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**Building Legal Capacity to Combat Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Against Immigrants**

**Rose Thelen, Praxis Technical Assistance Partner, Silvana Arista-Olms and Nathaly Perez, November 2016**

Please stand by for realtime captions.

>> Hello, everyone. Thank you for joining us today. It looks like we can get started with the presentation.

>> Hello, and welcome everyone to this world -- rural routes for change webinar presented by Praxis International. I am Liz Carlson , and I will facilitate this session today. Our topic is building legal capacity to combat sexual assault against immigrants. I joined by Rose Thelen , our technical assistance partner for our conversations and she is a regular host for these webinars. Rose, are you there?

>> I am here. I am slightly irregular today, but I am a host for many of these.

>> Very good. Rose comes from a variety of different context over the last many years. The direct advocacy, multijurisdictional, multi agency work at the the county seat national tribal and international levels. She provides rural technical assistance for Praxis and she is our regular host of these webinars.

>> In addition to Rose, we are fortunate to be joined today by our colleagues at the Catholic legal immigration network clinic. Silvana Arista and Nathaly Perez , hello. Rose will be introducing them in just a moment but before I turn this over to Rose and Nathaly and Silvana, I would like to speak to webinar participation.

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We would welcome you to chat in any questions or comments you may have at any time. The way in which you would do that is through the box that you see on your screen that says Q&A. That is your opportunity to share your thoughts. They will get routed to us and then when we have something that has come in, we will make a point of incorporating that to share it with the whole group. But our attempt to minimize our alliance on the chat and so much happening on a screen just makes the presentation more accessible for everyone. So feel free to utilize that Q&A pod at any point.

>> You will notice that there are captions scrolling at the bottom of your screen. Captioning allows a high level of accuracy but occasionally there are errors. So we would just ask you to not feel overly distracted if you notice an error in the rolling chat.

>> Just to get you oriented to what you see on your webinar screen, in the lower left-hand box you will see materials. Within that is the PowerPoint that we will be utilizing for the presentation today. You are able to download that and keep that for your own future reference. There also is a web link box that has the website for Praxis , Clinic, and the evaluation link is contained in that box. When we are done just before you get disconnected, you will be routed to an evaluation.

>> With that, I was just ask Rose to go ahead and get us started. And further introduce Nathaly and Silvana Thank you, Liz. I am happy to be with you today. This topic seems particularly timely given the recent election that we had. And so I am going to introduce you to Natalie and Silvana who come with a long history of services and program development and technical assistance to programs who are working with immigrants. I'm not going to go into their particular biographies at length, but you will be able to see them on the website. To find more about

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them. But as you have probably gathered, the work for CLINIC. Silvana is the project coordinator an attorney there and Nathaly is the field coordinator. Between them they can pretty much tell you what you need to know about direct services that can be provided to immigrants seeking assistance on their status as well of have to develop your program, policies, procedures and linkages with other networks in your community. So I am just very excited to have them here today because they are a perfect fit for working within your CCR to make sure that you are reaching all communities where there is domestic and sexual violence.

>> There -- the project still specifically with immigrants and survivors of sexual violence and victims of domestic abuse. As I mentioned, the broader organization serves all immigrants and those that do not have the financial wherewithal -- for poor immigrants. To get started, I'm going to have you take a look at this agenda here. They will be telling you some more about CLINIC itself as well as the legal capacity project. They will give you an overview of this Board of immigration appeals recognition and accreditation it would enable you as a program to provide non-legal assistance to immigrants through this process. They will break that down for you and how you can do that. And then when I came on I said I was slightly irregular and that is because I had an injury with my back. The good news is that we will be giving it to Nathaly and Silvana to take over. But before we move into this, I just wanted to say a couple words, and they will say some more as we go through this. But one of the things about the problem that immigrant women face and other survivors when they are in this country, we always talk about and CCR the various risks that are experienced by victims and survivors. And of course they are exacerbated when you are an immigrant and you have legal status that is not -- is is the word, Nathaly or for -- or Silvana ? When the

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legal status is in question? But one of these of course is how the offender can use their status to further their control over them. By threatening to deport the victims of domestic violence or take their kids out of the country or threaten to withdraw petitions for immigration status. These are going to be exacerbated in a rural area where there is isolation and community and cultural connections are missing and where they are marginalized from the dominant culture and community facing various kinds of bias and xenophobia, etc. So in terms of the institutionally generated risks that we talk about in the CCR, they have a very limited access to these services in their rural communities which is where I think that the building legal capacity project that we are about to hear about today comes in to assist you to make sure that your CCR is doing what it can and what it needs to meet the needs of immigrant violence. So Nathaly, without I will turn it over to you so we can talk through this agenda.

