Illinois Imagines

Mary Hettel and Krescene Beck
Arc of Illinois Lunchtime Webinar
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Acknowledgements

Illinois Imagines is supported by Grant #2015-FW-AX-K003 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, United States Department of Justice.
Before we begin, let’s create an environment where we can all feel safe.
Prevalence - 1

People with intellectual disabilities are sexually victimized more often than others who do not have a disability. (Furey, 1994)

49% percent of people with intellectual disabilities will experience 10 or more sexually abusive incidents during a lifetime. (Sobsey & Doe, 1991)
Any type of disability appears to contribute to higher risk of victimization but intellectual disabilities, communication disorders, and behavioral disorders appear to contribute to very high levels of risk, and having multiple disabilities result in even higher risk levels. (Sullivan & Knutson, 2000)
Prevalence - 3

Researchers have found that men with disabilities are twice as likely to become a victim of sexual violence compared to men without disabilities.
(The Roeher Institute, 1995)

80% of women and 60% of men with developmental disabilities will experience sexual violence by age 18; of this number, only 3% of the perpetrators go to jail.
Prevalence - 4

Women with disabilities, compared to women without disabilities, are more likely to experience violence that is more severe victimization, experience it for longer duration, be survivors of multiple episodes of abuse, and be survivors of a larger number of perpetrators.

Prevalence - 5

Other studies have indicated that as many as 90% of people with developmental disabilities will experience sexual assault in their life time.
Vision/Goals - 1

● Vision
  ● All people with disabilities will be guaranteed an environment free from sexual violence, where they are empowered to speak and act for themselves.
  ● Survivors of sexual violence will be assured a proactive, individualized, compassionate response to their experience.
Vision/Goals - 2

- Goals
  - Reduce the incidence of sexual assault and the threat of sexual violence against people with disabilities.
  - Create a supportive, accessible environment for people with disabilities who choose to disclose sexual assault or the threat of sexual violence.
  - Ensure survivors receive timely, relevant, survivor-centered services.
Guiding Principles

- Victim-Centered
  - Rape Crisis Center focus expanded to all
- People First
  - Nothing about us without us
  - People-First language
- Disability Humility
  - Shift the focus from worker as expert to the person with disability as expert
“Diversity is being invited to the party; inclusion is being asked to dance.”

~ Vernã Myers
Background - 1

- OVW Grant
  - Began in 2007
  - Original stipulations (women, no criminal justice, etc.)
Background - 2

- Statewide Collaborative Team
  - Self-Advocates
  - Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS)
  - Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault (ICASA)
  - Disability Service Providers (DSPs)
  - Family Violence Coordinating Council (FVCC)
  - Centers for Independent Living (CILs)
  - Others
Process

- Statewide Needs Assessment
- Strategic Planning
- Model Sites
- Sustainability
Lessons Learned

- Collaboration is good
  - Learning about each other has led to working together/helping each other

- Knowledge is good
  - Knowledge for people with disabilities
  - Staff knowledge
  - Referrals up

- Law and Policy
  - Institutionalize
Original Toolkit
Original Toolkit

Guide for Rape Crisis Centers

Illinois Imagines Project
May 2010
Original Toolkit

Women with Disabilities and Sexual Violence Education Guide

Illinois Imagines Project
May 2010
A Guide for Parents and Guardians

Illinois Imagines Project
July 2013
Guia Para Los Padres Y Familiares
PICTURE GUIDE To The Exam After Sexual Assault

PICTURE GUIDE To The Exam After Sexual Assault for Self-Advocates

PICTURE GUIDE To The Exam After Sexual Assault for Medical Staff
Guide for Starting Empowerment Groups
Picture Supplement Guide

For Use with the Women with Disabilities and Sexual Violence Education Guide

December 2013
Illinois Imagines is a statewide project to improve services to women with disabilities who have been victims of sexual violence. The project is directed by the Illinois Department of Human Services, Illinois rape crisis centers, disability service agencies and self-advocates. Collaborative teams have been established in 30 communities across the state.
Survivors with Disabilities Served by RCC in Illinois

- FY08 – 254
- FY10 – 347
- FY12 – 585
- FY14 – 756
- FY17 – 825
When Someone Tells You About Sexual Violence...

