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>> Hello everyone and welcome. Thank you for joining us today for it the world building blocks I am not I'm Liz Carlson. Social change advocacy, be the change you seek. So community-based and they face many obstacles to having their voices heard power dynamics within systems and the social and cultural climate and create general resistance to change. Today we will consider the theoretical foundation core principles and core activities of social change advocacy to elevate our collective response against women. While ensuring that women's realities and I'm very pleased to be joined by my Praxis advocacy learning center. My colleague on a real project is unable to join us today. For her throughout her session. Hello Diane and Sandra welcome. Before introduce the two of them, I would like to just quickly review the tips that we offer. For how to ensure a good webinar. And the voice over IP lines will be muted today and so if there is anyone who is participating in this session today, just by phone only, we want to encourage you to use your e-mail and send me any comments or questions, clarifications or of course problems that you may have. And e-mail address to send those things is Liz. Praxis International .org. For the rest of you do. Who are connected we would encourage you to use the chat function. To share your comments in the lower left-hand portion of your webinar screen. That's your opportunity to share your comments with the whole group and should you have an issue you would like to speakers today simply open that private tab and double-click on one of the presenters and that will open up an individual feed between a person. I would love to have you test out your chat right now. And chat a quick little hello and let us know where you are calling from and if you happen to have colleagues were joining you, why don't you check that in. And while those things are coming in, I will just wrap up on the webinar tips to say if you happen to get disconnected through either the telephone line or the webinar platform, you just needs to simply rejoin through whatever your original process was and this session is being recorded. If you want to take an opportunity to revisit it or share it with your colleagues it will be posted online on the rural recordings page of the Praxis International website by the end of the day. So with that, I would like to introduce our topic. Social change advocacy within the context of rural communities. We will hear from Diane and Sandra in just a few minutes. With a little history. So you will see that Praxis conducted a needs assessment. Violence against women before doing that, Praxis has been working with rural advocates since 1998 and through our contact with more than 10,000 individuals in rural communities. Offering over 400 training sessions and collaborating specializing in organizing responses to violence against women in rural communities we learned a lot about rural advocacy and the challenges that you all face and working toward social change. Into thousand two, we worked with [ Indiscernible ] to conduct this assessment for rural grantees. We collected data from rural programs, we conducted an extensive online survey to rural grantees, held focus groups through audio conferences did individual in-depth interviews with rural grantees and even had a today think tank were

a group of 20 rural programs individual and collective perspectives on unique issues facing rural communities.

>> Sense that time we found that project is really revitalized our commitments and strengths on rural issues, through RTA projects and national does get a clear approach for training and technical assistance to you all as rural grantees. The loudest themes that came out of that needs assessment the complexity strengths and challenges of organizing and rural communities. First we noted that rural process a broad range of geographies in income since various populations, cultures, histories and governments. That are at the same time shared and distinct. Cultural traditions. Very tremendously. Communities respond to violence against women. The second thing that we noticed was that advocates in rural communities that you are all creative and managing scarce resources. We'll trying to meet the vast needs of your communities. Advocacy programs fill the void of the community as far as transportation housing healthcare and access. The third seen that we became aware of is that rural communities drive a million miles through snow and mountain passes just to reach the battered women who call them responding and help in providing them information that they need to increase their safety. The fourth thing rural advocates have a distinct voice. Focused on the unique tone working to end violence against women the last two characteristics that we noted are issues related more directly to our topic today and we will hear about our issues from our presenter Shirley. But I want to continue to say that we realize rural advocates work with around and through the reality that everybody knows everybody. Relationships can strengthen or impede close was support and resources. As well as reinforce messages to perpetrators extends deep into the community or that new residents are met with hostility or exclusion rural communities built upon long-held traditions that are woven into social norms and beliefs that tolerate violence against women. We will talk about some strategies to address these circumstances once our presenters get started. I want to continue to say that we recognize the challenges that rural advocacy faces hear any unique advocates are in a unique position in the community to represent the experiences of victims and to hold systems accountable yet in rural communities where one key player can have tremendous influence on others, in developing the political well of partners in identifying and securing champions and efforts to end violence against women. Additionally entrenched community power dynamic limit rural to fully engage this is difficult what is unique are the following. Extremely limited employment rural. In many potential may not have the orientation for institutional changes undo the systemic against violence against women long-held customs the impact of sure grant funding cycles means not along for long but not only for the community but for the practitioners in the system. If they work and fully funding and 70 funding is short what is there to truly engage in lasting change. So this webinar is part of Praxis focus to enhance comprehensive social change oriented efforts to end violence against women in rural communities and strengthen foundational advocacy. There remains a critical need for a focus on basic and advanced advocacy. Related to all forms of violence against women. Developing enhancing and promoting advocacy leadership skills and capacity for organizing an end to violence against women in rural communities. And enhancing institutional reform efforts, particularly related to the criminal legal system.

