

Module 9: Collaborating for Maximum Impact and Wrap-Up

Purpose

To ensure that participants from all disciplines understand the importance of working together, and to help you visualize how you might collaborate with other organizations.

Lessons

1. The Importance of Collaboration
2. A Multidisciplinary Cross-System Approach
3. What You Can Do *Now*
4. Wrap-Up

Learning Objectives

By the end of this module, you will be able to:

- Explain the benefits and challenges of collaborating with other organizations to support more effectively victims of crime with disabilities.
- Explain the purpose of a multidisciplinary cross-system team.

Participant Worksheets

- Worksheet 9.1, Potential Partners
- Worksheet 9.2, Case Study – Carolyn and Ted
- Worksheet 9.3, Taking it Back Home

1. The Importance of Collaboration

Because some crime victims with disabilities may have different needs than crime victims without disabilities, it's important for victim service organizations and allied professions to collaborate with disability service providers and self-advocacy organizations, i.e., an organization run for and by people with disabilities, to work together to reduce stress and anxiety, and help with trauma recovery.

There are both benefits and challenges to multidisciplinary cross-system collaboration. Although it's not always easy, the intent is to try to maximize the benefits and minimize or overcome the challenges.

Although the benefits outweigh the challenges, collaborative activities can be difficult to establish. Once everyone buys in to the idea, though, many teams operate very smoothly.

2. A Multidisciplinary Cross-System Approach

Multidisciplinary cross-system teams usually involve professionals from diverse disciplines and across agencies; they come together to provide comprehensive consultation, develop safety strategies, and provide other services that create awareness and build capacity in developing systemic change and on individual cases.

Multidisciplinary cross-system teams usually carry out specific but varied functions. Some come together to discuss specific cases, while others may address only systemic problems in coordination. Ultimately, each member of the team must have the same goal – in this case, improving and enhancing service to crime victims with disabilities in a timely and appropriate manner.

In many communities, organizations work parallel to each other or in “silos,” seeing a situation through the lens of the organization and the philosophy that guides it. We tend to work autonomously when collaboration could greatly enhance the benefits to the people we serve.

It may take some creative approaches, but when you return to your organizations, think carefully about how you might partner with other agencies to better support crime victims with disabilities. The information you've learned in this training can help you begin the process.

3. What You Can Do Now

All of us need to improve how we work with crime victims with disabilities. What can you do right away – when you return to work – that will take you one step further down the road to collaboration?

4. Wrap-Up

The activity will identify ways you can apply what you have learned in the training. You also will have an opportunity to ask final questions and evaluate the training.

