

GETTING TO KNOW THE WHOLE SURVIVOR: ORIENTATION STRATEGIES

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LET'S GET ORIENTED TO
THIS GROUP AND SPACE

Ask some ~~get to know you~~ questions :

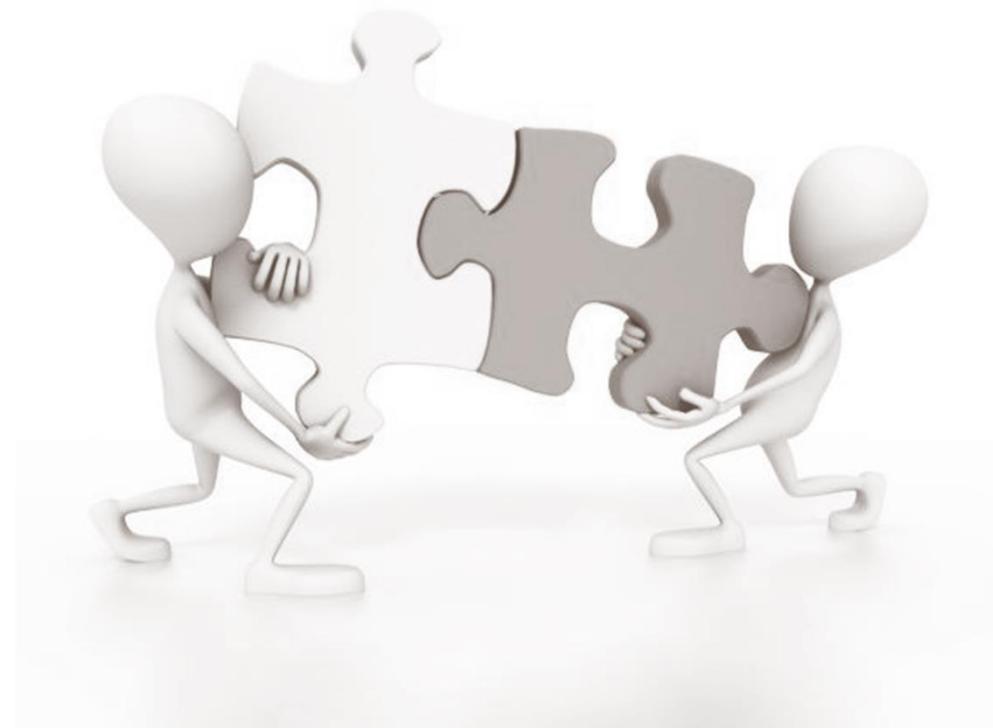
- ~ What's your name?
- ~ Where are you from?
- ~ What do you do for work?
- ~ What made you come to this conference?
- ~ Do you have children?
- ~ Do you have pets?
- ~ What are your hobbies?
- ~ What is your favorite food?

Safety & trust start with the first words

- “We act like we need a form to work with sexual assault survivors.”
- “We train staff and volunteers to the form, not to the individual sitting in front of them or on the other end of the phone line.”
- “Our forms and intake protocols really get in the way. They are the opposite of active listening and trauma-informed. But how do we get away from them?”

Building a Shared Understanding or Common Language

- ~ Intake
- ~ Screening
- ~ Orientation



Orientation

- „ Two-way conversation
- „ Introducing the survivor to our program
- „ Getting to know the survivor and their needs, goals, strengths, and resources
 - „ Intake/Screening: formal assessment of needs, goals, history
 - „ It is not screening people out of services!



Orientation



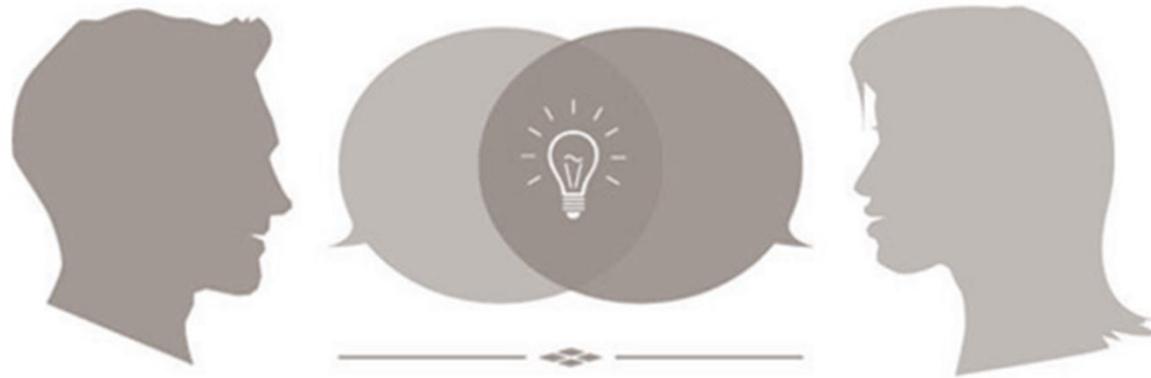
- ✓ Introduce survivor to all services available, our approach to services, and explain any limits or boundaries on services
- ✓ Information and transparency about our program builds trust, safety, and choice, setting up trauma-informed care from the start
- ✓ Actively supports the survivor with navigating their healing journey

Supporting Choice and Consent



The ability to choose, based on your own internal experience, what you want physically, emotionally, mentally, spiritually, and sexually, and then to communicate those wants. **Consent is an ongoing process of making choices.**

(Haines, 1999)



Orientation

=

active listening

=

an advocacy service

Layers of Orientation

- ~ Crisis intervention
- ~ Longer-term advocacy and services
- ~ Listening for emerging needs





WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF INTAKE?

What are the Components of an Ideal Intake Form?

1. Information you want the survivor to know
2. Open ended questions
3. Required signatures
4. Demographic and other data collection information



What do we really need to know?

- „ Questions should:
 - „ have a purpose.
 - „ never be voyeuristic.
 - „ be open-ended.
 - „ be blended into normal processes.
 - „ be universal.
 - „ be consistently used.





HOW DO YOU START THE CONVERSATION?



A FEW MORE CONSIDERATIONS FOR ORIENTATION

Creating a Welcoming Environment

- ~ What does our physical space say to survivors about our services?
 - ~ Accessibility
 - ~ Culturally relevant
 - ~ Survivors across the lifespan
 - ~ Overall mission and philosophy



Brochures & Information Packets

“What information and resources do you provide to survivors?



“Do they apply to survivors of all types of sexual violence?

Community Partners



What do they say about
your program and/or the
role of
the advocate?

In a nutshell:

Orientation is:

- ~ Showing respect and caring.
- ~ Creating avenues for safe conversation.
- ~ Assessing the situation and responding appropriately.



It's getting to know the whole person.

Questions?



Thank you!

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Thank you Valerie Davis for developing this presentation with me!

This publication is supported by Grant No. 2009-TA-AX-K011 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.



Sexual Assault DEMONSTRATION INITIATIVE

Enhancing Sexual Assault Services