>> This is what we also realized through the survey about what rural advocates want. And what Praxis seeks to provide us opportunities. For rural advocates to learn together about social change oriented

advocacy, strategize with each other about how to pursue social change efforts in conservative rural climates. This webinar is one of a handful of events we will offer this year that will focus on this whole range of issues. A couple we will highlight later on include a Roundtable on community advocacy and rural communities and in Institute for rural advocates on enhancing individual institutional and community advocacy skills and capacities. I will tell you a little bit more about how to register for those sessions and find more information. At the end of our session today so that was a lot of talking on my part. Thank you all of you for bearing with me as I got us oriented to our session today but now we would like to hear from you, the rural experts. This is your opportunity to share with us your reaction to these two questions that you see on your screen right now. These poll questions. And the first question is asking whether or not the realities, the rural realities that I outlined resonate with you listening today. For those of you who are on the -- engaged in the webinar itself, you'll see that little poll pop up in the chart and we will just pause for a second as you take an opportunity yes or no. Inconsistent with your experience. It looks like a number of us 100% it is familiar the results of our rural assessment are very consistent with your experience so the next question we would like your feedback on on what form do you -- with individuals, institutional or systems change in the community or it is hard to say because you're advocacy is a blind that all of these things. As always, so the pie chart is very colorful the majority of our all institutional and community engagement that of course you're trying to do it all. That is not so surprising. And a segue for me to take an opportunity to introduce my ALC advocacy learning Center colleagues again Diane [ Indiscernible ] and Sandra Pilgrim Lewis. Diane is a program and training specialist at the ALC. She joined in 2012 after more than 20 years in the movement to end violence against women. She has been an advocate absolute at -- activist battered women's shelters, rape crisis centers, and in community and campus organizing. Throughout her lifetime, Sandra Pilgrim Lewis has been a social change activist on a wide range of issues of oppression. She brings that exuberance and passion into her work addressing violence against women. After 15 years as the Executive Director of dual organizations in Michigan and Alaska she is now staffed to the Michigan domestic and sexual violence prevention and treatment board where she pursues social and systems change at a statewide level. As well as serving on the ALC as faculty. She brings a wealth of experience to our webinar today. Diane and Sandra, are you still there?

>> We are here.

>> So glad that you could join us today. Now that I have gotten us oriented to our topic, I'm going to turn the session over to the to of you.

>> Thank you so much Liz and I am so happy to be here with Sandra and with all of you doing this important work all across the country. It was very interesting to start us off with Apple and to see how many of you are saying that these pieces of advocacy are all part of what makes up your work and makes up your day. This is Diane, with the different voices, just hearing the voices can be a little confusing. Today we are addressing these three interconnected at distinct levels of advocacy. Or what we in the advocacy learning Center referred to as social change advocacy. Individual advocacy which is as we know working directly with an individual woman, individual survivor, or what we will call direct services. Court advocacy, any individual sharing of information and support in the aftermath of violence and navigating the systems that are in a woman's life as a result of that. Institutional advocacy is about

working change problematic systems responses. When they are affecting groups of women. Groups of survivors. And community advocacy includes as we noted in that last slide in the pool our work is as organizers and educators, prevention work, anything that is seeking to end violence against women by changing the social norms that give rise to the violence. As you know as rural advocates all of these are essential to the work of advocacy. Whether it is working with an individual woman to change what a prosecutor or landlord or judge or a perpetrator is doing. Or for groups of women experiencing a common problem working to change what an institution does and then of course really working with and beside and within our communities to change the norms that lead and contribute and perpetuate violence against women. It is these three areas that we will be exploring today. Sandra, our first one is individual.

>> I thought you were going to talk a lot about that Diane or did you want me to --

>> We are moving into the foundational piece from here. Anything you want to add to my description of individual advocacy?

