

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.

Abuse: picking on someone, harm, taking advantage of someone’s weakness’s, deliberate intent, mal-intent, malice, unwanted violation of body integrity, invasion of personal space emotional/physical.

*** mean spirited, vindictive without reason.**

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.

NAMI Emails, Department of Labor, & OMH websites

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

some examples:

- *What is the definition of abuse?*

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***Violation, silencing one’s voice, deprivation, neglect, favoritism of services, inappropriate behavior, disrespectful/foul language, psychological torment.**

What are the signs of abuse?

***Not always obvious to everyone, withdrawal, fear in the presence of another, changes in behavior, regression of behaviors, anger (acting out), inability to be touched, inappropriate aggression increase in startled response , repeated visits to the Emergency Room, unexplained or poorly explained bruises, contusions, broken bones, waking and sleeping patterns change, nightmares, disassociation, increase in alcohol and drug use.**

- *What behavior is appropriate and what is inappropriate?*

*** respecting everyones right to live a productive , safe and healthy life, inappropriate behavior is anything that prevents the preceding parameters.**

- *Who can you call if you or someone you know is being abused?*

***Justice Center, crisis services, adult protective services, child protective services, mandatory reporters, 911, S.B.C.A., hot and warm lines**

- *What can you do to prevent abuse?*

***Prevention: Education, developing trusting relationships, screening, better staff ratio's, counseling/support for providers (staff)**

4. What format would be most useful as educational materials?
Consider video, brochure, poster, website, other formats...

Bill boards, public service announcements, media integration, public transportation, podcasts, live chat, blogging, sign language education opportunities, messaging boards, talk radio, using celebrities to bring attention to abuse issues, using technical advisors in the media that are well versed in abuse issues, modern day musicians/ song writers bring abuse issues into their music.

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?*

State mandated/funded, employer supported, training, in person training oppose to webinars.

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?

Multi lingual training in multi modalities, TTY, braille, closed captioning\ in real time, multi cognitive modalities

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)

No-one had an idea

8. Is there anything else you think is important to educating service recipients that we haven't touched on already?

Multi- level training in our facilities/service provider's from the top down, more training/signage on respect for service recipients

9. If you had a magic wand, what would you do to keep everybody safe and free from abuse and neglect?

Staffing levels to be increased, training/wages need to be increased, wages at least comparable to the trades/middle class.