>> Okay. Thank you, Rose. Thank you Liz for having us this afternoon. We are excited to share with you our OVW technical assistance grant project. I will be talking about CLINIC where we started and what we are doing now and I will allow my colleague Silvana to further discuss the Board of Immigration Appeals Recognition and Accreditation process and then she will wrap this up with letting us know about our upcoming trainings for the 2017 calendar year and how you can get hands on support and technical assistance via our project and all of the resources that we offer. So a little bit about CLINIC. In 1988 the United States conference of Catholic Bishops established CLINIC as a legally distinct 501C3 organization to support the growing network of community-based immigration program. The network of CLINIC originally comprised of 17 programs. We have increased to more than 300 affiliated immigration programs with 465 offices in 47 states, including Puerto Rico and Washington DC.

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>> So our network of affiliates employs roughly 1200 1240 of immigration appeals and attorneys who in turn serve a quarter of 1 million low income immigrants each year. They are the ones providing the direct services in your communities.

>> CLINIC and our agencies represent low income immigrants without reference to their race, religion, gender, of Flickr group -- ethnic group, or other distinguish and features. Region is not -- religion is not something taking into consideration when we provide services.

>> Itself like a real good thing for the Catholic bishops to take on, so we are glad that they did. So what do you do there, Nathaly and Silvana ?

>> So here at CLINIC I will just skip to this slide quickly because I think it will help. We strengthen the immigrant rights community by preparing tradable immigration programs to expand their service delivery capacity to serve the thousands of low income immigrants who are eligible for relief under the current immigration system. So we do this through substitute immigration law and program trainings on site and in person with webinar format in addition provide technical assistance to affiliates for this project via our attorney hotline and one-on-one consultations on how to apply for accreditation through folks like myself as a field support coordinator. So in addition to training they also produce publications and reports on topics relative to the were performed in the field and provide advocacy on identified legal trends in local issues affecting immigrants and perceive responsive solutions. In addition here at CLINIC we do provide religious immigration services for the Catholic archdiocese is -- around the country.

>> Pic

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>> What is particular of interest what you are doing is that you are providing this assistance for non-legal advocates to take on the role.

>> Right. So Silvana will discuss the Board of immigration appeals, recognition, and accreditation process which allows for non-attorneys either volunteers our staff of nonprofits to practice immigration law in the same way that an attorney would. She will discuss the process to apply as a nonprofit to receive that credential.

>> So we will call to the next slide.

>> I think you alluded to this at the beginning, Rose. We here at CLINIC acknowledge there is a need for local immigration legal services. We know that abusers and offenders is the lack of status of the survivors as a control mechanism in abusive relationships. Absence of legal documentation keeps many immigrants in the shadows of society working and living underground with you legal protections and at the mercy of abusers. Many survivors do qualify for relief under US immigration law. If services are available, the survivor making a level of status independent of the offender and can leave the abusive relationship and hopefully cooperate with law enforcement to convict the law offender. These cases are extremely time sensitive and lack of capacity to respond to immigration issues put survivors at a distinct disadvantage.

>> Do you think that will be exacerbated in the coming years? The fear that victims and survivors have a coming forward at all?

>> I believe and has already started, unfortunately. Just giving the climate of this transition in the administration. So it will be even more important for providers

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and other immigration legal services providers to really know the accuracy of the laws that are in place and what could possibly be coming down the pipeline.

>> Right. Very timely. Nathaly, if you and Silvana just want to move these lights through your portion that would be fine. Then I will make sure I'm not moving you too soon or to complete.

>> I think there is a question about describing the attorney hotline.

>> Sure. Her attorney hotline is one of the benefits offered to our members and subscribers. This is a 24 hour hotline that you can either call or email to discuss case specific immigration questions so that you can get the technical legal support as you are learning and developing your programs. So this is something that is available to you all if you decide to join and network. If you are able to join to a similar hotline it would be through Assista or other large network providers like ours.

>> And what is Assista?

>> Silvana, do you know?

>> I have to find it. It is based out of Iowa. They are a technical assistance provider we have parted with for many years. As an OVW grantee you have access to them when you are handling these cases. If you have a case you are working on and you need somebody to review your document, ASISTA has attorneys on staff who helped with any types of questions that come in. This is access that you have for free as an OVW grantee.

>> Thank you.

