

American Indian Community Response to Sexual Assault in the Urban Setting

Jude Foster – Sexual Violence Center
Nigel Perrote – Division of Indian Work



Learning Objectives

- Participants will be able to identify each step of the 8 step model.
- Urban Indian populations will be able to apply their experiences to the victim center approach in crime victim services.
- Participants will be able to address barriers by building multidisciplinary collaborations.

What is a SMARTeam?


Sexual Assault Multidisciplinary Action Response Team

We are a team comprised of law enforcement, prosecution, medical professionals, advocacy organizations and community corrections. Our goal is to improve interagency trust, communication and accountability across the criminal justice system.

Hennepin County SMARTeam Mission Statement


To ensure safety for all victims and to promote offender accountability through a victim centered approach to enhance community response and the legal process.

Hennepin County SMARTeam Members



- The ARC Greater Twin Cities
- Aurora Center for Advocacy and Education
- Avenues for Homeless Youth
- Breaking Free
- Brian Coyle Center
- Central Minnesota Legal Services
- Community-University Health Care Center (CUHCC)
- Division of Indian Work (DIW)
- GLBT Host Home Program
- Hennepin County Department of Community Corrections-Intensive Supervision Program
- Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health Department Adult Protection
- Jewish Family and Children's Service of Minneapolis
- Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center (MIWRC)
- MN Network on Abuse in Later Life (MNALL)
- Office of the Hennepin County Attorney
- Rape and Sexual Abuse Center/Victim Services Division, Office of the Hennepin County Attorney
- Sexual Assault Resource Service (SARS)
- Sex Crimes/POR Minneapolis Police Department
- Sexual Violence Center (SVC)
- WATCH

Team Readiness Factors



- Team composition
- Team commitment
- Current understanding of sexual assault
- Fit with existing efforts and community goals
- General team preparation

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Becoming Victim Centered

- Consider the victim first
- Listen generously
- Promote victim self-agency
- Coordinate and collaborate in victim's interest
- Ensure victim safety
- Seek just solutions for all
- Hold self and other's accountable

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Sexual Assault in the Twin Cities Urban Indian Community

- National Statistic – 1 in 3 women will be sexually assaulted
- Large Urban Population - 32,910
- Sexual Assault Cases
 - 2008 – 39
 - 2009 – 22
 - 2010 – 41
 - 2011 - 36

Barriers to Service

- Lack of trust with mainstream system
- Access to services, service preference
- Stigma

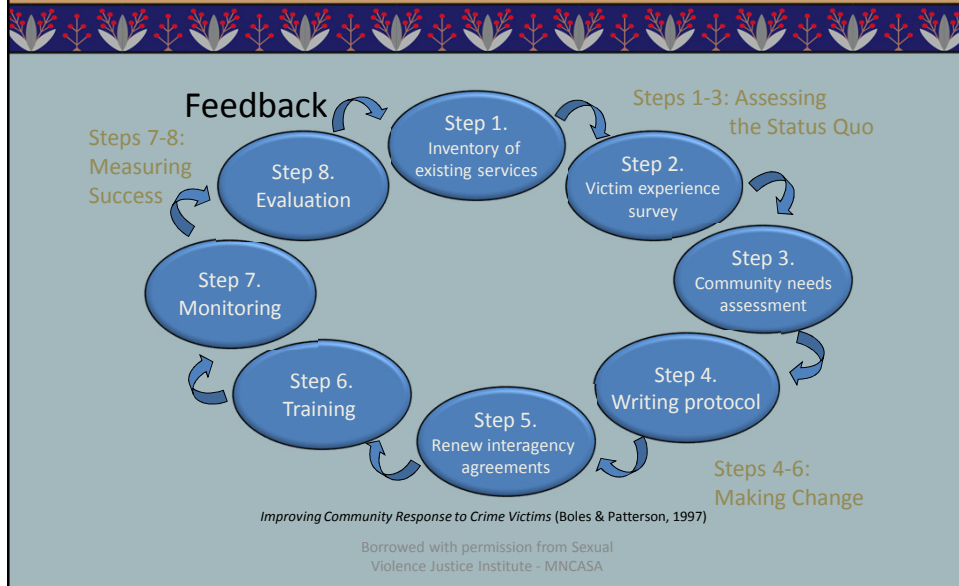
Making Change

	Example	Pros	Cons
Individual Case Advocacy	Advocate reminds medical provider to provide options around emergency contraception	Can be immediate feedback, specific to individual	May/may not affect lasting change, not always transferable to others
System advocacy – agency to agency	Advocacy agency notices LE requesting polygraphs of several victims – ask to meet with investigative supervisor	Notice patterns, can affect policies, can get at mid-level issues that affect practice	Direct learning to the 2 agencies involved
System change – via interagency team	Team researches problems, designs, trends, and evaluates proposed changes	Way to get at deeper structures, move toward self correcting /adapting behavior,	Requires long-term commitment, heavy investment, turnover of team members inevitable

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Protocol Development Cycle: A Cyclical Process



The 3 Ps



- Protocol Development is designed around a **purpose**, **process** and **product**.

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Step 1: Inventory of Existing Services

- Identify all agencies and organizations victim/survivors of sexual violence could interface with
- Define what is currently available
- Find gaps and overlaps in services
- Create referral questionnaire
- Prepare inventory listings

Step 2: Victim Experience Survey

- Determine method to use to capture a victim/survivor's experience
- Identify questions
- Select survey respondents
- Dispense survey
- Create VES report based on results

Step 3: Community Needs Assessment

- Choose consultant to conduct community needs assessment
- Consultant and SMARTeam members develop process for community needs assessment
- Consultant conducts community needs assessment
- Consultant generates written report with data compilation, findings, and recommendations

Step 4: Write Protocol

- Review current protocols from each team member's agency
- Incorporate feedback from team into protocol revisions, as appropriate
- Complete final drafts of protocols
- SMARTeam members train their staff on revised protocols

Step 5: Renew Interagency Agreements

- Send protocol to all agencies by changes and obtain agreement
- Identify additional organizations that are missing from SMARTeam
- Invite their participation

Step 6: Training

- Identify training needs
- Hold cross training between SMARTeam members
- Conduct trainings to ensure protocol implementation
- Offer trainings pertinent to the field of sexual violence intervention and prosecution to agencies represented on the SMARTeam

Step 7: Monitoring

- Develop monitoring checklists
- Review cases with SMARTeam members
- Assess protocol implementation

Step 8: Evaluation

- Choose consultant to conduct evaluation
- Consultant and SMARTeam members develop process for evaluation
- Consultant conducts evaluation
- Consultant generates written report with data compilation, findings, and recommendations


Beyond Convening!

- **Intervention Goals:** Victim-agency, victim-centered response, offender accountability, and system/community change
- **Overall Team Goal:** Promote adaptive action that is victim-centered with attention to good case outcomes; foster a self-correcting system.

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Questions?



Contact Info

- Jude Foster
Sexual Violence Center
jfoster@sexualviolencecenter.org
612-871-5100 ext. 15
- Nigel Perrote
Division of Indian Work
nperrote@diw-mn.org
612-722-8722 ext. 375

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