

DEVELOPMENT OF THE ANONYMOUS REPORTING AND THIRD OPTION PROGRAMS

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- **Sexual assault is a pervasive societal problem.**
 - **Negatively affects individuals globally.**
- **In 2013, 21,311 sexual assaults reported to police across Canada (Boyce, Cotter, & Perreault, 2014).**
- **In 2011, Saskatchewan had the second highest rate of sexual assaults among the provinces (164 per 100,000 population).**
 - **However, this only takes into account reported cases.**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- **The reality is...**
 - **The majority of victims do not formally disclose their sexual assault experience to an informal support or formal service.**
 - **Due to this, many survivors of sexual assault do not receive support from informal networks or specialized community support services.**
 - **Other options for reporting were explored.**



THE PROGRAMS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- **Anonymous Reporting.**
 - For individuals hesitant to report assault to the police.
 - Allows survivors of sexual assault to provide anonymous information.



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- **Third Option Program.**

- “Maybe, but I need time to think about it.”
- Evidence can be turned over to the police at a later date.



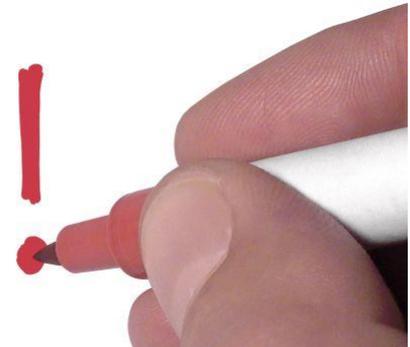
BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- **In summary, both programs:**
 - **Give survivors of sexual assault a choice.**
 - **Allow survivors to access services without forgoing their sense of autonomy.**
 - **Eliminates pressure to make an immediate decision.**



WHY?

- **Why is the development of these programs important?**
 - Offers non-threatening options to individuals.
 - Enhances sense of control and ability to access support.
 - Programs are starting to gain increased support.
 - Offered in MB, BC, AB, ON, and YT.



OUR STUDY

PURPOSE & METHOD

- **Objective: Gather information on the process involved in developing both programs.**
 - Share with interested jurisdictions and stakeholders.
- **Interviews were conducted with ten representatives of the Regina and Area Sexual Assault Response Team (SART).**
- **Representatives from:**
 - Community Agencies.
 - Government Level.



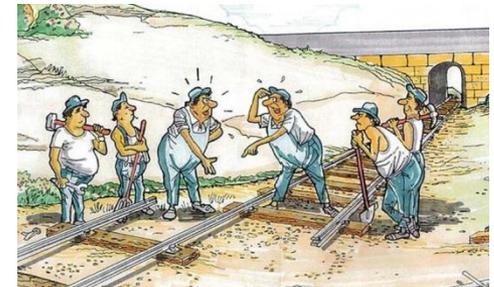
RESULTS: KEY PLAYERS NEEDED

■ Key players needed!

- Community and high level government representatives.
- “Because of [our] unique and individual perspectives, [we all] have valuable perspectives to add to the process, to the debate, to the process of developing and implementing.”

■ Appointing one member from each “interest category.”

- One person to represent view of counsellors.
- Eliminates possible dysfunction.



RESULTS: KEY PLAYERS NEEDED

■ Establishing appropriate core group.

- Who do sexual assault survivors come in contact with?
 - “If this is a normal file that comes in and goes from initial reporting right up until a court decision, who comes into contact with that person? Those are our key players.”

■ Creating a more unified approach.

- “And we wanted a more unified approach to it, to be able to say that the victim is properly supported throughout the whole incident and in court.”



RESULTS: KEY PLAYERS NEEDED

■ Community agency representatives:

- Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE), Counsellor, Victim Caseworker, Victim Services Coordinator, Police Officers.

■ Government level representatives:

- Crime Stoppers Coordinator, Policy Analyst, Regina Victim/Witness Services Coordinator, Senior Public Prosecutor, Regional Crown Prosecutor.

■ Potential suggested members:

- Judge, Advocate for Minority Populations, Research Assistant.



