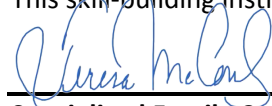


SPECIALIZED FAMILY CARE
Provider Training

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Category | Pre-Service And Annual Training |
| Title | ABUSE, NEGLECT & EXPLOITATION Part II |
| Materials | Reducing Risk of Abuse, Neglect, & Exploitation, by WVDHHR, APS , KEPRO, Healthcare: Part II: Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities Factors |
| Goal | Provider knows how to prevent abuse, neglect & exploitation of an individual in care. |
| Credit Hours | .5 Hour |
| Date Developed | January 2017 |
| Developed by | <i>Carol Brewster</i> , SFC Program |

This skill-building instruction has been approved for Specialized Family Care Provider training by:



2/27/2017

Specialized Family Care Program Manager

Date



02-27-2017

Content Reviewed and Updated by: Carol Brewster, FBCS

Date

Training Objectives:

- Specialized Family Care Provider can identify disability-specific issues that increase the risk of abuse, neglect, and exploitation
- Specialized Family Care Provider can identify prevention methods to reduce risk due to disability specific issues
- Specialized Family Care Provider can identify what not to do in cases of possible abuse

Training Procedures:

- Specialized Family Care Provider initiated self-study
- Test completed by Specialized Family Care Provider
- Review of test responses by Family Based Care Specialist and Specialized Family Care Provider

I certify that I have completed all the materials associated with this training module. I feel that I have a basic understanding of the material completed.

| | | | |
|---|-------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Specialized Family Care Provider | Start Time | End Time | Date |
| Reviewed by: _____ | | | |
| Family Based Care Specialist | | | Date |

This Program is funded by the WV Department of Health & Human Resources, Bureau for Children & Families and administered by the Center for Excellence in Disabilities, West Virginia University.

WVDHHR/CED/SFC/ABUSE. NEGLECT.EXPLOITATION/January 2017

COMMON RISK FACTORS

WHAT MAKES INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES MORE VULNERABLE?

- Restricted social environments/lack of meaningful relationships with others outside service provider personnel
- Feelings of powerlessness
- Dependence upon touch for personal care and inability to always control the nature of the care or touch
- Socialized to accept being touched by anyone and to do whatever authority figures tell them to do
- Inability to differentiate between appropriate and inappropriate actions
- Inability to understand the concept of strangers
- Inability to conceive that someone they know would harm them
- Lack of sex education and healthy relationships
- Communication barriers
- Dependence on others for decision-making
- Living and/or working in a situation where compliant behavior is required
- Disclosures of abuse are more likely to be ignored
- Primary and secondary Indicators of abuse may be attributed to the disability
- Belief by others that persons with disabilities are not as harmed by abuse
- High level of dependence upon caregivers
- Reluctance to report the abuse for fear of retribution
- Family members or guardians may have a false sense of security about the safety of their loved ones

What Not to Do When Abuse is Suspected

- Do not agree to keep the information secret
- Do not conduct an investigation
- Do not bathe the victim of an alleged sexual assault or rape
- Do not wash the bed linens or clothing of an alleged victim of sexual assault or rape
- Do not clean the location an alleged sexual assault or rape
- Do not re-interview the individual
- Do not interpret or edit the information
- Do not interrogate the alleged abuser/suspect
- Do not involve other persons
- Do not interview other individuals or staff
- Do not go looking for evidence
- Do not touch physical evidence

Risk Reduction and Prevention

SOME WAYS TO REDUCE RISK AND PREVENT ABUSE INCLUDE:

- Acknowledge that abuse **DOES** occur to children and adults with disabilities (Abuse and exploitation are constant dangers for individuals with developmental disabilities)
- Know who likely perpetrators might be
- Educate persons in your care
- When you suspect something is wrong, **TAKE ACTION**

THE BEST WAY TO PREVENT ABUSE IS TO MAKE SURE THAT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES:

- Are involved in the community
- Have control over their lives and make their own decisions

- Can do as much on their own as possible
- Can get information about their rights (Individuals with developmental disabilities are at a greater risk for abuse than the general population)
- Have healthy relationships with others in the community

ACTIONS THAT SERVICE PROVIDERS CAN TAKE TO HELP PREVENT THE ABUSE OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES INCLUDE:

- Appreciating the impact and prevalence of abuse of people with disabilities
- Learning to recognize the signs of abuse
- Listening to, believing, and acting on reports of abuse by people with disabilities
- Recognizing and respecting the fact that many persons with disabilities are able to exercise independent decision-making
- Knowing about, and networking with, victim serving resources
- Conducting unannounced visits
- Facilitating development of positive relationships with people who are not paid to serve them

REFERENCES

Reid, G. (2008), *Abuse of People with Disabilities for Service Providers*, 2nd edition. The People's Law School.

Baladerian, N., Coleman, T., Stream, J., (2013). *Abuse of People with Disabilities Victims and Their Families Speak Out: A Report on the 2012 National Survey on Abuse of People with Disabilities*. Retrieved on 3/23/2015 from <http://www.disabilityandabuse.org/survey>

Protection and Advocacy, Inc., USC University Affiliated Program, The Tarjan Center for Development Disabilities, (2003). *Abuse and Neglect of Adults with Developmental Disabilities*.