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Monthly Newsletter

Vera Center on Victimization + Safety



Upcoming Webinars and Trainings

Funding to Make Services Safe and Accessible for Survivors with Disabilities and Deaf Survivors: OVW's Disability Grant Program

January 4, 2019
2 - 3:30 pm ET

This webinar will provide information about the Office on Violence Against Women's Disability Grant Program. This Grant Program provides an opportunity for sexual assault, domestic violence, disability, and Deaf organizations to increase the accessibility and safety of their services.

Registration for this webinar is closed. A recording will be available on the End Abuse website within one week.

Paving the Path Forward in 2019

By: Sandra Harrell, Associate Director

The Center on Victimization and Safety wishes you the very best as 2019 begins. We are excited about our plans for advancing best practices for serving survivors with disabilities and Deaf survivors. Over the past 15 years, we have been privileged to engage with communities across the country as they have grappled with complex issues that emerge at the intersection of violence and disability. Each community has struggled with unique barriers and challenges and, in struggling, discovered solutions and innovative practices for serving survivors with disabilities and Deaf survivors. Our work is to bring their innovation to a wider audience with the hope that you can continue to build on their successes.

In 2019, we want to continue deepening the conversation and to start conversations around gaps in the field that need to be addressed.

For example, this year's webinar series will explore topics such as:

- supported decision-making, consent, and dignity of risk in the context of violence against people with disabilities;
- custody issues for survivors who are parents with disabilities; and
- violence against people with types of disabilities that are not often talked about.

Addressing Trauma in the Lives of People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
February 12, 2019
2-3:30 pm ET

This webinar will explore the complicated manifestation of trauma in individuals with I/DD, as well as techniques for supporting survivors with intellectual and developmental disabilities experiencing trauma to facilitate the healing process.

[Register for the webinar here.](#)

Please hold dates for our 2019 End Abuse of People with Disabilities Webinar Series.

- March 19, 2019
- April 16, 2019
- May 14, 2019
- June 18, 2019
- July 16, 2019
- August 20, 2019
- September 17, 2019
- October 15, 2019

A Note From CVS: We have been working to address technical difficulties during our webinars. We hope your viewing experience has improved. If you have concerns or questions about the webinars, please email abrompton@vera.org.

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

Since 2015, we have been sharing our own lessons learned with fellow technical assistance providers around planning accessible in-person and virtual events. We will continue to host a three-day training covering these topics. However, we are also working on a more advanced version of the training that will allow technical assistance providers to build off what they have learned and improve the accessibility and relevance of their technical assistance overall.

We have many other exciting plans underway, including efforts to build the pool of trauma-informed trained ASL interpreters. We would love hear more from you about what you'd like to see us address in our work. You will notice throughout the year that we will be engaging you more to determine what your goals and interests are as you learn more at the intersection. This information will be invaluable to us as we continue to move the work forward.

Overall, our goal in 2019 is to deepen the conversations we are having at the intersection by digging deeper into common issues and challenges, exploring areas we have historically not addressed, and keeping an intersectional perspective that accounts for all aspects of identity. As always, we will center the lived experiences of people with disabilities. Our hope is that our work in 2019 will continue to move us closer to a universe where safe and accessible services are available to all survivors.



In the News

FINAL REMINDER: DUE DATE APPROACHING: OVW's Disability Grant Program (DGP) gives organizations an opportunity to make their services safe and accessible for survivors of domestic and sexual violence with disabilities and Deaf survivors. If you are interested in learning more about the Disability Grant Program, find the grant solicitation and further information on the [OVW website](#). The due date for applications for the Disability Grant Program is February 7, 2019.

Deaf Wings, an Illinois program designed to serve Deaf victim/ survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, was recently profiled in the Illinois Times. Deaf Wings has trained Deaf individuals to serve as deaf-to-deaf advocates for victims of domestic and sexual violence and, in January, will be conducting a



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 want your feedback! Submit your ideas thoughts and feedback by emailing cvs@vera.org.

training for ASL interpreters. The program will also be conducting training for law enforcement and judicial personnel. Read the full program profile on the [Illinois Times website](#).

The #MeToo and disability conversation has gone international. Recently, an article profiled the exclusion of women with disabilities from the #MeToo conversation in New Zealand. Of particular focus in the article was the need for data on the victimization of women with disabilities across New Zealand and around the globe. Read the article on the [Stuff website](#).

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