>> I think that as advocates, and especially in rural areas because we were -- where so many hats, it is our tendency to look at women individually and think about how it is we are going to help them and with that individual issue they're facing is and spend a lot of time focusing on that. But what is happening with women individually. Really can help lead us into the social change around. And so I think that when we stop and look at women individually and start putting those issues into groups that's what can help lead us into the social change wrong. I think as a whole, and probably because we travel so far to see women and they come to us from so far, we tend to just fall into that place of let me see what I can do for this individual person versus spending a lot of time on what is really causing it. Individual advocacy is a lot about looking at what is happening with that single individual person and walking beside her.

>> I think that is a good point Sandra is that in many ways these are false distinctions. That there are so many overlap in ways as we has advocates, we weave in and out of these three areas. It is really as an approach or framework that we are making these very specific distinctions between them. In our conversation today. As we talk about this, we want to start with returning to the roots of our movement. Advocacy with foundational theories. That really guide our conversations, guide our thinking, indirect where we go as we think about our individual institutional and community advocacy. So what is it, how does how can that director advocacy. And the first one is really thinking about how we can understand in the context of a system and recognizing violence is a tool, that maintains the impression that all women's experience to varying degrees. Then intersects with many other forms of oppression. And they reinforce and perpetuate each other. We know the gender oppression is experienced by all women but that we have differing degrees of privilege and disadvantage within it because of our different identities, our socioeconomic standing, as well as the kinds of violence we are subjected to because of those different identities. And this I think is really an important one to reflect on because when we are working solely as advocates to help individuals deal with the effects of oppression and violence it is not ending the violence. Of course essential services. Sandra in your work in my work and advocacy and essential work that is being done and programs across the country that it is vital

services that we provide. We sometimes think of it as being a hamster on a wheel. That the violence continues. If we are framing it always -- only is helping individual survivors. One at a time.

>> I agree. I always think about what and Marshall would say, if we walk with one woman at a time, we're always making that same walk over and over again. Which is taking us to that next point, but when we begin to look at the same issues that women are facing, or is a collective action, within and across communities and identify groups then it's necessary to and the impression that all of it is formed. It never ends the violence and it doesn't mean that we don't need to walk one at a time or help each person with those issues, it doesn't mean that we don't stop providing direct services, but it does mean that we begin to help women and survivors who have experienced the violence be a primary force and a collective work to and the violence. The very foundation of the system of gender oppression. If that makes any sense.

>> Absolutely. I think we can see this, both of these foundational theories, sometimes I think are more obvious when we look at other social change movements. We think about the civil rights movement and how central those were most impacted were in leadership roles in determining the direction in sharing their experiences and connecting with one another. They were the movement in many ways.

>> Right. If we thought about just one person being violated, it didn't end but when there was a collective movement if we think back when he talked about the civil rights movement if we look back just too bloody Sunday which has passed and that masses of people marched together we begin to see a change. We begin to see women working together, rural women working together and it looks so different and rural communities and I have to keep going back to my experience of rural because I can remember when I looked at voices of women in New York and work together and if I collected everybody in our whole community, it would look like that. But there are ways within our rural community. That we bill allies and collectively and change. We have the issue with women being housing. If they had any interaction with the criminal justice system. If you had been arrested or any kind of things you could be denied housing. What we had to do to get that changed, one person couldn't do it but it happened too many women and we partnered with probation, and a few women came with us in the advocates together and we were able to change the policy within housing to say if that woman decided that she wanted to work with advocacy organization and working with probation then she could be denied housing. That was an instance where we saw -- saw many individual women facing the same issue but as the collect of we were able to change the system response.

>> I think that's a great example. When I look at this framework two. Listen to talk, I think about what brought me into this movement. It was envisioning without violence against women. Social change. Doing that daily work of advocacy and I know this from talking to other advocates that social change can end up feeling like a luxury. That it's not -- not able to really have it at the foundation in many ways what we do everyday.

>> I think that's about -- work on some level. How do we end it?

