

Communications between
Individuals with IDD and Law
Enforcement

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Impact on Community

- ▶ January 1993
- ▶ Three Cases in 1 County in 1 Month
 - Suicide Attempt
 - Abuse by Father
 - Abuse by Brother

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Need for Training on Sexual Assault and
Abuse

- ▶ DYFS
- ▶ Video (Avenel)

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Statistics Slide 1

- Incidence
 - Increased incidence of people with IDD
 - More than 90% of people with IDD will be sexually abused in their lifetime.
 - 49% will have 10 or more sexually abusive incidents
 - 15,000 to 19,000 people with IDD are raped each year
 - The risk is 10.7 times greater for those with IDD than those without IDD
 - *Only 3% of sex abuse cases of people with IDD are reported

Statistics Slide 2

- Why the increased incidence?
 1. Powerless
 - Not given the power to make choices
 - Compliance to caregivers
 - Dependent on transportation
 2. Need for personal care
 - Little control over who touches their bodies
 3. Isolation
 - Often segregated from people without disabilities
 - This increases the likelihood that the abuse will go unreported
 4. Physically Defenseless
 - Limited ability to protect themselves
 5. Language, speech and vocabulary barriers
 6. Impaired or limited cognitive abilities
 7. Lack of abuse prevention education
 8. 97% - 99% of abusers are known to and trusted by the victim

Signs of Sexual Abuse Slide 1

- Physical
 - Bruises, pain
 - STDs and UTI's
 - Pregnancy
 - Somatic complaints
 - Extreme reactions to medical personnel
- Behaviors
 - Boundaries - related changes in socialization
 - Emotionally affected
 - Changes in daily living and daily living skills
- Changes in emotional stability
 - Increased aggression
 - Acting out
- Changes in sexual expression

Signs of Sexual Abuse Slide 2

- Family factors that increase the risk for sexual abuse
 - Unemployment
 - Drug/alcohol abuse
 - Isolation
 - Overreaction to seemingly minor events
 - Make appointments with specialists but then cancel them
 - Don't attend social events with their son or daughter
 - Don't allow son or daughter to go on outings, to dances, Special Olympics, parties.

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Investigating Sexual Abuse Slide 1

- Move slowly/proceed with caution
- Come to grips with your own feelings first. You cannot be emotional. You cannot react to information you received.
- It is best to have two people do the interviewing
- Get as much information as you can before interviewing the victim.
 - Day program
 - Transportation Company
 - Medical records
 - Peers who may have been present
 - Family and Caregivers
- Keep the interview informal
- Build rapport with the victim
- Questions to keep in mind
 - What is the relationship of the victim to the abuser?
 - How stable is the victim's family or support system?
 - What alternate support systems are available?
 - What are the risk factors?
 - Should the victim remain where they are?
 - Should the court have any role in this case?

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Investigating Techniques

1. Asked open-ended questions
2. Get as much information as you can - time of day, description of the place, what else was going on, who else may have been there or heard something? Did they tell anyone? What clothes were they wearing?
3. Ask them to draw a picture of the place or the room with as much detail as possible.
4. Use picture books
5. Anatomical Dolls

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Treatment

Believe them!!!

Abuse can vary in every case in its severity, duration and form. No one treatment plan is right for everyone. It needs to be personalized for each victim.

1. Medical treatment if indicated
2. Individual therapy
3. Group therapy
4. Family therapy

The goal is to maximize the victim's strengths and improve their coping skills.

Effective treatment will decrease the severity of symptoms and protect against delayed onset of emotional disorders.

Treatment Goals

1. Provide a safe release of feelings
2. Overcome negative and self-destructive behavior
3. Helping the victim understand how their thinking has been affected
4. Helping the victim overcome self-blame and self-hatred
5. Helping the victim build a sense of trust in themselves and others
6. Supporting the victim as they come to terms with their own sexuality

Group therapy

- Universality
- Role Playing
- Doubling
- The Empty Chair

Robert Wood Johnson Grant to Prevent Sexual Abuse

Sex Offenders with IDD

Usually these individuals have been victims of sexual abuse themselves

Treatment plan

1. Supervised living
2. Job or day program
3. On-going therapy
4. Probation
5. Scheduled treatment - team meetings
6. Situations that must be avoided
7. Case Manager
8. Recreation

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Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Assessment & Documentation Slide 1

1. Identify urgent/emergent medical problems (drug/alcohol intoxication, head injuries, strangulation) that require immediate medical treatment.
2. Assess any safety needs
3. Identify acute and long-term emotional response (SI, PTSD)
4. Document health history
5. Document sexual assault history
6. Assess patient's level of development
7. Assess for STD's, pregnancy

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Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Assessment & Documentation Slide 2

8. Assess immunization status (tetanus, Hep B, HPV)
9. Conduct head to toe physical assessment. Use diagrams
10. Assess all orifices
11. Distinguish trauma from normal and abnormal findings
12. Complete photographic documentation

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Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Evidence Collection

- 1) Identify items for evidence
- 2) Collect biological and trace specimens
- 3) Preserve chain of custody
- 4) Document clothing

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Patient Management

- 1) Utilize appropriate communication resources
- 2) Provide crisis intervention to the patient, family and caregivers
- 3) Modify examination techniques based on patient's needs (positioning)
- 4) Educate patients on STD's and treatment
- 5) Educate patient on pregnancy risks and emergency contraception
- 6) Refer the patients for counseling support and advocacy services

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Legal Issues & Professional Practice

Legal Issues:

- 1) Adhere to reporting requirements
- 2) Respond to subpoenas and court orders
- 3) Testify for the prosecution or the defense
- 4) Provide objective, evidence-based and accurate testimony

Professional Practice:

- 1) Insure confidentiality
- 2) Document informed consent or informed refusal

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It's a BIG Deal

Audience

Public Defenders, Assistant Prosecutors, Law Professors, DDD, DHS,
Direct Care Agencies, Detectives, Park Police and Families

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