**Self-Assessment of Organizational Readiness for Primary Prevention of Violence**

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hen you take the time to assess your own organizational regulations and practices, you can identify your strengths and vulnerabilities, and modify them so that your organizational practices are in alignment with shaping norms to prevent violence and improve safety. This alignment is not only healthy for your organization, but it can also affect your entire community, because you are modeling healthy change, building awareness, affecting social norms, and, potentially, inspiring other sexual violence prevention efforts in your community (Davis, Parks, & Cohen, 2006).

Questions to consider when doing a self-assessment of your organization:

* Basics:
  + What are the strengths of your organization?
  + What unique issues does your organization face?
  + Does your organization (staff, volunteers, students) have an understanding of sexual violence?
  + Does your organization have resources for survivors and other personnel?
* Policy:
  + Do you have a code of conduct?

Contact the WCADVSA for access to civil rights compliance trainings.

* + Do you have reporting procedures in place?

If so, what do they look like?

* + What policies exist within your organizational

practices that prevent or perpetuate violence?

Examples to consider include zero-tolerance policies,

sexual harassment policies, civil rights compliant

* + Are your policies informed about and sensitive to trauma-related issues present to survivors (also known as trauma informed)?
* Integration of Prevention:
  + Is primary prevention part of your mission statement?
  + How does your organizational practice reflect your mission or vision statement?
* Other Considerations:
  + Would it be beneficial to modify the physical space in your building, either to be trauma informed or to prevent violence?
  + What other changes can you implement to improve to prevent violence and improve safety?

If you determine there are areas with which you need help after completing the self-assessment, please feel free to contact the Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (WCADVSA) for further assistance.

**Resources:**

Davis, R., Parks, L., & Cohen, L. (2006) Sexual Violence and the Spectrum of Prevention:

Towards a Community Solution [Booklet]. Enola, PA: *National Sexual Violence Resource Center.* The booklet may be accessed electronically here: <http://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/Publications_NSVRC_Booklets_Sexual-Violence-and-the-Spectrum-of-Prevention_Towards-a-Community-Solution_0.pdf>

For a more in-depth explanation of what it means to be trauma informed, check out:

*Building Cultures of Care: A Guide for Sexual Assault Services Programs*

<http://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/publications_nsvrc_guides_building-cultures-of-care.pdf>

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