

Strategies and Tools for Serving Survivors with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: A Webinar for I/DD Service Providers

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Why Do Work at the Intersection?

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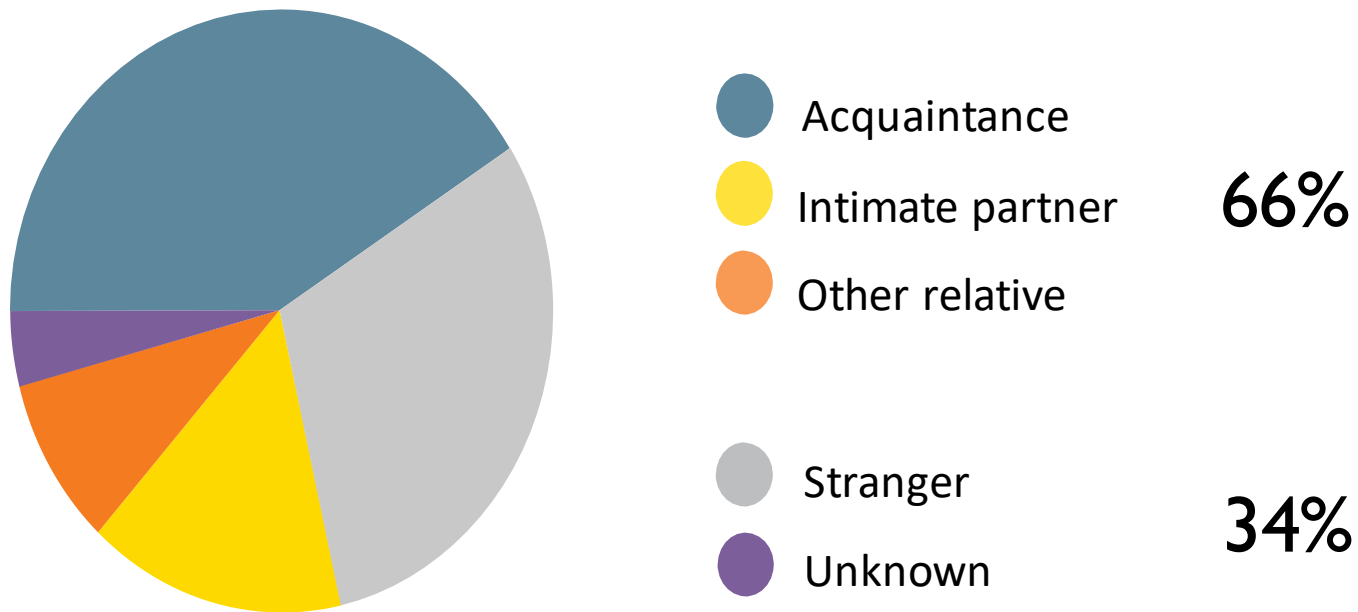
Alarming statistics

- Violent crime (rape/sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault) for persons with disabilities (12.7 per 1,000)
- More than three times the rate for persons without disabilities (4.0 per 1,000)
- Persons with cognitive disabilities had the highest rates (57.9 per 1,000)

Alarming statistics (2)

- People with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) are 7 times more likely to experience sexual assault
- 49% of people with developmental disabilities were assaulted 10 or more times.

Relationship to offender



Challenges for people with I/DD

- Bias / stereotypes about people with I/DD
- Lack of general education about victimization and sex education for both adults and youth with I/DD in special education
- Accessibility of sexual health materials created for general population, as well as prevention of all types of victimization

Challenges for I/DD service providers in addressing violence

- Victim service providers don't know about the issue, or understand how critical it is, or how to connect to disability organizations
- Different cultures and/or terminology than anti-violence organizations
- Lack of opportunity to work together, co-train, and learn from each other
- Few funding streams or opportunities

A Potential Solution: Introducing the Disability Grant Program

Ashley Brompton

Center on Victimization and Safety

Vera Institute of Justice

The Disability Grant Program

OVW's Training and Services to End Violence Against Women with Disabilities Grant Program

The purpose of the Disability Grant program is to create permanent changes within and among the organizations – working in collaborations – that result in more accessible, safe, and effective services for survivors with disabilities and Deaf survivors.

