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Survivor-centered domestic violence research

Abstract:

Background

Researchers have been interested in studying the impacts of domestic violence, but survivors are often left feeling re-traumatized and taken advantage of.

Objective

To address concerns about the impact of research on domestic violence survivors, we established a Research Advisory Board to ensure a survivor-centered approach in research activities. This board evaluates incoming research requests and oversees compliance with our values, as defined in a worksheet created with input from stakeholders and survivors.

Methods

Board membership is comprised of survivor representatives and healthcare-based researchers. Researchers intending to recruit from our clients and alumni must complete the values worksheet and obtain board approval before distributing recruitment materials. The worksheet guides researchers towards survivor-centered best practices related to trauma-informed recruitment, compensation, and dissemination. The board meets quarterly to review incoming research requests as well as to give feedback on current studies.

Results

The Board currently oversees 9 funded or pre-funded research studies addressing issues such as gaps in services for parent-child dyads impacted by domestic violence; the adaptation of adolescent dating violence curriculum to be relevant to LGBTQ+ youth; screening practices in maternal substance use clinics; the impact of domestic violence on dental health-seeking behavior; and more.

Conclusion

This presentation will walk attendees through our process and come away with an understanding of how to develop a values guide that is driven by community voice and holds researchers to a high standard when working in communities.