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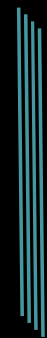
RURAL BUILDING BLOCKS WEBINAR

Key Considerations for Serving Deaf Survivors of Domestic & Sexual Violence: New VERA resource

With Erin Esposito, Advocacy Services for Abused Deaf Victims and Nancy Smith, VERA Institute of Justice
Hosted by Liz Carlson, Praxis Program Specialist

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

RURAL BUILDING BLOCKS WEBINAR



Key Considerations for Serving Deaf Survivors of Domestic & Sexual Violence: New VERA resource

Erin Esposito, Advocacy Services for Abused Deaf Victims
Nancy Smith, Vera Institute of Justice

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Key Considerations for Serving Deaf Survivors of Domestic & Sexual Violence: New VERA resource



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Praxis International – Rural Technical Assistance on Violence Against Women

Webinar Agenda

- Introductions
- Overview
- Understanding Deaf Communities and Culture
- Domestic Violence in the Deaf Community
- Solutions
- Resources

Introductions

<p>Nancy Smith Vera Institute of Justice, Center on Victimization and Safety, Director</p>	<p>Erin Esposito Advocacy Services for Abused Deaf Victims (ASADV), Executive Director</p>
	

Overview

- Goals
- Our Knowledge Base
 - From Our Own Experiences
 - As a Deaf advocate
 - As a hearing ally
- Drawing for the Experiences of Other Deaf Advocates
 - Sister agencies
 - Growing movement to end DV in Deaf community and collaborations
- Communication and Access During Webinar

Understanding Deaf Communities and Culture: The Basics

- How big is the Deaf community?
- Where is the Deaf community located?

Deaf People & Deaf Culture

- ❖ Deaf Culture
 - Cultural-Linguistic Minority Group
 - “Deaf” as birthright
 - Deaf identities (culture vs. disability)
 - Deaf families (10% Deaf of Deaf)
 - Deaf community and subgroups
- ❖ Language & Communication:
 - American Sign Language (ASL)

Deaf Community, Identities & Subgroups

- Culturally Deaf
- Deaf of Deaf
- Deaf-Blind
- Oral Deaf
- Late-Deafened
- Hard of Hearing
- Different Language
- Different Language Skills
- Grass-Root Deaf
- Educated Deaf
- Bi-Bi Deaf
- Children of Deaf Adults

Deaf People & Deaf Culture

- ❖ Visual Beings, Keen Observers, Tactile
 - Eye contact
 - Body Language/Facial Expression
 - Communication & Getting Attention: T
shoulders, Stomp on floor, Flick lights
 - Deaf survivors – ASK!

Assumptions

- All Deaf people are comfortable writing
- Deaf people can read lips
- Family members and friends who can sign can be used to interpret
- ASL is universal
- All Deaf people sign

Risks of Abuse Among Deaf People

Deaf people are abused at rates significantly higher than hearing people (3x higher)

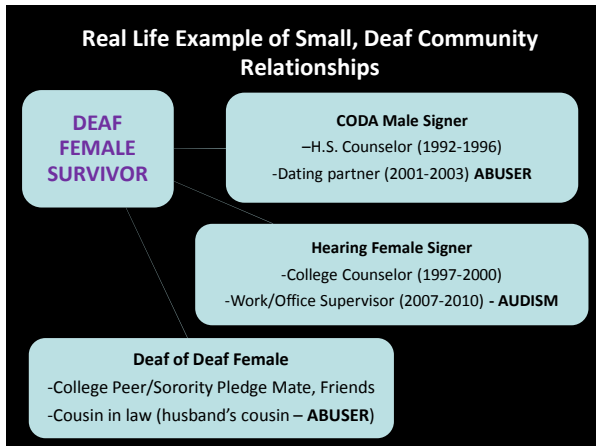
Deaf people are more vulnerable to neglect and emotional, physical, sexual abuse

Deaf Power & Control Wheel



Specific Deaf Community Issues

- Deaf hierarchy
- Small world/close-knit – others knowing personal issues
- Deaf grapevine – Lack of confidentiality
- Dual relationships
- Fear of negative changes with Deaf community members or family
- Fear of threats from perp or perp's supporters
- Lack of communication with family



- ### Challenges to Reporting:
- Not fully understanding SV, denial
 - Oppression, audism, systemic barriers
 - Communication/cultural barriers
 - Lack of access by service providers
 - Fears, distrust, isolation, lack of support
 - Self-blame, shame, low self-esteem
 - Lack of finances
 - Abused for a long time
 - No place to go

- ### Solutions
- Budget for access
 - Increasing exposure to and building relationships with the Deaf community
 - Partnering with Deaf organizations
 - Conducting access reviews and creating a plan to remove barriers
 - Exploring the use of technology

Resources

- Nancy Smith, Vera Institute of Justice,
nsmith@vera.org
- Erin Esposito, Advocacy Services for Abused Deaf
Victims (ASADV) erin.esposito@asadv.org
- Abused Deaf Women Advocacy Services (ADWAS)
www.adwas.org
- DeafHope deaf-hope.org

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