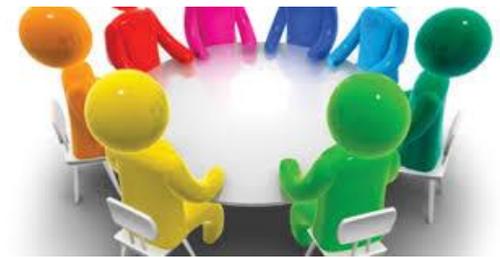
RESULTS: IMPORTANT GROUP FEATURES

- Through the interviews, 16 suggestions emerged.
- Recruit the “right” key players.
 - Important to have access to the “decision makers.”
 - “The people at the table have to be close enough to the front line that they know how things really work, but they also have to be high enough up in their organization that they are able to make either some decisions or have the credibility to get decisions made.”



RESULTS: IMPORTANT GROUP FEATURES

- Establish a “core group” of key players.
 - Allows process to go smoother.
 - “Rather than having a member from every one of those groups, let’s appoint one person that has that whole same interest in mind. And as soon as we did that, took a step back and said ‘it’s not necessarily about my individual organization, it’s about this group as a whole,’ we really started to make progress. It was just that the initial group was so big and almost dysfunctional. We weren’t moving forward at all, and if we were, it was at a very slow pace.”



RESULTS: IMPORTANT GROUP FEATURES

■ Consistency among group members.

- Commitment from agencies and representatives.
- “It wasn’t until a group of us sat down and said ‘this is our core group and we’re going to do our best to make a commitment to this program well into the future,’ and then we could really start building on that.”

■ Collaboration! Making decisions together.

- Working together and supporting one another.
- “Go into the planning phase with an open mind. We all bring our predispositions to the analysis.”



RESULTS: IMPORTANT GROUP FEATURES

- Motivate one another through the process.
 - Communication is vital and can enhance cohesiveness amongst the group.
 - “I think we’ve [done] a good job in that when one person felt like, ‘this is just way too much,’ there [were] always a couple of others saying, ‘...you can keep going!’”
- Respect opinions. Compromise. Work together.
 - Welcome suggestions as learning opportunities.
 - “Everybody comes with their own little piece of the pie. I think we’ve worked really hard to try and understand each other’s perspective and respect each other’s roles. That’s really important because if you come with a very narrow agenda to a collaborative community response, it’s not going to work.”



RESULTS: STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

■ Establish guidelines.

- Expectations and guidelines for maintaining collaborative environment.
- “I would suggest that before you jump into actually developing a process that you look at what your principles are and what kind of environment you want your group to work in in terms of communication, consensus, and respect.”

■ Build consensus within your community.

- Support from individuals and organization.
- “You’re going to need buy-in from agencies likely at some point along the way and you don’t want to surprise them with the implementation after the fact, so it seems to me to be the best approach.”



RESULTS: STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

- Contact jurisdictions currently implementing programs.
 - Do not re-create the wheel!
 - “Use what’s already out there and what’s working, and adapt it to your particular needs.”
- Create an agenda.
- Hire a Project Coordinator.



RESULTS: STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

■ Factor time to go through the “chain of command.”

- “It takes a lot longer for privacy protocols to [work through the government], as opposed to a smaller agency where it’s [the representative], the director, and the CEO.”



■ Consider setting timelines.

- “Sometimes you need timelines to force yourself to stay on schedule, but the thing is be flexible with your timelines, otherwise you’re setting yourself up for disappointment.”

■ Be open to change.

- “If things don’t seem to be working, be open to trying to find ways that they can work. Be flexible to try and create the success.”

RESULTS: STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

■ Do a practice run.

- “The practice run was absolutely beneficial. I wish we had done that a little sooner. [I’m] thankful we did the scenario and addressed those, or that we were able to recognize and address most of those concerns before [the program was] actually [implemented]. If we hadn’t done that practice run and just unrolled it, I think there’s some victims that could have been looking at us thinking what is going on here.”



■ Stay focused on end goal.

- “Remember who we’re all working for and what we’re working for. It’s not for our own programs’ egos or importance. It’s to help those that are under great difficulties because of sexual assault.”

CONCLUSION

UPDATE ON PROGRAMS

- **Anonymous Reporting Program is up and running!**
 - Promotional presentations starting in the community.
 - Inquiries about the program have resulted in support!
- **Third Option is on its way!**
 - Issues with figuring out freezer logistics.
 - December 1st?



CONCLUSION

- **Regina is the first city in Saskatchewan to implement programs!**
- **Sharing information gathered from this project will inform interested jurisdictions and stakeholders.**
- **Collaboration is essential!**



THANK YOU!

It's
FRIDAY!

