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
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
“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?
- 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

• (Creative Interventions Toolkit)
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: available at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sleb-WKmBY0&feature=share&list=PL0BF7AB6D54246752
  • Consent is Sexy: available at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KdrbNGmuw0k
  • Community Accountability: available at http://youtu.be/wCBUFI0C7MM

• 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).
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

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- **Therapist Core Training (WCSAP):** available at http://www.wcsap.org/about-therapist-core-training
- **OVCTTAC (SA Advocate/Counselor Training):** available at https://www.ovctttac.gov/saact/about_this_curriculum.cfm
- **Alternatives to Domestic Aggression** (Jackson & Garvin): available at http://csswashtenaw.org/ada/resources/community/actionmod.html
- **Incite! Women of Color Against Violence:** available at http://www.incite-national.org/
Recommended Reads


ASADV
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Advocacy Services for Abused Deaf Victims available at www.asadv.org

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