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>> Okay. I will just keep talking a little bit about our OVW project. We want to combat domestic violence against immigrants and have committed to training grantee's providing technical assistance to sites who add legal services to the menu of services you currently provide. Throughout the country they are often fearful to access legal services because of legal status. Misinformation leads them to believe that asking for help will need to deportation and in some cases when they do reach out, they do not receive proper assistance because of lack of training and misinformation on the part of the providers. So it's critical that advocates are able to address one of their most fundamental needs, which is to obtain legal status. This project will work with advocates who wish to establish programs within the existing structures and train your staff to the Board of immigration appeals process and provide you with the knowledge about immigration legal benefits that are available to battered immigrants in the schools for delivering legal services to increase the number of low income immigrants legal service providers.

>> Nathaly , advocacy programs do not necessarily need to start within their own agency. That is something you will cover later on, right? They can work with their own Catholic charity or Lutheran social services to name a couple? I think that I can hear a bunch of rural programs thinking they don't have the capacity to add this pic

>> Right. Exactly. If this becomes something that is not something you can take on as a new service, we highly recommend that you look up your local Board of immigration appeals agency or your local clinic affiliate and see if you can partner on some level as to how to serve your mutual clients and survivors of DBSA in your community. Hopefully after you hear a presentation you can go to your

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leadership and express the need to start this type of program. If you need help, we are here to help.

>> I'm thinking about every protocol that advocacy programs have relative to the coordinated community responses can be reviewed to identify are we addressing this and how can we address this better. Can we add some criteria to what we do when we provide advocacy after this domestic abuse arrest or protocol with the victim witness people in the attorney's office. That sort of thing. So there is a lot of ways to implement. So I'm looking forward to hearing some more about that.

>> Okay. Great. In this next slide more about Board of immigration appeals. Recognition is the Department of Justice certification of a nonprofit legal immigration program and their staff. As I mentioned, BIRNA is how not attorney advocates can become legally authorized to practice congressional. As of October 26 of this year there are 1060 recognized agencies with 2207 accredited representatives practicing immigration law and providing low cost services to immigrants and their families. DBSA advocates are the perfect candidates for BIA accreditation because you all have experience working with these people and access to information to support an application and you all have long-lasting and standing issue ships with law enforcement and certifying agencies. We really feel as though BIRNA is the perfect fit.

>> I think so too.

>> This not here shows the estimated number of undocumented noncitizens by diocese. We are pleased to provide rural grantees with training and technical assistance. We would like to build capacity in areas where there is a shortage of resources to support OVAW grantees. There are impacted areas that are largely

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underserved in terms of DVSA . This sort of gives you an idea for the attendees to take a look at your state and see where the numbers of undocumented are higher and matchup your current providers and see where the gaps are.

>> Let's just give everybody a minute or two to zoom in on that, if anybody has any questions relative to this particular map. You can put that in there. But it looks pretty self-explanatory in terms of the numbers in the color coding.

>> At. And the reason the colors are a little different is that they go by diocese and there could be more than one in each state.

>> I see. And is it going to be a natural hook up to get to some sort of Catholic diocese leader in the area to discuss getting them on board to support the advocacy programs in this regard?

>> I would likely start with the current Board of immigration appeals programs during train to go through the diocese. So let me click forward so I can show you these maps. Issues you the number of non-profit immigration attorneys by state so you will see higher concentration in states like California, New York, Texas, Illinois, Florida, Connecticut. If you compare this map to the next one, you'll see that this one issuing the number of BIA representatives per state. So BIA representatives outnumber attorneys. What that means is the vast quantity of immigration cases in nonprofit been handled by non-attorneys authorized by the BIA. So our objective is to really build more capacity through the process so that survivors may have access to low-cost, quality, charitable legal immigration services to the BIA agencies and staff . As I mentioned earlier, if you want to find programs that are already recognized in your area, you can visit the CLINIC

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website to look up affiliates or the Board of Immigration Appeals website to look up organizations and their staff.

>> Liz , I have a question. Technology ways. We are on this new platform. Can people raise their hand or something if they are already in touch with their BIA representative interstate?

>> Yes. Yes. They can.

>> That would be of interest to me. How about you two?

>> That would be helpful.

>> Okay. So in order to do that, at the top of your screen you will see a little person icon. If you have been in touch with your BIA representative locally, go ahead and raise your hand so that we can have a sense of who all has done that so far.

>>[ Class is being polled ]

>> We have 19 attendees here today.

>> It doesn't seem as of the people participating in the webinar that there is anybody who has one supply.

>> I see one . It looks like there was one participant who raise their hand.

>> Did they take it down again? I do not see it.

>> There was one.

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>> Good. That means even more opportunity for people to learn about what providers are currently in their area and how to link up and share resources and hopefully create partnerships.

>> It looks like in Montana and Wyoming they do not have any so that would be a good place to get something going within your program.

>> I going to turn it over to Silvana , she was able to get our first Montana affiliate on the map. This one is not quite up to date, but I think she will explain the BIRNA process. We saw a couple familiar names and agencies that we had provided assistance to, so that is great. So Silvana, do you want to take it over?

