

**August 2018 - In This Issue:**

**Measuring Your Progress in Effectively Serving Survivors with Disabilities**

**In the News**

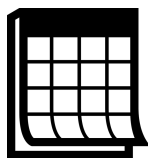
**Upcoming Webinars and Trainings**

**Share Your Ideas**

# End Abuse of People with Disabilities

## Monthly Newsletter

**Vera** Center on Victimization + Safety



### Upcoming Webinars and Trainings

**2018 End Abuse of People with Disabilities Webinar Series**

**Serving Both Sides: Navigating Domestic Violence Amongst Service Users**

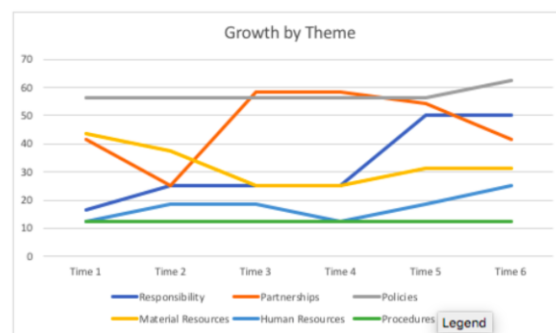
**September 18, 2018  
2-3:30 pm ET**

Many disability providers have an explicit commitment to serve all people with a disability in their community, no matter what. At the same time, they are increasingly aware of the likelihood of domestic violence within their communities, the complexities of domestic violence, and the unique dynamics that domestic

### Measuring Your Progress in Effectively Serving Survivors with Disabilities

By: Sandra Harrell, Associate Director

#### Changes in Capacity Over Time



In October 2012, with support from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women, the Vera Institute of Justice launched the Measuring Capacity to Serve Survivors with Disabilities project. This project sought to develop an easy to use evaluation tool to help organizations measure their capacity to serve survivors with disabilities. After consulting with experts in the field, Vera identified performance indicators as the methodology to determine whether, and to what degree, organizations were providing safe and accessible services to survivors with disabilities.

violence creates, particularly when both parties are users of their organization's services. This webinar will begin to explore the importance of policies to ensure effective and safe services for all people served as well as some important considerations when developing such a policy at your organization.

[Register here.](#)

*Registration closes one week prior to the webinar date for all of our webinars.*

**A Note From CVS:** We apologize for the technical difficulties you may have experienced in our webinars. We are aware of the issue and are exploring solutions to continue our dedication to accessible webinars while also creating a smoother user experience. If you have specific questions or concerns about the webinars, please email Ashley Brompton at [abrompton@vera.org](mailto:abrompton@vera.org).

**Don't forget - you can view all of our archived [webinars](#) on our [End Abuse of People with Disabilities website](#).**



## Share Your Ideas!

Do you have ideas about issues we could highlight in our monthly newsletter, topics for our monthly webinar series, or information about new initiatives that seek justice for people with disabilities? We

The performance indicators are organized across two primary areas: commitment, which measures the willingness of an agency to address abuse of people with disabilities, and capacity, which is the knowledge, skills, and resources an agency needs to do so. Within each of these areas, we identified indicators and measures for each indicator. Organizations can rely primarily on existing data to score their indicators and, based on their score, determine where to focus their improvement efforts.

To date, 41 agencies have used the indicators. Agencies collect information every 6 months and are able to compare scores to determine where progress has been made and where greater efforts are needed. Based on the data the agencies have provided to us, a clear trend has emerged: agencies making a concerted effort to improve their commitment and capacity show steady increases in their scores.

In 2018, Vera launched an online system to streamline the data collection process, allowing organizations to more easily track and measure their commitment to and capacity for serving survivors with disabilities. This online system is designed to be user friendly, standardized, and easily provide detailed information on scores and progress over time.

We encourage domestic violence organizations, disability organizations, rape crisis centers, and dual DV/SA organizations to begin to use these tools as a way of measure their progress towards effectively serving survivors with disabilities.

To learn more about the performance indicators and review the indicator guides, please go to the [End Abuse of People with Disabilities website](#). If you are interested in using the performance indicators, please register for an online account on our [Performance Indicator Website](#).



## In the News

A global study beginning in September will aim to explore stereotypes, attitudes, and behaviors regarding disability. Guidelines for the study will support rights-based and gender-responsive services to address gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health and rights for women and young people with disabilities. Read the [Devex article](#) to

want your feedback! Take advantage of this feature in our newsletter and submit your ideas thoughts and feedback by emailing [cvs@vera.org](mailto:cvs@vera.org).

learn more about the study and the issues facing women and children with disabilities around the world.

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