

**Nevada Coalition Against Sexual Violence Conference
November 10, 2009
Networking for Advocates**

What does advocacy mean to me?

Personally	In General	Barriers
Helping someone and being available to help them transition from victim to survivor	Safe Place	Language
Empower them to take back their choice	Helping others help themselves	Upper administration that does not get the work
	Comfort blanket	Unsupported working environment
	Life line	The inability to collaborate with others
	Listener	
	Empowering, Strong	
	Encourager, trust worthy	
	Guide, flexible	
	Teacher	
	Believer, sensitive	
	Bridge gaps	
	Non-judgmental	
	Available, Open, Resourceful	
	Be able to rely on other agencies (inner dependence)	
	Not giving false hope	
	Preparing them for what might happen	
	Make their advocacy experience a positive one	

What are some of my struggles in the movement?

- Military involvement: dealing with legal, perception, and culture
- Believability of victims/survivors
- Victim blaming (need to change values and beliefs of sexual assault and domestic violence)
- FUNDING
- Not enough community resources (i.e. interpreters)
- Cultural differences
- Language barriers
- Policies, legislation (i.e U-Visas)
- Staffing/resources

- Pervasiveness
- Cultural Climates (i.e. faith based)
- Lack of acknowledgment of it occurring
- Lack of education and the ability to let in providers
- Past beliefs
- Inconsistency with in agencies (both locally and nationally)
- Inconsistency with exams throughout the state
- Survivors frustration with process
- Lack of training or incorrect training
- From law enforcement perspective-knowing roles

What are some of my successes in the movement?

- Each person who reports
- Jane/John Doe
- Our increasing resources (i.e. 211)
- Jim P Center for exams
- New TPO law for Sexual Assault
- System Advocates
- Gender boundaries are not as strong with advocates
- Increase in male reporting
- Legislation
- Increase in education and outreach
- Acknowledgment and awareness events (i.e. Take Back the Nights)
- Self defense classes
- Coalition
- Personal
- Transitions from victim to survivor
- Interagency collaboration
- Courtroom advocates
- Justice served
- More people providing help
- Increase in police training
- Awareness of the need for advocates

How can we unite as advocates throughout the state?

- Collaboration
- More training
- Take advantage of web trainings
- Awareness of understanding what a victim goes through

How can the Coalition help?

- Legislate and lobby for us

- Standardize advocacy throughout the state (Be progressive in your approach)
- Getting legislative funds for the different agencies
- Get programs into schools
- Peer to peer programs
- Create a message board/list serve to keep this conversation going and be able to connect
- More cross training with sexual assault and domestic violence