>> Thanks so much. I am really glad you mentioned Montana and Wyoming because this map is outdated. We have identified domestic violence programs within those two states. There -- their advocates attended our immigration training. Then we worked with them on their application for recognition and accreditation, and now we have these three programs that are providing immigration legal services. Montana's program is haven. They will start providing services pretty soon and the Wyoming coalition against domestic violence and also the YWCA of Sweetwater are both recognized agencies. These are examples of rural programs that did go through the process and we were so pleased that they did. So not to jump forward too much, I would like to go back to what is the Board of Immigration Appeals? It is part of the US Department of Justice executive office for immigration review. So the primary mission of the executive office for immigration review is to adjudicate immigration cases under the authorization of the Attorney General the executive office for immigration review conducts immigration court proceedings. Appellate review and administrative hearings. So basically when the board -- exit of office came about the Board of

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Immigration Appeals in the immigration judges merge and it all became the executive office for immigration review. The board itself does not conduct courtroom proceedings, but they decide appeals by conducting a paper review of cases and the port is made up of 17 individuals. Why are we talking about this Board of Immigration Appeals? It is located in Falls Church, Virginia. It's part of the Department of Justice. Not only do they handle the cases but they also oversee this BIA recognition and accreditation process. This came about in order to provide low-cost services to immigrants. Because this was really the only mechanism where they could expand capacity by having non-attorneys go through the process and then get authorized to practice law. So they oversee this entire process currently.

>> So recognition. If you split it into two things, recognition is for the actual office. This application would be for a nonprofit religious charitable social service or similar organization. Then the accreditation application is for the actual employee or volunteer at that agency. The requirement is to show that you have knowledge and experience in immigration law. We will talk a little bit about what you need to do to get the knowledge and experience in immigration law.

>> So this here is a slide that is talking about what recognition does. It authorizes nonprofit to practice immigration law through non-attorneys and basically the agency needs to be recognized for the staff to be accredited it does hinge on the agency being recognized and legal practice is only limited to immigration law. It is not for family or criminal or anything like that. When we were talking earlier and he saw the map of all the BIA accredited recognized agencies around the country, they would that you can look and see what is in your community is by clicking on this link and you will see all of the recognized agencies and you can click on the

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option that shows you per state and then you can actually see under the agency who the representatives are and how many they have. Some of the agencies do not have any at this time. But some do have all of their accredited representatives listen. This is a very good place to go to see which programs in your community or in your state or providing Gradian Eagle services -- immigration legal services. It would be great to reach out to them and see how we can partner with one another and work together. So we highly encourage you to go to that.

>> And Silvana, did you say that there are places that are recognized but they do not have accredited nonlegal non-attorneys?

>> That is correct. Sometimes there is staff turnover so they represented is no longer there. Or the agency has attorneys on board and so they may be recognized so that perhaps later they will hire non-attorneys that they want to have go through the process. This could possibly be changing. There are new regulations that may be coming up pretty soon, and some of this information will be changing. They may eventually be doing away with the agencies that are recognized that do not have an accredited representative.

>> Okay. So again, --

>> That is kind of a minority, do. It's not something that you see a lot of. But it's there in case you do see it.

>> In those places, are the currently overwhelmed? How long does it take to get somebody to assist you in this way? Let's say that you are an advocacy program and you are aware of the fact that a victim or a survivor you are working with needs the assistance for their immigration legal status or in other ways, is there a long wait?

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>> Well, it's different per community and per agency. What we have found is the programs that we help with housing agencies we have found that their local immigration legal service providers are backlogged. So they decide that they want to go through this because they would like to be able to help the individual in-house. So we have had generally one of the main reasons why because of the urgency. They don't want the survivor to be placed on a wait list or maybe if they do connect the survivor with a pro bono attorney they will not feel comfortable proceeding with the case. So that is one of the reasons why the programs that we have worked with have gone through this and they have found wonderful results that instead of having to wait many months to find a pro bono attorney to help the client or have them put on a wait list or get started with the case right away.

>> That is amazing. Let me ask you this. I am assuming you have got both immigrant abusers and citizen abusers. Please help me with the language here. Once you are involved in the immigrant -- with the immigrant women who would like to get her status worked on, and she is married to somebody else who isn't legal, does the person who she is taking action on, are they going to be deported?

>> Many times it kind of depends on where they are say that person is charged with domestic violence. Whether there is a detainer put on them and their immigration status is reported to ICE and then if ICE pursue the individual for removal. It really depends on the location and the community where it's happening.

