

Community of Practice

Sexual Assault Advocacy is Not for the Faint of Heart



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Technology Overview

- Encourage participant interaction
 - Be prepared for polls!
- How participants can enter discussion
 - Please turn cameras on if possible to build community.
 - Please select “unmute” when you would like to speak.
 - Use the Chat box to submit a comment to “Everyone” or “Host”
- For any tech issues, use the Chat to contact “Host”

Poll Question:

Which occupation best matches your profession?

- First Responder
- Victim Advocate
- Law Enforcement
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- SANE Nurse
- Forensic Examiner
- Other (Specify)



Introductions



What is a Community of Practice?



Opportunity to *network* with other individuals in the field.

Interaction helps build rapport and foster communication.



Opportunity to be *present and active* in the discussion



Opportunity to enhance learning, idea sharing, problem solving, and *support*.



Upcoming Series – 4th Wednesdays

January, February, March, April

- ~~Emergency Support/Forensic Exam – January 24, 2024~~
- Sexual Assault Advocacy is Not for the Faint of Heart – February 28, 2024
- Law Enforcement Collaboration – March 27, 2024
- Tribal Code Development and Victim Advocacy – April 24, 2024

A Look Back

When did you first learn of advocacy? Hear about advocacy especially sexual assault advocacy?

What was your first impression of advocacy or of advocates?



A Little Bit of History on Advocacy Origins

- Started around kitchen tables, front porches, as a grassroots organized movement across turtle island, 1960's, 1970's
- Women providing safe space for their sisters and children
- Peer support model, relatives helping relatives
- Advocacy based on empowerment philosophy
- Grassroots fundraising to establish shelters, volunteer hotlines, legislative organizing

Creating Safe Space for Our Relatives



A Day in the Life of an Advocate

Advocates: What do you do on a given day as an advocate?

Do you feel you have all that you need to do a good job? Support, training, cooperation, resources?

A few of the activities of Advocates today

Provide outreach, support for victim and victim's family

Accompaniment and support during forensic examination

Assistance with OFPS/HROS

Provide court prep and accompaniment

Navigating the criminal justice system, court prep, accompaniment

Provide assistance to victims with housing, other basic needs

Providing resource referrals

Doing safety planning

Providing community education on dynamics of sexual assault, domestic violence

Maintaining confidentiality and privacy

Guidance on the civil court process around custody and divorce

Participate in SART's, MDT's, CCR's

Primary goal of advocacy is to maintain safety needs of women who've been battered/raped and their children and to hold offenders accountable who choose violence.

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- As an advocate, what is biggest challenge you face? As a sexual assault advocate?
 - Were you fully prepared when you first started working as an advocate? As a sexual assault advocate?

When things don't go right for victims, such as when other service providers don't respond appropriately, compassionately, what's your response?

Differences in Models

Medical/Social Services Model

What's wrong with person

Focusing on fixing the person

Case Plan

Decisions often made exclusive of the victim
via staffing, case planning

Less Political

Bureaucratic hierarchies

Highly professionalized

Victim expected to adapt to systems demands,
victim accountable to system

Grassroots/Social Change Advocacy Model

What's wrong with society

Externally imposed problem-focus on social
change to fix problem

No case plan

Victim at the center of decision making

Very Political

Grassroots based in origin

Peer support becoming more professionalized

Work for systems change to create accountability to
victim needs/rights via victim-centered responses

What's your commonality?

OFFENDER
ACCOUNTABILITY

TO END OR REDUCE
VIOLENCE

WORK FOR SAFETY

FATIGUE?

