

SEEK THEN SPEAK: Online Interviewing Tool for Sexual Assault Survivors

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End Violence Against Women International



Sgt. Erica Oldham, Sex Crimes
Kansas City Police Department



Victoria Pickering, Director of Advocacy
Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault



Alison Forsyth, Crime Victim Advocate
City of Seattle's Crime Survivor Services

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Polling Question #1

- What is your professional discipline?
 - Law Enforcement
 - Prosecution
 - Victim Advocacy
 - Health Care
 - Education / Research
 - Other

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Learning Objectives

- Describe SEEK THEN SPEAK, an interactive online tool helping sexual assault survivors and support people gather information and explore options.
- Explain how sexual assault survivors can use the new tool to begin the process of reporting to law enforcement by completing a self-guided interview.
- Consider how this new tool could increase access to reporting and supportive services in your community.

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Polling Question #2

- Have you already heard an EVAWI presentation on SEEK THEN SPEAK?
 - No
 - Yes
 - Maybe
 - Not Sure

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Barriers to Reporting

Why don't victims report?

- Fear of retaliation
- Being doubted or blamed
- Others finding out
- Fear of the justice system
- Not being believed

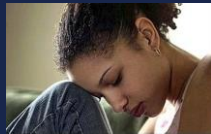


Photo Credit: Life's Random Bits

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Consequences for Communities

Without a report:

- Law enforcement cannot investigate
- Offenders cannot be prosecuted
- Victims left with unresolved trauma
- Perpetrators can commit additional assaults

The perpetrator is free to offend again, and nothing changes for the next victim. So the cycle repeats.

- Lonsway & Archambault (2010)

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One Step at a Time

Victims Need Time

- "Rape in America" Study:
 - Only ¼ of sexual assault victims reported in 24 hours
 - That means ¾ needed more than 24 hours to contact police



Photo Credit: Getty Images

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Opening Doors

Victims Need Support

- Before reporting to law enforcement, sexual assault victims contacted an average of 2-3 informal or formal support providers



Photo Credit: Waukesha Women's Center



Photo Credit: REACHOUT.COM

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Opening Doors

- Sexual assault victims can benefit from services in terms of improved recovery and well-being
 - Health care
 - Victim advocacy
 - Law enforcement
 - Counseling / therapy



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Open Doors Lead to More Doors



Accessing services of one professional increases likelihood of engaging others

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Alternative Reporting Options

- Victim-centered
- Trauma-informed
- Compliant with VAWA



Opening Doors, One Step at a Time...

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Opening Doors in Kansas City

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sgt. Erica Oldham <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ What motivated law enforcement to create new path for reporting for sexual assault victims? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Victoria Pickering <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ What motivated victim advocacy to adopt new tool for information, options, and reporting? |
|--|---|



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Opening Doors in Seattle

- Alison Forsyth
 - What motivated the city of Seattle to create new path for reporting for sexual assault victims?



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SEEK THEN > SPEAK

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SEEK THEN > SPEAK

- Can post a link on any agency website
 - Law enforcement agencies
 - Victim advocacy organizations
 - Forensic examiner programs
 - Prosecutor's offices
 - Other government / community agencies
 - Agencies serving culturally specific groups

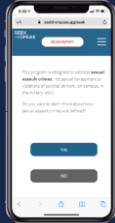


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SEEK: Explore Options

- Survivors and support people can gather information, explore options
 - Sexual assault and abuse
 - Crime victim rights
 - Victim advocacy
 - Medical care
 - Reporting to police
 - Support people
 - Campus, workplace, military settings



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SPEAK: Begin Reporting

- Survivors can begin reporting to police
 - Self-guided, investigative interview
 - Records critical information about their sexual assault
 - Survivors can provide as much, or as little information as they choose
 - Can remain anonymous if they wish



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SEEK THEN > SPEAK

- Creates a PDF report that survivors can:
 - Download** (and save on their own device)
 - Print** (to give to police, or store for now)
 - Email** (to law enforcement, or someone else)
 - Give** to sexual assault advocacy center (to submit to law enforcement on their behalf)
- All data are deleted after generating PDF**

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SPEAK: Begin Reporting

- Explains questions and investigative process
 - Reduces anxiety, increases accuracy
 - Keeps survivors in the driver's seat
 - Better prepared for interview, investigation



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SEEK THEN SPEAK

- Can access from any digital device
 - Computer, laptop, tablet, mobile phone
 - Meets privacy requirements for HIPAA, VAWA, FVPSA, and VOCA
- Increasing access for survivors
 - Translation into 100+ languages
 - Accessibility features for disabilities



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SEEK THEN SPEAK

- Can be offered by responding professionals
 - While waiting for medical forensic exam
 - When interpretive services are lacking
 - As an alternative to police patrol response
 - A service option offered by victim advocates
 - Or ... ???



