

Abuse Awareness and Reporting

Board of Directors' Training
Regional Center of Orange County
July 12, 2018

Objectives

- ▶ Our practices
- ▶ Reporting responsibility
- ▶ Improving our practices
- ▶ Future enhancements

RCOC's Lanterman Act Responsibilities

- ▶ Individuals we serve = 21,081
- ▶ Vendors = 2,111
- ▶ Employees = 440+

RCOC's Policies and Practices

- ▶ Zero Tolerance Policy Regarding Abuse and Neglect of Those We Serve, one of the Board's Governance Policies
- ▶ Ensuring the safety and security of individuals when abuse has occurred
- ▶ Coordinating therapeutic supports and services
- ▶ Working collaboratively with police and local officials
- ▶ Training

Training

- ▶ To increase awareness
- ▶ To remind us of our legal duty
- ▶ To minimize the risk of abuse occurring to our persons served; hence mitigating trauma

*To Improve the Care to the Individuals
That We Serve*

Different Types of Abuse

- ▶ Physical abuse (includes sexual abuse)
- ▶ Neglect
- ▶ Financial abuse
- ▶ Isolation

Abuse Awareness and Reporting

See something;

say something.

What are the signs and symptoms of the victimization?

“See something”

Physical (Overt) Signs

- ▶ Physical injuries:
 - bruises, burn marks, welts, rope burns, tufts of hair missing, broken bones – without reasonable explanation
- ▶ Malnourishment, dehydration, poor hygiene
- ▶ Injuries not being attended to (bed sore, urine sores)
- ▶ Onset of sexualized behavior or conduct
- ▶ Self-injurious behavior
- ▶ Aggressive behavior
- ▶ Weight gain or loss
- ▶ Discrepancies between a person's standard of living and his/her financial assets

What are the signs and symptoms of the victimization?

“See something”

Emotional (Subtle) Signs

- ▶ “Shut down,” withdrawal
- ▶ Increased anxiety (nervousness)
- ▶ Regression from skills already mastered
- ▶ Avoidance or hesitancy around certain people or certain settings
- ▶ Changes in eating and sleeping
- ▶ Changes in interest of preferred activities
- ▶ Angry, irritable, easily frustrated
- ▶ Tearfulness, crying
- ▶ Apprehension and fearfulness

Mandatory Reporting

“Say something”

Who Can Report?

- ▶ Everyone should report all observed, known or suspected incidents of adult abuse.

Who Is a Mandated Reporter?

- ▶ Any person who provides health or social services to elderly or dependent adults (whether or not they are paid) is a MANDATED REPORTER. (W&IC 15630(b)(1))
- ▶ Any mandated reporter, who in his/her professional capacity, or within the scope of his/her employment, has observed or has knowledge of an incident that reasonably appears to be abuse, abandonment, isolation, financial abuse or neglect, or is told by an elder or dependent adult that he/she has experienced behavior constituting abuse, shall report the known or suspected abuse by telephone immediately.

Mandatory Reporting

(If you see something, say something.)

Failure to Report

(It is against the law not to report.)

California law mandates that certain individuals report known or suspected instances of elder or dependent adult abuse.

A person who believes or has reason to believe that an endangered adult is the victim of battery, neglect or exploitation and knowingly fails to report is committing a crime, ***Class B misdemeanor.***

Statistics on Abuse

- ▶ People with I/DD are 10 times more likely to experience abuse
- ▶ People with I/DD are more likely to experience repeated abuse

How to lower the risk of abuse incidents and increase awareness

- ▶ Create an atmosphere of abuse awareness and action
 - Assume that it can happen, and do not take it for granted that it can't or won't happen
- ▶ Enforcement of policies
- ▶ Being alert and observant (and encouraging the same of others)
- ▶ More inclusion and integration decreases the risk
- ▶ Training

Improving Our Practices

- ▶ Increased collaboration
- ▶ Smarter oversight
- ▶ Utilizing technology
- ▶ Person Centered Thinking

*To Improve the Care to the Individuals
That We Serve*

Future Enhancements

- ▶ Continuing to create an atmosphere of abuse awareness and action
 - Do not assume it can't happen
 - Be aware and observant
 - Abuse reporting refresher training for our vendor community
 - Ongoing training for our service coordinators
 - Everyone has a part, defense in numbers

*To Improve the Care to the Individuals
That We Serve*

In Conclusion



*See something;
say something.*

**ATTENTION LAW ENFORCEMENT /
EMERGENCY PERSONNEL**

If you are assisting/detaining the carrier of this card,
please contact the Regional Center: 714-796-5100

Regional Center of Orange County

In service to people with developmental disabilities
24 hours a day, 7 days a week 714-796-5100

Dialogue

