Supporting Survivors with Disabilities on Campus
End Abuse of People with Disabilities

Mission

• To end abuse of people with disabilities and to promote:
  – prevention efforts that address the root causes of violence including the devaluation of people with disabilities in our society, racism and other forms of oppression,
  – practices that are accessible and support survivors with disabilities and their communities to heal from violence, and
  – accountability strategies for the people responsible for this violence that are effective, equitable, and restorative.
20% of college students identify as having a disability, including:

- Learning disabilities
- ADHD
- Physical disabilities
- Autism
- Intellectual/developmental disabilities
- Blind/low vision
- Autoimmune disorders
- Food allergies
- Mental health conditions
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing
31.6% of women with disabilities report experiencing sexual victimization on campus, compared to 18.4% of women without disabilities.

David Cantor et al., Report on the AAU Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct (University of Pennsylvania, 2015) at 35,102.
According to the 2020 Report on the AAU Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct, students with disabilities experienced sexual assault at higher rates than students without a disability.

- Without a disability: 9.4%
- Of those with disabilities, the highest rate was among students with chronic mental health conditions (depression, PTSD, anxiety disorder, etc.): 26.3%. Those reporting two or more disabilities had a rate of 25%.
Campus responses & students with disabilities

Report by the National Council on Disability (2018)

1. Colleges lack policies and procedures to ensure disability-related supports readily available to communicate with sexual assault first responders.

2. Prevention & education programs not inclusive of survivors with disabilities.

3. Title IX websites lack mention of accommodations.

4. Absence of collaboration.

Not on the Radar: Sexual Assault of College Students with Disabilities – 2018 report by the National Council on Disability
According 2020 Report on the AAU Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct, students of different races and ethnicities experienced sexual assault at the following rates:

- Latino or Hispanic: 14.9% (vs 12.8% for Non-Hispanic students)
- American Indian or Alaska Native: 18.7%
- White: 14.7%
- Black or African American: 12.7%
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander: 11.9%
- Asian: 6.9%
• Sexual assault among college students is severely underreported.

• People who are the most harmed are the least likely to report.

• In 2010, the Bureau of Justice Statistics[2] reported that for every one rape reported by an African American woman, fifteen go unreported.

• About a third of students felt they were “very” or “extremely” knowledgeable about the definition of sexual assault (37.1%), where to get help (37.1%), and how to report it (31.5%).

• It stands to reason that Black, Latinx, Indigenous students with disabilities are at greater risk of sexual assault than white students with disabilities and face additional barriers to getting help.
Today, we will explore…

- What options for safety & healing do students survivors of sexual assault have on campuses? What are different ways campuses respond?
- What barriers do Black student survivors, student survivors with disabilities, and student survivors of color with disabilities experience when attempting to access those options?
- What are the implications of those barriers for student survivors of color with disabilities?
- What needs to change about the current campus response for student survivors of color with disabilities to have access to safety and healing, as they define it?
Our panelists

• Maria Cristina Pacheco, the National Organization for Victim Assistance

• Kaitlin Shetler, Vera Institute of Justice

• LaWanda Swan, the Swan Center for Advocacy & Research, Inc.