



California Statewide Network to Reduce Abuse of Elders and Persons with Disabilities

Mark Starford & Kecia Weller
NAPSA Conference 2018

Presenters

Kecia Weller

- UCLA Tarjan Center
- Advocacy:
 - Silence = Violence Network
 - CA State Rehabilitation Advocate Council
 - National Abuse Prevention Peer Advocate

Mark Starford

- Board Resource Center, Director
- The SCILS Group Co-Founder
- Silence = Violence Network

Today



- Personal Story of Resilience
- Why Silence = Violence was created
Background and Future
- Value of having people with disabilities at
the center of Silence = Violence efforts
- Ways to structure a similar Network

Getting Personal



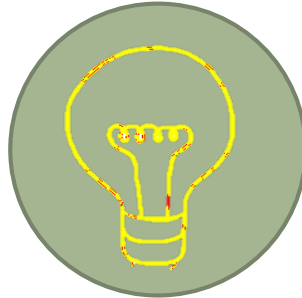
Kecia Weller

“ The system failed me; law enforcement and the case management agency. ”

“ As a result, I sank into a depression. ”

“ Now, I advocate for others. ”

My Recommendations



Ideas

We need greater coalition building between the disability community, law enforcement, nonprofits, and public agencies.

Require agencies that communicate with survivors use plain language and accessible formats.

Better training for APS, law enforcement and victim service providers.

Background

2003 Disability Rights California



“Abuse and Neglect of Adults with Developmental Disabilities: A Public Health Priority for California”

- Victimized at a much higher rate;
- Higher risk for re-victimization, frequently severe;
- Frequently victimized in their homes by caregiver
- Inadequately educated to recognize, resist, and seek alternatives to abusive situations.

*Protections are inadequate for victims
with developmental disabilities*

Abuse response and criminal justice systems lack training responding to people with developmental disabilities.

Background

2015 Update



DRC amended the 2003 report ... little or no progress has been made to reduce and prevent abuse of individuals with developmental disabilities.

2003 Report Recommendation #1

Make the abuse of individuals with developmental disabilities a public health priority.

Has not been achieved.

Developmental Disabilities Services, State Council on Developmental Disabilities, and University Centers of Excellence on Developmental Disabilities have failed over the past decade to work to eliminate and prevent the epidemic of abuse of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Background

2012

2013

Sonoma Developmental
Center

Outreach

Community made aware of historical abuse happening in CA developmental centers.

State Council's Self Advocate Advisory Committee discuss and want action

Small Team researches abuse: Occurrence, strategies, outcomes, share information with ACL.

Kecia Weller/Molly Kennedy
Produce PSA: Abuse of People with Disabilities: *A Silent Epidemic* -YouTube 15,000 views

Advisors: NCCJD

Presentations at National Disability Conferences

Background

2014

Outreach

Presentations/trainings:

- First Responders,
- National conferences
- Peer advocacy groups
- Social Media
- Webinar (NCCJD)

In-person meetings:

- National Disability Associations (UCP, Arc)

2015

Collaboration

Contribute to NCCJD White Paper

Conference presentations



Organize
Silence=Violence with

- Peer Advocates
- CFILC: Foundation for Independent Living Centers
- BRC: Board Resource Center
- SLI: Supported Life Institute

Background

2016

Silence=Violence

Initial meeting - 17 CA agencies, ACL and NCCJD

- Vision, Commitment
- Outreach
- Organization

Partner/project with National Arc-NCCJD
"Talk About Sexual Violence"

2017

Silence=Violence

S=V member track at State Disability Conference

Discovery: Participants do not know what each other agencies do - "Tell us about your agency"

Members begin collaborative projects

Outline future S=V projects

- Blue Ribbon Committee
- Online APP
- One-Stop Website



The Vision

Education Advocacy Policy

“Our vision is rooted in equality for all - where violence against people with disabilities and older persons is no longer inevitable and where all people can fully exercise their rights”

State agencies, advocacy organizations and survivors working collaboratively so people can live self-determined lives free of abuse.



