

PA Family Network Trajectory: Preventing Sexual Abuse

Presented by:

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PA Family Network

ISAC Committee Meeting

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What we want:

- Provide information that will help families feel empowered
- People are valued
- Encourage families to understand how to support healthy relationships at all ages
- People to have power, choice and control
- Body Autonomy
- Research-based and values-driven interventions



What we Don't Want:

- Abuse
- Isolation
- Powerlessness
- Fear
- Victimization



Past Actions to support the vision

- All PA Family Network Advisors read and listened to the NPR Report
- Materials from the ISAC Committee were shared with all Advisors
- Read research materials around effective prevention programs and interventions



Past Actions to support the vision:

- Vision for Equality is hosting an all day session on abuse and prevention – All Advisors invited to attend
- Francine Hogan added the topic of sexual abuse prevention to the State Task Force Agenda
- Darcy Elks agreed to partner with Chester County -- training for children



Past Actions to avoid:

- Lack of sex education
- No healthy relationship education
- Avoidance of difficult conversations
- Inappropriate support that is confusing or damaging



Current Actions to support the vision

- Large group and small group discussions with the Family Advisors
- Each regional team of advisors discussed the issue and brainstormed possible actions
- Notes and ideas from those discussions are in consideration -- final decision has not been made on how to proceed



Future efforts to support the vision:

- Staff time and resources are dedicated to address the topic next fiscal year
- Workgroup of Advisors will review our current materials and look at how we can touch on the problem in our current presentations
- Development of workshop and informational materials for families within 6 months – details and approach is still under consideration



Future efforts to support the vision:

- PA Family Network will look to invite experts on the topic to conduct information sessions for families in PA (Peter Gerhardt)
- Seek partnership with other stakeholders to share information and resources through all our communication channels
- Consider creating materials using the Charting the LifeCourse tools that are specific to abuse prevention and/or healthy relationships



What we want to avoid:

- Further victimization
- Culture of compliance
- People exerting power over others
- Hiring staff out of desperation
- Lack of knowledge about early prevention and education across the life stages



Research shows...

Most people respond best to messages that evoke shared values



Therefore...

We will consistently share our values:

- ALL People deserve healthy and loving relationships, to feel empowered to direct their own lives and make their own decisions, to be valued and respected by others, and to feel safe in their homes and communities.





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