook, financial support)
- Holding perpetrators accountable
- Social Awareness/Workshops at Deaf Clubs/Events



Service Providers

- Know the signs & cycle of DV.
 - Reduce/remove stigma of DV/SA.
 - Refer to Deaf DV Agency. Collaborate.
 - Visit Deaf DV & DV agencies/shelters. Know what's available.
 - Incorporate "Are you safe" in meetings/intakes/forms (routine).
 - Receive specific training in DV/SA/trauma (advocate/counselor).
 - Provide Community Education & Awareness Programs.
 - Utilize Deaf Power & Control Wheel.
 - Utilize Deaf Community Accountability Wheel.
 - Be Survivor-Centered & Deaf-Centered.
 - Do not provide Couples Therapy (DV relationships).
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Community Accountability

- Be an ACTIVE Bystander/Community Member/Ally.
- Believe that violence is unacceptable and SIGN it OUTLOUD!
- Believe Deaf Survivors. Empower them to tell their stories.
- Volunteer at a Deaf DV/SA Agency. Donate skills or money.
- Treat Deaf people, Deaf Culture, & ASL with respect.
- Say something when you see Deaf victim blaming statements.
- Talk about specific issues of violence against Deaf people.
- Be a knowledgeable resource/referral source for Deaf Survivors.
- Stop laughing at sexual/sexist & audist jokes & comments.
- Use Deaf-Centered & Survivor-Centered resources.
- Educate yourself & others about DV/SA & Deaf Survivors.
- Attend DV/SA & Deaf awareness events & trainings.



Recommended Websites

- [Sexual Abuse of Children with Disabilities: A National Snapshot](http://www.vera.org/pubs/sexual-abuse-of-children-with-disabilities-national-snapshot) (2013): available at www.vera.org/pubs/sexual-abuse-of-children-with-disabilities-national-snapshot
 - [Abuse Rates Higher Among Deaf and Hard-Of-Hearing Children Compared With Hearing Youths, Study Finds](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/01/110118154733.htm) (2011): available at www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/01/110118154733.htm
 - [Deaf Children Have High Rates of Sexual Abuse & Inadequate Treatment: White Paper Seeks to Bridge Treatment Gaps](http://www.nctsn.org/nctsn_assets/pdfs/press_releases/NCTSN_Deaf_News_Press_Release_10-31-06.pdf), (2006): available at www.nctsn.org/nctsn_assets/pdfs/press_releases/NCTSN_Deaf_News_Press_Release_10-31-06.pdf
 - [Deaf power and control wheel, DeafHope](http://www.ncdsv.org/images/DeafHope_DeafPowerControlWheel_2006.pdf) (2006): available at http://www.ncdsv.org/images/DeafHope_DeafPowerControlWheel_2006.pdf
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Recommended Websites

- [Therapist Core Training \(WCSAP\)](http://www.wcsap.org/about-therapist-core-training): available at <http://www.wcsap.org/about-therapist-core-training>
- [OVCTTAC \(SA Advocate/Counselor Training\)](https://www.ovcttac.gov/saact/about_this_curriculum.cfm): available at https://www.ovcttac.gov/saact/about_this_curriculum.cfm
- [Deaf Community Accountability](http://asadv.org/asadv/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/DCA-Wheel-PDF-copy.pdf): available at <http://asadv.org/asadv/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/DCA-Wheel-PDF-copy.pdf>
- [Alternatives to Domestic Aggression](http://csswashtenaw.org/ada/resources/community/actionmod.html) (Jackson & Garvin): available at <http://csswashtenaw.org/ada/resources/community/actionmod.html>
- [Incite! Women of Color Against Violence](http://www.incite-national.org/): available at <http://www.incite-national.org/>
- [New Zealand Version \(CCAM Wheel\)](http://www.areyouok.org.nz/files/test/resources/coordinated-community-action-wheel.pdf): available at <http://www.areyouok.org.nz/files/test/resources/coordinated-community-action-wheel.pdf>



Recommended Reads

Barber, S., Wills, D., & Smith, M.J. (2010). Deaf survivors of sexual assault. In Irene W. Leigh (Ed.), *Psychotherapy with Deaf Clients from Diverse Groups* (2nd ed, pp. 320 - 340). Washington, DC: Gallaudet University Press.

Johnston-McCabe, P., Levi-Minzi, M., Van Hasselt, V.B., & Vanderbeek, A. (2011, January). Domestic Violence and Social Support in a Clinical Sample of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Women. *Journal of Family Violence* 26(1), p. 63-69.

Merkin, L., & Smith, M.J. (1995). A Community Based Model Providing Services for Deaf and Deaf-Blind Victims of Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence. *Sexuality and Disability*, 13(2), p. 97-1

Whyte, A.K., & Esposito, E. (Fall 2011). [Deaf Community Accountability Model](http://www.ncadv.org/files/Voice%20Fall%202011-2.pdf). *The Voice: A Journal of the Battered Women's Movement*, 24-29. Available Online: available at <http://www.ncadv.org/files/Voice%20Fall%202011-2.pdf>



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