

MIAMI INCLUSION ALLIANCE By: Sharon Langer Esq.

I like to share new and innovative projects in the area of victims' rights and share solutions that are cutting edge and hopefully game changing. I believe "[SEEK THEN SPEAK](#)" is such a project.

It is a new program that PUTS VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT.

End Violence Against Women International ([EVAWI](#)) has received funding from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime to enhance and expand their "Seek Then Speak", initiative. "Seek Then Speak" provides sexual assault survivors a way to interact directly with a technology platform to gather information, explore options and connect directly with local resources to get help or report to law enforcement.

"When someone has been sexually assaulted, they are often confused about what happened, who they can tell, and what they can do about it," said EVAWI CEO Joanne Archambault, a retired Sex Crimes Unit Sergeant from the San Diego Police Department. "Seek Then Speak" is a digital aid to guide victims through a series of questions to decide what options are right for them. They control the information they share, who they share it with, and whether they want to report to the police."

EVAWI teamed up with Ten8Tech, a technology firm which offers a cloud-based digital communication platform for law enforcement, to facilitate an interactive dialog with victims of sexual assault. "Seek Then Speak" was developed in conjunction with EVAWI's, Start by Believing campaign, which is dedicated to helping the public and criminal justice professionals understand how to respond when a sexual assault victim confides in them after an assault.

This seems a promising tool and one I suggest we explore further in Miami-Dade County.