>> And this is something you have seen in your work this drift from our roots in social change to more of a focus on direct service

>> When we started doing this work because I'm old and I've been around a long time when I started doing this work we didn't have any money, it was women coming together around the kitchen table, strategizing and figuring out how to do something. And then we started to receive funding which in many ways was along with that came some responsibilities. It began to shift how we thought we have these requirements we need to do ABCD any I think we forgot what our beginning purpose was. The purpose of our movement and so many of us begin to shift from that social change that we started with two just providing direct services. Sometimes people move towards mental health model or a medical model and many times we have lost the social change. Piece of it. One of the things I think about working in a rural program and I think that our rural advocates may not even realize this about themselves. And to solidify it or remind ourselves of it because we where so many hats. We still have the ability to do that social change. And are doing it in a very real way but we have lost the ability to recognize that because we look at urban American, look at everything they have. We doubt and second-guess ourselves. But in those rural communities because we were so many hats and we do so much was so little, I think that we have an ability to recapture that social change in a very real meaningful way.

>> Absolutely. Did you want to say something about this graphic?

>> Yes. This is -- we use this in a LC and we are not doing a whole help the training because that would be months. But we think about this as our social change advocacy guide. It's our core principles and activities and very basic guides. And it reminds us of our foundation social change. I really never gets us through rough waters.

>> The rough waters we talk about the drift that makes it happen. What we keep at the center of what we are trying to do. so we can drift toward as you described a medical model or a mental health model. Same ones that it is not about not doing individual advocacy stepping back and reflecting make our individual advocacy. Be part of what leads to social change where they can come into practice these were created after many conversations with advocates. Created in part to say what exactly is problematic about it and how can we as advocacy programs standing contrast to that. Both to problematic responses. But also the tactics that batterers use. The other systems of up social change advocacy we want to highlight a few of these. And conversations and courses could focus just on these. But looking out for example creating experience that is liberating. How could we has advocates the woman's experience abuse violence and oppression. And all sorts of looking at shelter rules and which ones are needed what we may have inherited an impact might be reinforcing a relationship of dominance between advocates and women. Rather than a liberating experience. Programs looking at mandating and how they could take a minute. We can step back and say how can we as advocate and is programs create an experience. Sandro?

>> You are doing a good job talk about everyday and remembering are we doing this in a way that liberate or are we becoming dominating for her. And it is just -- you have done a really good job and talk about that. Around shelter rules and are we mandating people and everything we are doing, looking at our environment, how we are setting up our offices, how we are doing our intake, how we are having conversations, are we telling people are listening? Are we talking work or listing more? Really, to

question, are we doing things in a way that liberate or are we doing things in a way that dominates? Are we part of that system of violence or are we a part of that system that onerous supports and heels?

>> Exactly. And you were going to highlight one of these as well.

>> Recognizing that intersection reality and complexity. I think that sometimes we have that tendency to look at women or survivors and think only about the instance of violence. When people come to us they are old people with many complexities. In their lives. And many layers of things happening and so to be able to recognize those multiple layers that create that person's life is really important. Economics, identity, many experiences culture, social status, all of those things shape and form who that person is. I always think about when I look at that video of Rachels story, and these things are going on in her life and the very last thing is a note from the child protective work that said Rachel is becoming less and less cooperative. And I think it's because every single person and every single system is looking at eight the piece of her that they see that they need something. And that is all they are focusing on and I think that as advocates we can have that tendency to do that. Versus the whole complexity of that person and it goes back to the dominating versus liberating when we say if you're in the shelter, your support system and family can't come. We are not looking at the many complexities within her life. She can decide what is important to her. We are not valuing that piece of her. So I think that all of these things build on the other, and it's just really important for us to see how all of those people. All of those pieces in every single person just like they want people to see all the pieces and the things that are important to us when people see me I want them to see more than one piece of me. I am more than the person who is sitting here talking to about this issue. I'm a mother, a grandmother, friend, sister, aunt, person who values my dual cultures. I am all of those things just like all of you are many things and so when we meet with women, just because experienced an incident of violence, domestic violence and sexual assault that isn't the whole person so I think that is really critical when we are working with women to remember that.

>> Good summary their Sandra and it also makes me -- I also want to acknowledge the challenges because when we approach, when we are very deliberate about recognizing the whole person and all her complexities that means we are also recognizing that they're going to be need that arise that perhaps we traditionally have not addressed or been designed to address. I think rural programs are much more likely to do that. Because of the multiple hats that rural advocates where. It might be helping, it is not just with housing, but considering okay, somebody needs -- are they going to deal with their farm animals if they leave? How are they going to -- they don't have transportation and there is no public transportation where we are. Just a whole range of issues that can arise once you have those conversations. And so then it also means looking at how are we organized in our program to be able to meet those needs and to also recognize what are the other support services. As you mentioned. Friends or family or community that can step in and provide some of that. It's not all on the advocates -- advocacy program.