>> But one thing is I just realized I did not go over the process so I do want to touch upon that so you can understand it. So basically it requires knowledge and experience in immigration law. And that this formal training in immigration. We provide in person and online training. I will show you that later on what we have

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coming up this year. We generally recommend a broad understanding of immigration law so there is a number of different types of trainings that you can take. And then at that point you would get letters of recommendation indicating that you have gone through training and some individual shadow cases so they can go to an agency and shadow a couple immigration cases. They help with filling out the form of somebody is overseeing their work, and then they put together a resume with all of their different training certification and then we help them with the application and gathering all of the documents and putting that packaged together for the application. So that is something that we do. We help from the beginning from figuring out what training they need to the application. Once they become an accredited representative, we help them start their immigration legal services program. That is providing them with intake and different types of client and confidentiality letters. Whatever you need to start providing immigration legal services. So that is a little bit more about how we help agencies do this.

>> Right. Thanks for that. How long does it take for the average -- let's say today I am a program and I want to either myself get accredited or my program to be recognized and then to get accredited. What is the length of time in the particular process? How much does a program have to think about in terms of freeing up hours for me as an individual advocate to get accredited?

>> So basically you would want to get sufficient training. There is different types of training that you can cobble together. We have a comprehensive training that is about 36 hours. It depends on the agency and the individual timeline. Say they want to do this relatively quickly. They would take a comprehensive course like that and then take additional webinars and maybe go and shadow and agency.

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Say they take that course which is six weeks online and then they take some webinars, and then they go shadow somebody. In the meantime, they gather the documents to apply for this. Once the documents are submitted, it really depends on where they are. We have seen different timelines. We have seen some agencies that have been approved within a few months and others that take a bit longer. So unfortunately it kind of depends. But a lot of it is on the advocate. Initially they have to take the training so they decide, or they can go and do an in person training. There are some 40 hour trainings that one can go and do for one week and then they have the training and the take some webinars and then they are at the point where they are ready to apply. So there is a way to kind of look through the process relatively quickly. But then once you submit your application, we tell people like Nathaly, we tell them 23 or nine months -- between three or nine months.

>> We can tailor plans for each individual person if they contact us which trainings they should take. We have sample forms we can help people outline their plan and say if you take the following three courses then you complete these and you can be submitting in two months and then from there calculate the processing time. We can really help you customize your plans to achieve this immigration law knowledge and provide you the technical assistance in putting together your application. So you do not have to invent anything from scratch. We have a lot of examples and opportunities to help you get on the right track.

>> That sounds great. So what is the fewest number of hours a person might think about in terms of getting somebody accredited at your agency? Can you let -- assigned four hours a week to pursue this accreditation? Or is that too view -- view -- few? As an old agency management person.

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>> It depends on the training the individual decides to take. We have a six week introduction to immigration law training and it meets once a week for 1.5 hours and there is homework. Then they would take other training following that. But say they were to take the comprehensive, that is two days a week for about 1.5 hours plus homework which can take a couple hours. You put in as much as your supervisor allows you to because we do want your supervisor to be on board and to give you the time. Because you do want to get to the point where you have a knowledge and understanding in immigration law because eventually you're going to have a client come through the door and you will be neat -- meeting to screen them and see what relief they qualify for. It's really important to make sure you do get a broad sense and understanding of immigration law. It does depend on what types of training you decide to take. It can be setting aside four hours a week or three hours a week. It depends on what you choose to do.

>> Take me through that. You mentioned somebody comes -- let's say I will be segueing a bit with this CCR idea. Let's say we have a program out in North Dakota who decides that they are going to this. What would the person who is the advocate do if they were contacting a victim as soon as possible after an arrest and then they find out that that victim is an immigrant woman or survivor. Then they work with them to assess what kinds of relief is available to them, right?

>> You are talking about a program that has this already? They are accredited?

>> Yes. Let's say they are accredited. What will they be doing, then? Either for somebody who comes to their door or somebody that they identify because they are providing immediately to victims after an arrest.

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>> Okay. What they would do is basically they would want to screen the individual to find out all of their background information, history, how they came to the US, what their family dynamic is. Just a lot of information about background. And also information about their criminal record. If they have a criminal record, if the spouse or if it's an intimate partner or even if it's any kind of situation they would want to find out as much as they can if a police report has been filed. People want to gather as much information and at that point they determined whether or not this is a case that they can handle. And then that is called case selection so you do not have to take on every single case that walks through your door. We want you to make sure that you get information and that you know this case may need somebody who is going to look in this criminal history of the individual more. So you go through the intake and case selection process. At that point you determine whether or not you are going to take the case, and then you start gathering the information that you need from your client. You light at the expectation of the case and what you will do as their legal service provider and what is expected of them. And then he would start working on the case. So we have different resources like checklists of documents that you will need to gather for the case so you can explain to them what kind of documentation they need to bring into you. Then you would set up subsequent meetings and get the individual's declaration. Talk to them about the incident. Let's say it's a U visa. They worked with the prosecution of the case and they reported the case. You would want them to go over all of that in depth and build the declaration and then you would fill out the immigration form and have all of the evidence that you need, and then he you would submit it once everything was signed and translated and everything like that. So it is a process, and there are different types of release -- relief with

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violence. There is VAWA , substitution, there is U. That is at a very broad, generalized description of how you would help a client.