COMPASSIONATE

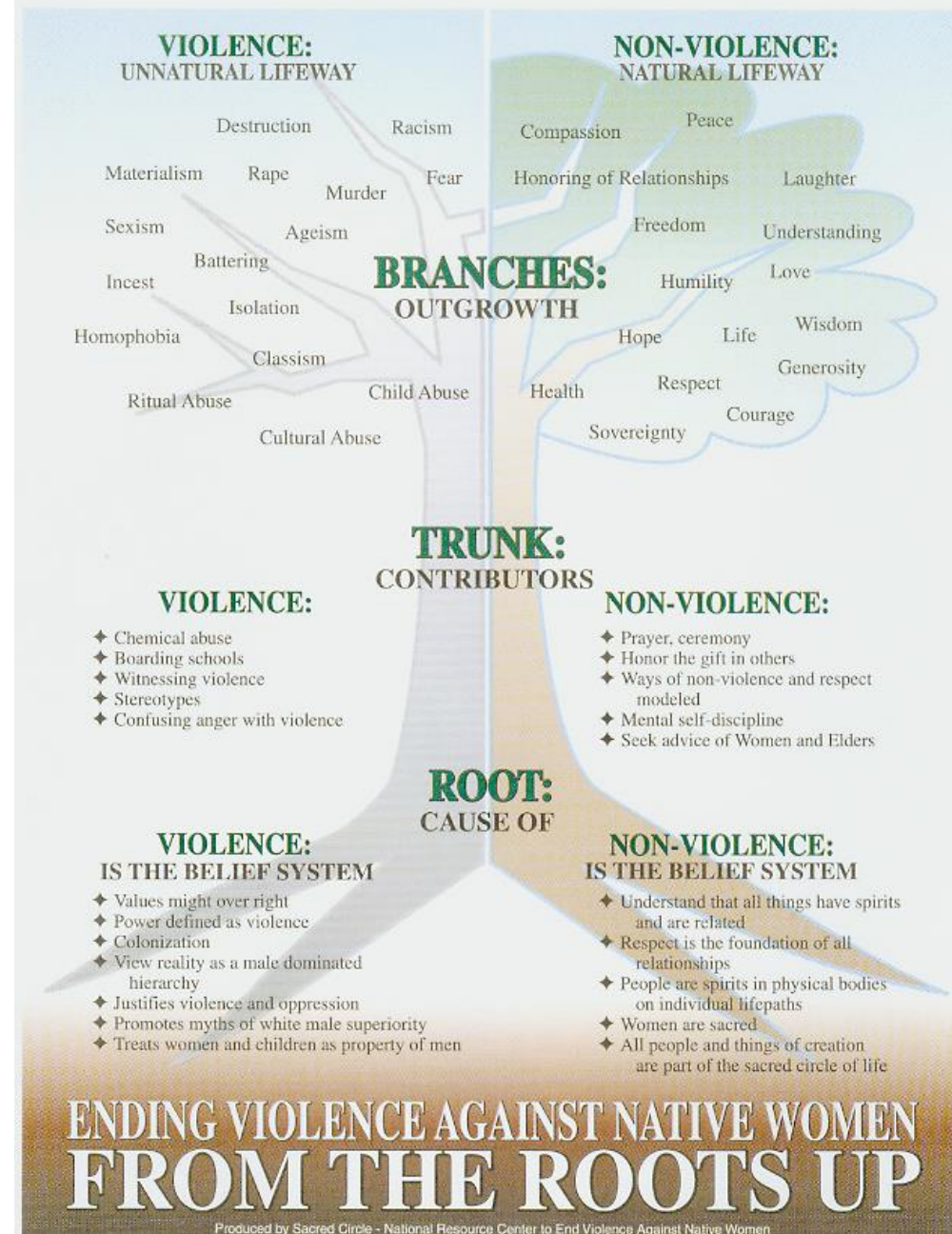
RESPECT FOR
OTHER
RESPONDERS

PROFESSIONALISM

LIKE TEAMWORK

DEDICATED

From: SACRED CIRCLE – National Resource Center to End Violence Against Native Women



How do we create social change?

How do we create system change?

What assets do we have in tribal communities to do our work as advocates, to be good relatives?

As an advocate, do you feel safe? Are there circumstances where you don't feel safe?

As an advocate, what are your greatest rewards?

Advocate Safety Concerns

Accompaniment to courts, hospitals, etc and building security,

Transporting – to victim's house if batterer could be there

Request police presence if going to victim's home, in court room

Dealing with harassment, negative attitudes, threats

Program policy and protocol

Encountering perpetrators in public places

Confidentiality for advocates

Restraining orders

If someone were thinking of going into the work of advocacy, what advice would you give them?

RESOURCE

• NIWRC Advocacy Curriculum

NIWRC Resource Page

NIWRC Advocacy Curriculum

We are pleased to present the **NIWRC Advocacy Curriculum!** The role of advocate is challenging, multi-faceted and sometimes over-whelming. This curriculum was created to support tribal programs in their efforts to provide advocacy and safety for survivors within their communities and make changes to end violence by embracing Indigenous culture. This curriculum provides comprehensive, basic information. The major use of this curriculum is for new advocates when other training is not immediately available, or cost prohibited. It can also be used for team building, in-services, public education and cross-training initiatives.



THANK YOU!

➤ Questions?

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