ELIMINATING BARRIERS TO OUTREACH IN UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

A Multi-System Approach by Heather Ulrich

ABOUT ME

01 | Penn State University
Applied Psychology

02 | Berks County Children & Youth
Intake & Adoption Caseworker

03 | Berks County DA Victim/ Witness Unit
Outreach & Education Coordinator

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Identify importance of MDIT and multi-system collaboration

Identify barriers to underserved victims of sexual assault receiving services

Differentiate how different counties handle child sexual abuse cases and note pros and cons of each model

THE PERKS OF COALITIONS

Working together to better serve individuals as a whole

Networking and growing your base of support

Expressing different view points

Brainstorming/ troubleshooting issues that arise

HERE'S AN EXAMPLE

32 year old drug-addicted female arrested and facing charges for prostitution. She told the officer she was being trafficked and needed help.

What would you do?

It was decided she would be taken to the ER, transported to a detox, and transferred to a safe house in a neighboring county

POSSIBLE DRAWBACKS TO COLLABORATING

Ego can get in the way when decision making

People who lack passion for the job or are burned out

Numerous agencies fighting for the Same pot of money

Not staying in your lane/ unsolicited advice

In the end, the victim is the one who suffers

BARRIERS TO SERVICES

Violence
Discrimination
Lack of transportation
Financial hardship
Mental health concerns
Drug and alcohol
Homelessness
Immigration status
Lack of appropriate services

WHAT DO YOU NEED?

Place to stay/ food > reporting my abuse

Physiological and safety needs must be met first

What is something that weighs you down everyday?

What would you like to work towards in your future?

Self-actualization
Esteem
Love/Belonging
Safety
Physiological

BARRIERS AND BRAINSTORMING

In small groups please list three barriers (could have already been mentioned) and possible ways that these barriers can be reduced and/ or eliminated

Get creative!

MDIT MEETINGS

Who here uses MDIT meetings as part of child sexual abuse investigations?

Pros- more hands in the cookie jar

Cons- too many hands in the cookie jar

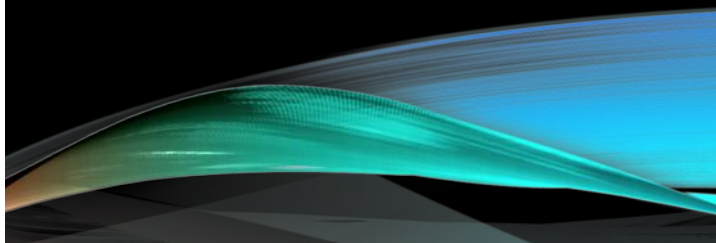Berks County uses the National Children's Advocacy Center's model to conduct forensic interviews

Is anyone familiar with the Cornerhouse Model?

National Children's Advocacy Center

OUTREACH TO YOUTH
AGE APPROPRIATE, CONSISTENT, AND WITHOUT JUDGEMENT

THE POWER OF THE HASHTAG

Thank you!

hulrich@countyofberks.com
hrb5035@gmail.com
LinkedIn Heather Ulrich