

MALE SURVIVORS WITH DISABILITIES

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VCU Partnership for People with Disabilities
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About Us...



Jack M Brandt



Molly Dellinger-Wray

Historical Context

Facts to remember
about people with
disabilities



What is a **DISABILITY**?



(Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, (2009).

Which Barbie do you think has a **DISABILITY**?

**Barbie
A**



**Barbie
B**



**Answer
in Chat**

Perception of **DISABILITY**:

Observable

- Blindness
- Distinct facial features (i.e. down syndrome)
- Speech impairment
- Spastic movements
- Mobility
- Paralysis of part of body
- Use mobility device (i.e. walker)

Hidden

- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Hearing disabilities
- Intellectual disabilities
- Learning disabilities
- Mental health disabilities
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Chronic pain or spasticity



Maltreatment of Men and Boys with Disabilities

- Occurs more frequently,
- More severely,
- Over longer periods of time
- With fewer opportunities to escape abuse

VCU Partnership for People
with Disabilities



WHY?

Do men and boys with
disabilities experience
abuse at such
EPIDEMIC RATES?



Cultural Myths & Attitudes

Attitudes

- Wild promiscuous
- Innocent/asexual
- Incompetent, stupid
- Doesn't understand/feel
- Without opinions on boundaries
- Pitied / put on pedestal
- Punished by God
- Contagious

Behaviors

- Social distancing
- Devaluation
- Blaming victim

Relationships Between People with Disabilities and Others



The Institute: The IEEE News Source

Isolation and Loneliness



Abusive Behaviors

- “Not allowed” to everyday privileges
- Financial exploitation
- Gas lighting
- Shame/humiliation
- Using physical incapacity to control someone
- Damaging assistive devices
- Overmedicated, under medicated
- Non-consensual touching
- Mistreating service animal

Signs of External Authority

- Access to paper, pens, computer
- Jewelry, stylish appearance
- Body language
- Initiating greeting/touch

(Franz, 2014)



Authority | Self-blaming



Strategies to Support Men and Boys with Disabilities



Strategies to Remember

Every **person** is
unique



Strategies to Remember

Assume Competence

People with disabilities play, work, and are members of our communities.



Strategies to Remember

People with disabilities need to make decisions with organizations that involve them.



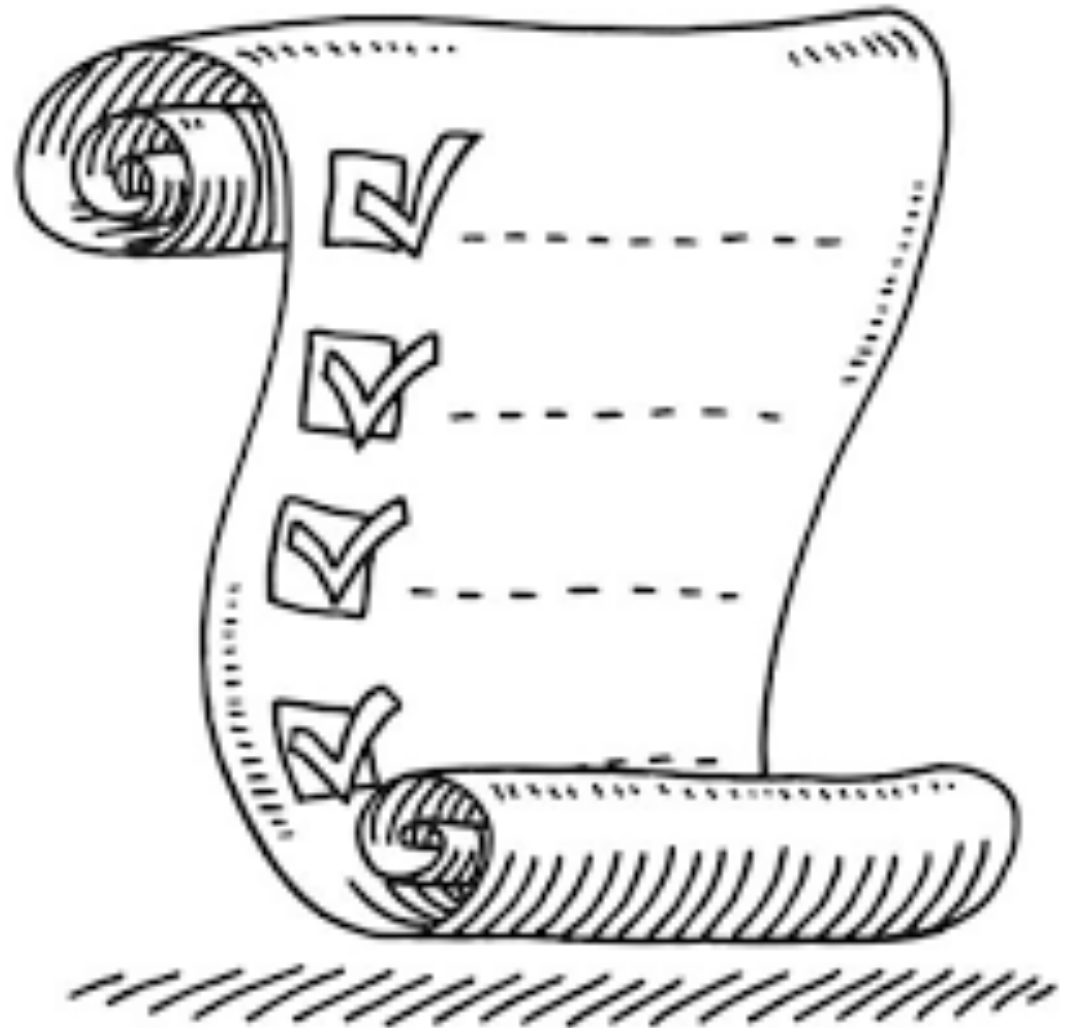
Strategies to Remember

People First Language is a philosophy that sees people with disabilities as people first.



Strategies to Remember

Ten Words that Describe
ME



Interviewing a Person with a Disability

- Private room
- Accessible
- Familiar to the man or boy
- Comfortable, suitable for man or boy
- Quiet, limited noise/distractions
- Accessible to the bathroom
- Frequent breaks as needed
- Sit at eye level
- Ask permission before touching assistive devices
- Provide assistance ONLY when needed and asked

Interview Considerations

There are different ways to communicate with people with disabilities.



Interview Considerations

Make sure room is
accessible for all people
with disabilities and
their assistive
technology



Interview Considerations

Men and boys with
disabilities are reliable
witnesses



ANY QUESTIONS?

