Confidential Resource Providers: Incorporting Victim Advocacy in Trauma-Informed Systems

June 8, 2023
Lindy Aldrich
What will we discuss today?

- Campus Safety Act
- How Victim Advocates Fit Within A Trauma Informed System
- Importance of Privilege
- Advocacy Frameworks to Consider
Act Relative to Sexual Violence on Higher Education Campuses

Passed in January 2021

Requires every campus to designate a Confidential Resource Provider ("CRP")

Campus Safety Act
Requirements of the CRP

- Provides services to students and employees
- May have another role at the IHE
  - Cannot be a student, Title IX Coordinator, or a Responsible Employee
- Privileged position, but other confidential positions on campus can exist alongside this resource
- IHE with less than 1,000 students can partner with other small campuses to share an advocate
- CRPs must be trained in awareness and prevention of sexual misconduct and trauma-informed response
- CRP must coordinate with appropriate IHE personnel to arrange for supportive measures
- Cannot provide services to responding party
CRPs Must Inform Students & Employees

- Reporting options and effects of each option
- Counseling options on and off campus
- Medical and health services on and off campus
- Supportive measures
- Information on the IHE disciplinary process
- Information on the criminal justice process
- Rights regarding protection orders, no contact orders
But What Problem Are CRPs Solving?
Trauma Informed Approach
Understanding Impact of Trauma on the Individual

Neurobiology of Trauma

Stereotypes Change the Narrative

Culture and Identity Impact on Reporting
Systemic Trauma Informed Response

Community
Trauma Informed Community Approach

Serves the entire community

Dictated by Institutional Values

“What you hold sacred”

System must meet YOUR needs
Social Capital
Perception = Reality
“The only problem is I don’t sleep much, and when I do I have horrible nightmares. Some mornings it’s hard to shake them off. ... A succession of these restless nights makes me loopy and paranoid. Afraid of the sounds coming from the air vents in my bedroom, afraid of the car pulling up outside. ... I need to take a shower, but I’m afraid to take off my clothes. Even with the door double-bolted, the windows locked, the shades drawn, it feels too dangerous... My only objective is: Take a shower.” (page 214)
Response Starts Before the Report

Incident

- On-going prevention
- Advocacy services
- Culturally specific services
- Employee training
- Supportive measures
- Safety planning
- Communicating to community

Report

- Disciplinary procedure
- Training of boards
- Supportive measures
- No Contact Orders
- Sanction

© 2016 Victim Rights Law Center. All rights reserved. No part of this document may be transmitted, reproduced, distributed, or adapted without permission.
Climbing the Mountain

Maslow's hierarchy of needs

Self-actualization
Desire to become the most that one can be

Esteem
Respect, self-esteem, status, recognition, strength, freedom

Love and belonging
Friendship, intimacy, family, sense of connection

Safety needs
Personal security, employment, resources, health, property

Physiological needs
Air, water, food, shelter, sleep, clothing, reproduction
Trauma-Informed Systems Meet Population Needs
Response Starts Before the Report

Incident

- On-going prevention
- Advocacy services
- Culturally specific services
- Employee training
- Supportive measures
- Safety planning
- Communicating to community

Report

- Disciplinary procedure
- Training of boards
- Supportive measures
- No Contact Orders
- Sanction

© 2016 Victim Rights Law Center. All rights reserved. No part of this document may be transmitted, reproduced, distributed, or adapted without permission.
Resource Sharing and Process Navigators

Help link survivor to the right resources and get information

Not all survivors identify as sexual assault or domestic violence victims or needing mental health counseling
Importance of Campus-Based Advocates

- Crucial Sources of Information
- Prime Position to Identify Campus Needs
- Subject Matter Experts
- Different Skills Sets than Other Departments
Building a Culture of Support
Privacy is #1 Victim Concern

- Advocate confidentiality is critical
  - Understanding barriers to communication with internal departments
  - Not just Title IX but General Counsel, Athletics, Residence Life, Advisor, etc.
Explaining Privilege

- Closet
- Lock Box with Key
- Safe
CRPs Provide Privilege to Students and Employees

- Cannot disclose information without prior written consent of the student/employee experiencing harm
  - Information means any communications gathered during the relationship such as notes, email, texts, or conversation

- Information provided to the CRP does not constitute actual or constructive notice to the IHE for Title IX purposes

- Not discoverable in a criminal or civil proceeding
  - If you’re sued, you cannot access information through the CRP without consent of reporting party
  - Unless required by state or federal law
    - i.e., Mandatory Reporting for minors
Examples of Advocacy Frameworks
Advocacy Considerations

- Set realistic expectations for coverage
- Support and supervision
- Strong partnerships with community providers
Common On Campus Advocacy Location/Frameworks

- Stand Alone Anti-Violence Program
- Housed within Wellness Office
- Housed within Counseling Office
- Single Advocate Space with Outside Supervision
What Locations Are Complicated for Advocates?

Campus Safety or Title IX Office

No confidentiality – likely to require advocate to report

Unwillingness to speak with either department
Working with Community Providers

- Expertise not on campus
- Services/resources not available on campus
  - Even if services DO exist, off-campus should be a choice
- Training for staff
- CRP training
- Provide community partner employee as the CRP
Thank You!

Aldrich@ladderconsulting.net
857-203-1488
www.ladderconsulting.net