Confidential Resource Providers:
Incorporating Victim Advocacy in Trauma-Informed Systems

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What will we discuss today?

- Campus Safety Act
- How Victim Advocates Fit Within A Trauma Informed System
- Importance of Privilege
- Advocacy Frameworks to Consider
Campus Safety Act

Act Relative to Sexual Violence on Higher Education Campuses

Passed in January 2021

Requires every campus to designate a Confidential Resource Provider ("CRP")
Requirements of the CRP

- Provides services to students and employees
- May have another role at the IHE
  - Cannot be a student, Title IX Coordinator, or a Responsible Employee
- Privileged position, but other confidential positions on campus can exist alongside this resource
- IHE with less than 1,000 students can partner with other small campuses to share an advocate
- CRPs must be trained in awareness and prevention of sexual misconduct and trauma-informed response
- CRP must coordinate with appropriate IHE personnel to arrange for supportive measures
- Cannot provide services to responding party

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CRPs Must Inform Students & Employees

- Reporting options and effects of each option
- Counseling options on and off campus
- Medical and health services on and off campus
- Supportive measures
- Information on the IHE disciplinary process
- Information on the criminal justice process
- Rights regarding protection orders, no contact orders

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But What Problem Are CRPs Solving?
Understanding Impact of Trauma on the Individual

- Neurobiology of Trauma
- Stereotypes Change the Narrative
- Culture and Identity Impact on Reporting
Trauma Informed Community Approach

Serves the entire community

Dictated by Institutional Values
“What you hold sacred”

System must meet YOUR needs
Social Capital
Perception = Reality
“The only problem is I don’t sleep much, and when I do I have horrible nightmares. Some mornings it’s hard to shake them off. ... A succession of these restless nights makes me loopy and paranoid. Afraid of the sounds coming from the air vents in my bedroom, afraid of the car pulling up outside. ... I need to take a shower, but I’m afraid to take off my clothes. Even with the door double-bolted, the windows locked, the shades drawn, it feels too dangerous... My only objective is: Take a shower.” (page 214)
Response Starts Before the Report

- On-going prevention
- Advocacy services
- Culturally specific services
- Employee training
- Supportive measures
- Safety planning
- Communicating to community

- Disciplinary procedure
- Training of boards
- Supportive measures
- No Contact Orders
- Sanction
Climbing the Mountain

Maslow's hierarchy of needs

- **Physiological needs**: air, water, food, shelter, sleep, clothing, reproduction
- **Safety needs**: personal security, employment, resources, health, property
- **Love and belonging**: friendship, intimacy, family, sense of connection
- **Esteem**: respect, self-esteem, status, recognition, strength, freedom
- **Self-actualization**: desire to become the most that one can be
Trauma-Informed Systems Meet Population Needs
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Resource Sharing and Process Navigators

Help link survivor to the right resources and get information

Not all survivors identify as sexual assault or domestic violence victims or needing mental health counseling
Importance of Campus-Based Advocates

Crucial Sources of Information

Prime Position to Identify Campus Needs

Subject Matter Experts

Different Skills Sets than Other Departments
Building a Culture of Support
Privacy is #1 Victim Concern

- Advocate confidentiality is critical
  - Understanding barriers to communication with internal departments
  - Not just Title IX but General Counsel, Athletics, Residence Life, Advisor, etc.
Explaining Privilege

- CLOSET
- LOCK BOX WITH KEY
- SAFE
CRPs Provide Privilege to Students and Employees

- Cannot disclose information without prior written consent of the student/employee experiencing harm
  - Information means any communications gathered during the relationship such as notes, email, texts, or conversation

- Information provided to the CRP does not constitute actual or constructive notice to the IHE for Title IX purposes

- Not discoverable in a criminal or civil proceeding
  - *If you’re sued, you cannot access information through the CRP without consent of reporting party*
  - Unless required by state or federal law
    - i.e., Mandatory Reporting for minors
Examples of Advocacy Frameworks
Advocacy Considerations

- Set realistic expectations for coverage
- Support and supervision
- Strong partnerships with community providers
Common On Campus Advocacy Location/Frameworks

- Stand Alone Anti-Violence Program
- Housed within Counseling Office
- Housed within Wellness Office
- Single Advocate Space with Outside Supervision
What Locations Are Complicated for Advocates?

Campus Safety or Title IX Office

No confidentiality – likely to require advocate to report

Unwillingness to speak with either department
• Expertise not on campus
• Services/resources not available on campus
  • Even if services DO exist, off-campus should be a choice
• Training for staff
• CRP training
• Provide community partner employee as the CRP
Thank You!

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