Supporting Survivors of Trafficking With Intellectual Disabilities: Prevention And Response Through Multi-Systems Collaboration

Webinar
January 25, 2024

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Building Collaborative Responses to Trafficked Victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault TA

Learn more about training, TA and resources:
https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/human-trafficking
Contact: learning@futureswithoutviolence.org

Resources:

- Ten Action Steps: Building and Sustaining Collaborations to Support Trafficking Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, A Toolkit for Advocacy Programs
- Building Collaborative Responses with Healthcare, for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Task Forces and Multidisciplinary Teams Addressing Human Trafficking
- Collaboration to Increase Access to Employment Opportunities for Survivors of Human Trafficking and Domestic and Sexual Violence
Grounding

Because domestic and sexual violence and human trafficking are prevalent, assume that there are survivors among us.

- Centering Survivors/Victims
- Take care of yourself first
- Examine your assumptions and biases
- Respect confidentiality
- All voices are needed and welcome
Presenters

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As a result of this webinar, you will be better able to:

- Identify individual and systemic factors influencing the risk of vulnerability of individuals with intellectual disabilities (ID) to exploitation and trafficking.
- Recognize factors that contribute to creating a plan of support for survivors.
- Explore methods of balancing institutional responsibility for ensuring safety and respecting individual autonomy.
- Initiate and facilitate multisystem collaboration.
- Apply a survivor-centered response when working with survivors of human trafficking, domestic violence, and sexual assault with ID.
Polling Question:
What best describes your organization?

- Sexual Assault (SA)
- Domestic Violence (DV)
- Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault
- DV/SA/Human Trafficking Direct Service Provider
- Anti - Human Trafficking Program
- Legal Service Provider
- Law Enforcement
- Community Based Organization
- Disability Service Provider
- Other
Polling Question: What best describes your experience with working with individuals with disabilities?

- No experience
- Basic – under three years
- Intermediate – more than three years
- Advanced – more than five years
- Expert – more than ten years
INTERSECTIONAL: SOCIAL

- Occupation
- Education
- Race
- Ethnicity
- Religion
- Language
- Heritage/History
- Immigration Status
- Disability
- Aboriginality
- Family Status
- Gender
- Income
- Age
- Sexuality
- Geographic Location
Similarities Between Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Trafficking Survivors with Disabilities

- Survivors face similar barriers to leaving abusive situations and reintegrating in their community

- Survivors may have similar needs for basic services and safety planning

- Survivors may experience significant economic and financial abuse and need to create economic independence
Types of Disabilities

- Disabilities can be:
  - Physical
  - Mental Health
  - Sensory
  - Intellectual

- A note about language and framework
Factors Impacting Risk of Vulnerability to Trafficking

- Marginalization through exclusion
- Lack of sexuality education
- Increased rates of sexual and physical abuse
- Increased rates of poverty

- Communication barriers
- Social Isolation
- Barriers accessing criminal justice system
- Intersecting marginalized identities
- Learned disempowerment
Learned Disempowerment

- Reliance on others to meet basic needs
- Loss of bodily autonomy
- Loss of choice-making power
- High turnover rate of direct service providers
- Treated as children or called promiscuous
- Lack of prosecution of/consequences for perpetrators
Factors That MAY Impact Risk of Vulnerability

- Comprehending new information
- Generalizing information to new situations
- Recognizing danger
- Requiring assistance
Typologies of Trafficking

- Street Level Trafficking
  - Compelled (coerced) through drug use/abuse
- Familial trafficking
- Online exploitation
- Micro exchanges
- Labor trafficking
A Note About Supports

There are many factors which go into creating a plan of support for survivors:

- Guardianship
- Ethical/legal responsibilities associated with working with individuals with ID
- Assessment of needs
- Availability of ID specific supports and funding
After reviewing the scenario:

1. Please take two minutes to examine your personal responses or reactions to a survivor with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

