



2012 Massachusetts Symposium for Victims of Crime Workshops

Wednesday March 7, 2012

9:00a.m. – 4:30p.m. (8:30a.m – 9:00a.m: Registration and Continental Breakfast)

Best Western Royal Plaza, 181 Boston Post Road West, Marlborough, MA 01752

Workshop Descriptions

SESSION I:

Interplay of Trauma and Culture in the Therapeutic Relationship:

Marta Casas, Intake Coordinator, Child Clinician, Boston Medical Center Child Witness to Violence Project

The therapeutic relationship between a clinician and a person that has been exposed to trauma can be a complicated and sometimes difficult one to build and maintain, especially when there are additional cultural considerations. Clinical providers and other caregivers will gain a greater understanding of issues related to the cultural identity of both the caregiver and the individual, in order to be sensitive and effective in their work. Variables such as beliefs, myths, and preconceptions on both the part of the clinician/caregiver and survivor, may constitute either resources or obstacles in the therapeutic/healing process. The presenter will illustrate these issues through clinical cases that reflect her own professional experience working with complexities associated with traumatized individuals from different cultural backgrounds.

Service Training Dogs: Supporting Victims of Crime:

Laurie Myers, Executive Director, VOICES – Dogs Making a Difference- Wena, two-year-old Black Lab/Golden mix, Service Trained Facility Dog

For years, trained service dogs have assisted people with disabilities, helped comfort the sick and elderly and assisted veterans returning from war. In 2003, a former prosecutor from Washington State began using a service trained dog to assist traumatized victims during the criminal justice process, to calm a sometimes chaotic courthouse and to make a confusing environment a little friendlier. In November of 2011, our organization expanded this program by bringing the first dog of this kind to Massachusetts. Our discussion will explore the benefits of the calming effect dogs have on victims of crime and their broader benefit to victims throughout the community.

Promoting Empathy Toward Families of Murder Victims

*Michael Jo Santos, Victim Witness Advocate, Bristol County District Attorney's Office
Dana Rebeiro, United Families for Peace, Filmmaker*

This interdisciplinary presentation aims to reach victims/survivors, service providers, and others who may interact with a family member/survivor in a personal or professional capacity. This presentation will raise the voice of a victim/survivor of homicide and enable caregivers to better understand being “in their shoes”. Developing and channeling empathy in our work as caregivers is crucial to the healing process for survivors and achieving some measure of a new normalcy in life. Hearing the stories from victims and

survivors themselves helps ensure that we remain victim- focused in our efforts to support and advocate for them. The presentation will include a documentary that consists of interviews of people who lost a family member to gun violence. Attendees will gain insight into the lives and experiences of survivors from varied perspectives and approaches – survivor, filmmaker, community activist, victim advocate – and offer lessons learned about ways to empower survivors in efforts to raise awareness and mobilize communities to action.

Moving From Secondary Traumatic Stress to Resilience

Katherine Manners, Clinical Coordinator, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Lisa Tieszen, Project Coordinator, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Victim Advocates and others working with victims/survivors are dedicated, hard working and committed to the mission of putting victims first. Working with those who have experienced trauma is satisfying and rewarding as well as distressing and disturbing. As survivors and caregivers, we need ask ourselves, “What kind of effect can this have on our professional and personal lives?” “What is ‘Secondary Traumatic Stress’?” “What is ‘Resilience’ and how can I develop it?” This workshop will explore the negative effects of our work, discuss both personal and professional strategies that help to minimize the impact, and explore the role of our agencies and organizations. It will also identify the positive effects of our work and ways to enhance resilience. Participants will engage in both discussion and easy stress reducing exercises that are used in the nationally recognized Advocate Education and Support Series.

