Creating Pathways to Justice® for Victims with Disabilities

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Leigh Ann Davis, Director of Criminal Justice Initiatives, The Arc
Mark Starford, Executive Director, Board Resource Center
Who We Are

• The Arc
  Promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively supports their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes.

• The Board Resource Center
  Contributes to the inclusion and self-determination of persons with diverse abilities in decision-making, self and peer advocacy, and governance activities.
Introduction to NCCJD®

NCCJD’s Goal:

Build the capacity of the criminal justice system to respond to gaps in services and supports for people with disabilities, focusing on people with I/DD.

[thearc.org/NCCJD]
Pathways to Justice® and Disability Response Teams

Found a pathway to justice
Talk About Sexual Violence

Easy-to-use training tools for Health Care Providers

• Increase patient-centered conversations
• Increase reporting
• Decrease discomfort talking about sexual violence with women with I/DD
Kecia’s Story

What were the missed opportunities to serve Kecia better?

Law enforcement

Social work
Pathways to Justice® Training Program

• Community living can lead to criminal justice involvement
  – Victims, witnesses, suspects/defendants, incarcerated persons

• Disabilities are often invisible or unrecognized by criminal justice professionals
Pathways to Justice®
Training Program

People are unable to protect their own rights

Victims:

• Not considered credible witnesses
• Targeted for victimization
• Difficulties reporting
• Confuse actions for friendship
• Lack of inclusive services
Disability Response Teams (DRTs)

Multidisciplinary Teams of Criminal Justice Professionals and Disability Advocates

- Attorneys
- Chapters of The Arc
- Disability Advocacy Organizations
- Self-Advocacy Groups
- Law Enforcement
- Victim Services Providers
Pathways to Justice®

**DRT Roles:**

- Increase awareness and debunk myths
- Help professionals identify disabilities
- Help provide supports/accommodations
- Create/sustain/refer to local resources
- Sustain training efforts
Disability Response Teams

- National Level
  (NCCJD®)
- State Level
  (State Chapters)
- Local Level
  (Local Chapters)
- Disability Response Teams
  Other Professionals
• Complaint
• Law Enforcement
• Victims’ Rights

• Interview
• Evidence Collection

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Key Messages

• All people are different and should be valued
• Accommodations are often required
• Supports are needed to have equal access
• Everyone has a role to play!
Talk About Sexual Violence
Rates of Serious Crimes

Violent crime (rape/sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault) for persons with disabilities (12.7 per 1,000)

- More than three times the rate for persons without disabilities (4.0 per 1,000)

- Persons with cognitive disabilities had the highest rates (57.9 per 1,000)


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Relationship to Offender

- Acquaintance
- Intimate partner 66%
- Other relative
- Stranger 34%
- Unknown

The National Center for Victims of Crime, 2015

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Project Elements

- Two videos and website
- Training materials
- Online resources
- National dissemination
- National and State Conferences
Project Advisors

(3) Survivors of sexual assault
(3) Physicians
(1) Health management leader
(2) APS Program Liaison/IHSS
(3) Care Providers and family member
(2) Case Managers/Social Workers
(1) Training Specialist
How to Have the Conversation

Look for signs of sexual assault

www.talkaboutsexualviolence.org
Kecia meets with her Doctor

www.talkaboutsexualviolence.org

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Early Outcomes

• Case Management and APS MOU
• Abuse prevention workshops at state conference
• Abuse Prevention Statewide Network
  Silence = Violence
• Kecia influencing Legislation
  Hate crimes against people with disabilities
  Protection on public transportation
Recommendations
Advisory Group

• Educate HCPs about being mandated reporters
• Engage APS and victims’ right organizations
• Make presentations at professional conferences
• Initiate MOUs between APS and agencies
• Conduct safety training at peer advocacy groups
Key Message

Value each person’s experience

Listen
Provide supports
Maintain contact with the person
James and Kecia

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities deserve a life free from abuse. Abuse is too often ignored or excused.

Join the conversation, talk about sexual violence and end the silent epidemic of abuse!

Questions

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