

Violence Against Women

OVW's 2009 Disabilities Grantee
Meeting

San Jose, California

May 26, 2010

Learning Objectives

- Recognize the historical context of the Violence Against Women Movement on domestic and sexual violence programs today
- Identify the tensions and their impact that exist among competing philosophies and operations models within the movement
- Explore the myriad of core services and how these services can promote or detract from individual survivor autonomy
- Engage in critical thinking and explore strategies to change systems impacting violence against women with disabilities and Deaf women

Historical Context

- Influences:
 - Women's Rights (First, Second & Third Waves)
 - Feminism
 - Violence Against Women Act
- Violence Against Women Movement:
 - Strengths
 - Challenges

Impact of Historical Context

- For you, individually, how would you describe the movement, its philosophies and work currently?
- For your Disabilities Grant focus, how would you describe the impact of the movement, its philosophies and work as it relates to securing systems change for victims and survivors with disabilities and Deaf victims and survivors?

Models for Response

- Feminist analysis = sexism as the root of violence against women.
- Social service focus = helping women and children in need.
- Institutionalization of services & support.

Identifying the Tensions

- Question: How might these differing models and philosophies impact systems responding to violence against women?
- Question: How do these models and philosophies address the complex matrix of social inequalities (race, class, ability)?

Feminist Analysis: Impact

- Violence against women is a feminist issue
- Male dominance over women
- Affects other male-dominated systems
 - Criminal justice
 - Civil justice
 - Medical field

Social Service Analysis: Impact

- Helping women and children in need due to violence
- Service systems involvement
- Professionals and peers
- Advocacy
- Other systems affected:

Institutionalization Analysis: Impact

- Advocacy involves ...
 - Political action
 - Counseling
 - Support
- Community/Systems responses
 - Positive impact for survivors
 - Conflicts of interest for advocates
 - Collusion with systems of oppression

Survivors as Autonomous Agents

- Survivors as “agents of their own survival”
- Core services of violence against women programs:
 - Advocacy (legal, medical, personal)
 - Counseling (professional and peer)
 - Crisis lines or hotlines
 - Emergency shelter

Services and Survivor Autonomy

- What do we envision when we say “survivor?”
- Question: How could these core services be constructed and provided to promote survivor autonomy?
- Question: How could these core services be constructed and provided to detract from survivor autonomy?

Dialogue for Systems Change

- Think about:
 - Movement, systems, philosophies and operations of violence against women efforts
 - Movement, systems, philosophies and operations of disability-related efforts
 - Victims and survivors with disabilities and Deaf victims and survivors:
 - Psychiatric
 - Developmental (intellectual/cognitive)
 - Physical
 - Sensory

Challenges and Opportunities

- Challenges to changing systems for and with victims and survivors
- Opportunities for changing systems for and with victims and survivors
- Considerations:
 - Current landscape of violence against women programs
 - Current landscape of disability-related services and supports

Strategies for Meaningful Change

- Remember:
 - Historical context of violence against women
 - Tensions among differing models and philosophies for responding to violence against women
 - Impact of services designed for victims and survivors
 - History, experiences and systems relating to women with disabilities and Deaf women

Meaningful Strategies

- Where to begin?
- Dialogue about the current landscape
- Meaningful inclusion and integration of women with disabilities and Deaf women
- Victims and survivors fitting within current systems
- Current systems fitting the needs of victims and survivors

Nothing About Us Without Us

- Philosophy for collaboration:
 - Requires genuine dialogue
 - Engages us to balance individual lives with institutional processes
 - Requires attention to myths, attitudes, oppression across peoples, systems and movements
 - Embraces social change

Thank you!

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