

June 24, 2014

Project CARE
(Community, Accessibility, Responsiveness, Education)
Suzanne Hopkins, Project CARE Manager



PROJECT CARE



Project CARE

(Community, Accessibility, Response, Education)

Who. What and Where is Project CARE?





Who is Project CARE?









of Hamilton County Serving Survivors of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault & Stalking







PROJECT CARE'S NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND PHASE I INITIATIVES



Project CARE's Phase I Initiatives Grant FY 2007 - 2010

- ➤ Based on our Needs Assessment in 2009, CARE identified 3 initiatives to be implemented by our 5 sites of change:
 - Reviews Initiative
 - Policies and practices Initiative
 - Training Initiative



CARE's Needs Assessment

- ➤ To understand what changes its partner organizations must make to become welcoming and accessible
- To identify the needs and strengths of the agencies and staff that serve these women, and investigated opportunities for Project CARE partner organizations to improve their effectiveness as a network



Quotes from Staff

"We do not screen for violence against women – not a question we ask. Strictly a reactive system."

"The part I would be more uncomfortable with would be more of the domestic violence and the sexual assault part than it would be the disability, because I feel like I know more about the disabilities part."



Quotes from Staff (2)

"Staff may feel inadequately educated or aware."

"I'm at a lose some times what to say or do[to victim/survivor]."



Project CARE's Phase II Initiatives Grant FY 2011 - 2014

- ➤ Based on remaining gaps, in 2011, CARE identified four strategic initiatives to be implemented by our 5 sites of change:
 - 1. Screening Initiative
 - 2. Warm Referral Initiative
 - 3. Safety Planning Initiative
 - 4. Risk-Reduction and Prevention Services Initiative



Policies to Screen for Violence Against Women at Disability Agencies

- Screening
- Safety Accommodations
- Training
- Collaboration





POLICY

- Screening
 - Private, confidential screening
 - Mandatory Reporting Requirements
 - Information about domestic violence, intimate partner violence, sexual assault, or stalking



POLICY

- Safety Accommodations
 - Accommodations or changes to standard operating procedures or policies
 - Physical safety, confidentiality of residence/other records, and limitations on means of communication
 - Website and appropriate materials



POLICY

— Training

- the prevalence and dynamics of domestic violence
- trauma-informed services and screening policy and procedures related to domestic violence
- appropriate responses to individuals who experience domestic violence
- best practices regarding safety, autonomy, and reporting requirements
- local resources available to address domestic violence



POLICY

Collaboration

 CARE's two disability-service partner agencies value collaboration and state in their screening policies that they will make efforts to collaborate with agencies that serve individuals experiencing violence/abuse and with advocates and self-advocates in order to provide the best possible service to survivors.



Serving Survivors with Disabilities and Deaf Survivors Screening Policy

Universal Screening for Accommodation Needs





PROJECT CARE'S PHASE II INITIATIVES

SCREENING INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES FOR VIOLENCE



Screening Protocol Question Assessment

Policy to Procedure





Screening Protocol Assessment

- Why create it?
- What is it?
- What does it address?





Why Create a Screening Protocol Assessment?

- Tool enables disability service providers to use best practice in screening individuals for abuse, violence or stalking
- Tool prevents and eliminates the barriers which individuals with disabilities encounter when receiving the services and supports they need



How was the Assessment Created?

- Created by a committee consisting of disability agency providers (Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services & Center for Independent Living Options) and violence prevention agencies (University Hospital SANE, Women Helping Women, YWCA Battered Women's Shelter).
- Assessment accepted by all agency partners.



Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services

- When to screen
 - When flagged from intake
 - With the monitoring tool
- Who is to be screened
 - Individuals must be 18 years or older & have graduated High School.
 - Individuals with physical disabilities.
 - Individuals with mild intellectual disabilities.
 - Individuals with moderate intellectual disabilities (as appropriate)
 - All individuals designated as "High Risk"
 - No I&R.