About the Grant Program

- 3 year cooperative agreement
- Multidisciplinary team structure
 - At least one DV/SA organization and at least one disability organization partner to create true collaboration

Goal: Collaboration for sustainable organizational change

- Emphasis on sustainable, internal organizational change
 - Policies and procedures
 - Safety and access within partner agencies
 - Staff capacity building
 - Shared vision amongst partner agencies for long term service provision in your community

Benefits of the Grant Program

- Opportunity to start conversations and relationship building at this intersection
- Shared understanding of the complexities at the intersection
- Bring lessons learned to other chapters of The Arc and other community partners
- Opportunity to have an intentional planning process

What you can accomplish in the Grant Program

- Increased staff capacity to work with survivors with I/DD
- Increased accessibility and safety
- Increased capacity of anti-violence organizations understand I/DD, while increasing capacity to address DV and/or SA
- More seamless service provision for survivors with I/DD
- Innovative solutions for serving survivors with I/DD

Solutions and resources from the Grant Program

- Staff training and cross-training;
- Policies to address mandatory reporting, guardianship, accommodations, and other issues for survivors with I/DD;
- Plain language outreach materials;
- Cognitively accessible tools such as an illustrated power and control wheel;
- Safety and access reviews and barrier removal plans

Grantees Share Their Perspectives, Work, and Resources

Question 1

What motivated you to begin work at this intersection?

Question 2

What benefits are there to working with a sexual assault organization?

Question 3

What can sexual assault and domestic violence organizations gain from working with I/DD service providers?

Question 4

What opportunities has the Grant Program provided your collaborations that you would not have otherwise had?

Question 5

What have your agencies gained from your work in the Disability Grant Program?

Question 6

How have services for survivors with I/DD improved since your work in the Grant Program? How do you anticipate them improving moving forward?

Question 7

What word of advice do you have for I/DD service providers looking to do work at the intersection?



Twin Cities, Minnesota

Georgann Rumsey, The Arc Minnesota

Amy Daher-Waller, Sexual Violence Center

Who we are



Accessing
Safety in
Hennepin
County
(ASHC)

Mission:

- Improve how we help victim/survivors with IDD
- Provide help that **respects** and **empowers** victim/survivors with IDD
- Support victim/survivors with IDD get the skills and resources they need to heal

VISION:

- Create best possible services for victim/survivors with IDD

VALUES:

- Everyone has the right to be fully included in the community & feel safe

Self-advocates

Self advocates guide our work.



WHAT IS A SELF-ADVOCATE?

- They act or speak for themselves or other people with IDD
- They have a voice in everything that affects their lives
“Nothing about us, without us.”

Self-advocates (2)

HOW DOES ASHC SUPPORT SELF-ADVOCATES?

- Include Self-Advocates on our teams
- Make sure materials, meeting locations, and conversations are accessible
- Encourage and use their input and life experiences – **they are the experts**

Gaps we discovered

We conducted focus groups early in our work together to identify gaps in how our agencies were serving survivors with I/DD.

We were able to outline the needs of self-advocates, victim-survivors, and parents/guardians.

These needs and interests are what have guided our work together.