>> Do you go to court yourself with somebody that you are working with?

>> So one thing that I didn't mention is there are two levels of accreditation. There is partial in which you represent clients before USCIS, or you get where you go to represent clients at the court. The vast majority of the people that we help go for partial because that is all they need really to do a U or VAWA, so there is not a need for representation in court.

>> Okay. And if a person would like more information about the U visa or VAWA, they could get that through you as well? Or through ASISTA?

>> Absolutely. We train on U and VAWA. These are all the different types of training. We have our in person, which is a legal advocate perspective. We spend 1.5 days on U and VAWA and family days and admissibility. A broad range of immigration law. Then we have a self-directed fundamental immigration law. This is something that you can take at any time online. It takes 90 minutes, and it gives you a very basic overview of what immigration law is. And we have the links on slides that you can see later. We have e-learnings that meet once a week. So we have introduction to immigration law which goes over all of these new forms of relief. We have and ethics, skills, and program management class that goes over the different ethical ramifications that can come up, legal skills, and how to manage your cases. And then grounds of and admissibility and the selected issues in VAWA and U that is a little more advanced.

>> Very good. So do you have to be in the process of getting accredited or recognized to take these trainings? Can I go on your website and take these?

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>> Absolutely. We encourage grantees to take advantage of this. I feel like the more you know the more you're able to direct the individual to the right place. Of course we do not want you providing legal services without being authorized, but at least you kind of know you have the background on what this all is, and you can direct them to their local BIA recognized program.

>> Super. I am thinking about this relative to -- I might as well segue back to this CCR implementation. I do not know how many people have a CCR in the community. Maybe we can raise our hands to find out if the people online have some sort of interagency effort within their community what they would call a coordinated community response. You can do that by clicking on the little icon. How many in your area have interagency response is underway currently?

>> [ Class is being polled ]

>> It looks like we have two participants who have raised their hands so far, Rose.

>> Okay. Two out of 19.

>> Two out of 15.

>> So we don't necessarily have CCR on the line or interagency efforts. Let me talk about is. You can do with the call and inter-agency effort around this particular topic meaning that we have got an issue in our community and we need to have some services like this that the speakers are talking about today and maybe there is a number of parties that I want to get together to talk about the need to do this. Who do you think we might assemble? It seems to me it's one of those efforts or projects that would require some corporation with the prosecutor's office that you mentioned as somebody who gets involved in these cases. Of

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course I am thinking law enforcement because they are going to be often the first on the scene there is an incident. Anybody else? The other piece again too is it may not necessarily be your own advocacy program, but maybe another nonprofit in your agency. So Silvana or Nathaly, what do you think about when you think about involving other agencies in your effort?

>> That is great. Rose, I will share a story. Before I came to CLINIC , I worked at the Catholic charities of East Tennessee as the program director and partial BIA accredited representative for seven years. We served 36 counties at the time between maybe two full-time staff. We were quite busy doing basic family-based immigration services. But we were seeing a high demand for South petitioners that were DV survivors. These types of cases do take additional time. We really wanted to partner with other organizations in our community to be able to provide them with these services giving the limited capacity. I reach out the local YWCA and I offered to give their advocates a training on the basic immigration law benefits that are available to survivors and victims of crime. I explained to them my internal agency process for doing intake and the kinds of documentation I would be requesting so that they could prepare them as much as possible so they came to us and so that I could then provide them with a quick and efficient screening of their options and explain to them what services are available. This really encouraged both partnership in helping clients understand their rights and access to benefit all at the same time warning them about one of the community wanting to take advantage of them to come to this as authorized practitioners for a low-cost service. So that is one way to sort of work with your providers in your community. Separate from that there is a law enforcement piece. We will occasionally work with our district attorney's office to sort of explained to them. A lot of times they do not know there's immigration benefits available to victims of

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domestic violence and serious crimes. So we sort of do that education piece as well to explain to them why maybe a victim or advocate would be coming to them for assistance with getting the proof of the crime that they were a victim of and how that was important to building the immigration case so that they would be cooperative and understanding. So I think that is a good story to sort of shows the way that you can work with what you have to serve your community.