>> I remember working with a woman and she had cancer and AIDS and she was in our transitional housing program in a rural community and that stigma if people knew would have been terrible for her. But she had to get all the way, like 500 miles to get the medical care she needed and sometimes I had to

be inpatient and how we needed to be able to coordinate that in a way that honored her and she still keeps her housing and son and still honor her confidentiality. Was very complicated. In the end, the incidents of violence, that got her into transitional housing was a very small thing that she had to deal with, but all they rural barriers, the medical, the transportation, the social stigma were so much bigger and all we could have focused on was that incident of violence. That woman never would have gotten what she needed.

>> Exactly. We just have a minute to address with with more of these in may want to make sure we don't brush over. Approaching as a social problem versus an individual or psychological problem. And for that we mean that violence against women arises from a social problem. It is not one that is caused by the actions of individuals or can be ended simply by healing or giving treatment to individuals. That the problem will continue because it is a social problem. Our question becomes what does that mean in terms of our individual advocacy and how we're approaching it is, how we are talking to women about it. What are the implications for our advocacy. What are your thoughts on that Sandra?

>> I'm trying to thing.

>> This is something that Sandra my love to talk about and it is so central to the work of social change advocacy and it is a big concept but I think when it comes down to what it means an action, particularly with our individual advocacy I think about something like our education groups or support groups that the programs have. What is the curriculum we are using or what is the agenda? Is it -- how are we framing violence against women in our support groups? That is a place where we can step back and say is there an aspect or is there a grounding in violence against women as a social problem in those groups. That is one example I think of.

>> How are we connecting with other women? And empowering women to have a voice to understand, it is not their issue, it is a social change issue.

>> Absolutely and again if you want to talk more with Sandra or me about that, we are happy to keep talking about it. We want to make sure we get some time to think about -- think together about institutional advocacy. As we mentioned, much of the advocacy we do involves improving institutions response to one woman. We are assisting a women and dealing with a practitioner or a system or court advocacy. Institutional advocacy is about creating new pounds that will change the institutional response for all survivors. And those advocacy needs frequently arise whether it is from institutions that are in a woman's life because she made the contact but also we know there are many institutions that are in the lives of women uninvited that are there for many other reasons. And the need for institutional advocacy arises when we identify gaps between what institutions do and what it is that survivors need. We hear about these all the time as advocates, and we also observe them ourselves. So in conversations with police detectives or accompanying women to court or hearing about it on the hot line, Sandra, are there examples of those gaps that come to mind for you?

>> There are. The one that just popped into my mind is around sexual assault and in Michigan, we have a really old law about mandated reporting. And so it is how people interpret that in the medical community and in law enforcement that they feel that they are mandated to report sexual assault



regardless of what that survivor might say. And so that can make it very difficult within institutions, how do you advocates and get them to understand the trauma that that can cause for that survivor when these people really think they are doing a good job and they are doing network, how their work is organized to report. The law was created back in the 30s during mobster gangster prohibition time and it was written because the premise behind it was if someone came in with a gunshot wound, the medical system was mandated to report. So after that, any crimes are mandated to report and it has never been changed. It happens that sexual assault victims don't have the right to not have their rape reported. We are working really hard to change that now but I think about that, and also when I think nationally I think about that failure to protect law. Those are two ways for institutional advocacy, has to be done but it is very difficult and those institutions are following out how their work is organized, it makes so much challenges for survivors and for advocates.

>> Absolutely. That is one we are hearing about over and over again from programs across the country. I think hear about women being arrested for using violence and then all the implications that has. So then she has a record, she is not able to get housing as a result of that, you mentioned sexual assault, how rare sexual assault restitution czar, cases are dropped even when there is a victim who is cooperating in wanted to go forward. These are all examples of problematic institutional responses, and our institutional advocacy comes in and saying how do these come about and where can we make changes to make it better? To make these responses better. Here you see some key points in the advocacy learning Center exploration of institutional advocacy. Sandra, what would you want to highlight in here?