seekthenspeak.app

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Kansas City Experience: Implementation Process

- Multidisciplinary approach
- KCPD proposal
- Community partner notification
- Public awareness
- Patrol officer education
- Considerations for metro area

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Experiences with Survivors: Advocacy Perspective

- Survivors use SEEK THEN SPEAK in different ways, depending on setting and purpose
 - At the hospital
 - Initial reports
 - Interview preparation
 - Resource for loved ones
 - Online vs. printed options



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Experiences with Survivors: Police Perspective

- Police receive different types of contacts from survivors who use SEEK THEN SPEAK
 - Emails
 - Patrol officers
 - Investigators



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Seattle Experience: Implementation Process

- Proposed project timeline
 - February "soft launch"
 - June "hard launch"
 - Ongoing outreach
- Deliverables
 - Specialized email (seekthenspeak@seattle.gov)
 - Press release
 - Tailored website



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Draft of Seattle Website

Seek then Speak

A new pathway to justice for sexual assault survivors.

If you've been sexually assaulted and live in the City of Seattle, or the assault took place in Seattle, there is now a new pathway to justice.

Seek then Speak is a tool adopted by the Seattle Police Department to help support your process of reporting your sexual assault to law enforcement. Seek then Speak offers a new pathway to justice for sexual assault survivors and helps them begin the process of reporting their sexual assault to police.

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Draft of Seattle Website

QUICK REFERENCES

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING A SEXUAL ASSAULT IN SEATTLE

Reporting Sexual Assault
Getting Medical Care after a Sexual Assault
Find the nearest medical facility that offers sexual assault exams and Frequently Asked Questions
WA State Resource for Sexual Assault Forensic Medical Care

RESOURCES ABOUT THE INVESTIGATIVE PROCESS

WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS?

CRIME VICTIMS COMPENSATION

IMMEDIATE SERVICES OR SUPPORT

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Seattle Experience: Implementation Process

- Training Videos
 - Communications / Dispatch
 - Patrol / Sworn personnel
 - Advocates / SANE / Forensic / Social Workers
 - DIY (How to "do it yourself" for the public, how to walk through the interview as a survivor)
 - Promotional videos for public outreach

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If we offer alternative reporting options, are they a realistic alternative? Or a false promise?

What can we do to make these options a reality for victims?

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Collaborative Partners

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Law enforcement (patrol, investigators, supervisors, command) ■ Communications (911 and non-emergency) ■ Health care providers ■ Victim advocates (community-based and system-based) ■ Prosecutors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Campus ■ Military ■ Tribal agencies |
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EVAWI Protocol Development Guide



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Success Stories and Practice Considerations: Advocates

- Benefits
 - Increased comfort when retelling trauma
 - Reduced uncertainty of criminal justice process
 - Broader options for safety planning
 - Survivor stays in driver's seat
- Considerations
 - Potential isolation
 - Technological barriers



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Success Stories and Practice Considerations: Police

- Benefits
 - Potential to reduce wait times during reporting
 - Information to inform investigation
 - Reduced gaps in statement
- Considerations
 - Evidence considerations
 - Use in prosecution



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- Interested in offering in your community?
- Contact:
Kim@evawintl.org



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EVAWI Resources



evawintl.org

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Comprehensive Victim Interviews (CVI)

Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to enhance your skills at conducting effective victim interviews!

Dates: June 29-30, 2022, or September 14-15, 2022

Time: 7:30AM - 3:30PM PT / 10:30AM - 6:30PM ET

Registration: \$299

By far the best online conference / training I have attended ... You could easily tell the amount of dedication from the entire team.

- US Department of State

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Save the Date

April 11-13, 2023

International Conference on Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, and Fighting for Change

Hilton Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

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Webinars

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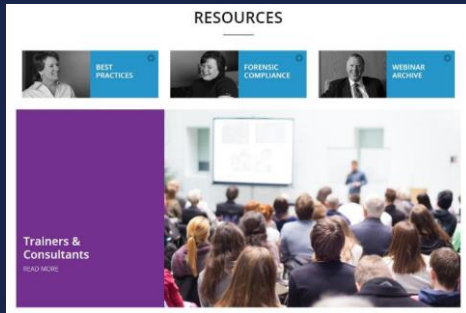


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Online Resources



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Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examination: A Virtual Practicum



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Social Media

Start by Believing



SBB Page

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Start-by-Believing-Campaign/147418678643694>



SBB Twitter

@SBB_EVAWintl - https://twitter.com/SBB_EVAWintl



Hashtag

#StartbyBelieving

EVAWI



EVAWI Page

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/End-Violence-Against-Women-EVAW-International/104495444561>



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@EVAWintl: <https://twitter.com/EVAWintl>



Instagram

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