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Abuse

Prevention

and

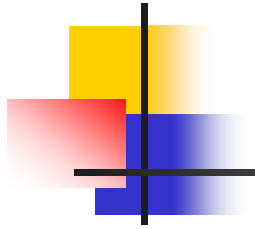
Response Protocol



# The Abuse Prevention and Response Protocol

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- Basic Contents
  - Section A: Context for Addressing Abuse
  - Section B: Focus on Prevention
  - Section C: Response and Reporting



# **Section A: Context for Addressing Abuse**



# What the Protocol is

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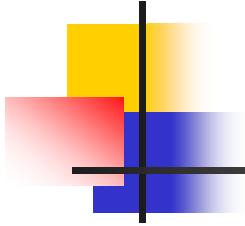
- Provincial Policy
- Purpose
  - Educate about abuse prevention
  - Respond to abuse when it occurs
  - Identify processes
  - Identify accountability measures



# Context

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- PDD Community Governance Act
- PDD Program Branch
- PDD Community Board



# **Section B:**

# **Focus on Prevention**



# Strengthening the Protocol

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- An increased focus on abuse prevention
- Proactive approach rather than reactive



# Understanding Vulnerabilities

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- Why are individuals with developmental disabilities at risk for abuse?





# Understanding Vulnerabilities

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- Power imbalances
- Negative attitudes
- Learning to be compliant
- Isolation and protection
- Lack of knowledge about relationships and sexuality



# How to Reduce Risks

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- Knowledge and Information
- Promoting Inclusion
- Strengthening Natural Supports



# Knowledge and Information

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- Individuals and staff need to be educated and informed on prevention
  - Knowledge is power
  - Boundaries, such as Ethics of Touch
  - Social and Sexual Behavior
  - How to say “no”
  - Opportunity for healthy relationships



# Inclusion

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- Meaningful Inclusion
- Shift in thinking from “client” to citizen
- Focus on strengths and abilities



# Natural Supports

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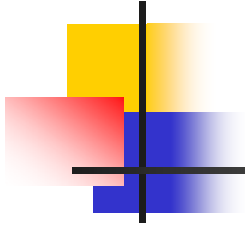
- Staff should not be the focal point in an individual's life
- Focus should be on assisting in developing natural relationships



# Expectations

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- PDD Program and Community Boards
- Service provider organizations and families/others that hire privately
- Staff who are hired to provide supports



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# Section C

# Reporting and Response



# Protocol's Definition of Abuse

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- When a staff person misuses their authority by acting in a way that causes harm or potentially causes harm to individuals receiving PDD funded supports





# Abuse

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- Abuse occurs in many ways
- People use different terms to describe abuse
- PDD identifies six categories of abuse



# Types of Abuse

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- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Emotional Abuse



## Types of Abuse Cont'd

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- Negligence
- Exploitation
- Inappropriate use of Restrictive Procedures



# Taking Action on Concerns

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- Ethical Responsibility to Take Action
- Authority Related to Allegations



# Becoming Aware of Abuse

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- Witnessing it
- Through physical evidence
- Through behavioural indicators
- Through a report from a third party, or
- Through a disclosure by the alleged victim



# Receiving a Disclosure of Abuse

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- Do not promise to keep the information you are receiving a secret
- Be prepared to listen immediately to the allegation
- Do not ask questions of the individual specific to the allegation



# Take Immediate Action

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- If you witness abuse, stop it
- Ensure the safety of the alleged victim
- Seek medical assistance if required
- Report the abuse



# Obligation to Report

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- If staff reasonably suspects or believes that an individual has been or is being abused, they are expected to immediately report the matter.





# Where to Report Allegations

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- The obligation to report under the Protocol is not fulfilled until the appropriate person(s) have been informed.
  - The Executive Director/Designate
  - Family/other who hire privately
  - PDD Community Board



## Links with PPIC Act

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- Protection for Persons in Care Act
- PDD has specific settings that fall under the Act
- Changes to the Act anticipated Fall 2009



# Reporting to PDD

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- Service provider organizations or families/others who hire privately report all allegations of abuse to PDD
- Report allegations of abuse as they occur
- Provide preliminary report to PDD within one working day
- Community Boards forward this data to the PDD Program Branch quarterly



# Reviews

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- Who does internal reviews
- Who does external reviews
- Process considerations for reviews are outlined in the Protocol



# Follow-up on Reviews

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- Follow-up with interim or final report within 30 days
- Action plan implemented by service provider or family/other who hires privately
- PDD Community Board designate will monitor implementation of action plan



# Reviews and Follow-up

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- Founded
- Unfounded
- Inconclusive
- Incomplete



# Everyone Has a Role

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- Individuals with Developmental Disabilities
- Families/Guardians
- Community members
- Support staff
- Service provider organizations
- PDD



# Abuse Prevention and Response Protocol

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- Discussion
  - Where do we go from here?