

Addressing Sexual and Domestic Violence in Housing Communities

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&

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Agenda



- Introduction
- Abuse happens in our communities.
 - Why does it occur?
 - What can we do to change the environment?
 - Where can you start?
- Responding to disclosures of violence.

Objectives

Participants will:

- Understand the dynamics of sexual and domestic violence;
- Use a perpetrator prevention approach to decrease violence;
- Develop skills to foster a culture of safety and respect for others;
- Develop skills to respond to disclosures of sexual or domestic violence.

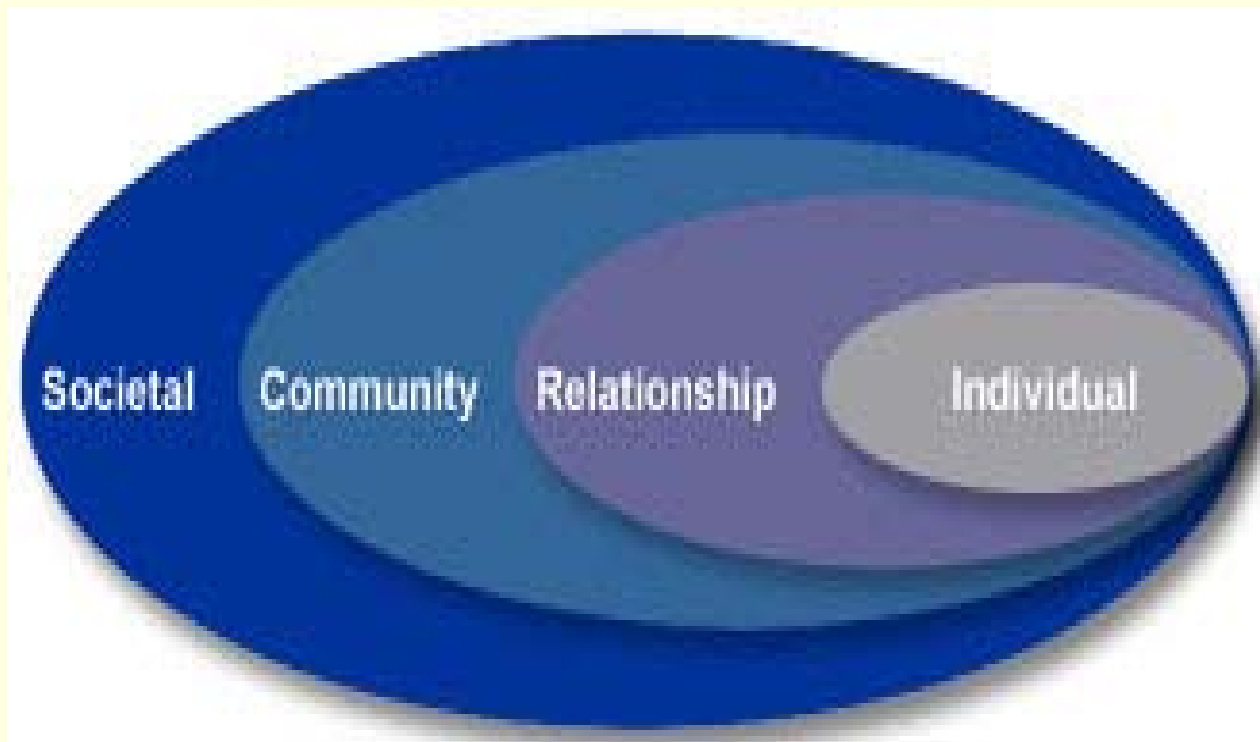
Sexual and domestic violence

- Any one can be an abuser and any one can be a victim.
- Most men are not abusive but most abusers are men.
- Most assaults are planned; they are not a result of miscommunication, being drunk, having a bad day.

Messages about sexual and domestic violence

- Where do we get messages about sexual and domestic violence?
- What do the messages say about:
 - Who gets assaulted?
 - Who is being abused?
 - Who are the assailants/abusers?
 - What is the context of violence?

Who is affected by sexual and domestic violence?



Increasing safety for everyone

- Decrease messages that support violence.
- Listen more to hear about the violence that is happening.
- Take care of people who have been victimized.

Experiences in Housing

- What can you do in your role?
- Who else can you bring into the discussion?
- What would be good starting points for discussion?
- What works in your community to bring people together?

Cases

- Please pair up and discuss one of the cases.

How to respond

Ssafety

GOAL: To facilitate appropriate interventions and connections.

Empowerment

The goal of the first responder is to enable a survivor to **SEEK** what they need. This is done by providing a safe space with an empathetic responder who is empowering and knowledgeable.

