
#PowerInPrevention

Ending Child Sexual Abuse Web Conference Series



TEXT CHAT TRANSCRIPT

WEB CONFERENCE

Child Sexual Abuse and Disabilities

January 16, 2014

11 AM Pacific (2 PM Eastern)

Presenters and Guests

Sandra Harrell, Project Director, Vera Institute of Justice's Accessing Safety Initiative

Keith Jones, President and CEO, SoulTouchin' Experiences

Meg Stone, Executive Director, IMPACT Boston and Project Director IMPACT:Ability

Host

Joan Tabachniuk and Cordelia Anderson, Ms. Foundation

Leona Smith DiFaustino, PreventConnect Project

California Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Participant names have been removed from this chat record, unless provided by the participant in text.

- just checking in early to see if the connection works. calling from a cell phone in a public library... speak soon!
- Hello Everyone!
- The webconference is being recorded and will be provided on the PreventConnect website

- If you have questions, please type them here. We will get to them in our Q&A.
- The slides are now posted at <http://www.preventconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/ECSA-January-2014-Webconference-1.16.14.pdf>
- @Virginia The slides are now posted at <http://www.preventconnect.org/2014/01/child-sexual-abuse-and-disabilities/>
- i have a disability and men like to make jokes about my chair. like trying to be funny about me racing or something. its so lame. theyd never do so many lame jokes with an able bodied woman with her hair or shoes or whatever.
- that's horrible! I think adult bullying really plays into all of this. we have adults who bully everywhere
- thank you for providing that example . I am sorry to hear this
- Much of the issues are perpetuated through learned behavior from family, coupled with a lack of "coping mechanisms". Where is the training for children, adolescents, and adults on how to cope with lifes issues to avoid the need to abuse others in the first place.
- so i thank meg for saying "Would I say this to a person without disabilities?"
- while our culture continues giving power to those bullying theres no hope for change
- agreed
- moves, tv, media show people pretending to be though
- so how come we can put this message through?
- Exactly... We need to give the bully's coping mechanisms so they avoid bullying in the first place.
- a behavioran professional told me once bullying gives inmediate social retribution.. while the social reward for good values is more delayed
- exactly, say and do..
- your hand is up, if you have a question please use the text chat
- community need to be educated to determine is a situation can evolve into bullying... maybe that can bring prevention
- how can I detect a potential abusive situation?
- There is also a such a need for education through the media, and crossing that "politically correct" barrier to call a spade a spade and educate that this abuse is happening more than society realizes. Media is so damaging to our culture in the negative messages it sends. More positive and educational messages are needed to offset all that negativity.
- exactly, if a singer is beaten by her boyfriend.. but later goes back with him, what is the message to our children? girls?
- check out the "Where We Live" curriculum by PCAR for recognizing abuse in our community
- thanks
- That abuse is warranted, and okay... and this is never the case.

- could you please tell us more about the challenges you faced around sexuality education?
- Read/Listen to the book - "The Gift of Fear" - always trust your instincts... if you suspect it is happening, then there is a HIGH likelihood that it is...
- Great book!
- well, are the staff trained and expected to perform these tasks?
- I see that your hand is up, if you have a question please use the text chat
- build a trauma-informed policy, build empathy within the organization. allow students to sit in a wheelchair & go to the bathroom so they can feel and experience HOW that might be for someone who HAS to use a wheelchair
- if she feels uncomfortable at all, we need to switch out that second person
- Training is always essential, and re-training, and continued education should be mandatory in positions of child care.
- Definately!! I talk about in my programs that we are all born with a gut feeling an intuition and how society teaches us to ignore it I give examples and scenerios and do role playing as well as how it can save you from an unsafe situation. To follow your gut
- Or, perhaps the young women in the wheelchair would feel confident and comfortable enough presenting information about herself and her disability to the group to assist with empathy
- I posted it here, thanks I read the answer
- woman*
- Yes we should have it mandatory in pre-schools and schools for children I agree toatlly
- She should be part of the decision making for her own care, "nothing about us without us."
- the new second person can turn away and just listen and intervene if they need help
- trauma-informed policies meet individuals where they are so they aren't retraumatized.
- If this needs to be a consistent policy, then maybe the second person can stand outside the bathroom to hear if they need assistance or help but not necessarily be watching
- Trauma informed care is a great way to develop policies - agreed.
- exactly, it is required to be present but not staring or facing in this case, it shouldnt be escalating up to a complain... its part of doing your job professionally
- I would have suggested a caveat in the policy for youth needing personal care assistance. However, supervision of staff should be emphasized in this policy when this is done to ensure staff members are not disappearing with youth frequently, when it's not at the youth's request for assistance, or for unreasonable lengths of time. I would also consider whether changes to the physical environment need to be made (e.g. public restroom w/ multiple stalls vs. private bathroom with only one toilet). A public bathroom is more accessible to others and therefore not quite as

private.