Center for Independent Living Options

- When to screen
 - All Screenings should take place upon intake
- Who is to be screened
 - Everyone who is a consumer or who is becoming a consumer should receive this screening



Guidelines to Conducting the Screening Conversation

Before beginning the questions on this assessment, the following information must be conveyed to the person being screened:

- The reason for asking these questions is to help keep them safe.
- Explain to the individual what confidentiality means and explain mandatory reporting requirements

Due to the sensitive nature of this screening, ...

- It is profoundly important to allow the individual to direct the dialogue and;
- PLEASE DO NOT use this screening tool as a "rote" exercise...



Developing Screening Questions

General Assessment

First four questions are soft introductory questions





Developing Screening Questions

Primary Questions

- Gradually progress to more specific and personal questions to identify if individual may be experiencing any forms of abuse:
 - Verbal
 - Physical
 - Sexual
 - Stalking
 - Neglect
 - Financial Exploitation





Purpose of the Full Screening Question Assessment

- 11 primary questions to assist disability professionals to comfortably & professionally screen for signs of DV, stalking, sexual/ physical assault, and financial/emotional abuse.
- If individual discloses abuse, advocate is guided to the appropriate step on the warm referral form to refer the survivor to a violence prevention agency.

Warm Referral Form

Violence Disclosure: Trauma-Informed Action Steps

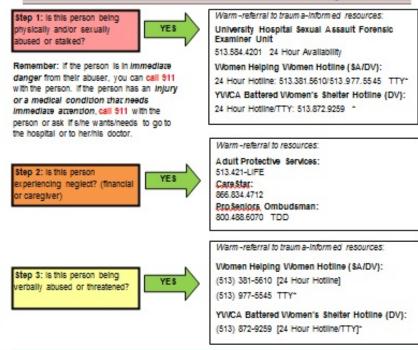
Forms of Abuse & Action Steps	Physical	Sexual	Stalking	Neglect	Verbal and/or Emotional	Financial
Determine medical or psychological intervention needed, if any	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Review mandatory reporting obligation to MUIP and Police	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Discuss concerns about reporting, if any	√	√	✓	✓	√	✓
Decide how report will be made: will 31 report alone? will individual report with 31 present? Will both report?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Discuss immediate needs for health and safety: Shelter, protection order, posonal care assistants or caregives, respite care	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Determine safety plan and other possible interventions	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Please Remember: Listen Openly & Emphasize Hope

- Be clear with the survivor that you are there to listen-not to judge.
- Do not blame the survivor for the abuse.
- Offer support & affirming messages.
- Believe what the survivor tells you.
- Encourage the survivor to build a support system.
- Empower the survivor to make own choices.
- VALIDATE the great things that the survivor is doing & build on that (i.e. tie in examples of things you've observed or things that the survivor has reported to you that are positive).
- Do not criticize the survivor's abuser.
- Be patient. Do not convey disappointment if the survivor stays in or returns to an abusive relationship.

Remind the survivor that sihe can always talk to you for connections to resources & support.

Violence Disclosure: Trauma-Informed Action Steps



University Hospital Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner Unit YWCA Battered Women's Shelter Hotline (DV):

- Medical forensic exam for sexual assaut.
- Medical screening and teatment for domestic violence injures

Women Helping Women Hotline (8A/DW):

- Hospital accompaniment for sexual assault.
- Court advocacy for protection orders
- Support groups & 1-on-1 support from staff

Hamilton County Adult Proteotive Services

- Investigative reporting on abuse, neglect & expiotation of older adults
- SSI case management & county medical services.

- Safety planning
- Accessible shelter with case management
- Advocacy
- Pet protection

Care Star

- Case management of Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) and Programs
- HCBS Provider Monitoring & Incident Management Broßeniors Ombudsman

· Provides information in long-term care options; informs consumers of their HCBS rights; assists with problem resolution, and represents the consumers' perspective.