2. Feel free to share in the chat.
Trafficking Victims Protection Act and Reauthorization Collaborative Goals

Prevention

Protection

Prosecution

Partnerships

Trafficking Victims Protection Act & Reauthorization 2000
Identification

- Acknowledgement of a person’s lived experience, strengths, and areas of need
- Linkages to accessible supports, opening new funding/support services
- IDD can be “masked” or missed
- Screening for support needs
  - Sample tool: Learning Disabilities Screening Questionnaire (McKenzie et al., 2015)
## Disability Rights Stakeholders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Agencies of DD Services</th>
<th>The Arc</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Centers for Independent Living</td>
<td>United Cerebral Palsy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Self-Advocacy Groups/Peer Advocates</td>
<td>Lighthouse for the Blind</td>
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<tr>
<th>National Disability Rights Network</th>
<th>Hospitals</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protection &amp; Advocacy Services</td>
<td>Community Health Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Benefits Attorneys</td>
<td>Anti-Trafficking Coalition and Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability Rights Attorneys</td>
<td>Others?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Collaborating Across Movements

- Initiate conversations and collaborations with self-advocates and survivors, (include compensation, consider impact on benefits)
- Assess in-house policies & procedures: include IDD specific information in your mission, trainings, materials, and accessibility
- Initiate cross-agency training modules
  - Identify and acknowledge differing roles and movement-specific goals
  - Acknowledge areas of overlapping expertise
- Identify additional civil and criminal legal supports and engage in conversation about survivors living with IDD
A Survivor is Identified…Now What?

- Determine your reporting mandates
- Evaluate your communication style, materials
- Ask about sensory needs
- Based on needs, determine what immediate action needs to be taken
  - Prioritize basic needs
- Contact state DD services agency for resources in your area
- Collaborate with survivor to create person-specific action plan, with identified point-person
Safety and Autonomy

- Strengths-based, person-centered approach
- Flexible thinking, evaluation of unconscious ableism
- Evaluation of ability to provide informed consent, level of support needs
- Dignity of risk
- Collaborate with stakeholders
- Moral injury to provider, secondary trauma
Most Importantly

- Have a back-up plan
- Unexpected organizational barriers can derail initial planning
Service Coordination

- If guardianship is in place, must work with guardian
- Safety Planning
- Shelter
- Transportation
- Accommodations
- Personal support providers
- Finding employment
- Financial support
- Advocacy

Image source: Disabled and Here
What collaboration and service practices have you developed to support the holistic needs of survivors with intellectual disabilities?

Questions?
Call to Action and Commitment

Are you ready to support survivors of trafficking with intellectual disabilities, if they come to your program?

- Establish relationships with disability rights programs and experts
- Identify individuals and develop referral list for service providers with expertise
- Incorporate accessibility and accommodations into policies, protocols, practices
- Incorporate disability-specific considerations for intake
- Modify safety plan and access plan for persons with disabilities
- Clarify confidentiality and privilege
- Create appropriate outreach plan for persons with disabilities
- Organize training and capacity building on disability awareness and justice
Support Resources

The Arcs
Direct service care providers, advocacy, day programs and employment, etc.
www.thearc.org

State Agencies on Developmental Disabilities
Single point of entry for all long-term services, housing, mental health, etc.
www.nasddds.org

A Resource Guidebook for Human Trafficking Victims and Survivors with Disabilities, Adult Advocacy Centers (Ohio)
Resources

Human Trafficking and Disabilities Fact Sheet

Just Ask: A Toolkit to Help Advocates, Attorneys, and Law Enforcement Meet the Needs of Crime Victims with Disabilities, Activating Change

How to Identify and Communicate with a Human Trafficking Victim of Intellectual and/or Developmental Disability, (webinar power point).

Ten Action Steps: Building and Sustaining Collaborations to Support Trafficking Survivors of DV and SA, A Toolkit for Advocacy Programs
Thank You and Evaluation

Please take a moment to take a short evaluation and request a certificate of participation.

**Link:** [https://forms.gle/6AKtFurHr4NjjQMj8](https://forms.gle/6AKtFurHr4NjjQMj8)

Learn more and access resources:
[https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/human-trafficking](https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/human-trafficking)

For questions and resources, contact:
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