

Survivors' Circle

A conversation with people with disabilities about sexual violence



Welcome

Jill Jacobs

Commissioner

Administration for Community Living

June 14, 2023



Today's Program

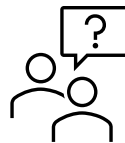
- Opening Remarks from Federal Partners
- An Introduction to ID/DD & Sexual Assault
- Panel Discussion with Survivors
- Q & A Opportunity
- CEUs information

Housekeeping

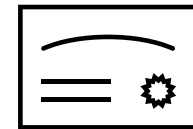
**This webinar is
being recorded**



**Use the Q&A
feature to submit
your questions**

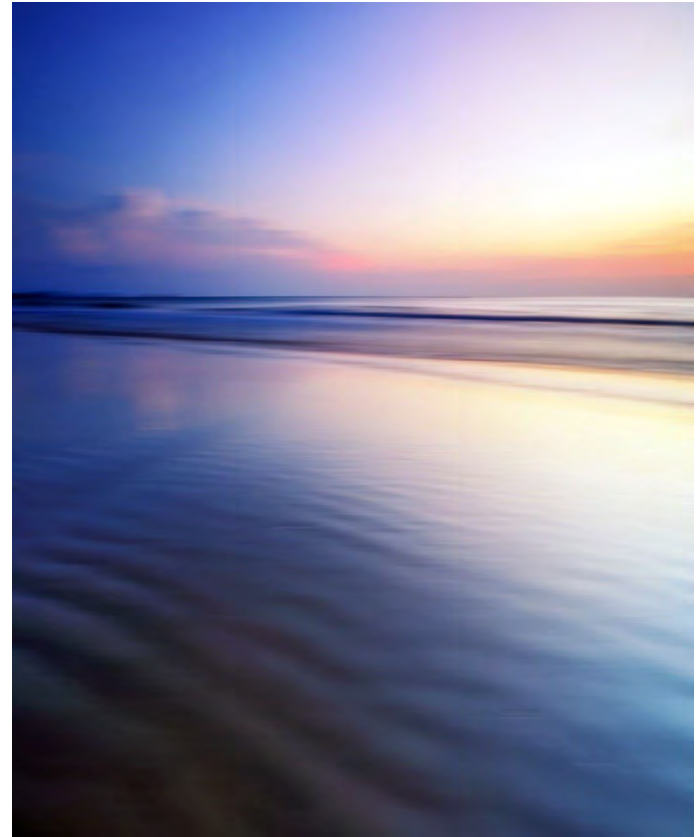


**You must attend
the full webinar
to receive CEUs**



Your well-being

During the webinar, we will be discussing sexual violence, and survivors will be sharing their experiences. If you have difficulty with this information, we encourage you to take care of yourself. Feel free to step away, mute the audio, or turn away from your screen. We are also dropping links to national hotlines in case you need to talk with someone as a result of this webinar.



Hotlines



RAINN Sexual Assault

Chat: <https://www.rainn.org/>

800-656-4673

National Domestic Violence Hotline

Chat: <https://www.thehotline.org>

800-799-7233

Welcome from the White House

Cailin Crockett

Senior Policy Advisor

[White House Gender Policy Council](#)



Sexual Assault of People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: An Introduction

Kara Ayers, PhD
kara.ayers@cchmc.org



THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR
DISABILITY, EQUITY, AND
INTERSECTIONALITY

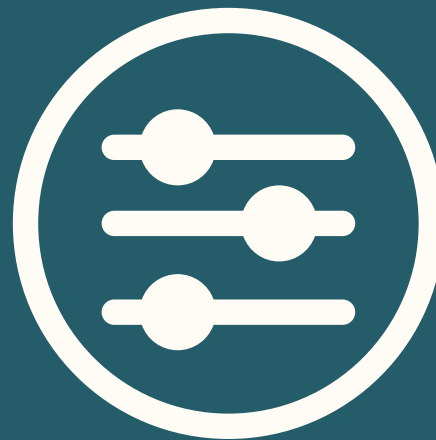


Kara Ayers, PhD

- Professor and researcher
- Trained as clinical psychologist
- A disabled woman and parent to children with and without disabilities
- No disclosures for this talk



Level setting with our
language



- People with IDD are more than 7 times more likely to experience sexual assault than people without disabilities. Women with disabilities were 12 times as likely.
- Abuse is often repeated and chronic.
Abuse is often committed by paid service providers and occur in disability service settings.
- Few of these crimes are reported.
- Charges and conviction of perpetrators are rare.