- The child should definitely always be given the choice... the disability should not take away their right to choice...
- I would treat that situation just like I would with a person without disabilities.
- I'm honestly stumped as to what to do with the kids except a compassion and understanding workshop
- and DO NOT emphasize they are helping her in the bathroom
- that's too private
- YAI in New York has a material by Dave Hingsburg entitled The Ethics of Touch. SafePlace Disability Services has this material in its Resource Lending Library.
- This scenario doesn't sound like there is a designated PCA provided for the program. Am I misunderstanding that? Either way, I agree with Meg that the young woman should be allowed input on who helps her.
- I see that your hand is raised, if you have a question please use the text chat and type your question there.
- Great info... thanks!
- Oh, so if it is her own caregiver, the 2 to 1 ratio of employees doesn't matter anyone because the caregiver isn't employed by the youth org
- anyway*
- As policy and prevention - would it be telling and helpful to allow the person with the disability to choose who will help them with their care? Wouldn't that expose someone with whom they feel uncomfortable, at the same time giving them a voice that allows them to choose an alternative to the abuse?
- I feel uncomfortable with all this talk of "letting" and "allowing". It's this girl's life
- Having found an effective way of preventing abuse, I will say the organization needs to fine tune the application of it
- by addressing this issue with inclusion and
- respect
- respect, empathy, empowerment are everything.
- What is your approach to preventing abuse?
- Is there an abuse prevention program for children and/or adults with disabilities that is evidence based?
- Let's not forget her legal guardians in this who signed her up for the program. What do they say?

- I am recommending "A Risk Reduction Workbook for Parents and Service Providers" that has been used over years and has enjoyed good success in reducing the risk and impact of abuse.
- I will say raise awareness through dynamic presentation with scenarios...
- many people think it can and will not happen to them..
- raise the sense of community and care of each other
- Do you have suggestions on how to recognize signs of abuse in children with disabilities? It is particularly difficult for children who engage in self-injurious behaviors, or lack communication skills (many are unable to even use communication devices such as those you have previously mentioned).
- Can you share more about consent and personal choice when it comes to ability to consent?
- Speakers what is your differentiation between sexuality and sexual abuse. Isn't one about normal sexuality and the other about crimes?
- I agree, sexual education helps to prevent abuse... through accountability.
- children can identify risk and abuse
- A lot of sex ed for individuals with disabilities has been "NO" don't do this, rather than a full exploration of human sexuality.
- That is a problem with those conducting sex ed who do not carry Certifications as Sex Educators.
- Abuse is about "control", and it's important to remember that. There are tell-tale signs of coercion and control.
- thanks.. good statement...can I use it in my daily work?
- Great information thank you
- What about those that can not communicate for themselves. They may have sexuality, but not want to consent to sex. Having two people is preventive and it should be agreed upon by the parents that the caregiver will have a partner that doesn't have to have visual access to the girl (person) by looking directly at them, but is in the same general area
- agreed vicke
- This will help so much I'm actually going to speak to children with disabilities on the 27th. I can incorporate some of this in my Circles program
- respect for differences - physical and emotional - is ONE action everyone can do.
- listen.
- my one thing would be to emphasize teaching our sexual assault and healthy relationships classes to special ed populations
- Speakers, could you please answer some of the questions on the chat? Thank you!
- I love educating where it may not be happening now also
- I really appreciate your person first approach!!!
- inclusion and respect for the other

- In any case of sexual abuse between a care-giver and a person with disabilities is akin to a teacher having a sexual relationship with thier student, even if it is in college and there is consent, it is still inappropriate, period.
- The same way Preschool org use preventive care of the children who are to young to speak up for themselves can be incorporated for the population that can not communicate. The child is not left with just one person, there is always a safe guard for the child and the care giver, by not allowing then to be alone.
- thank you all for your work!
- Great, thanks.
- thank you all!
- Thanks!
- Thanks! Great webinar!!!
- Thanks, something more to think about and make parents aware of