START BY believing

www.startbybelieving.org
Help! I’ve Had a Disclosure… What Do I Do?

- Take a deep breath
- Be present
- Believe what you hear
- Be quiet and let the person tell the story
- Do not ask questions
- Do not blame, judge, or punish
Help! I’ve Had a Disclosure… What Do I Say?

“I believe you.”

“This was not your fault. You are not alone.”

“You are so brave to tell. Thank you for trusting me with this.”

“How can I help you? What do you need right now?”

“There is a crisis center in town that can help. Do you want help in calling/contacting?”
Trauma Responsive Assessment Tool

TRAUMA RESPONSIVENESS ASSESSMENT TOOL

ASSESSMENT DATE: ________________
AGENCY NAME: ___________________________________________________________
ADDRESS: _______________________________________________________________
TELEPHONE: __________________ E-MAIL: ________________________________
STAFF INTERVIEWED: ____________________________________________________
INTERVIEWERS: __________________________________________________________
SEND REPORT TO: _______________________________________________________

CONNECTION AND READINESS SECTION

1. Describe the relationship and networking between your agency and the local rape crisis center. Describe any specific outreach efforts or networking agreements.
2. How does your collaboration with rape crisis centers improve your readiness to serve women with disabilities who experience sexual violence and the broader community (e.g., police, court)?
3. How would a woman with a disability who experienced sexual violence know she could safely disclose to staff in your agency? Describe any specific awareness efforts.
4. Describe how agency materials and environment make it known that the agency is a safe place for women with disabilities to talk about sexual violence.
5. How are staff prepared to respond to disclosures of sexual violence? Describe staff attitude regarding disclosures.

Training Topics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training Topics</th>
<th>Number of Hours Per Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sexual violence and women with disabilities (incidence, impact, general information)</td>
<td>□ Yes □ No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact of sexual violence, injury, trauma, etc.</td>
<td>□ Yes □ No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responding to disclosures</td>
<td>□ Yes □ No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>System response/resources (emergency department, law enforcement, criminal justice system) to sexual violence</td>
<td>□ Yes □ No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agency policies &amp; procedures guiding service to women with disabilities who experience sexual violence</td>
<td>□ Yes □ No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>□ Yes □ No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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CONNECTION AND READINESS SUMMARY

〢 Strengths:
〢 Challenges:
〢 Resources Needed:
Trauma Responsive Assessment Tool - 2

**Policies and Practices Section**

1. How do you inform women with disabilities about healthy sexuality, sexual relationships and their rights to sexual safety?

2. Describe agency policy regarding personal boundaries among clients and between clients and staff. How does policy explain what it means to respect personal boundaries and the agency’s response to boundary violations?

3. How does agency intake protocol include screening for history of sexual violence? How does ongoing service planning and delivery provide disclosure opportunities for women who experience sexual violence?

4. How do you inform women with disabilities about how to report if they experience sexual harassment or sexual violence? How do staff educate women with disabilities regarding required reporting (at point of intake and any point of potential disclosure)?

5. Describe immediate response to women with disabilities who disclose sexual violence (e.g., crisis intervention, medical care, reporting and safety planning). How does the response to disclosure support victim safety and healing?

6. How is privacy provided when a woman with a disability discloses sexual violence?

7. How does the woman participate in reporting sexual violence to others (e.g., family, rape crisis center, OIG, law enforcement)?

8. Describe the referral process and coordination of services with a rape crisis center. How would a woman be informed that she can use rape crisis services? Does the agency provide on-site space for rape crisis staff to serve women with disabilities?

9. How does the service plan incorporate a holistic response to the woman’s sexuality, sexual orientation, sexual choices and safety?

10. How is understanding of and response to trauma integrated into the overall service plan (e.g., education, employment, counseling)?

11. How does the staff advocate for and/or arrange transportation and accommodations for individual women with disabilities in the agency and community settings (e.g., hospital, court)?
“I did then what I knew then. When I knew better, I did better.”

~ Maya Angelou
Questions
Comments
Considerations