Crossing the Line: Sexual Activity, Consent and My Rights

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Our Workshop on November 15th, 2013
Rationale for the Project

• Acquaintance Rape on College Campuses: Why choose this societal problem?
  • 75% of all rapes are acquaintance rapes.
  • 35 rape survivors per 1,000 college students.
  • College women are 4 times more likely to experience acquaintance rape than women in the general population.
  • Half of all student survivors do not define their experience as acquaintance rape.
Rationale for the Project

- Themes linked to Acquaintance Rape:
  - Lack of effective communication skills.
  - Rigid gender roles.
Role of Social Workers

- Developing and implementing intervention plans.
- Educating to spread awareness.
- Promoting positive communication.
- Providing support for survivors.
- Advocating for an increase in legal consequences.
Goal of the Project

To promote a climate of mutual respect between college men and women at CSULB.
Objectives of the Project

- Process objectives:
  - Designing a workshop training.
  - Recruiting 20 CSULB student participants.
  - Delivering the workshop to these student participants.
Objectives of the Project

Initial objectives:

- Increasing knowledge about the prevalence of acquaintance rape and contributing behaviors (by 60%).

- Increasing comfort level in talking about violence against women and rigid gender roles (by 25%).

- Increasing effective communication skills regarding issues of sexual consent (by 25%).
Objectives of the Project

• Intermediate objectives:
  o Increased rate of advocacy for women’s safety on CSULB campus (by 60% in May, 2014).
  o Increased rate of CSULB students who understand and engage in respectful relationship (by 35% in November, 2014).
Objectives of the Project

- Long-term objective:
  - Reduced rate of acquaintance rape in CSULB campus community (by 30% in November, 2015).
Changes:

- **Ally Training**: Focused on men
- **Narrowed down organizations**:
  - Project Safe
  - YWCA
  - Interval House

**Workshop**: Focused on consent and effective communication

**Office of Equity and Diversity**
Changes, Successes & Challenges

Successes:

• Agency maintained commitment despite changes

• Intervention:
  • Strong group of participants
  • Support with funding and planning
Challenges:

- Bureaucratic process
- Balance of demands
- Lack of male participants
Process Evaluation

- Modified Title IX training curriculum, focusing activities on the topics of sexual consent, communication and gender roles.
- Successfully finished curriculum in October and implemented intervention on November 15, 2013.
- Recruited 25 students participants for our workshop, exceeding our goal by 5.
- Delivered intervention as planned on Friday, November 15, 2013.
Initial Objective Evaluation

- In all post-surveys, participants answered objective questions about the prevalence of acquaintance rape correctly.

- One of the agency personnel we worked with on this project prevented us from asking subjective questions about participants’ comfort discussing violence against women and rigid gender roles, so we don’t know how participants’ comfort levels changed as a result of the workshop.

- In all post-surveys, participants correctly answered all or nearly all questions regarding best communication options in sexual consent-related scenarios.
• Make the entire workshop longer
• Include different options for those who don’t want to speak (don’t force participation)
• Include Title IX Coordinator in the script in order that none of the workshop leaders are speaking too much.
• This group was made entirely of women, many of whom were social work students (who, as we know, tend to be quite brilliant and converse easily about complex topics)- In future implementations, leaders may have to alter the way they lead the workshop based on participants’ familiarity with the topics.