

Discussion Guide

Serving Formerly Incarcerated Survivors of Sexual Assault: A Webinar for Advocates and Victim Service Providers

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These discussion questions can be used to help facilitate a dialogue with your colleagues and about how the content of this webinar applies to your work.

Webinar description:

Despite the significant progress ushered in by the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) of 2003 and the subsequent federal PREA standards, many survivors of sexual abuse – whether the abuse occurred before they became incarcerated or while they were serving time – return home after their incarceration having never received any help or services. In this [webinar presenters from the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center and the Center for Court Innovation](#) provide practical guidance on how to help staff become “incarceration-informed” and feel comfortable working with formerly incarcerated survivors. They share insights about how to reach and build trust with this population of survivors, including how to talk with these survivors about their trauma in supportive, culturally competent ways.

Presenters:

- *Allison Hastings, Project Director, Vera Institute of Justice*
- *Dave Rini, Incarcerated Survivor Support Program Manager, Boston Area Rape Crisis Center*
- *Kenton Kirby, Director of Trauma and Healing, Center for Court Innovation*

Discussion Questions

1. Dave shares that the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center conducted listening sessions with formerly incarcerated consultants to gain a better understanding of the barriers and needs faced by formerly incarcerated survivors. In order to shape the services they offer, Kenton's organization interviewed 149 young men of color about their help-seeking behavior in the aftermath of violence. What are some steps your organization could take to better understand the needs of under-served survivors in your community? Are there others in your community you could partner with in order to successfully conduct this outreach and assessment?
2. Dave asserts that one way to build trust with formerly incarcerated survivors is to be very clear about what the organization can and cannot offer to clients. How do you set expectations with new clients? What guidance can you offer to staff to make sure they are setting clear expectations with clients?
3. Kenton discusses how his organization hires and works mainly with men and boys of color, which is reflective of the community of survivors they are trying to reach. Reflect on the composition of your staff and volunteers. Are they representative of the populations you'd like to serve? If not, how could you build partnerships and increase cultural competency in order to successfully serve a more diverse range of clients?

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