Creating Support for Survivors with Multiple Challenges

Erin E. Miller, Advocacy Manager, Rosie’s Place

In our work, behaviors of survivors coping with mental health challenges, addictions and/or multiple forms of trauma can sometimes pose complicated situations for direct service staff, supervisors, and other caregivers in survivors’ lives. When faced with these symptoms and behaviors, are we successfully serving the needs of survivors and supporting their healing? From a non-clinical approach, this presentation will provide concrete suggestions to effectively provide support and direct services and develop strategies for creating supportive organizational structures and environments.

SESSION II:

Clinical Work with Survivors of Homicide

Holly Aldrich, Director, Center for Homicide Bereavement, Cambridge Health Alliance

Diya Kallivayalil, Staff Psychologist, Cambridge Health Alliance

This workshop will focus on issues unique to clinical work with survivors of homicide and will emphasize the value of long- term individual, family and group work. Homicide survivors use services in various ways and for various lengths of time. The offer of long-

term clinical care does not presume that it is wanted or needed by every homicide survivor. Traumatic grief therapy may be short-term, extended, or incremental. However, for many survivors there is value in having a protected space in which connections with a therapist and other survivors allow for an unfolding experience of grief and an evolving learning of the altered terrain of their lives. This workshop will identify and engage participants in in-depth consideration of issues and responsibilities clinicians face as they work with homicide survivors.

“What Does This Mean For My Kid?” Expanding Access to Evidence-Based Trauma Focused Mental Health Treatment:

*Anne Parsons Marchant, Pediatric & Adult SANE, Massachusetts SANE Program
Jennifer Salem-Russo, Clinical Coordinator, Saint Anne’s Hospital Youth Trauma Program*

Through discussion of the ACE (Adverse Childhood Experiences) Study, this workshop will describe, for providers and non-offending caregivers, current understanding of the effects of child sexual abuse on health outcomes, including selected underlying physiological processes. This workshop will also emphasize the critical need for children’s connection to appropriate mental health treatment. Implications of this study, including the experience of the Bristol County Children’s Advocacy Center in expanding access to Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, will be described.

Asking Tough Questions: Trauma, Substance Abuse, and Sex Work

*Maureen Ferdinand, Group Services Specialist, Reach Beyond Domestic Violence
Maria Pizzimenti, Director of Advocacy, Reach Beyond Domestic Violence*

This workshop addresses the need for trauma-informed services for survivors of violence who may have engaged in sex work or transactional sex. This interactive presentation will explore a harm reduction model, share our unique group curriculum, and inform participants of best practices for working with vulnerable populations.

Trauma Recovery Coaching

Diana Bella, Director Community Crisis Response Team (CCRT), Community Action

Trauma Recovery Coaching (TRC) is for crime victims ready to move beyond the effects of victimization to setting and obtaining new life goals. The TRC program works with survivors to create life changes through a series of exercises and development of a self care action plan that addresses the individual’s physical, energy, emotional, mental and spiritual needs.

Compensation Assistance for Victims of Violent Crimes:

*Lisa Solecki, Director, Victim Compensation & Assistance Division, AG’s Office
Ann Meola, Deputy Director, Victim Compensation & Assistance Division, AG’s Office*

Victims of violent crime and their families suffer physical injuries, emotional trauma, and financial losses. However, many victims of crime do not seek assistance for their injuries

for multiple reasons. A previous survey by the Urban Institute shows that a rising number of Massachusetts residents, especially those with lower incomes, are reporting that they do not seek health care because of costs, despite healthcare reform in the state. Furthermore, a more recent Boston area study shows that victims of violence who do not seek proper physical or psychological care are more likely to suffer chronic health problems. As a result, the victimization has a direct impact on the physical health of victims as well as the quality of their lives. By presenting the views and perspectives from a victim/survivor of violent crime who has reported a crime, participated in the criminal justice system, worked with trauma-centered service providers and the victim compensation program, workshop participants will gain greater understanding of the victim's experience and of the program and its services. The presenters will demonstrate the program's claimant-centered work and provide opportunities to hear directly from other providers and survivors.

