Welcome

Social Change Advocacy
Thrive Summit

Amanda Watson & Kata Issari

June 18, 2019

Praxis International
"Integrating Theory and Practice"

- Advocacy Learning Center
- Rural Technical Assistance
- Institutional Analysis TA
- Blueprint for Safety TA
- www.praxisinternational.org

Acknowledging Our Ancestors

Who came before you that allowed you to be here today?

What ancestors will you invite into the room?

What is your hope for these 2 days?

THE *Advocacy* *a force for change*
LEARNING CENTER

Decolonized Working Agreements

- Bring our ancestors and future generations into the room with us; keep them in mind as we talk and strategize

- Honor our own emotions and reactions to what is being said and done

- Hold space for folks to enter the conversation with their whole selves

- When conflict or disagreement happens, re-ground ourselves in our values and traditions

- Community love is community accountability

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Our Learning Together

- Decolonized Working Agreements

- Dialogue

- Experiential learning

- Teachers/learners

- Ongoing reflection

- Critical thinking
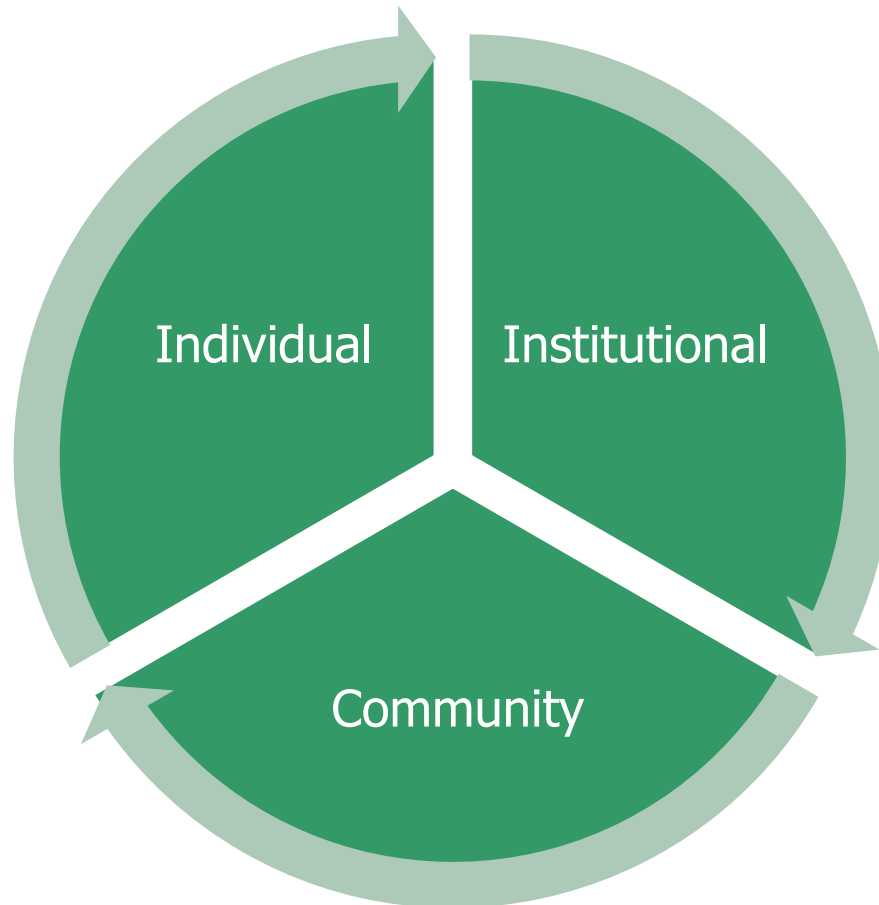
- Nurture mind, body, spirit

Our Purpose

"Liberation is a praxis : the action and reflection of men and women upon their world in order to transform it."

"Liberating education consists in acts of cognition, not transferals of information."
— Paulo Freire

Social Change Advocacy

A movement toward justice

Requires:

1. Truth be told

2. Harm repaired

3. Conditions that give rise to to injustice and violence be eradicated

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Defining Oppression

- Systematic & institutionalized mistreatment
- Based on historical and current structures
- Built & reinforced by social systems
- Enacted by people
- Tools: prejudice, bigotry, discrimination, stereotyping

Defining Oppression

Power + Prejudice + Privilege =

Oppression

MARGIN TO CENTER

Terms & Phrases

- Prejudice
- Bigotry
- Discrimination
- Stereotypes
- Privilege
- Internalized domination
- Internalized oppression

- Reverse oppression
- Colonization
- Horizontal hostility
- Tokenism
- Ally
- Intersectionality
- Culture

Pillars of Oppression

Pillar 1: Belief in superiority of the oppressor

Pillar 2: Make the oppressed into inferior objects

Pillar 3: Teach the oppressed to submit through messages of disdain

Pillar 4: Use violence with impunity

Pillar 5: Control by splitting oppressed into "good" & "bad

Social Movements

1. Organized effort to bring about social change
2. Based on identifying social inequity, injustice, inequality or social ill
3. Usually works outside or against the "system"
4. Diverse constituency and stakeholders

SORRY FOR THE INCONVENIENCE

WE ARE TRYING TO CHANGE THE WORLD

What Can We Learn From Social Movements?

1. **How do we dismantle the pillars of oppression?**

   - Social movements have emerged to challenge oppression.

2. **Select a movement**

   - Find examples of how the center/oppressor group used the Pillars of Oppression

   - Find examples of how the marginalized/ oppressed group resisted the Pillars of Oppression

Day 2

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What is advocacy?

Personal reflection:

What is your definition of advocacy?

Discussion:

What is our common definition of advocacy?

Experiences with Institutions

First on your own, then at your table:

- What are some specific problems your constituents face when they become involved with systems or institutions after experiencing violence?

Experiences with Institutions

First on your own, then at your table:

- What are some ways you have advocated for your constituents who face these responses? Consider what you have done for or said to your constituents and what you said to the systems.

Experiences with Institutions

Is there a way in which you can imagine the system itself changing so that your advocacy response would become unnecessary, where you would no longer need to advocate

on behalf of individuals in this way?

Institutional Advocacy

Changing institutions to be more effective in meeting the needs of those that have experience violence as well as being more effective at stopping the violence.

QUESTION: Am I creating change for 1 person or ALL people with similar types of experiences/situations in this institution?

Institutional Analysis

- A tool to help us learn what we don't know to advance system reform

- Problem located in institution, not people

- Ask questions

Share A Personal Experience

What was the gap

between ***what you needed***

and

the institution's response?

Discussion

- What conditions produced this?

- How did people become problems?

- How did you act in the face of this gap?

- How did the worker act?

- Was your problem produced by what was otherwise a good policy and a well-intentioned worker?

The Story of Rachel: Discussion

What was the gap between *Rachel's lived experience*

and

how the institutions responded?

Factors That Shape Worker's Actions

"Golden Rules" of Institutional Advocacy

- Centralize survivor safety, well-being and autonomy

- Develop a strong knowledge base

- Use a systemic and social change analysis

- Use a model of constructive engagement

Where do we go from here?

"Peace does not mean an absence of conflicts; differences will always be there. Peace means solving these differences through peaceful means; through dialogue, education, knowledge; and through humane ways."

~ Dalai Lama XIV