Empathy

Knowledge

Immediate Crisis Stage

- Acute disruption of everyday life.
-

EMOTIONAL REACTIONS

Guilt

Fear

Anger

Shock

Shame

Loss of Control

Depression

Isolation

Distrust

Anxiety

Disbelief

Embarrassment

Sadness

Vulnerability

Other reactions

- Changes in eating patterns
- Changes in sleeping
- Startle responses
- Nightmares
- Somatic complaints
- Difficulty concentrating
- Concerns about physical safety

Exercise

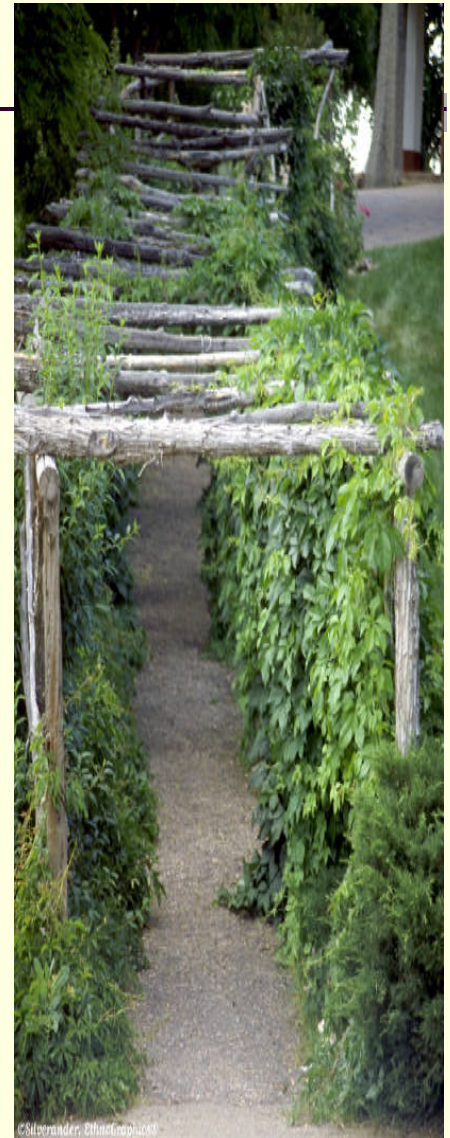
1. immediately after the crisis,
2. approximately 3-6 months later, and
3. one year after the crisis.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What were your feelings and reactions during each period?
(physical, emotional, etc).
2. What was helpful to you?
3. What was not helpful to you?
4. What did you want that you didn't get?

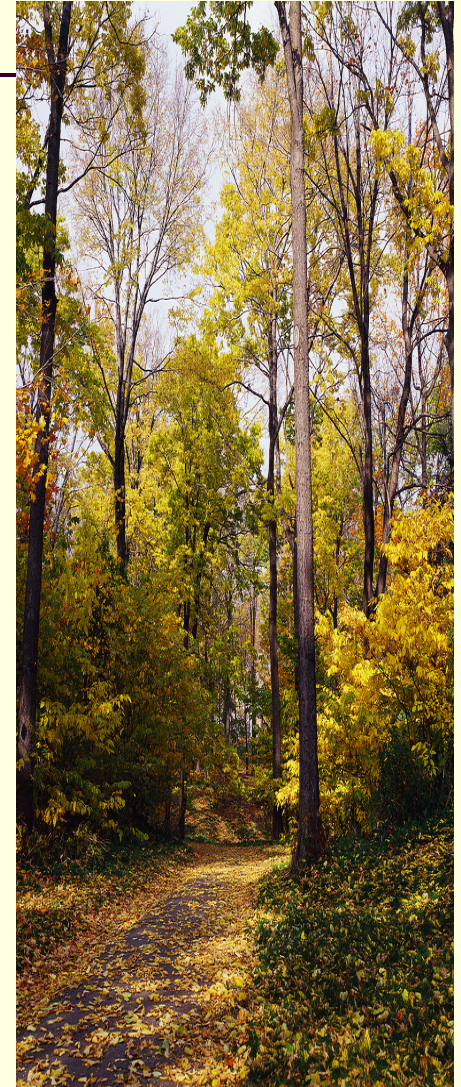
Safety

- Privacy
- Confidentiality
- Immediate Physical Concerns
- Immediate Emotional Concerns



