

Welcome,  
This Web Conference  
Will Begin Soon

## Web Conference Title

*Ending Child Sexual Abuse  
Web Conference Series*



A Project of



### Ms. Foundation

12 MetroTech Center  
26th Floor  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Website: [ms.foundation.org](http://ms.foundation.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/MsFoundationforWomen](http://www.facebook.com/MsFoundationforWomen)

Twitter: Follow @msfoundation

Pinterest: <http://forwomen.org/content/127/en/>

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/msfoundationforwomen](http://www.youtube.com/msfoundationforwomen)

Email: [info@ms.foundation.org](mailto:info@ms.foundation.org)



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## How to use this technology



- Raise hand
- Text chat & private chat
- PowerPoint slides
- Polling questions
- Phone
- Closed captioning
- Web conference guidelines

Please send a private chat message for help.

Call iLinc Technical Support at 800.799.4510.

PreventConnect is a national project of the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault sponsored by U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The views and information provided in this web conferences do not necessarily represent the official views of the U.S. government, CDC or CALCASA.



## Ending Child Sexual Abuse Web Series

- Thursday, July 18: **Faith Communities Engaged in Ending Child Sexual Abuse**
- Tuesday, Sept 17: **Secret Survivor's Tools for Strengthening your Prevention Efforts**
- Tuesday, Oct 15: **Power of Organizational Practices: Innovations to Keep Kids Safer**
- Thursday, Nov 14: **Statute of Limitations and its Connection to Prevention**
- Thursday, Jan 16, 2014: **Child Sexual Abuse and Disabilities**
- Thursday, March 13, 2014: **Telling our Stories: Learning as we Build a Movement**





Cordelia Anderson



Joan Tabachnick

## Series Co-Hosts

### Ending Child Sexual Abuse Web Conference Series



Answer on  
the left



Feedback

Yes


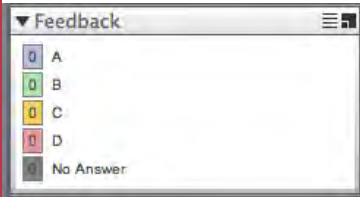
No

No Answer

Have you attended  
a previous Ending  
Child Sexual Abuse  
Web Conference?





Answer on the left



**Is your work primarily with:**

- A) Child Sexual Abuse/ Sexual Violence
- B) Disability services
- C) Both
- D) Other (please type in chat box)

## Learning Objectives

- Increase understanding of the impact that disabilities may have in increasing the risk for sexual abuse.
- Identify 3 barriers to implementing policies to enhance a child's safety within an organization.
- Articulate 3 actions you can take to ensure a child's safety if she or he has a disability.



Meg Stone  
IMPACT



Keith Jones  
SoulTouchin' Experiences



Sandra Harrell  
Vera Institute of Justice

## Child Sexual Abuse and Disabilities

January 16, 2014

2 PM EST



#PowerInPrevention  
Ending Child Sexual Abuse Web Conference Series



## Media Images of Children



Because nothing matters more



## CSA Laws with Children's Names...



## Children



## Many Different Disabilities

- Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Blindness/Visual Impairment
- Cerebral Palsy
- Deaf-Blindness and Hearing Loss
- Developmental Delay
- Down Syndrome
- Emotional Disturbance
- Epilepsy
- Learning Disabilities



## Additional Resources

- Disability and Abuse Project: First Report of the 2012 National Survey on Abuse of People with Disabilities.  
[www.disabilityandabuse.org/survey](http://www.disabilityandabuse.org/survey)
- STOP IT NOW!: Tip sheets for parents of children with disabilities on child sex abuse prevention.  
<http://www.stopitnow.org>



## Reported Cases

	Neglect	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse
Children with Disabilities	57.4%	25.8%	8.8%
Children without Disabilities	51.3%	30.1%	11.6%



[www.childwelfare.org](http://www.childwelfare.org)



## Individual & Societal Risk Factors

### Risk Factors include:

- Social Isolation
- Assumption that children are asexual
- Belief that a caregiver would never harm a child
- Devaluing children and especially children with disabilities
- **Lack of training and understanding**





## Promoting an Inclusive and Accessible Movement to End Sexual Abuse

Sandra Harrell, Project Director  
Vera Institute of Justice



- *Making justice systems fairer and more effective through research and innovation.*



## Collaboration



- Since 2006, Vera has worked in partnership with OVW to address violence against adults with disabilities.



## Collaboration



- In 2012, entered partnership with the Ms. Foundation for Women to address the sexual abuse of children with disabilities.



