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WHOSEFVA

Working with Healthcare Organizations to
Support Elderly Female Victims of Abuse

WHOSEFVA – Working with Healthcare Organizations to Support Elderly
Female Victims of Abuse - JUST/2015/RDAP/AG/VICT/9320

Programme Curriculum of WHOSEFVA

2017

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Introduction

The curriculum on prevention of violence against older persons/women sets out the framework for educational content and learning outcomes and defines the competencies needed from the social and health care professionals for providing high quality services for older victims of violence. It also offers the trainers/teachers knowledge so that they are fully competent to provide high quality training for social and health care professionals. The curriculum is based on new and updated knowledge and research in the field of violence against older persons/women.

The target groups of the training curriculum are social and health care professionals, social and health care teachers and trainers, workers of domestic violence organizations and decision makers and stakeholders in elderly care. The training curriculum combines two separate fields – prevention of violence against older persons and elderly care – ideally the trainees should be from both fields so that they can equally share their special knowledge and experience to each other. The curriculum includes suggestive information of the hour frames of each module. The trainer/teacher can choose any module or a part of module of the training curriculum according the training needs of audience.

Key messages of the training curriculum

Violence against older persons is a specific area in violence prevention work

- it requires the professionals comprehensive understanding of aging
- violence should be seen as the result of multiple levels of influence on behaviour, meaning individual, relationship, community and societal levels

High quality of services

- older person's safety must be placed at the center of services
- it is important to make older victims of violence visible in services
- the needs and challenges of abused older women is a specific area to take into account in services

Professional development

- social and health care professionals need to become aware of own attitudes, beliefs and behaviour to avoid ageism and sexism in violence prevention work
- professional empowerment comes true through a process of personal development in knowledge, skills, sensitivity and understanding of the phenomenon of violence against older persons and violence against older women
- professionals should be committed to lifelong learning

Training methods

- presentations
- discussions
- asking questions from trainees
- exercises

Assessment

- assessment of training is important using e.g. feedback questionnaires

The content of the curriculum

Module 1: What is violence against older persons? (4 hours)

Definitions and terms regarding violence against older persons

- Definitions and dimensions of old age
- Concepts of “violence against older persons” and “elder abuse”
- Definition of elder abuse
- Term “violence against older persons”
- Older persons’ own perceptions
- Violence against older women

Forms of violence against older persons

- Financial violence
- Physical violence
- Psychological violence
- Sexual violence
- Neglect
- Human Rights violations/denial of human rights
- Institutional abuse
- Coercive control as a type of intimate partner violence
- Sexual harassment and stalking

Module 2: Approaches to violence against older persons (3 hours)

Ageing in population of European Union – challenges

Prevalence of violence against older persons in Europe

Theoretical understandings of violence against older persons

- Caregiver Stress Theory
- Social Learning Theory
- Power and Control Theory, a feminist approach
- The Ecological Model Theory
- Generational Intelligence Framework
- Human rights approach

Module 3: Complexity of violence against older persons (4 hours)

Characteristics of violence against older persons

Invisibility of older persons as victims of violence

Gender perspectives to the violence against older persons

Ageism and sexism and violence against older persons

Specific situation of older women as victims of violence

Violence against older persons and memory disorders

Module 4: Risk factors of violence against older persons (3 hours)

Risk factors and ecological model

Risk factors for violence against older women

Protective factors

Module 5: Consequences of violence (4 hours)

Cognitive and emotional consequences

Physical health consequences

Suicidal thoughts/attempts

Increased mortality risk

Older women and long-term violence

Violence related stigma

Complex/Cumulative trauma

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)

Historical/intergenerational trauma

Module 6: Working with older victims of violence (6 hours)

If abuse is suspected

Psychological first aid (PFA) at health care work

Caring communication

Motivating older abused women for change

Guiding principles for working with older abused women

Understanding the Coping strategies of Victims

Principles of intervention of empowerment approach

Services for women victims of violence

Why older women do not leave?

Barriers to help – seeking

Enablers for help

Challenges for older women

The older perpetrators

Module 7: Addressing violence against older persons in Health Care Settings (6 hours)

Assessing signs and markers of violence in older persons

Differentiating diseases and conditions from violence

Assessment and examination procedure

Older persons in emergency department

- Recognizing violence of older persons in emergency department
- Myths about older people's use of emergency services

Working procedures

- Screening of violence against older persons
- The Elder Abuse Suspicion Index©
- Self-Administrable Elder Abuse Suspicion Index© (EASI-sa)
- Experiences of piloting EASI instrument in Whosefva –project
- Risk on Elder Abuse and Mistreatment Instrument (REAMI ©)
- Medical examination of assaulted patients in emergency
- Study results using PAKE/ ABM form in emergency units in Finland

Challenging situations in emergency department

Ethical issues

Safety planning

Health care interventions

Module 8: Professional Challenges in Working with Older Victims of violence (4 hours)

Working as a professional

Professional challenges in working with older trauma survivors

Vicarious traumatization

Secondary traumatic stress

Compassion fatigue

Professional burnout

Risk factors for Vicarious traumatization, Secondary traumatic stress and Compassion fatigue

Compassion satisfaction

Dimensions of empathy

Empathy as a protective factor

Protective factors for Vicarious traumatization, Secondary traumatic stress, Compassion fatigue and Burnout

Module 9: Conducting Training with Social and Health Care Professionals (2 hours)

What is needed from the trainers?

How to develop a training agenda?

Results of WHOSEFVA Mutual Learning Workshops

Older persons' views to helping professionals – lessons learned from focus groups

Appendix 1: Medical examination of assaulted patients in emergencies in Finland

Appendix 2: Good practices on Multi-Agency working

Appendix 3: International Instruments Regarding Abuse of Older Women

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

United Nations Principles for Older Persons

Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union

Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA)

Recommendation CM/Rec(2014)2

Women's rights perspective to violence against older persons

- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

- United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women

- Istanbul Convention

The Open-ended Working Group on Ageing – towards the convention of the rights of older persons

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