Nearly every week, we receive a request for assistance identifying expert speakers to present at a local training event for law enforcement. Often, we are asked if EVAWI can provide this type of training, or we are asked to provide recommendations for experts in the field.

Unfortunately, EVAWI is unable to provide this type of in–person training on a local level. However, in this training bulletin, we will provide you with the resources you need to host a successful training event, including suggestions on how to find experts in the field to enhance your training.

Experts in the Field

The best place to start is by reviewing agendas from our prior conferences. With 80 – 100 speakers covering a very wide range of topics each year, our agendas can help spark ideas for topics as well as specific names of individuals who might be able to conduct the training.

We are also happy to brainstorm ideas with you for topics and speakers. Please go to our Contact Us page and click on Subject Matter Expertise for assistance.

Alternative Training Options

Alternatively, you could use training resources that EVAWI has already developed, such as webinars, training bulletins, or training modules from the OnLine Training Institute to develop or host a training in your jurisdiction.

Webinars

We offer quite a few free webinars in our archive. Although playing a webinar is not the same thing as having a live trainer, you may choose to incorporate it into your live event and facilitate discussion to promote interaction and learning.

Here are a few examples of webinars that may be of interest to you:

- Neurobiology of Sexual Assault, with Dr. Jim Hopper.
- A Paradigm Shift: The Forensic Experiential Trauma Interview (FETI), with Russell Strand.
- Effective Report Writing: Using the Language of Non–Consensual Sex, with EVAWI Executive Director Joanne Archambault.
- Effective Victim Interviewing, with Joanne Archambault and Past Board President Roger Canaff.
OnLine Training Institute (OLTI)

Another alternative is to consider requiring participants to work through some of the OLTI modules first, and then gathering for a live training event – so they can push beyond the basics and move on to more advanced training content. EVAWI currently offers 16 training modules, all focused on the criminal justice and community response to sexual assault – with particular emphasis on the law enforcement investigation.

Specialized Training Requests

Another question we receive on a regular basis is about recommendations for subject matter experts on how to respond to a specific type of sexual assault – such as campus sexual assault, sexual assault within the military, or sexual assault within a specific culture or setting (Tribal lands, correctional settings, etc.).

When we respond to these types of requests, we often encourage people to take advantage of the training resources that already exist on the broad topic of sexual assault. In fact, we often explain to professionals that they can learn as much, if not more, from training that does not have a specific focus. While specialized settings do have unique characteristics and dynamics, the foundation for every sexual assault investigation is the same.

This is because the dynamics of sexual violence are fundamentally the same across settings – as are aspects of our responses to victims, suspects, and the investigation of reports. In fact, one problem in our field is the tendency to work in silos, so we talk primarily with professionals working in the same context, which can prevent us from drawing from the knowledge and experience gained from practitioners in other contexts.

To address specific populations, it would be important for presenters to team up to address complex subject matter areas, for example an expert in sexual assault investigations could partner with an investigator from the Department of Corrections or university investigators.

Resources to Tailor Your Training

We also offer a wide range of resources online, which professionals can use to create their own training and tailor it for the unique needs of their audience. In particular, we encourage people to check out the Best Practices section of the EVAWI website, which offers Resources on sexual assault investigation as well as detailed responses to numerous FAQs. You may also be interested in the Forensic section of the EVAWI website, which includes additional Resources and answers to FAQs.
In addition, you may find the Training Bulletin Archive helpful as you search resources on a particular topic for your training. The Library will provide you with excellent resources on a wide variety of topics, and the Glossary of Terms may help you identify common terms and their definitions.

As you can see, there are numerous resources available to help you plan and host a successful event for law enforcement in your community. If you would like to continue your learning on this topic, please consider viewing our webinar entitled: How to Plan a Successful Training for Law Enforcement, with Joanne Archambault and Kim Lonsway.