*Ohio Relay Services: 800.750.0750



Purpose of the Abridged Screening Question Assessment

- 4 primary questions to assist disability professionals to comfortably & professionally screen for signs of DV, stalking, sexual/ physical assault, and financial/emotional abuse.
- If individual discloses abuse, staff will proceed to conduct the full screening assessment and provide a warm referral to a violence prevention agency.



OVERCOMING CHALLENGES TO SCREENING



Building a Comfort Level in Screening Survivors with Disabilities for Domestic Violence

Project CARE presented a 'Chat and Chew' with the staff of Hamilton County Development Disabilities Services





Step-by-Step Guide on the Process of Screening

Eight Step Process to Screening Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities





Empowering Reasons and Helpful Guidelines to Screen



4 times more likely

to use an intervention

2.6 times more likely

to exit the abusive relationship

(Slide adapted from Futures Without Violence)

(McClosky et al. 2006)



Framing the Questions

Introduce the topic of *Screening for Domestic Violence, Intimate Partner Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault & Stalking* with a framing statement to put the issue in context and to normalize the screening process.



What If the Individual Denies Domestic Violence?

- 1. Accept the response.
- 2. If you are still concerned that abuse is occurring...





Screening Protocol and Safety Planning Implementation Booster Trainings

- Comfort Meter & Barrier Exercise
- How Can Screening Benefit The Individuals You Serve?
- Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Protocol & Its Approach to Support the Violence Against Women Philosophy
- Screening Protocol and Warm Referral Process
- Warm Referral Panel
- Safety Planning Exercise and Participant Role Play



Advocate Guide Safety Planning Pull-Out Page

SAFETY WHEN PREPARING TO LEAVE

Being safe while getting ready to leave

SAFETY AT HOME - WHEN THE ABUSER DOES NOT LIVE IN THE HOME

Being safe if abuser does not live with you anymore

SAFETY WITH A PROTECTION ORDER

Being safe with a protection order

SAFETY WHILE AT WORK OR IN PUBLIC

Being safe at work or in public

SAFETY & EMOTIONAL HEALTH

Safety and Emotions

SURVIVORS ARE STRONG

Encourage survivors to have good thoughts about themselves and to tell others about their needs.

Independent living centers, support groups and therapy can be helpful in building positive connetions in safe spaces.

PLACING SURVIVOR NEEDS FIRST

Let the survivor know that taking care of their physical needs is important to encourage them to for assistance when needed.

Time for your emotional and/or spiritual needs is also critical for healing from trauma. Brainsto with the survivor on what they like to do that makes them feel safe, empowered, and nurtured.



Self-Advocates Voices: Screening for Violence



RESULTS FROM SCREENING FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES



Safety Planning Outcome Measurement Tracking

- CARE created an Outcome Measurement Tracking System tool for each site of change to formally use to better track victims/survivors served starting in July 2013.
- As a result of this Tracking System tool, <u>281</u> survivors received support services from July to December 2013.
- Just alone in the first half of this year, the CARE partners' staff has aggregately served <u>221</u> survivors with disabilities.





Safety Planning

- Applicable Safety Planning tool templates
- Advocates Guide





Safety Plan for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities

HOW TO BE SAFE When I Am Scared Right Now

If I think a fight is going to start, I can go near a door so I can get out fast. My safest room is:

I can call 911 for help.

If I use a wheelchair, I can keep it near me.

If I use a scooter, walker or cane, I can keep it near me.













IF I NEED TO LEAVE MY HOME FAST, I CAN STAY WITH:



Parent / Family



Friend

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Other



Emergency Shelter YWCA 513-872-9259



Checklist of Things to Take When Leaving an Abusive Relationship

SOMEONE IS HURTING ME Things To Take When Leaving				
	Adaptive Equipment			
	Service Animals Pets / Supplies			
	Other Items			



Questions





Thank You!

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