Course Description

This module is designed to provide detailed information on the background, philosophy, and implementation of alternative reporting options for victims of sexual assault, such as anonymous reporting, non-investigative reporting, and third-party reporting. This module begins by exploring examples from two communities: Cambria County, Pennsylvania and Ashland, Oregon. The module then goes on to provide a thorough overview of the key concepts and components necessary to implement such alternative reporting options, as well as recommendations for best practice.

Estimated time for completion: 12 hours

OVW Grant Funding

The OLTI was created and continues to be supported with funding from the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. However, the opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

Expert Contributions

OLTI training content is created and updated with input from professionals in a variety of disciplines, including law enforcement, prosecution, health care, victim advocacy, and related fields. Please see the acknowledgements page of each module, for a list of the individuals who served as contributing authors or expert reviewers.

Course Evaluations

At the end of each module participants are asked a number of questions, including the overall quality of the module, as well as its difficulty. They are also asked to indicate how likely they are to apply the information they learned on the job. Their responses are summarized in the following charts, and illustrated with the quotes.
What did you find most helpful in this module?

The description of how reports are filed and how states use victim reimbursement was most helpful. As an ER nurse it is important to understand this as the patients usually have many questions regarding this aspect. Learning whether medical care providers are mandated to report cases was also very helpful.

I found this training to be user-friendly, very easy to understand, and very straightforward and to the point.

Module 9: Reporting Methods

I would rate the overall quality of this training module as
73% “agree completely” or “agree” that they can apply what they learned on the job.
Course Objectives

- Examine the benefits of alternative reporting methods for sexual assault victims.
- Review the Cambria County Anonymous Reporting Protocol and the Ashland Police Department’s You Have Options Program.
- Identify the terminology and concepts of various alternative reporting options.
- Explore the key components for successful implementation of alternative reporting methods for sexual assault victims.
- Explain mandated reporting, courtesy reports, restricted reporting in the US military, and the use of pseudonyms on public records.
- Analyze recommendations for best practice in this area.

Course Outline

I. Introduction
II. Funnel of attrition for sexual assault cases
III. Barriers to reporting and participation
IV. Philosophy of alternative reporting options
V. Cambria County Protocol for Anonymous Reporting
VI. Ashland Police Department’s You Have Options Program
VII. Definitions: Informational Reports vs. Crime Reports
VIII. Alternative Reporting Methods: Concepts and Components
IX. Non-Investigative Reporting to Law Enforcement
X. Third Party Reporting Procedures for Victims
XI. VAWA Forensic Compliance
XII. Implementation of Alternative Reporting Methods
XIII. Information for Victims
XIV. Public Outreach
XV. Ensuring Victim Support
XVI. The Need for Data Collection
XVII. Why Not Prosecute Without the Victim?
XVIII. Other Reporting Issues
XIX. Do Not Report Without a Legal Requirement
XX. Courtesy Reports for Other Jurisdictions
XXI. Using a Pseudonym
XXII. Restricted Reporting in the U.S. Military
XXIII. Responding to False Reports
XXIV. Recommendations for Best Practice
XXV. Conclusion