

Queries for Regional Advisory Committee June 23, 2014

Prevention of Abuse

1. What does the word “abuse” mean? What are other words for “abuse,” such as “bullying?”

The purpose of this question is to get a sense of understanding of abuse and language-use to inform the development of materials.

- ❖ Intentional use of force causing physical, and psychological harm to a group or individual
- ❖ Verbal bullying, cursing, negative feedback
- ❖ Mental stress
- ❖ Brain washing
- ❖ Coercive treatment/treatment without informed consent
- ❖ Violating patient/human rights
- ❖ Victimization

What are other words for “abuse,” such as “bullying?”

- ❖ Coercion
- ❖ Neglect
- ❖ Forced treatment
- ❖ Harassment
- ❖ Threat
- ❖ Stalking
- ❖ Intimidation
- ❖ Strong-arming
- ❖ Shouting
- ❖ Seclusion
- ❖ Restraint
- ❖ False accusations
- ❖ Victimization
- ❖ Discrimination
- ❖ Prejudice
- ❖ Engaging in a culture where all of the above is permissible

2. Have you ever read anything about abuse prevention? Has anyone ever taught you how to protect yourself? If so, was it helpful and why?

The purpose of this question is to identify existing resources that may be helpful and/or identify components of resources that can inform the development of new materials.

- ❖ SCIPP training (OPWDD) – protect yourself from violent consumer
- ❖ Domestic Violence/General protection
- ❖ “Bullies to Buddies” literature
- ❖ “By being compliant and keeping my mouth shut”
- ❖ Self-empowerment
- ❖ Being assertive without being aggressive or passive

3. What do you think is important to know about abuse?

some examples:

- *What is the definition of abuse?*
- *What are the signs of abuse?*
- *What behavior is appropriate and what is inappropriate?*
- *Who can you call if you or someone you know is being abused?*
- *What can you do to prevent abuse?*

- ❖ It can be prevented
- ❖ Extensive/non-corrective
- ❖ A lot of abuse is psychological and hard to prove
- ❖ Long lasting effects
- ❖ Sometimes the person who acts out is the victim not the bully: "They had enough"

Signs

- ❖ Acting out
- ❖ Changes in behavior
- ❖ Being tense/on guard/defensive
- ❖ Hunger/malnutrition
- ❖ Bad grooming
- ❖ Unbearable pain

Who to call

- ❖ RAS
- ❖ Police
- ❖ Justice Center
- ❖ Patient Advocate
- ❖ Director of Hospital
- ❖ Grievance process
- ❖ MHLS
- ❖ MFY

4. What format would be most useful as educational materials?

Consider video, brochure, poster, website, other formats...

- ❖ Assertiveness training
- ❖ Training to not be abusive
- ❖ Training mandated by courts
- ❖ Social media
- ❖ Classes
- ❖ Classes to prevent victimization
- ❖ Panel of peers to evaluate process
- ❖ Brochure/leaflets
- ❖ Websites
- ❖ Posters

- ❖ Classes on consequences of abusive treatment
- ❖ Training on how to achieve wellness without coercion
- ❖ ***Entire paradigm shift***
- ❖ ***Accountability***

5. What type of training would be helpful?

- *Would you attend a training on abuse prevention?*
- *How frequently would you attend (e.g. once a week for six weeks)?*
- *Would you watch a webinar or do you prefer in-person trainings?*

5a:

- ❖ see answers to question 4
- ❖ power/abuse manipulation
- ❖ Self defense

5b:

- ❖ 3-5 day class with refresher courses available
- ❖ APS training for peer professionals

5c:

- ❖ In person trainings

6. How can we best provide education on abuse prevention to service recipients who may not speak English as a first language, or who have other communication difficulties/disabilities?

- ❖ Translator
- ❖ Teach & learn other languages
- ❖ Webpage translations
- ❖ Cultural competency
- ❖ Empathy opposed to sympathy
- ❖ Braille
- ❖ TTY

7. If there were an international symbol of abuse prevention what would it look like? (For example, a No Smoking Sign is an image of a cigarette with a line through it)
- ❖ Emoticon face with a line going through it
 - ❖ Hand with a heart in the palm and words underneath would read “No more tears, no more fears”



8. Is there anything else you think is important to educating service recipients that we haven't touched on already?
- ❖ Honesty & principles & consciences
 - ❖ Consequences of “crying wolf”
 - ❖ Assertive without being aggressive
 - ❖ Assertiveness training
 - ❖ Sensitivity training
 - ❖ Laws about abuse
 - ❖ Patient Rights
 - ❖ Civil and human rights
 - ❖ More than 1 language
 - ❖ Be careful not to give victims too much power/cause an imbalance
 - ❖ Abusive behavior is not acceptable/you do not have to withstand it
9. If you had a magic wand, what would you do to keep everybody safe and free from abuse and neglect?
- ❖ Equality in power
 - ❖ Balance & control of society
 - ❖ Churchlike mental state
 - ❖ Change the paradigm right now!!!
 - ❖ Give everyone a set of compassion, love & caring
 - ❖ Justice
 - ❖ To not allow pedophiles in positions of power