Effective Investigation Methods for Sexual Assault/DV Cases

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My Background

- Police Officer for 12 years
- Investigator for 5 years
- Currently Assigned to Juvenile Investigations Division
- Department LGBT Liaison
How Can Law Enforcement Better Accommodate Victims
Common Barriers For Victims

- Shame / Guilt
- Fear / Distrust of Law Enforcement
- Fear of the Court Process
- Incarceration of the perpetrator
- Reputation “will this be in the papers?”
Potential Barriers for Law Enforcement

- Human Factor
- Time Constraints
- Understanding Victim’s Rights
- Understanding the Role of Victim Advocates
- Following Up with Victims
Suggestions:

- Officers should not be meeting victim advocates for the first time while on scene or in the hospital.
- Officers who have a desire to work with sensitive victims should be allowed to respond to such calls, even if outside of an assigned area.
- Investigators should be designated to work on such cases and be able to promptly assist the victim in obtaining services, orders of protection, and shelter if needed.
- Those designated Officers/Investigators should be kept informed of prosecution guidelines, and have a working relationship with those assigned to prosecute such cases.
Cyber Crimes

- Perpetrator has the ability to be anonymous or utilize ruse identities.
- Victims are embarrassed / ashamed for being duped.
- Increasing rates of incidents involving children/teenagers (sexting / revenge porn)
Additional Considerations in LGBT Community

- Are there any extra considerations when dealing with those in the LGBT Community?
- What additional barriers might exist amongst the LGBT Community as it relates to cybercrime?
- What is the relationship between Law Enforcement and the LGBT Community?
Produced with the cooperation of the Inglewood Police Department and the Inglewood Unified School District.
Boys Beware PSA

• Gays suffer from a sickness of the mind.
• They demand a intimate relationship with members of their own sex.
• Beware of someone who is “too friendly,” or who tries to win your confidence too quickly, and they become overly personal.
• “One never knows when the homosexual is about, he may appear normal.”
Detective John Sorensen of the Dade County, FL Juvenile and Morals Squad speaks to an auditorium of youth.
“There may be some in this auditorium. There may be some here today who will be homosexual in the future. There are a lot of kids here. There may be some girls that will turn lesbian. We don’t know. But it’s serious. Don’t kid yourselves about it. They can be anywhere. They can be judges, lawyers. We ought to know, we’ve arrested all of them. So if anyone of you have let yourself become envowed with an adult homosexual, or with another boy, and you are doing this on a regular basis, you better stop quick.
Because one out of three of you will turn queer. And if we catch you envowed with a homosexual, your parents are going to know about it first. And you will be caught. Don’t think you won’t be caught. Because this is one thing you cannot get away with. This is one thing that if you don’t get caught by us, you’ll be caught by yourself and, the rest of your life will be a living hell.”
Other Examples/Issues

- Different Enforcement Practices
- Cause for disqualification in police hiring process or even termination.
How likely is an LGBT Victim to report a crime when they fear additional repercussions from the ones they call for help? Ridicule? Career Considerations? Reputation?
True or False?
You can fire a police officer for being gay.
True

• You can be fired in 29 States for being gay
• You can be fired in 38 States for being transgendered
• There are no Federal Protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity
Deputy Bruce Boland
LASD

• Model Police Officer who was head of his Academy Class and was a training officer

• Fired in 1989

• Sued and was awarded $1.75 million dollars in damages and also required the police department to actively recruit in the LGBT community and teach diversity.
As a leader in the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department, I commit myself to honorably perform my duties with respect for the dignity of all people, integrity to do right and fight wrong, wisdom to apply common sense and fairness in all that I do, and courage to stand against racism, sexism, anti-semitism, homophobia, and bigotry in all its forms.
What are Police Departments doing now?

• Most large and mid sized law enforcement agencies employ an LGBT liaison

• Diversity training is standard in most police academies and in house police training programs

• Policies have been enacted prohibiting the discrimination against LGBT Officers
Cyber Crime

• Police Departments are embracing social media and providing outlets for people to report online predators

• Police need to be in the schools and reviewing the perils of the internet. Provide a “safe place” where children can report instances of victimization

• Police Departments also find success when they designate someone or a unit to handle technology crimes
Have Police Officers Impacted Civil Rights Movements?
Who are Officers Day and Mixon?
They were the Montgomery, AL Officers who arrested Rosa Parks.
Role of LGBT Liaison

- Interact with the Community (GSA’s, PFLAG, Events)

- Be a resource to the members of the Police Department

- Assist in drafting policy/procedures cognizant of equality concerns

- Demonstrate the agencies commitment to partnering with ALL members of the Community in an effort to effectively serve their needs.
Contact Info

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