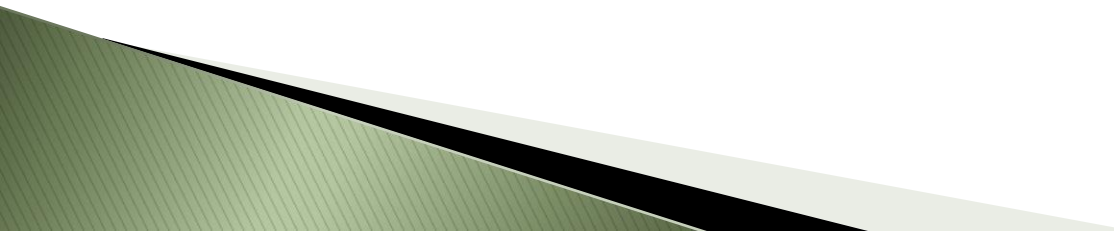


# Best Practices for Serving Disabled Victims of Domestic Violence

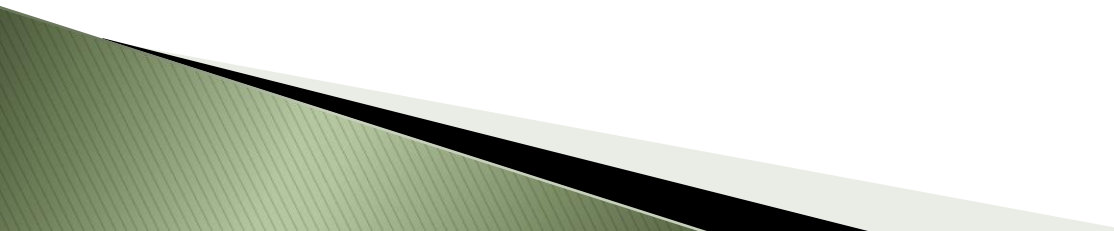
# Objectives

- ▶ Understand correlation between disability and abuse
  - ▶ Identify common disabilities of victims
  - ▶ Identify proper counseling techniques
  - ▶ Understand needs of clients
- 

# Definitions:

- ▶ A person with a disability is one who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, has a record of such impairment, or is regarded as having such an impairment.
- ▶ Domestic violence is a pattern and series of behaviors used by one person in a relationship to control another

# Why is this important?

- ▶ Increasing number of Victims on caseload
  - ▶ 85% of disabled women will experience domestic violence
  - ▶ Prolonged experience as a victim
  - ▶ Advocate
- 

# Why is this Important?

- ▶ **Rehabilitation counselors rarely ask their clients about problems of abuse, although they acknowledge that abuse can interfere with the achievement of rehabilitation goals.**
- ▶ **survey of 535 rehabilitation service providers showed that 75% were aware of the importance of the problem of abuse of women with disabilities. 95% indicated that abuse of a woman with a disability interferes with her vocational or independent living goals.**

# Why is this important

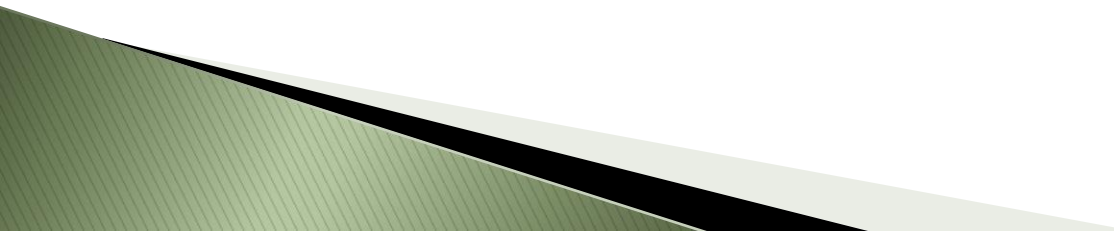
- ▶ "The evidence suggests that there are two things happening: Domestic violence can often lead to victims developing mental health problems, and people with mental health problems are more likely to experience domestic violence"

# Common Disorders

- ▶ Physical impairments
  - Chronic pain
  - Use a wheelchair
- ▶ Developmental
- ▶ Crystal Foreman
- ▶ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I144vaml3z4>

# Common Disorders

## Mental Health Disorders

- Depression
  - Anxiety
  - Bipolar Disorder
  - PTSD
- 



# Common Disorders

- ▶ women with symptoms of depression were 2.5 times more likely to have experienced domestic violence over their lifetimes than those in the general population, while those with anxiety disorders were more than 3.5 times more likely to have suffered domestic abuse. The extra risk grew to seven times more likely among those with post-traumatic stress disorder.

# Barriers to Treatment

- ▶ Are you Trauma Informed?
  - Personal Space
  - Trust
  - Support groups
  - Personal Bias / Beliefs
  - Language
  - Deceitful Behaviors
  - Manipulation

# Counseling Techniques

- ▶ Empowerment Model–
  - Emphasizes respect for clients

Clients decide what course of action is best and are highly involved in their cases

This is essential in empowering clients and providing them with a sense of control over their lives

# Give L.I.F.E.

- ▶ Listen
- ▶ Information
- ▶ Facilitate
- ▶ Empower

# Needs of Victims

- ▶ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTD9yW62C0c>

# Needs of Victims

- ▶ "Mental health professionals need to be aware of the link between domestic violence and mental health problems, and ensure that their patients are safe from domestic violence and are treated for the mental health impact of such abuse,"

# Needs of Victims

- ▶ Adequate Supportive Counseling
- ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Housing
- ▶ Medical Treatment
- ▶ Job Skills Training
- ▶ EMPLOYMENT

# Sources:

- ▶ Curry, A., & Navarro, F. Responding to Abuse Against Women with Disabilities. *Health Alert*, 8, 1–5. Retrieved April 16, 2014, from [www.futureswithoutviolence.org](http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org)
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# THANK YOU

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