Strategic Plans

Education Advocacy Policy

1. Increase public awareness about abuse of people with disabilities and elders
2. Address systemic issues; legislative, policy, practices
3. Work together - break down *silo* approach
4. Develop partnerships and projects
5. Become a one-stop *accessible* resource for providers, individuals, agencies



2 Year Plan

"Ensure people who experience abuse do not fall through the cracks"

- Learn what each agency does (abuse prevention) and publish and distribute
- Network partners collaborative on new disability/elder abuse projects
- Share successful strategies and resources
- Member-to-member trainings
- Collaborative public awareness campaigns
- Funding, currently all volunteer

Network Reflection

Silence = Violence members work collaboratively to address these questions.

1. Why is what we are doing now, not working?
2. What are new ways the disability and older persons communities can work together?
3. What resources can we share to make a greater impact without additional cost?

Partners (*Sample List*)

1. Adult Protective Services
2. CA Foundation For Independent Living Centers
3. Supported Life Conference
4. Disability Rights California
5. Board Resource Center
6. Redwood Coast Regional Center - Client Advocate
7. Abuse Prevention Survivor Peer Advocates
8. California Association of Area Agencies
9. Association of Regional Center Agencies
10. The Arc of California
11. State Independent Living Center
12. National Center for Criminal Justice and Disabilities
13. California Commission on Aging
14. In-Home Support Services
15. CA State Council on Developmental Disabilities
16. CA Elder Justice
17. Ombudsman Association
18. Victim of Crime Resource Center
19. Homecare Providers Union

Challenges

- Collaboration: Eliminating “Silo” approach!!!
- Consistent commitment - long range thinking
- Getting and maintaining agency interest
- Network organization/facilitation - *who will take the lead?*
- In-kind support

Replication Hints

Organization:

- Diverse sponsoring agencies
- Survivors have a leadership role - *with support*

Define Network purpose and responsibilities

- Vision, Mission, Goals, Tasks
- Outcome driven - *more than talking*
- Use social media to advance purpose/awareness
- Become a one-stop online location for resources

Participation

- Broad representation: State and regional agencies, non-profit organizations, advocacy groups and survivors

Final Note



Advocate for better laws

Mandate ongoing training for law enforcement and victim service providers

All APS and law enforcement interviews must:

- Provide accessible accommodations
- Be respectful of the person's disability
- Provide privacy

Resources

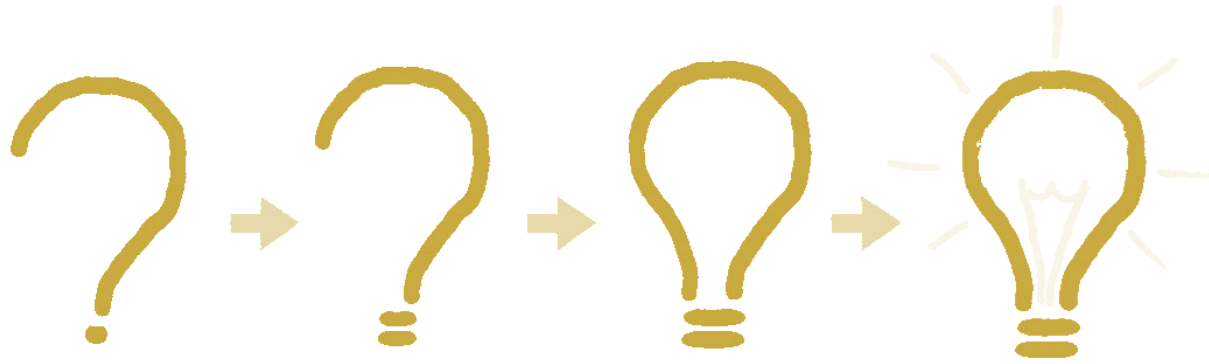
**National Webinar May 2018: The Arc of New Jersey
Empowering People with Disabilities to Recognize and Report Abuse**
<https://vimeo.com/271839143>

National Center on Criminal Justice and Disability website:
<https://www.thearc.org/NCCJD/resources/by-audience/self-advocates>

NPR: The Sexual Assault Epidemic No One Talks About
<https://www.npr.org/2018/01/08/570224090/the-sexual-assault-epidemic-no-one-talks-about>

**World Institute on Disability:
Curriculum on Self-Protection for People with Disabilities and Elders
Living Independently**
<https://worldinstituteondisabilityblog.files.wordpress.com/2015/11/cape-complete.pdf>

The Family Place
<http://www.familyplace.org/resource/signs-of-abuse>



questions