## Goals of our Partnerships

- Understand the scope of the problem
- Address the unique dynamics, needs and resources.
- Ensure initiatives are responsive to the unique dynamics and realities



## A National Snapshot

- Children with disabilities are 3x more likely to be victims of sexual abuse



## Illustrating the Problem

- Jennifer's Story – Lack of investigation
- Cathy's Story – Denial of education
- James' Story – Lack of therapeutic interventions



## Known Risk Factors

- Greater physical and social isolation;
- Lack of control over their life and bodies;
- More contact with adults who provide care;
- Issues with communication;
- Limited to no access to information on sex, sexuality and abuse;
- Depersonalization of children with disabilities .



## Society's Role

- Assumes standards of access based on people without disabilities
- Denies access to education about healthy sexuality
- Responds to crimes as unlikely or a misunderstanding
- Treats crimes as an administrative problem



## Society's Role

- Develops therapeutic protocols based on children without disabilities as the norm
- Responds to disclosures of sexual abuse by restricting the personal freedoms and independence of the victim



## Prevention Agenda

- Create Public and Organizational Policies
- Enhance Organizational Capacity
- Ensure Accessibility to Services and Systems
- Promote Equality of People with Disabilities



## Empowering People with Disabilities & Communities to Prevent Abuse

Meg Stone  
IMPACT

Keith Jones  
SoulTouchin' Experiences



## The IMPACT:Ability Model

Model for disability service organizations and schools to prevent abuse and respond effectively to abuse reports



## The IMPACT:Ability Model

- Norms in Disability Services as Risk Factors
  - Programs that value compliance more than choice
  - Adults struggling with age-appropriate expressions of sexuality and independence
  - Ask ourselves: Would I talk to a person without a disability this way?



## The IMPACT:Ability Model

- Challenging those Norms & Changing Services
  - Addressing ableism
  - Ensuring leadership of People with Disabilities



## The IMPACT:Ability Model

- Visible, Coordinated Effort:
  - Clear official policies for abuse prevention and intervention
    - Whistleblower protection
    - Abuse reporting protocol
  - Self-advocacy, self-protection and sexuality education for people with disabilities





## The IMPACT:Ability Model

- Visible, Coordinated Effort (continued):
  - Organizational Culture
    - supports choice
    - welcomes challenging conversations
    - ensures respectful communication
    - values healthy relationships & sexuality



## Challenges & Successes in Culture Change

- Successes
  - Awareness of Abuse
  - Support of choice and self-advocacy pervade the organization
  - Youth (and adults) resolve their own conflicts
  - Staff send clear messages and model consistent boundaries



## Challenges & Successes in Culture Change

- Challenges
  - Overwhelmed people in understaffed organizations and schools
  - Institutional bureaucracy
  - Is what people say in meetings congruent with what they really do?
  - Sexuality education



## Challenging Conversations

- Risky situations can go unchallenged
  - People see a potentially abusive situation and want to say something but don't
- Managing adrenaline
  - Keeping physiological stress response from impeding bystander action
  - Skills from self-defense training inform primary prevention
- Organizational culture that supports these challenges



## Inclusive Prevention

- Children and teens with disabilities should not spend their lives in substantially separate environments
- Including youth with disabilities in other child sexual abuse prevention efforts



## Scenario

You are the Program Director at a youth development organization that has a policy prohibiting any adult from being alone with one child. Your experience with a few questionable volunteers has confirmed your belief that this policy effectively weeds out people who might perpetrate.

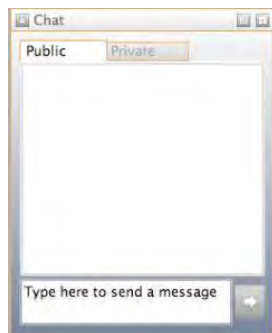
Recently, a young woman with a disability began attending your program. She requires assistance when using the bathroom and is used to getting personal care assistance from paraprofessionals at school and staff at her other after school program. She values her privacy and doesn't want more than one person in the bathroom when she is receiving personal care. However, in order to comply with your organization's policy two staff members provide bathroom assistance to her together. She feels uncomfortable, like the second staff member is watching her. Also, other youth get frustrated because losing two staff members affects the activities and programs they enjoy. You've heard young people make negative comments about the "girl in the wheelchair getting too much attention" and you worry that it is affecting her ability to make friends.



## Discussion with Speakers



## ONE Action



What is ONE action you can suggest for others who want to take action around Child Sexual Abuse and Disabilities?





## Speaker Contact & Info

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## FINAL: Ending Child Sexual Abuse Series

- **Telling our Stories:  
Learning as we Build a Movement**  
(March 13, 2014)



Thank you



**#PowerInPrevention**  
Ending Child Sexual Abuse Web Conference Series