Curtiss, S. L., & Kammes, R. (2020). Understanding the risk of sexual abuse for adults With intellectual and developmental disabilities from an ecological framework. *Journal of Policy and Practice in Intellectual Disabilities*, 17(1), 13-20.



Ableism worsens the problem of sexual assault of people with disabilities.



Ableism can be
covert but is still
poisonous.

How ableism contributes to this problem...



Stereotypes about people with disabilities, like we are not sexual beings, are dangerous.



Many people with disabilities are denied sexual education.



Fear, isolation, and uncertainty can combine to make telling someone or seeking help more difficult.



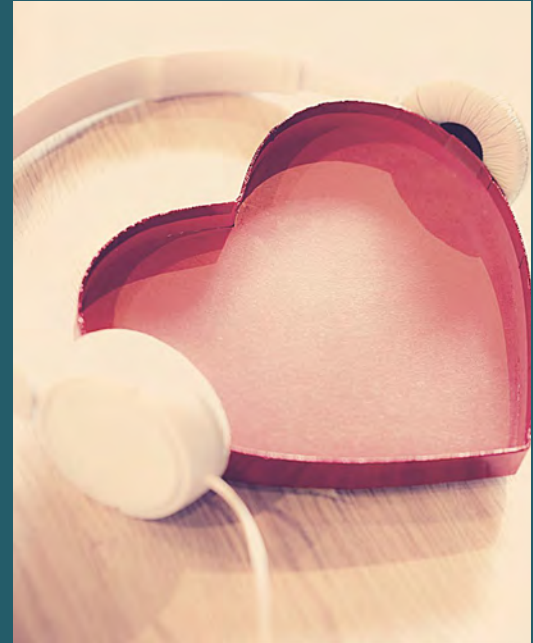
The victim may have a negative history with law enforcement. Interviews can be inaccessible.



Communication access



**Accessible and safe
alternatives to abusive people
and settings**



**Listen to the stories you will hear
today.**

How you can reach me:



kara.ayers@cchmc.org



[@DrKaraAyers](https://twitter.com/DrKaraAyers)



[@KaraAyers](https://www.instagram.com/KaraAyers)



My Google Scholar Profile to
read my work.



Introduction of Panel

Lynn Rosenthal

HHS Director of Sexual and Gender-based Violence
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health




Survivors' Circle Panelists

- Nancy Smith, Moderator, Director, Activating Change
- Cindy Bentley, Executive Director, People First in Wisconsin
- Kecia Weller, Abuse Prevention Advocate
- James Meadours, Advocacy and Outreach Lead
Strategic Education Solutions

Questions?

Use the Q&A feature to submit your questions for the panelists

Resources

- ❖ Activating Change <https://www.activatingchange.org/>
 - ❖ The National Center for Disability, Equity, and Intersectionality:
<https://thinkequitable.com/>
 - ❖ Association of University Centers on Disabilities: <http://aucd.org>
 - ❖ Department of Defense (DoD) SAFE
Helpline: <https://www.safehelpline.org/>
 - ❖ RAINN Sexual Assault Hotline and Online: <http://www.rainn.org>
 - ❖ The National Domestic Violence Hotline: <http://thehotline.org>
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Resources

- ❖ National Sexual Violence Resources Center: <https://www.nsvrc.org/>
- ❖ Prevent Connect: www.preventconnect.org/
- ❖ National Resource Center for Reaching Victims:
www.reachingvictims.org/
- ❖ National Alliance to End Sexual Alliance: <https://endsexualviolence.org/>
- ❖ Office of Family Violence Prevention & Services Resource Centers:
<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ofvps/programs/fvpsa/family-violence-prevention-services-resource-centers>



Continuing Education Credits

Marlo Brooks

Supervisory Family Violence Prevention Specialist
Office of Family Violence Prevention and Services

Thank You!

You can download the slides [here](#).

The recording will be available June 21st [here](#).