>> I think I want to talk about grounded in the women's Lib experience, and developed with those who work in institutions. I think that we have to keep very much in the center of what that woman's experience. I think I can be our tendency to just hop into what we see as the social injustice, the institutional injustice without thinking what is that women's experience. That has to guide first how we move into our institutional change were. Because it doesn't matter what we feel that injustices. That isn't supportive of what women are feeling and experiencing. And that can be the way that we go. The women's Lib experience has to be at the center of everything we do. If it isn't we are putting ourselves in the same place as a better or the system that they feel they have been betrayed by. Then it gets to be really conflicting. And it's even harder when I want to go forward with that. Basing it on her lived experiences are. We can me more everybody knows you something that we -- that women's group experience.

>> Challenges in doing that. Create this institutional change think about that drift. Lived experience.

>> The impact of policies procedures how we do or advocacy when we are dealing with the child protective services we want to build safer communities. And so many children and batters were staying. I was able to go child protective services 30% of the one we are mandating have a shared better we all want safer communities leaving the batter in the home. A new victim so we are not creating safer communities different solution we really are creating community. So I kept the woman's reality and looked at looked at the mission of child protective services. It is like getting smarter that with the work we are doing. Pair the two to move forward.

>> That's a great example. And we talked in the ALC that many of us exasperated Guardian ad litem something that somebody says or does. About shifting that. That directs that were. And individuals workers. Mean or bad. We don't programs have missions, as Sandra mentioned. We do institutional advocacy that focuses on structure much more likely what directs it what procedures. And identify those with a mouse. What we call the golden rules of institutional advocacy. We say that these errors the secret to success for advocates. in these four golden laurels more likely to make a difference on women's lives. Are responding women's Lib experience. Safety well-being and autonomy. Any to highlight Sandra and communities. So that's one way that we can really help centralized the safety and autonomy. Has to be central to everything we do.

>> Absolutely. We are sitting at a table we are the only ones there. It is our mission. Safety well-being and autonomy. So as advocate learn about what might we need to know. enjoy your work. That there is in self-defense. Sexual assault case being dropped. But we have to find out more. How often is happening, who else is happening to? Azeri dispirited impact, particular women that are experiencing it more. You had an example this percentage here's what we know about this. It bolsters for creating change.

>> Systemic and social change analysis not individuals focus on if you talk about individuals how do we change process. Is much better, and we don't worry about breaching our confidentiality and honoring their autonomy. When we talk about process. More important to really focus on systematic so we can really stick to process problems and I think blessing change. Training different practitioners. There is turnover to create procedures. That is going to be more lasting. Potentially then a training.

>> Change the process and then it is sustainable.

>> You may change your process and train about that written materials. Because -- what participants may have we did get a question. A few minutes ago. James wrote organizations in regards to various and promoting change. And I am not entirely if you would James if you are hearing me know. Things such as not enough local support. The existing system but nothing happened.

>> If you your thinking here they overlap, institutional change, people saying existing systems work just fine. I'm thinking just the direction. Building a strong knowledge base before you going to make a case for what needs to change. Learning about the problem documenting it. Crave forums that they use in there advocacy. If they hear from an individual woman, a survivor about a negative or problematic response systems response they documented. And if they are hearing about it from advocates in the program, they documented. Have it is somebody's job to see what the themes are. And when there is a theme, to learn more about it. How often this is happening, who is happening to, how can we find out what information is out there and how can we access it. How can we connect with our coalitions? State and tribal coalitions to find out what they know about a problem. Rarely is it an issue and an individual community. And then with that you're going forward not just saying we have heard about this and it is a problem. You're going forward with that.

>> I think it's important within your small rural community to say who are our allies? And who else within our community understands this message and our need for this change? I think sometimes within our small communities, here they come. I don't want to hear this, everything is just fine and move along. So I think the example I can give you in our community, no sexual assault money. And I felt that as a community sexual assault had a big community form. To find out who in this community really understands that sexual assault is an issue that we really want to address. And it turned out that on non-who was the vice president of missions from our local hospital was very invested and she became one of our spokespersons so people who didn't want to hear me heard it from her. And was very responsive so in addition to your state coalitions and how you are collecting that data you definitely need that. Wilson my community is the spokesperson especially in a rural community. Because violence against women is a community issue. Who in the community might people be responsive to their voice when it's not always our advocate voices?