Focus group findings (1)

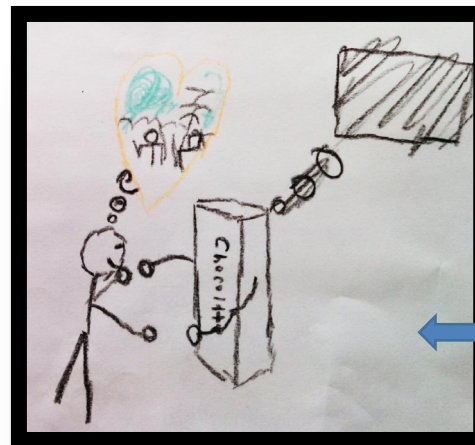
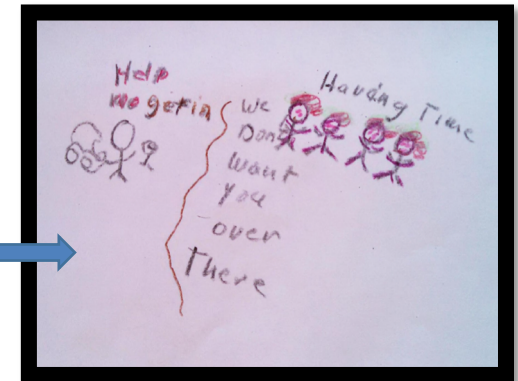


SELF-ADVOCATES' NEEDS:

- A place that is welcoming and easy to find
- Let me speak for myself
- Treat me as an equal
- Ask me what I need
- Staff who are friendly and experts
- Person-centered planning

On left: 'Help, no get in' (the participant)

On right: 'We don't want you over there' (party goers)



Question "When you go somewhere for services and someone really understands you and your disability, what is that like?"
"It's like hugging chocolate!"

Focus group findings (2)

VICTIM/SURVIVORS' NEEDS:

- Post Safe Place signage
- Staff skilled to talk about sensitive and uncomfortable topics
- Drop-in support groups
- Help with transportation
- Self-expression therapies



"It's the first place (SVC) I've come to in a professional setting where people actually gave a damn."

"The first few words that are said are more important than anything else."

Focus group findings (3)

PARENTS/GUARDIANS' NEEDS:

- Staff need to be patient and be good listeners
- Understand diversity
- Promote self-advocacy
- Continuity of staff so there is one contact person
- Resources that are easy to find and understand



“All of their growth and healing comes from them being able to say things in their own words. Don’t advocate for but advocate with.”

Current work



1. Continue to build **access and safety**
2. Build our **capacity** with **trainings**
3. Develop and/or revise **policies and procedures**
4. Create a **picture guide** to explain mandated reporting
5. Create a **support group** for victim/survivors with IDD
6. Complete **Law Enforcement Environmental Scan**
7. Continue **outreach** to parents, adults with IDD and direct support professionals

Resources and tools for serving survivors with I/DD we have developed

Sexual assault exam picture guide

Step 2: You can wait in your own room for your nurse and advocate to come.

Your exam can take a few hours to see if you are okay and collect evidence.



Picture Guide to the

Step 16: The nurse will use a hospital camera to take pictures of injuries such as bruises or cuts. Many pictures will be taken of the same spot to show size, so this part may feel like it takes a long time. You can say yes or no.



Picture Guide to the Medical Exam after Sexual Assault
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- This picture guide helps victims/survivors with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD) understand what happens during a sexual assault exam
- Sexual Violence Center's (SVC) medical advocates use the guides and they are currently used by sexual assault nurses at seven hospitals
- SVC's medical advocates are trained to use this guide

Thank you to Illinois Imagines

Trainings



A TRAINING PROGRAM FOR SEXUAL VIOLENCE CENTER AND THE ARC STAFF MEMBERS

Accessing Safety in Hennepin County

Accessing Safety in Hennepin County is a collaboration between The Arc and The Sexual Violence Center. Our collaboration will improve how we support victim/survivors with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We will work together to provide services that respect and empower victims. We will help victim/survivors get the skills and resources they need to heal.

Our collaboration has developed on-line trainings to build the ability, knowledge, and skills of The Arc staff and Sexual Violence Center advocates to support and work with victim/survivors with intellectual and developmental disabilities. A Changemaker Team made up of staff and volunteers from The Arc and the Sexual Violence Center created the trainings.



