

THE MIAMI INCLUSION ALLIANCE

By: Sharon Langer Esq.

DIG has just completed three years as the lead agency of a really interesting and powerful grant to study the intersection of Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault and Disability. I want to share with you what we have accomplished. We have named our group the Miami Inclusion Alliance or the MIA. Our partners are some of the most important organizations in the current system of care for victims/survivors in our community. They are the Miami Dade County Community Action and Human Services department (CVAC), Mujeres Unidas en Justicia, Education, y Reforma, (MUJER), and Dade Legal Aid. The partners applied for and received this funding from the Office of Violence Against Women.

Our focus has been to build capacity in each of our organizations enabling us to better serve persons with disabilities who are victims/survivors of domestic violence or sexual assault and our goal has been to create an environment that is accessible, safe and promotes dignity and respect.

The work we have done so far was recognized as excellent and we have just been awarded two more years of funding so we can continue our work.

I want to share a brief overview of some of the things we have accomplished so far.

We have evaluated each of our agencies for accessibility and safety for victim/survivors. We plan to take the results of those evaluations and make any and all changes that are needed.

We have created new policies and procedures in our agencies that will make serving this population more effective.

We have created a robust and comprehensive five part webinar series that will help all our staffs better serve.

MUJER will have a new agency brochure that is accessible and in simplified language.

We are going to have a Guide to Getting a Protection Order that is fully accessible and in simplified language. These new materials are unique for our community and something we have not had available before.

DIG is honored to have led this group and we are all proud of the strong and lasting partnership that has been built and have committed to continue to focus our efforts toward our vision of a new culture of inclusion. In the next two years we will be reaching out to the community to share what we have learned. I will continue to report on our efforts and initiatives.