Research and Best Practices in Domestic Violence

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Who am I?

- Former Director of the Bridge Program for Rose Brooks Center, Inc. (8 years)
- Member of the Family Violence Prevention Fund’s National Standards Campaign
- Co-Author and Editor for PVS’ Abuse Assessment Course
- Content contributor for the FVPF’s National Consensus Guidelines
- Co-Editor for CMH’s *It’s Time to Ask* pediatric setting abuse screening curriculum
- Panelist for the National Domestic Violence Hotline’s National Summit on Ending Domestic Violence
- Consultant and trainer for Rose Brooks Center
Goals of this discussion

• Discuss research and identified best practices in our field
• Stimulate thinking about what projects you might consider requesting funding for
• Open discussion
Who is in the audience?

Agency and Title

Brief program description

Anything you’d like to know about?
Let’s take a look at what the leading experts are talking about
National Hotline’s Decade of Change Summit

• More than 30 years ago, the women’s movement identified domestic violence as an urgent issue facing women and communities
• Since then, services have evolved, interventions explored, and policy developed
• Today, we have many more services available to those in need.
National Hotline’s Decade of Change Summit

• Now we are at a critical time to work towards ENDING domestic violence.

• As we work towards this new goal of ENDING domestic violence, it is clear that we must also step up our services and assist women, children, and some men who are or have been hurt.
The Decade for Change SUMMIT was born from the vision to develop bold new approaches to measurably reduce domestic violence in America by 2017.

Brought together national leaders from 10 key sectors in America including from business, domestic violence services, education, family initiative programs, faith communities, government, healthcare, the media, men’s educational organizations, youth services to participate in an organic process.

Focused on 10-year recommendations for preventing domestic violence.
National Hotline’s Decade of Change Summit

• Four themes were identified
  – Public awareness
  – Education and training
  – Outreach to and the inclusion of men
  – Outreach to youth
Public awareness

• call for increased public awareness to shift public opinion and attitudes as well as social norms that make domestic violence tolerated to a national consensus that violence against women is unacceptable
Public awareness

- Develop a campaign that not only regards domestic violence as unacceptable but also provides alternative positive behavior models
- This should involve the effective collaboration between domestic violence service providers and the media
Education and training

• The key to eradicating domestic violence is to create a united effort among key societal sectors to establish industry-specific strategies and tactics that address the problem.
Education and training

• Training and education developed and disseminated for
  - Healthcare providers
  - Teachers
  - Schools
  - Communities
  - Faith communities
  - Government
  - Private and public sector
Education and training

• The success of intervention efforts hinge on whether individuals interacting with those involved in domestic violence demonstrate appropriate sensitivity to the challenges facing victims as they seek to address the violence plaguing their lives.
  – This is developed through education
  – Studies show that education must be ongoing
Outreach to and the inclusion of men

• Bringing them into the work as role models and messengers to influence other men
Sample of Coaching Boys Into Men Campaign (FVPF)

Eat your vegetables.

Don’t play with matches.

Finish your homework.

Respect women.
Outreach to and the inclusion of men

• Men are needed to help other men reshape and redefine gender roles

• Suggest creating partnerships with primarily men’s organizations such as boy scouts, sports affiliations, men’s business organizations
Outreach to youth

• Affecting a shift in attitudes among youth can break the generational transfer of unhealthy patterns of violence in intimate relationships.
Outreach to youth

• Research shows that girls and youth, despite empowerment efforts and changes in gender stereotypes, STILL have not translated into healthy relationship expectations.
See It & Stop It Campaign for Teens

HE PAYS ATTENTION TO HER

HE PAYS ATTENTION TO HER EVERY MOVE
Many areas of interest in the literature
3 Broad Areas of Focus

1. Prevention
2. Early Intervention
3. Enhanced Services for survivors
But with enhanced ways of viewing them...

1. Prevention
   - Preventing violence against women by rearing boys to believe that it is no longer tolerated

2. Early Intervention
   - Increased focus on the meeting the client where they’re at – emotionally and physically.
     - On Site Services
     - Stages of Change

3. Enhanced services for survivors
• Recognizing and addressing healthcare issues as they relate to survivors of violence – trauma across the lifespan
Traumatic Brain Injury

as a Consequence of Interpersonal Violence
Traumatic Brain Injury
Key Points of Research

- 80% of female victims of IPV who are seen for medical treatment have sustained facial injuries.
- Mild traumatic brain injury is seldom diagnosed as a consequence of those injuries.
- Symptoms vary considerably but most are amenable to rehabilitation.
- Appropriate assessment is vital as part of breaking the cycle of abuse.
Traumatic Brain Injury

• Brain injury can be a life-altering experience
  – Victims are sometimes described as “changed” or having a different personality
Traumatic Brain Injury

Some indicators
- Change in alertness
- Emotional processing
- Memory
- Sensorimotor
- Speech
- Academic abilities
- Cognitive problem solving
- Organic emotions
- Asymmetry
- Treatment problems
Emotional Trauma can affect a child’s brain development
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study

• There is a strong correlation between childhood trauma and serious adult health problems including
  - Tobacco use
  - Substance abuse
  - Obesity
  - Cancer
  - Heart disease
  - Depression
  - Unintended pregnancy
Adverse Childhood Experiences

• The ACE study found that children who were exposed to sexual abuse as children or witnessed the abuse of their mothers were exposed to chronic stress that could have major implications on their brain development.

• The brain releases specific hormones in response to stress that over time can cause the brain to suffer.
Adverse Childhood Experiences

• Research continues to affirm that women will confide in their doctor long before seeking shelter or contacting law enforcement making it essential that we reach women and children during times of chronic stress and abuse.

• We must also sharpen our prevention efforts.

• And we need to reach women where they are seeking services for their children
Rippling Effects of Chronic Stress
New partners are involved and new solutions have been tried

- We are screening in places where women and children are receiving services
  - Hospitals, doctor’s offices, clinics, dentists, and any other healthcare prevention and treatment sites
  - WIC offices, welfare services
  - Corporations and other workplaces
  - Schools – head start through college
  - Beauty shops
The more places we screen, identify and assess for domestic violence, the more victims/survivors will be in need of our services and want to access them.
It becomes imperative that we have enough funding for staffing and services to meet their needs.
Here’s what I know
The Bridge Program of Rose Brooks Center

- Healthcare advocacy program that consists of
  - Policy
    - Specific to the environment
  - Education
    - Specific to the professional
  - Direct Service
    - Screening, identifying, and bringing services to the clients
  - Community Collaboration
The Bridge Program of Rose Brooks Center

• These same principles can be applied to a variety of settings
Can we take the ideas of the experts and combine it with the current research and move away from status quo?
Let’s rekindle the interest of funders to support our efforts toward ending family violence.
• In addition to looking at national research and national experts, look within yourselves and your agency...
  
  – Where are the gaps in service?
  – In addition to the “have to” funding requests what are the ideals?
  – Is there something that just bugs you and you want to see change?`
Open Discussion and Brainstorming

Questions and Answers