



THE
CENTER
FOR
WOMEN
AND
FAMILIES
OF SOUTHERN
INDIANA

Empowerment Program

Overview:

The Center for Women and Families of Southern Indiana is a Dual agency for Domestic Violence, Rape Crisis, and Prevention & Education Service Provider. Our service areas are Floyd and Clark County. Our program goal is to reduce incidents of intimate partner and sexual violence through primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention initiatives. In 2018 our Indiana shelter services ended and in 2019 we transitioned into a Mobile Advocacy Model expanding our opportunities to reach more survivors of IPSV. In 2022 we launched a new part of our program called the Empowerment Program. The Goal of the Empowerment Program is for The Center to continue to offer engagement and leadership opportunities for survivors that feel ready or have graduated from our Mobile Advocacy Program at our Indiana Center. We have heard from survivors that they want to stay connected with The Center, with other survivors, or act about the prevalence of intimate partner and/or sexual violence.

Successes:

We had a total of 8 participants complete our first Survivor Engagement & Leadership Focus Group. We heard from survivors what they needed from the Empowerment Program. We created a menu of engagement opportunities based on client feedback.

We collaborated with ICADV and other member service providers to expand the list of menu items, host other focus groups, and share resources and ideas.

We created an ongoing Empower Advocacy Program survey for current and graduating clients to complete to express their interest in the engagement & leadership opportunities. This survey also asks if survivors who have graduated from the Mobile Advocacy Program would like a 6-month follow-up call to check in about safety and support.

August 2022 launched the Empowerment Program and created a Newsletter for current & former clients, focused on Social Connectedness with CWF, survivors, and the general community.

Challenges:

Finding capacity in deciding which activities go where and to what staff.

Figuring out The Center's ability to accommodate for some of the menu items that are more involved, for example, having a Center survivor social media account for survivors to connect with each other online safely.

Understanding how The Center's volunteer policy will impact the program.

Understanding the training needs of survivors & developing training.

Foresee funding being a barrier as the program grows

How we pay for it:

Currently, we have agency dollars devoted to tertiary prevention which we use for materials. We apply for local (non-federal) grants and have fundraisers.

Personnel- Our grants include direct client support and pieces of prevention throughout them.

For more information:

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Zenebia Law, Director of Southern Indiana Programs Zenebia.Law@cwfempower.org 502-581-7213