



Envision a World without Violence

Advocacy in Transitional Housing

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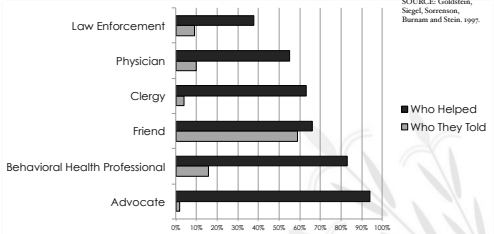
LANGUAGE USED

- Victim centered
- Centralizing safety of women
- Trauma informed care

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Studies examining sexual assault disclosure demonstrate that the role of the advocate is significant in being helpful to survivors seeking help



Role	Who Helped (%)	Who They Told (%)
Law Enforcement	~35	~10
Physician	~55	~10
Clergy	~65	~10
Friend	~70	~60
Behavioral Health Professional	~85	~15
Advocate	~95	~10

SOURCE: Gladstein, Segel, Sorenson, Burnam and Stein, 1997.

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BEING A BIASED SUPPORTER

- Means the advocate helps to ensure the survivor's voice is being heard, makes sure she has enough information and understanding to help her be as safe as possible, and helping to support the decisions and choices she makes.

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ADVOCATE	CASE MANAGEMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals are their own experts • Works to give voice to the victim/survivor experience • Focuses on personal sovereignty • Addresses power/control issues of systems and society • Engages in critical thinking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals may lack personal control over information • Practitioners review "cases" • Medical model/psychological model approach • Fragmented, single issue • Focuses on the bureaucracy

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ADVOCACY AND CASE MANAGEMENT

Instead of fitting women into our truth, we must build our truth around a larger collection of voices. We must ... listen to battered women as "normal," healthy women and challenge the stereotypes that prevent us from doing this. We must ... begin to ask battered women what they want and need.

~ Lucille Pope, NCADV
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WAYS WOMEN SHOW TRAUMA

Once an advocate understands how each person is managing their experiences, the advocate can figure out how to offer a helping hand.


- Lots of energy, eager to jump in and take action, building a new life, being completely involved with everything offered to her.
- Completely immobilized. She may have difficulty making decisions, may be almost frozen in her space.
- Full of rage, angry about what has happened to her, releasing pent up frustration in all directions around her.

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SURVIVORS' NEEDS

- Time to get on their feet
- A time and space to make decisions, explore options with privacy and respect
- An environment that supports individual decision making



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SCOPE OF SERVICES

- Immediate needs
- Safety needs
- Personal and family needs
- Economic needs

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HOLISTIC APPROACH

- Rest
- Medical care
- Safety
- Legal and civil options
- Forensic examination
- Assistive resources
- Traditional activities, ceremonies
- Mental health care
- Long-term housing assistance
- Employment/education assistance
- Children's needs
 - ✓ School
 - ✓ Behavioral assistance

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ADVOCATE CAPACITY

Women survive abuse, but they are more likely to do so when [advocates] are equipped with the knowledge of what is helpful to them—personally and organizationally—in the aftermath of the violence (Postmus, Severson, Berry, & Yoo, 2009).

- Range of skills and operational supports that will help them be effective and compassionate in responding
- Build in time and space to reflect and take action
- Good communication styles and behavior modeling
- Resolve conflict and find mutually acceptable solutions

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BUILDING CAPACITY

- Skills to develop within the advocate staffs as a whole
 - ✓ e.g. ability to work with victims of sexual assault, conflict resolution skills, critical thinking skills, etc.
- RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR STAFF AS A WHOLE
- INDIVIDUAL ADVOCATE

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