We will begin shortly. While you wait…

Learning from Survivors: The Beginning, The Middle, and The End of Community Assessment Projects

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Praxis International - Technical assistance on analyzing institutional responses to violence against women
Presenters and Staff

Praxis staff:

- **Alex Wilson**
  Department of Educational Foundations, University of Saskatchewan

- **Olga Trujillo**, Senior Program & Training Specialist
- **Liz Carlson**, Program Specialist
- **Maren Woods**, Program Manager

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LEARNING FROM SURVIVORS:
THE BEGINNING, THE MIDDLE, AND THE END OF COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT PROJECTS

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Defining lived experience

*Lived experience* refers to people’s first-hand accounts and reflections in relation to the full context of their lives. Lived experience tells people’s stories, but it is more than this-happened-to-me. It is people’s reflective stories about the meaning of what has happened in the context of identity, culture, and history. Lived experience pays particular attention to the ways in which people are marginalized according to identity, position, and oppression in relation to the larger or dominant society.

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Praxis International - Technical assistance on analyzing institutional responses to violence against women
Efforts to incorporate the *lived experience*

- Surveys
- Interviews
- Advisory groups (former participants)
- Listening sessions
- Focus groups

**Question**

How have you incorporated the lived experience of survivors into your work?

*Type your answers into the chat...*
Learning from Survivors during a Community Assessment

**Beginning**
- Identify biggest gaps in system response
- Clarify scope and focus of assessment

**Middle**
- Learn more details of gaps

**End**
- Advise on preliminary findings
- Advise on recommendations

The Native Women’s Research Project

**WHAT WAS IT?**

What did the project examine?
How was Community Assessment used?

Indigenous Research & Community Assessment

Indigenous ways of knowing principles:
- The communality of knowledge
- Recognizing spiritual connections
- Relational accountability
- Reciprocity
- Holism

Principles of community assessment:
- Standpoint of Indigenous women
- Focus on institutional processes (not good or bad workers)
- Contextualized local, state, national, cultural influences

Incorporating the lived experience
Unique Design

- Elders Advisors
- Community leadership
  - Lead by Indigenous researchers
  - Native women who:
    - used or were caught up in the US legal system; or
    - worked for community agencies that worked with the US legal system
- Talking Circles

Talking Circles

- Held throughout the different areas in the region studying
- Huge participation
- Informal discussions
- Flyers announced talking circles and stated availability of:
  - Child care
  - Food
  - Time and Transportation stipends
  - Advocacy

Questions?
FINDINGS

Identified Problematic Features of Institutions

- Specialization
- Use of categories
- Institutional vs lived time
- Textually coordinated
- Inability to take up women’s stories
- Sidetracking violence

Recommendation

A system must honor all our relationships, be holistic and respect women in order to have integrity for indigenous people and communities.
How community involvement influenced the findings

Community involvement

View of the system through the lens of Indigenous Women

Uncovered ideological practices in operation

Questions?
Next webinar on Community Assessments

June 7, 2:00pm to 3:15pm CDT
So, You Completed Your Audit...Now What?
Successes and Challenges in Implementing Audit Recommendations
With Lucy Pope, Ph.D., Collaborative Consulting

Thank You
For questions, assistance, or more information, please contact:
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