>> Right. And one of the things you mentioned is you cannot assume the prosecutor's office knows what is available.

>> Right.

>> And I was thinking too if you have victim advocates within your prosecutor's office, this is not necessarily what you would call common practice to provide women with this information about what is available or who they can talk to.

>> That is right. But the more hands-on on the ground education you can do to everyone in your community, the better. That way it's not something that is new or not being accessed. People will learn about friends or family that need this type of service, and they can by word-of-mouth explain I think you have options. Go see this agency here who is qualified to give you advice and possibly take your case.

>> Very good. Tell me. So there is in the first couple of thoughts on this slide, you can yourself become a BIA recognized program, or you can create a linkage to an already existing BIA program or work with another agency within your community so that they get somebody accredited within their program to provide this kind of advocacy for immigrant victims.

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>> That is right.

>> And so the other thing that I think about, and this is something that we promote all the time when we are doing these calls and we have coordinated community response efforts on the line. People from those programs on the line. We are always promoting the idea of doing what we call advocacy initiated response. I don't have the was in front of me who is on board today, so if you feel like you know this already, forgive the redundancy. This generally is a protocol that you set up with your law enforcement agency and you do not have to be correlated community response effort either. You can just get to your local law enforcement agency and Praxis has a lot of protocols, procedures, etc. to be able to create this linkage with law enforcement and it's one of my more formalized areas of expertise so that I have got all kinds of things for advocacy programs on the line if you want to start providing advocacies to victims immediately after an arrest. That does not mean that you have to go to the home of the person. Generally that doesn't work so well unless they really want you there. But generally that means you are going to be the one who is going to get a call from law enforcement with the protocol developed for that attract. So law enforcement called your advocacy program and maybe it's your hotline that night, and then you contact the victim. You do not wait for them to contact you hands the advocacy initiated portion of the title. You contact the victim, and provide a number of resources and let them know what is going to happen in the next steps in the legal process to see what they want to have happen as a court outcome. And then let them know that they will be contacted the following workday either by the same person or the regularly scheduled legal advocate. However your program organizes and provides this type of advocacy. So it seems to me at that first contact if you are doing and advocate initiated response that

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you would in fact also one of the things that you would be talking to them about if you were to identify that you are working with an immigrant women is to identify that and then let them know that there is this legal recourse available to them and they can work with the advocate to either get to that resource or to be the one who is providing that accredited service. And as I was speaking before about this I thought this is a gap. In terms of what I have covered and helped communities to cover responses that I have not addressed how do we present that information to the victim and who needs or wants this type of advocacy. So I'm assuming because there are not a lot of CCR's on the line that maybe there is not people doing advocacy initiated response is either. I wonder if we could see a show of hands in that regard. Is anybody on the line doing advocate initiated response? Just click the icon and we will get a sense of that.

>>[ Class is being polled ]

>> I see a couple.

>> Okay.

>> A couple of people who have raised their hand.

>> So if you are doing an advocate initiated response, I would say to look at the protocols you have developed with law enforcement to make sure you are gathering that type of information and addressing their immigrant status with the victims that you are contacting. And if you are not doing advocate initiated responses, it might be a good thing to take a look at doing. In many places they have where you are not initiating the response that occurs. But you are looking at the more lethal cases. The law enforcement triage is for the victims where it's determined through this protocol that there is higher risk. So if you have put that

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kind of thing employees in your community, take a look at what CCR does. The added them by the gaps within what they are currently doing in terms of inter-agency work or individual agency work. You could enhance that in terms of your advocate initiated response and maybe they are the same ones who had a CCR. But to all other programs on the line, this is a very important piece to take up. Even let's say you do not have any kind of formal inter-agency response efforts. It really is something to take a look at. I think the link that is here what I am listening to Nathaly and Silvana is it would seem to me the sooner the woman as information the better. You do not lose people that way. Is that right? They may not get this information from anybody. They may have a BIA representative. Is that right, Silvana and Nathaly Yes. It's very likely that they do not know about this or where to go. So I really think that the more information you can provide them the better.

>> Right. So that fits under maybe you do not have anything formal, but maybe it's a visit to the prosecutor's office, or a visit to the law enforcement agency to say what do you do or how do you address immigrant issues. Maybe they say we really don't. Would you have forms or protocols for law enforcement to incorporate into what they do on the scene or two prosecutors to inform victims that they see?

>> There other OVWTA providers whose projects are to train law enforcement and prosecutor offices on the different immigration benefits that are available to survivors of DV and SA. If you encounter your local jurisdiction is struggling to understand or cooperate in your programs, we can connect you with those types of providers so perhaps they can come in and train those units on how to understand the process.

