Incubating Culturally-Specific Organizations: The IowaCASA Model

A SASP TA Webinar
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Presenter
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Please introduce yourself!

Please say hello in the chat box and share the state you are calling from and whether you are an administrator or coalition staff.
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Speakers

• Mira Yusef, Executive Director, Monsoon United Asian Women of Iowa

• Beth Barnhill, Executive Director, Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Monsoon United Asian Women of Iowa serves victims/survivors of DV & SA in Asian and Pacific Islander (API) communities in Iowa. Monsoon’s mission is to end all forms of gender-based violence and build healthy communities through transformative justice and social change.
IowaCASA has 25 member sexual assault centers serving survivors of SA throughout IA. Staff members work on several initiatives: TA to member ctrs; training & certification to all SA and shelter advocates in the state; improving responses to SA within communities of color; RSP; statewide SA prevention; training for allied professionals; & national & state public policy efforts.
Iowa’s Funding Structure

• Restructure with strategic and services planning.
• Many sources combined & allocated by formula.
• 6 multi-county services areas.
• Programs provide comprehensive SA, DV or shelter.
IowaCASA’s History of Support for Culturally-Specific Orgs

Key that DV and SA coalition co-located

Latina promotoras

Deaf Iowans Against Abuse

Bosnian Group
History of Monsoon and IowaCASA Collaboration

• 2003 Mira interned with IowaCASA noted lack of services for API survivors

• Americorps grant helped Mira start Monsoon as part of IowaCASA with Beth’s support as well as Becki Masaki then of SF Asian Women’s Shelter.

• *DesMoines Register* columnist

• 2007 STOP funding helped Monsoon become a 501c(3)

• 2008 separate office
Key Ways IowaCASA supported Monsoon

• Sharing organizational development tools and information such as bylaws.

• Helping funders and community members understand the needs & approach of culturally-specific services.

• Trainings on trauma-informed services and background on service provision.
Challenges & How the Coalition Can Help

• Racism and privilege
• Service standards
• Organizing is necessary—clients won’t come forward right away
• Working with local programs and advocates
• How to provide resources and services statewide
Successful Strategies for Launching new Orgs

• Modify service standards
• Include in networking meetings
• Be proactive about mentoring
• Share resources/templates
• Programs tour
Other Culturally-Specific Work of IowaCASA

• IowaCASA is currently supporting a new LGBT Project, Transformative Healing
• IowaCASA has supported several other culturally-specific organizations that have now become separate non-profits.
Amani

“A world free from abuse through peace, love and understanding”
Meswaki
Luna
Questions and Discussion
Thank you!
For more information on this and other SASP TA offerings contact Terri at sasp@iowacasa.org