Policies and procedures

Goal:

Develop policies and procedures at the Arc and the Sexual Violence Center for people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD) that increase their safety, confidence, comfort and empowerment.



How:

1. What is The Arc's role in supporting people with I/DD and mandated reporting?
2. What is the SVC's role in supporting people with I/DD who have a guardian?

Sexual Violence and People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD)



Every person has a right to safety and a right to live their life free from sexual violence. Sexual violence is never okay.



People with I/DD experience sexual violence 7 times more often than people without disabilities.

People with I/DD rarely report these crimes. They are afraid no one will listen. They may not have the support to connect with advocates, hospitals, or police.

turn over for info

WE CAN HELP



THIS PROJECT WAS SUPPORTED BY GRANT NO. 2015-FW-AK-0001, AWARDED BY THE OFFICE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. THE OPINIONS, FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS PUBLICATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHOR(S) AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, OFFICE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN.



The Sexual Violence Center
2021 E Hennepin Ave
Suite 418
Minneapolis, MN 55413
(612) 871-5111

You can call SVC if you have ever experienced sexual violence. We believe you. We support you. We can help.



The Arc.
Minnesota

The Arc Minnesota
2446 University Ave W
Suite 110
St Paul, MN 55114
(952) 920-0855

The Arc can help with information and assistance about abuse and prevention. Advocates offer you support. Advocates can connect you and your guardians to victim services.

Sexual violence is never okay.
People with intellectual and developmental disabilities experience sexual violence more than people without disabilities.



The Sexual Violence Center and The Arc Minnesota are here to help.



Sexual Violence Center
sexualviolencecenter.org
(612) 871-5111
24-hour Hotline
Every day



The Arc Minnesota
arcminnesota.org
(952) 920-0855
8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Monday - Friday

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Bristol County, Massachusetts

Jennifer Adams, The Arc of Bristol County

Erin Basler, New Hope

What we have seen in Bristol County

We Know:

- Abuse rates are high
- Professionals don't feel prepared to work at this intersection
 - In MA a survey found two (2) licensed mental health providers who felt competent working at the intersection of trauma & IDD
- Training around safety focuses on practical safety skills.
- Training about sexuality, healthy relationships, and consent are critical for recognizing and reporting abuse and assault.

What we have seen - emPower BC

What we are doing

- Mandated Reporting
- Sexual Assault Response
- Access and Accommodations @ New Hope
- Trauma-Informed Practice @ The Arc
- **Information, Training, & Resources for ALL!**

Mandated reporting

What we plan to do:

- **Short Term** - Agency policy that supports Empowerment
- **Long-Term** - Conversations and Coalition Building to share what we learn with other Mandated Reporters in MA
- **Rationale** - People with IDD deserve to make decisions about how and when to report - just like people without disabilities. Our priority is balancing physical safety, emotional safety, and legal requirements.

Why working together is important

- The Arc and New Hope are both dedicated to increasing autonomy in the Mandated Reporting process
- Changing the culture of protection in reporting requires ALL those who are mandated reporters to operate in the same way.

Sexual assault response

What we plan to do:

- **Short Term** - Sexual Assault Response Protocol
- **Long-Term** - Interagency Team
- **Rationale** - Written procedures increase comfort during a crisis. The Team provides an opportunity for ongoing conversation and evaluation.

Why working together is important

- Each agency has important perspectives on the issue
- Based on MA systems, someone supported by the Arc is assaulted will likely interact with New Hope services. Collaboration streamlines that involvement.

Staff training and resources

What we plan to do:

- **Short Term** - TIC Training, Access Training, Develop Written Guides and Resources, Help Cards
- **Long-Term** - Culture Change, Evaluation
- **Rationale** - People asked for more information. We need to provide education around policy and procedure changes.

Why working together is important

- Varied Experience
- Pooled Resources

Questions

Thank you!

Please complete this [brief survey](#) about your experience.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/P3GVGCJ>