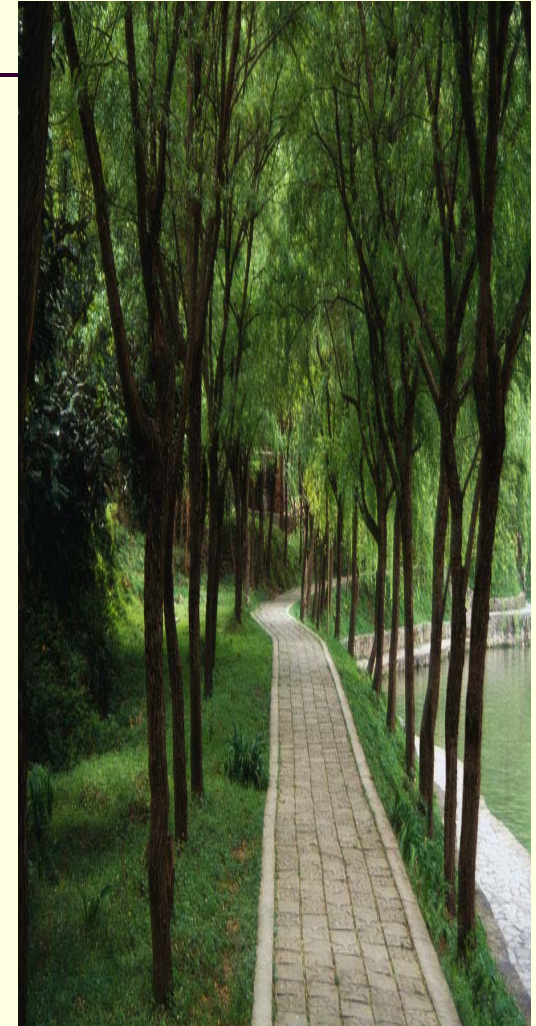
Empowerment

- Make sure the survivor understands your agency's guidelines around confidentiality and reporting.
- Let the survivor decide what to talk about.
- Use empowering language.
- Help them to understand what they might experience emotionally.
- Help them to understand what their options are and where to find more information.
- Be respectful of their decisions.
- Point out the survivor's strengths and courage.



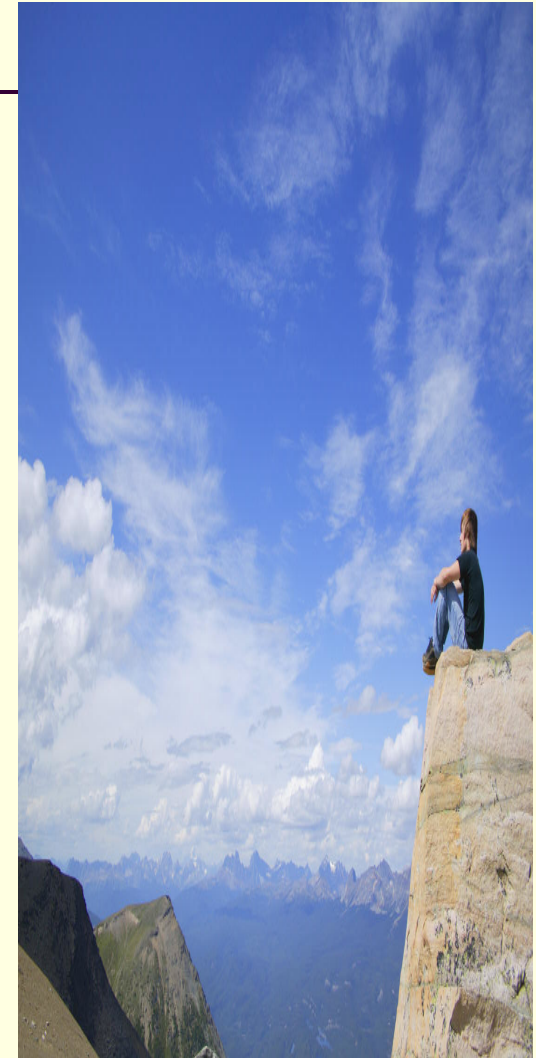
Empathy

- Put yourself in their shoes.
- Validate their experience and actively listen.
- Communicate that survivors are *never* to blame for an assault. Avoid using “standard responses,” such as, “It’s not your fault” unless it directly applies. Use responses that feel genuine to you.



Knowledge

- Know your role
 - Immediate response
 - Believe and empower
- Be prepared
 - Key questions and comments in mind
 - Access to information
- Utilize what is available
 - Create easy transitions
 - Use anticipatory guidance



BARCC and BARCC Services



- Celebrating our 35th Anniversary
- **Winners of the 2009 National Crime Victim Service Award!**
- 24-hour medical accompaniment
 - To all 7 SANE hospitals in the Boston Area and other hospitals as requested
- 24-hour hotline
 - Available to survivors, significant others of survivors, and providers
- Counseling
 - Individual, group, family, couples
- Legal advocacy and case management
- Community Awareness and Prevention Services

Cornu Management Company, Inc.



Cornu Management's mission is to improve peoples' lives through quality real estate management services. This mission will be realized by a number of values that define and guide us:

- Creating exceptional housing and work environments that are safe and supportive.
- Building relationships with our clients that include full and honest dialogue and responsiveness to concerns.
- Respecting and serving our customers, co-workers, and communities by listening, communicating, and operating with integrity.
- Providing meaningful work, fair compensation, and a safe and helpful work environment.
- Addressing community concerns by devoting our resources to the betterment of social conditions, the environment, the arts, and education.
- Working together to enhance the long-term value of our Company while acting in a socially and environmentally responsible manner.

