



# Campus Peer Advocates: Students Supporting Students

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# JNWC

We CARE for any student, faculty or staff member that has experienced sexual assault, stalking, family or dating violence, or is concerned for a friend.

We strive to be inclusive of race, gender identity, sexual orientation, legal status, students with disabilities, and other identities

## How can a CARE Advocate support you?

**WE CARE** for any student, staff, or faculty that has experienced sexual assault, stalking, domestic/dating violence, or is concerned for a friend.

### Emotional



Advocacy meetings, explore support networks, coping skills, holistic healing workshops.

### Medical



Information about forensic exams, referrals for STI testing, student health, urgent care, injuries, etc.

### Academic



Support with extensions, transfers, withdrawals from classes or university, and speaking with professors about potential accommodations

### Reporting



Anonymous reporting, Title IX, no contact/stay away orders, deciding to report or not, accompaniment, protective orders.

### Financial



#### CARE SURVIVOR FUND

Financial support available to victim/survivors of sexual, domestic/dating violence, and stalking.

### Safety Planning



Safety planning for one's physical, emotional, spiritual, and psychological needs. Explore coping skills & support systems.

### Referrals



Therapeutic services, holistic healing programs, community providers, UNLV support services, support groups.

To speak with a CARE advocate:

24 hour CARE Line  
(702) 895-0602

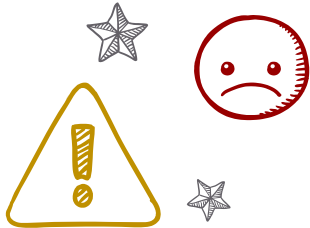
**UNLV** | JEAN NIDETCH  
WOMEN'S  
CENTER

Office  
Bldg SSC-A, RM 255

# Objectives

- ▶ Attendees will leave with an understanding of the program model of victim services that utilizes trained student volunteers as victim service advocates
  - ▶ Foundation
  - ▶ Recruitment
  - ▶ Training
  - ▶ Retention

# Common Challenges



What are some of the main challenges you've encountered in creating/having a peer-based advocacy program on campus?

# Common Challenges: Institutional Support

- ▶ Financial/Staffing Support
  - ▶ Hard vs. Soft Money
- ▶ Training & Supervision Needs of the Advocates
  - ▶ Ensuring highest quality of service
  - ▶ Maintain trauma-informed approach to supervision
- ▶ Invalidation of Peer-Based Advocacy
  - ▶ “Suddenly everyone’s an expert in our work”

# Structure of the JNWC

- ▶ Institutionally Funded Positions: Director, Assistant Director, CARE Coordinator (Volunteer Manager), Administrative Assistant
  - ▶ These positions took 10 years to secure!
- ▶ Grant Funded Positions: Prevention Education Coordinator, Graphic Design & Student Engagement Specialist
- ▶ Volunteer Peer Advocates: Registered Student Organization - **not** university employees



# You're not alone!

Identify your existing campus support offices

# Components of a Peer-Advocacy Program

- ▶ Recruitment
- ▶ Training
- ▶ Retention



# Recruitment

- ▶ You can't have a peer advocacy program without peers. So how do you recruit?
  - ▶ Identify who you are trying to recruit
  - ▶ Identify what benefits you are providing
  - ▶ Intentional Marketing
  - ▶ Identify and solidify your recruitment process

# Training

- ▶ Foundation and Curriculum
  - ▶ Identify the framework in which you do your work
- ▶ Practice
  - ▶ Demonstrations, Role Play, Practice Calls
- ▶ Shadowing
  - ▶ Debriefs

# Practice

- ▶ Advocate role plays during training
  - ▶ Pairs
  - ▶ Group issues
    - ▶ Common Challenges:
      - ▶ Resource referrals only
      - ▶ Slowing down
- ▶ Advocate practice calls post-training
  - ▶ Feedback Eval
  - ▶ Role reversal
  - ▶ Debriefs

# Shadowing

- ▶ Initial shadowing
- ▶ Debriefs
  - ▶ Validation & problem solving

# Retention

- ▶ Trauma-Informed Supervision
  - ▶ Implementation of Holistic Self-Care (professional, personal and academic well-being)
  - ▶ Mandatory one on ones
  - ▶ Leadership opportunities - organizational buy-in

# Retention Continued

- ▶ Implementation of Holistic Self-Care (professional, personal and academic well-being)
  - ▶ Mandatory one on ones

# Retention Continued

- ▶ Leadership opportunities - organizational buy-in
  - ▶ Surveys

# Questions?

- ▶ For more information on implementing a peer-advocacy program please reach out to us at
- ▶ [Ashley.yuill@unlv.edu](mailto:Ashley.yuill@unlv.edu) or [Holly.ramella@unlv.edu](mailto:Holly.ramella@unlv.edu)