>> Absolutely. This also makes me think of the last golden rule really comes into play and thinking about that question that James posed. And using the model of constructive engagement. When we do that we are approaching the issue, we are raising, and assuming that practitioners want to help. And the example that Sandra gave earlier about looking at the mission of child protection -- child protective services and saying this is where we have common ground on this. And it is about building relationships and trust and we are able to have conversations in a different way when we have an ongoing relationship with someone. Also about seeing ourselves as advocates as colleagues in this. That we are at these tables because we bring knowledge, we bring experience, that we are partners in creating change. Mentioned the eye rolling earlier it's not challenging but the reality is there are consequences for survivors when we engage in a negative way with practitioners. And that is something that I was always return to. When I was tempted to roll my eyes. And think about it is important for me to have this to build this relationship because then I will be able to create change that will help many women. Anything to add to that Sandra?

>> You did a really good job with that Diane.

>> Something that is challenging but as Sandra mentioned these are skills that we learned, skills that we can practice and skills that can really make a difference in creating change. In the time we have left, we want to talk some about community advocacy Ed this can be called a whole lot of different things. Community organizing. And prevention were. Or community education. This is just umbrella term that is about engaging with our communities to build a collective movement. And that's a movement that can lead both to institutional change and social change. And those connections, being rooted as rural programs are. In and with our communities is so necessary if we are ever to really reach our goal violence against women.

>> We can hold this definition to help us think about what we are doing and what we might want to strengthen. How my going to do this and I will understand it better and when I look at this a really clarified it community advocacy is about bringing people together by violence against women using our collective power to gain improvements challenge social norms assumptions and institutions that underpin them perpetrate the injustice of violence against women. Create unity and common purpose

and build the world we want. And I think that really summarizes in a very powerful way and what jumps out at me. Using a collective power to gain improvement in women's lives. That goes back individual advocacy that we can't move helping women individually power of collective and it is bringing all people together community has so many different meanings I was a collective that will and violence if not in my lifetime and my granddaughters lifetime that we will and violence against women.

>> Thank you for that summary. Take us back to and theoretical foundation. Of gender oppression intersections with other oppression, about collective action. Thinking about all of that informs the work we do. The questions we ask ourselves about our community advocacy and how we are rooted in and connected to and creating change within our community. I find so interesting how are we engaging women. How are we bringing survivors into the movement. How are they part of collective action for change. And it raises so many different questions. For many of us we might have survivors who speak at our annual meeting or a fundraiser. Were there may be other ways that women get involved. If they are not involved. It raises the question why not. What gets in the way. What might have to change. For programs that have rules how long someone has to have -- distance between when somebody use services before they could volunteer for example. Is that something you are aware of them programs Sandra?

>> It has been. Crosses state. Always an issue they would have these timelines and radical. And they are in the process for some people might happen in six weeks and other people maybe 10 years. But it's always about putting that reality in the center and we can have predetermined guidelines around that and so I think then it begins within our organization to say are they liberated. That's one of those places you begin to look at. Looking at do you have rules and guidelines around safety and really run safety. Or summons press friends and why are they there. Overwhelming think you start by having conversations. You ask women what is important to. And you find ways to create opportunities for women to have a voice. I remember when we were fighting so hard to get the reauthorization of [ Indiscernible ] to say do you want to write letters, to want to make some phone calls, is there a way you want your voice to be heard? And rural communities it is so hard because I remember when I looked at that, I was like should I quit my job and moved to New York? In my wildest dreams it doesn't happen like that in rural America. It is about challenging ourselves, how do we empower women to have voices? Create social change, groups for women in rural communities that have a voice. What do they want to do? Have those conversations. It is overwhelming so how do we -- we started the beginning and look at where you want to go. Mentioning voices of women which is an organization in New York City that develops leadership create institutional change waterways that we can engage women in that and those most affected. How can that be part of the conversation.

>> We asked. We have to ask women in our rural community how would you like to see your voice heard? Do you want to see your voice heard?

>> Something else you mentioned that reminds me of violence work is finding out from women what they need to be involved. Is it about I need child care or I need more information. How I could be involved. What does it mean to go to a meeting with a practitioner where we are trying to ask for some sort of change in a policy. And that is part of what worked those two. Is really specific about teaching

those skills. We don't just naturally have them. There are certainly people that have some natural leadership skills but those are things that we learn and those are things that we can teach to bring others into this movement.