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>> Super. We would also I would guess call the Praxis model. What also include adding it into some sort of written protocol that maybe already exists or that you will develop that says here is how we are going to ensure that these training modules are incorporated into your daily work. So maybe you add it to a report checklist or a victim rights card. So that all fits under the rubric of this inter-agency protocol expansion. Find out what exists. Find out what is in writing that guides everybody. Added this piece to the written guidance that is provided to practitioners in any law enforcement and criminal justice agency. And then of course make sure that that is being supervised so that let's say your law enforcement personnel or people are actually doing this. So it's things like I am almost kind of amazed that I did not think about this before. That is why it's so helpful to have you on. One last piece. This is included in the tracking monitoring and evaluation. To identify how many women in your community need these types of things, and how many are getting the information that they need and what difference does it make in their lives when this is added. So that was my last piece on this particular thinking about the CCR implementation. So we went through this slide, and I know that you wanted to do is there anything you would like to add to this?

>> I just wanted to mention quickly. You were talking about how prosecutors or law enforcement rain and snow about this or understand this or heard of this before. There are projects like the national immigrant women's advocacy project that is also a TA provider that if you identify your local law enforcement who has never heard of a U visa, they prosecutors they work with in different parts of the country that can actually reach out to your local prosecutor or police department and talk to them from law enforcement prosecutor to prosecutor about this. So that is a really good resource to help.

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>> Definitely. So the first step is find out what is happening and what is needed in terms of the agencies who are involved in this or should be involved or are up to speed in what they can do. Anything to add to these trainings? These are the trainings that will provide information to the person or agency that would like to be accredited and recognized.

>> Yes. Like you said, anybody can have access to this as a grantee you can register for our training. So we have actually the introduction to immigration law. It is a six week course that starts January 10. I do have the link later on I will show you how to access it. Then at the bottom of the self-directed to is a self-directed course in Spanish and English. We are still trying to figure out when we will have these other e-learnings coming up. But we do have our in person as well February 8 and ninth. We are still waiting on the approval but we will send out a save the date so individuals can get approval to go to this. And this is primarily for programs that do have an idea that they may want to pursue this. It's for non-attorneys and advocates. There are no attorneys in this course that are interested in perhaps providing immigration services. This is a two day training that we put on once or twice a year. And then the next slide. We have our BIA toolkit and it's a guide how to apply for recognition and accreditation and we have our OVW project page. If you have your grant number, you can put that in and have access to this page. We did not want this to be public but private for grantees because our free training links are within that page. So you can print all of their registration links once the courses have been improved. And here is our general CLINIC training calendar. This is advertised as all of our non-tran3 trainings. -- non-OVW Trainings. You can take a look at that and see what we are offering.

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>> It's seems like you have got it all figured out and are very comprehensive in making it pretty accessible to all people interested in this with your various types of trainings and flexibility about how long you need to take to do this or how many hours you need to -- sorry, everybody. [ laughter ] I hurt my back and that is why I cannot think. But any questions? How is that for smooth?

>> I had a recommend anyone to reach out to us if you want to set up a call with me to talk about what you're thinking, maybe this is somewhere like to go with your agency and maybe it's not. But at least we can talk about the process and the types of trainings you would take. I would be more than happy to have a phone call with you to figure out if this is the direction you would like to go in. I also have calls with executive directors so we can try to figure this out.

>> Super. I see a question will there be a copy of the power presentation? This might be a good time to segue to Liz but I just wanted to thank the two of you for being on today. This is a wealth of information. I am so glad you are doing what you are doing. Liz , are you there?

>> I am. Just a couple of things as we wrap up today. You can see the contact information of Nathaly and Silvana before you. Rose Thelen is also always available for your general rural CCR questions and technical assistance. The best way to reach Rose would be to send an email to me, [liz@PraxisInternatoinal.org](mailto:liz@PraxisInternatoinal.org) and I will connect you with Rose. You can also see the list of web links that CLINIC was offering for the various pieces of trainings that they provide. As well as the training calendar. Those are available for you for download. When you disconnect from this webinar session, you will be routed to an evaluation. We always appreciate your input and feedback. If you would, please just spare a moment or

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two to provide that information to us. I just want to say thank you so much to Nathaly and Silvana Thank you .

>> For the important work that you do. I'm grateful for the options that advocates have in providing better advocacy and legal services. In blue of not legal -- in lieu of nonlegal legal services. [ laughter ] I am really grateful for that expansion of services that you all provide. And Rose, as always, you are a treat whether you are having back troubles or not. [ laughter ]

>> Thank you for having us.

>> Thank you, everyone, for joining us today. We will speak with you again another time. Take care. So long.

>> Goodbye.

>> [ Event