SESSION III:

Awareness and Action: Educating Persons with Disabilities to Recognize, Report, and Respond to Abuse

Linda Sera, Team Coordinator, Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong

Luke Hutter Ross, Trainer, Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong

This workshop showcases the OVC funded project "Awareness and Action: Educating Persons with Disabilities on Recognizing, Reporting and Responding to Abuse." This is a self-advocate driven partnership project among the Massachusetts Building Partnerships Initiative, the Disabled Persons Protection Commission and Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong, the statewide self advocacy rights organization. The training was developed to enable persons with disabilities and others to be safer and more active in their communities by learning the skills to recognize, report and respond to abuse. The team will introduce the Trainer Guide and highlight sections of the three hour comprehensive curriculum through PowerPoint selections, videotaped survivor stories, and interactive/participatory activities. Complete curriculum, training DVD and training handouts will be available for viewing.

Perspectives: Transforming Violence with Mindful Art Making

Barbara Hamm, Director of Victims of Violence Program, Cambridge Health Alliance

Mary Harvey, Senior Psychologist, Cambridge Health Alliance

This workshop will introduce participants to the theoretical framework, format and week-by-week unique trauma-informed group approach entitled "Perspectives: Transforming Violence through Mindful Art-Making". The group model introduces members to a variety of mindfulness exercises which serve as preludes to a series of art-making exercises that draw their theme and content from an understanding of trauma, the transformative power of art-making and the need for interventions that foster resilience and well-being in trauma survivors. Unlike traditional art therapy groups, "Perspectives"

does not invite extensive traumatic disclosure but encourages members to discover new strengths and new possibilities in the relational context of a group. Presenters will review the group approach, lead workshop participants in exemplary mindfulness and art-making exercises, and provide time for discussion of both the model and the exercises.

Helping to Prevent Elder Financial Exploitation and Fraud

Jonathan Fielding, Regional Manager, Executive Office of Elder Affairs

Deborah Fogarty, Director of Elder Protective Services, Executive Office of Elder Affairs

The incidence of financial exploitation of elders and vulnerable adults is growing nationally. Fraudulent telemarketing schemes and unscrupulous scam artists increasingly target elders, resulting in significant financial losses. In addition, loved and trusted family members too often make illegal and improper use of resources, resulting in emotional and financial damage that is devastating. To aid in early identification and prevention of elder financial exploitation and fraud, and to assist elders to remain safely in the community, Massachusetts has developed two nationally recognized community collaborations: the Massachusetts Bank Reporting Project and the Money Management Program. This workshop will provide an overview of these programs, and discuss signs and symptoms of financial exploitation and fraud and simple strategies for protecting one's assets. Case examples will highlight the importance of a multidisciplinary team collaborative approach in addressing the devastating and often irreversible impact of financial exploitation and fraud.

Confidentiality and Privacy Concerns for Victims of Sexual Violence

Shalini Vivek, Staff Attorney, Victim Rights Law Center

Stacy Malone, Executive Director, Victim Rights Law Center

The workshop will focus on sexual assault survivors' privacy concerns, especially with regard to their privileged and confidential medical and therapy records. Presenters will discuss the obstacles these issues create for survivors seeking healing and justice, how these types of records are used in legal proceedings, and some tools and strategies for survivors and victim service providers to employ to safeguard a victim's privacy.

Connections between Domestic Violence and Child Welfare:

Susan Hubert, Domestic Violence Unit Manager, Department of Children and Families

Over the last 20 years social service systems and law enforcement have become increasingly better educated about domestic violence and its impact on children. An unintended consequence of this increased education is the belief that a report to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) is required in every situation of domestic violence when children are in the home. However, every circumstance involving domestic violence does not always merit intervention by the child protection system.

The purpose of this workshop seminar is to familiarize participants of diverse disciplines with best practices in child abuse and neglect (51A) reporting in situations of domestic violence and to demystify this complex system of reporting and response. Presenters

will provide clarifying information for mandated reporters when domestic violence situations arise regarding appropriate when and when not to file a 51A and how to do this as safely and responsibly as possible.