



The Journey- Stories of Crisis and Hope Archives Available

April 19th 2016: Sexual Violence Prevention at the State and Local Level

Over the last few years, sweeping national attention has been shed on the issue of sexual violence in our communities, campuses and homes. For decades, the rape crisis community across the country has taken on the task of spreading awareness and education about this issue to their local communities. While awareness has increased, response protocols have greatly improved and multidisciplinary teams have emerged to combat this issue, we see the same startling statistics around rates of rape and sexual assault. The dial has moved very little in terms of seeing decreases in the prevalence of thi

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Featured Guests



Caitlin Powalski

Caitlin Powalski serves as the Sexual Violence Prevention Coordinator at Crisis Services in Buffalo, NY. She joined the Crisis Services team in 2015 and is responsible for a tri-county collaborative focused on the primary prevention of sexual violence with two other Western New York partners in Monroe and Niagara Counties. Previously, Powalski has worked in college health and in research. Her interests include college health, particularly hook up culture and sexual violence prevention through bystander interventions, suicide prevention, help-seeking behaviors following trauma and mentoring. Powalski holds a Bachelors of Arts in History and a Masters of Public Health from the University

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Brandi Sutherland

Brandi Sutherland completed her BA in Sociology at SUNY Geneseo. Following graduation she began volunteering as a Hospital Advocate to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and elder abuse in the Crisis Services Advocate Program in Buffalo, NY. She was then hired by the Advocate Program as a Family Violence Case Manager in 2003, and held that position until becoming the Training Specialist in 2007. As the Training Specialist, Brandi provided community education around the issues of sexual assault, domestic violence, elder abuse and related topics, and coordinated the training and work of volunteers within the Advocate Program. In Ms. Sutherland's current role as Sexual Violence

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Joanne Zannoni

Joanne Zannoni, MSW, LICSW, is currently executive director of New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NYSCASA). Her professional experience in the violence against women field began in 1992 and has included a variety of positions in sexual assault and domestic violence prevention and intervention—from direct services to administration. Immediately prior to coming to NYSCASA, she was associate director of the state sexual assault coalition in Connecticut, where she worked for a decade. In addition to providing fiscal and programmatic oversight, Ms. Zannoni possesses significant expertise in grant development, primary prevention of sexual violence, and victims' privacy. She has

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