Office on Violence Against Women
Abuse in Later Life Program

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As a Result of This Training, Participants Will Be Better Able to:

- Identify the effects of trauma on trauma survivors
- Provide trauma-informed advocacy when working with older survivors

Trauma-Informed Advocacy

- Requires clear understanding of trauma and its effects over a lifetime
- Recognizes diversity and cultural differences
- Takes the time necessary to listen and build trust
- Understands how an individual may respond to trauma during and after the event
- Recognizes the power imbalance that may exist between victim and helping agencies
Tips for Working with Persons Affected by Trauma

Traumatized Mind

- Trauma: freeze, fight, flight
- During traumatic incident, “doing” brain responds, “thinking” brain is under-used
- Memories of event may be scattered
- Trust may be difficult
How to Approach a Victim of Trauma

- Allow survivor to have one or two sleep cycles before interview
- Allow victim to tell their experience without interruption
- Say “I’m sorry this happened to you” and “I’m glad you’re here”
- Don’t ask “why?” but instead say “tell me more about that”
- Listen without judgment or skepticism, even if victim’s account sounds confusing

Listening to Trauma Survivors

- Allow survivor to have one or two sleep cycles before interview
- Allow victim to tell their experience without interruption
- Say “I’m sorry this happened to you” and “I’m glad you’re here”
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- Listen without judgment or skepticism, even if victim’s account sounds confusing
Trauma and Power Imbalance

A Change in Perspective

From

“What’s Wrong With You”

to

“What Have You Experienced?”
Trauma: Expect the Unexpected

Older survivors may have experienced harm throughout their lifetime.

Understanding the impact of trauma can help service programs create trauma informed services.

Trauma aware advocates can better meet the needs of older survivors.

Summary
Video Presenters

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Thank You

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☐ www.terranova.org
Staying Connected to NCALL and Other Advocates

- Sign up for our enewsletter: [http://oi.vresp.com/?fid=03fcc93262](http://oi.vresp.com/?fid=03fcc93262)
- Join our listserv for advocates serving older survivors: ncall@ncall.us
- Join us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ncall.us](http://www.facebook.com/ncall.us)
- Join us on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/ncall_us](http://www.twitter.com/ncall_us)