

Stopping Sexual Harm through Innovative Approaches in Prevention

Symposium Chair: Joann Schladale, M.S.

The purpose of this presentation is to share information and experiences about innovative collaborations addressing sexual harm by youth. We hope these offer insights into new ways to greatly expand sexual abuse prevention efforts.

Many individuals and organizations work tirelessly to stop sexual assaults and child sexual abuse. Most of these are organizations well known locally, nationally and internationally in efforts to prevent victimization (APSAC, NCAC, state coalitions of sexual assault programs) and a few are recognized for their work to prevent perpetration (ATSA, IATSO, CSOM). Seldom are agencies or professional organizations known to focus on both.

For many years prevention has been viewed through dichotomous silos helping victims of sexual abuse to heal, and holding perpetrators of sexual harm accountable for their actions. Fortunately, silos are beginning to disappear as services integrate families and communities as well. This convergence is most obvious through the realization and understanding that children and youth cannot be divided into separate categories of victim or perpetrator. Additionally, many individuals and community organizations are requesting more information, targeted training, and help with responses to prevent sexual harm by youth.

Over the years a variety of visionary leaders have found effective ways to broaden the framework of prevention by addressing issues of victimization, perpetration and bystander involvement. ATSA has joined a national coalition of prevention organizations to establish the perpetration of sexual violence as a unique area for prevention, and has worked with the NSVRC to offer a joint award that highlights collaborative efforts across the victim/perpetrator divide. ATSA has also started a prevention library to offer research, program information and educational materials for a wide range of organizations. All of these prevention opportunities are essential for moving the full spectrum of prevention into a more collaborative and holistic approach.

The most radical shift and new opportunity for prevention has emerged when working with organizations not identified with the topic. These are organizations that see a need for policy development and training to focus attention on both sexual violence and child sexual abuse prevention. This presentation will describe examples of successful prevention initiatives by such entities as Planned Parenthood, the National Campaign to Prevent Unplanned and Unwanted Pregnancy, the Ms. Foundation for Women, and The Annie E. Casey Foundation. While they do not come to mind as institutions addressing sexual violence and child sexual abuse, all have been involved in prevention efforts. Other organizations such as schools, after school programs, foster care programs and those supporting youth transitioning out of care can also enhance prevention. Such efforts will also be described during the presentation.

This presentation will address:

- Challenges in collaborating across what have traditionally been seen as separate victim or perpetrator specific services
- Broadening the frame of prevention to include unlikely partners such as public and private organization with missions relating to sexual health
- Program examples of how to engage individuals and organizations in unrelated settings such as schools, foster care and adoptive families
- Identifying the role ATSA members can play in preventing sexual violence
- Shared funding to promote cost saving initiatives
- Streamlining processes for more effective and timely referral and service delivery
- Promoting successful outcomes through empirically-based and evidence-driven interventions
- Professional networking that leads to more comprehensive prevention

The presentation will summarize pertinent information and research in handouts and PowerPoint slides. It will illustrate how to apply prevention efforts in a broad range of settings. Experiential activities will be used to explore successful collaboration introducing innovative prevention efforts. Participants who attend this presentation will be able to:

- Describe specific innovative preventions efforts in non-traditional settings.
- Identify core components of evidence-based practices for prevention of sexual harm by youth.
- Apply cost effective strategies for engaging and motivating individuals and organizations to competently address sexual harm by youth within their sphere of influence.

Selected References

- Kaufman, K. (2010). *The Prevention of Sexual Violence: A Practitioners Sourcebook*. NEARI Press. Holyoke, MA.
- National Coalition to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation. (2012). *National Plan to Prevent the Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (Rev.ed.)*. Retrieved from preventtogether.org.
- Schladale, J. & Langan, T. (2012). *Stop It! A Practical Guide for Youth Violence Prevention*. Resources for Resolving Violence, Inc.
- Tabachnick, J. (2008). *Engaging Bystanders in Sexual Violence Prevention*. National Sexual Violence Resource Center. Retrieved from NSVRC.org

ATSA's Efforts to Enhance Prevention of Sexual Abuse

Joan Tabachnick, M.B.A.

This part of the presentation will highlight innovations ATSA's Prevention committee has been promoting and share information about upcoming initiatives. ATSA has joined a national coalition of prevention organizations to establish the perpetration of sexual violence as a unique area for prevention, and has worked with the NSVRC to offer a joint award that highlights collaborative efforts

across the victim/perpetrator divide. ATSA has also started a prevention library to offer research, program information and educational materials for a wide range of organizations.

Challenges in Eliminating Traditionally Separate Victim and Perpetrator Prevention Services

Kim Alaburda, M.S

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Broadening the Frame: Using Sexual Health Services to Promote Prevention

Triste Brooks, M.S.

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