>> That's what I have been able to take away from it once I got over the fact that I don't have a million women to March. Some things they are doing that I can transfer and we created some the called Martha's table where we had kitchen tables and women came together and we cooked something and we shared it and we talked about what it is that they wanted to do. It looks very different from a million women marching but they had food because food was important to them and they had childcare and they had safe space where they could talk about what they wanted to do.

>> I think that's an essential point, which is using a New York City example in this rural webinar. It's about adapting. It's about what can we learn from programs that are doing this, what can we use in our community. Community advocacy has to be rooted in the traditions and the strengths of our individual communities. And decided with our communities as well. That's an important point. Just the minute we have left ear, we want to mention the other aspect or other essential of community advocacy which is really reflecting on how is our community advocacy changing social norms? So much I think of our time ends up being reactive. The school wants us to do this presentation, we are going to do this health fair here. Those are important, but how do we use them, how do we shift them so we are there about social change? What are some ways that we can do that within our organization? Shifting from awareness to norms change. And seeing that as all a part of what we do. And of course there are challenges in this in all sorts of ways whether we are working in a conservative community or talking about challenging gender norms on masculinity might be controversial. Also goes back to think about allies. What are intersecting issues, where the people people that care about our issues, similar issues that we can connect with, what are the ways that we can call on our community strengths to say this is who we are as a community and this is who we want to be. We don't have a lot of time for that but any quick thoughts for me on that and?

>> I think that we have to begin to have those conversations as advocates, as organizations, and look at it as part of our strategic plans, our short and long-range plans within our organizations we have to have those conversations with our board. One of the things as an Executive Director is begin to start each board meeting with a mission moment. How is this work reflecting our mission vision and philosophy is a changing taking a look at that and how is our work impacting that and time for an overview 18 months exploring in the advocacy learning center. And we certainly want to invite you when our application process opens. For programs to send a team and to have time to each of these aspects change advocacy. Much deeper exploration we has advocacy programs on policies and our own practices we invite lead to learn more about that by going to the Praxis website that you see there on the screen. And finally the quick mention the materials we have used the advocacy learning center. And these are copyrighted materials but if you want more information if you are advocacy at Praxis International .org. Liz?

>> Thank you both. Time just and there is been that we'll have long-lasting application I think. I really appreciate the to of you all that you had to offer and the examples have been really helpful. I would like

to just direct you if you should happen to have questions after this session ends, direct you to good contacts. I also added information and e-mail address for [ Indiscernible ] who is our regular rural technical assistance partner and she is a wealth of information. Always a good if you have specific questions about where to begin she will be a good person as well as my was going to join us as well as Diane a last hour and a half feel free to use those contacts there will be a follow-up e-mail with those resources a small handful of the chat today, voices of women organizing the story of Rachel Rose's contact information, those things will be Incorporated in the follow-up resource. Watch for that and finally I would like to close with a couple more pieces of information to let you know that we reference the beginning of the session today. There are some events coming up that may well and do relate to what we have been talking about today. First of all there is a rural Roundtable coming up June 24 and 25. In Bloomington Minnesota. Title is our source of strength little less formal smaller in nature. A good opportunity for a group of individuals to come together and really be able to think through and talk through issues within your communities. Also we have an institutional analysis TA project Institute coming up. A community assessment Institute. And the dates for that session will be May 12 through 15 in St. Paul. And then finally we are anticipating it seems like a long ways away but it will come very quickly a rural Institute this October 21 through 23 on rural advocacy. To find information about any of those events, go to the Praxis International website and each individual program, rural and the institutional analysis team project will provide the specific detail that you will be looking for. As well as registration information, those sessions are free of charge for grantees and you can read about them on the website. And finally I just want to let you know that when you disconnect from this session today you will be routed to an evaluation and we always so appreciate the time that you take to contribute feedback to our overall planning from the rural programs. Thank you for that. And then finally are session next month will be April 15, tax day that's what occurs to me that this will be an opportunity for this webinar on community organizing basics. Good opportunity to shift focus away from Texas. Into something more positive. Ways that we can effect change. We hope you will be able to join us. Thank you to our speakers today. Diane and Sandra. You are wonder. Thank you so much. Take care everyone. Goodbye. [ Event Concluded ]