

Nothing About Us Without Us

OVW's 2009 Disabilities Grantee
Meeting

San Jose, California

May 26, 2010

Disabilities & Anti-Violence Against Women Movements



Our Separate Paths Converge

Overview Framework

- Movements “writ large”
 - Movements within movements, e.g.,
 - Psychiatric Survivors, Independent Living, Deaf
 - Women’s Rights, Feminism, Women of Color
- Universalism -- Cultural Context Absent
- Personal is political
- Social Change

Disability Movement: Writ Large

- History:
 - “Idiots”
 - “Lunatics”
 - “Deaf and Dumb”
- Segregation in prisons & poor houses
- Specialized institutions created
- Eugenics and sterilization

Reform Efforts

- National Association for the Deaf
- League of Physically Handicapped
- We Are Not Alone – Rockland State Hospital
- Civil Rights Movement
- Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Deinstitutionalization

Nothing About Us Without Us

- 1972 Center for Independent Living
- 1972 Willowbrook
- 1973 Rehabilitation Act
- 1974 People First
- 1976 IDEA
- 1980 Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons
- 1988 Gallaudet University protest
- 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act
- 1999 *Olmstead v. L.C. and E.W.*
- 2000 VAWA focuses on disability

Progression

Institutionalization

Professionals and Families

Deinstitutionalization

People with Disabilities

Disability Movement Philosophies



- Self-determination
- Inclusion
- Community
- Independence
- Choice
- Person-first
- Empowerment
- Nothing about us without us

Anti-Violence Against Women Movement: Writ Large

- History:
 - Temperance Movement
 - Women's Rights (First Wave)
 - Suffrage
 - Women's Rights (Second Wave)
 - Feminism
 - Stop Rape Movement
 - Battered Women's Movement

Women and the Law

- Laws of Chastisement in Rome
 - allowed husbands to beat their wives and children
- Europe and American Colonies
 - Marital Rape legal and condoned
- Rape of slaves
- Rape and battering a “private family matter”

Women Talking with Women

- Consciousness-raising groups formed.
- Around kitchen tables and in living rooms, women spoke out about rape.
- Rape was talked about as an act of dominance; an all-too common experience that reinforced the social order.

Battered Women's Movement

- In the 1970's, activists and battered survivors opened their homes to women and families escaping abuse, and formed an informal, loose network.
- Hotlines, safe homes, networks, and legal action efforts were organized from the grassroots to address violence against women.

Anti-Violence Against Women's Movement

- 1970's and 1980's
 - Shelters
 - Crisis Lines
- Feminist model
- Social service model

Progression

Women helping Women

Networks, Groups and Organizations

Activists, Survivors, Professionals

Advocates

Anti-Violence Against Women Movement

- Empowerment
- Self-determination
- Personal is political
- Safety
- Confidentiality
- Tension:
 - Feminist model
 - Social Service model
 - Professionalism of movement



The Convergence for Change

- Social change movements:
 - Civil rights
 - Feminism and women's rights
- Decision-making power in the hands of the people whose lives are at stake
 - nothing about us, without us
 - Victims, survivors and people with disabilities

Intersection

- Similar philosophies of:
 - Empowerment
 - Self-determination
 - Civil rights
 - Social justice
 - At home
 - At work
 - In our communities

Intersection

- Each movement has been working independently – not across oppressions:
 - Violence against women
 - Disability
- Convergence challenges differences:
 - Systems involved
 - Language used
 - Interventions needed and wanted

What Does This Convergence Mean?

- For us...today...
 - Collaboration
 - Relationship Building
 - Trust
 - Understanding history and language
 - Embracing differing perspectives
 - Challenging our “comfort zones”
 - Embracing the action in the phrase:
 - *Nothing About Us Without Us!*

Thank you!

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