

# What Sex Offender Treatment Providers Need to Know About Victim Advocacy

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# Goals and Objectives

- Explain the role and benefits of victim advocates
- Determine opportunities where victim advocates and treatment providers can collaborate
- Formulate strategies for overcoming challenges
- Misconceptions about working with victim advocates

# Introductions

Who is here?

Parole/probation

Rape Crisis Advocates

Victim Witness Coordinators

Sex Offender Treatment Providers

Others

# **BUILDING CAPACITY TO REDUCE SEXUAL VICTIMIZATION BY PROMOTING COLLABORATION AMONG VICTIM ADVOCATES AND SEX OFFENDER MANAGEMENT PRACTITIONERS**

An OVW-supported initiative

BUILDING CAPACITY TO REDUCE SEXUAL VICTIMIZATION BY PROMOTING  
COLLABORATION AMONG VICTIM ADVOCATES AND  
SEX OFFENDER MANAGEMENT PRACTITIONERS

AN OVW-SPONSORED INITIATIVE



## Overarching Goal of the Initiative

To enhance community capacity to jointly address sexual victimization – specifically through collaboration between sexual assault victim advocates and sex offender management professionals.

# Objectives of the Initiative

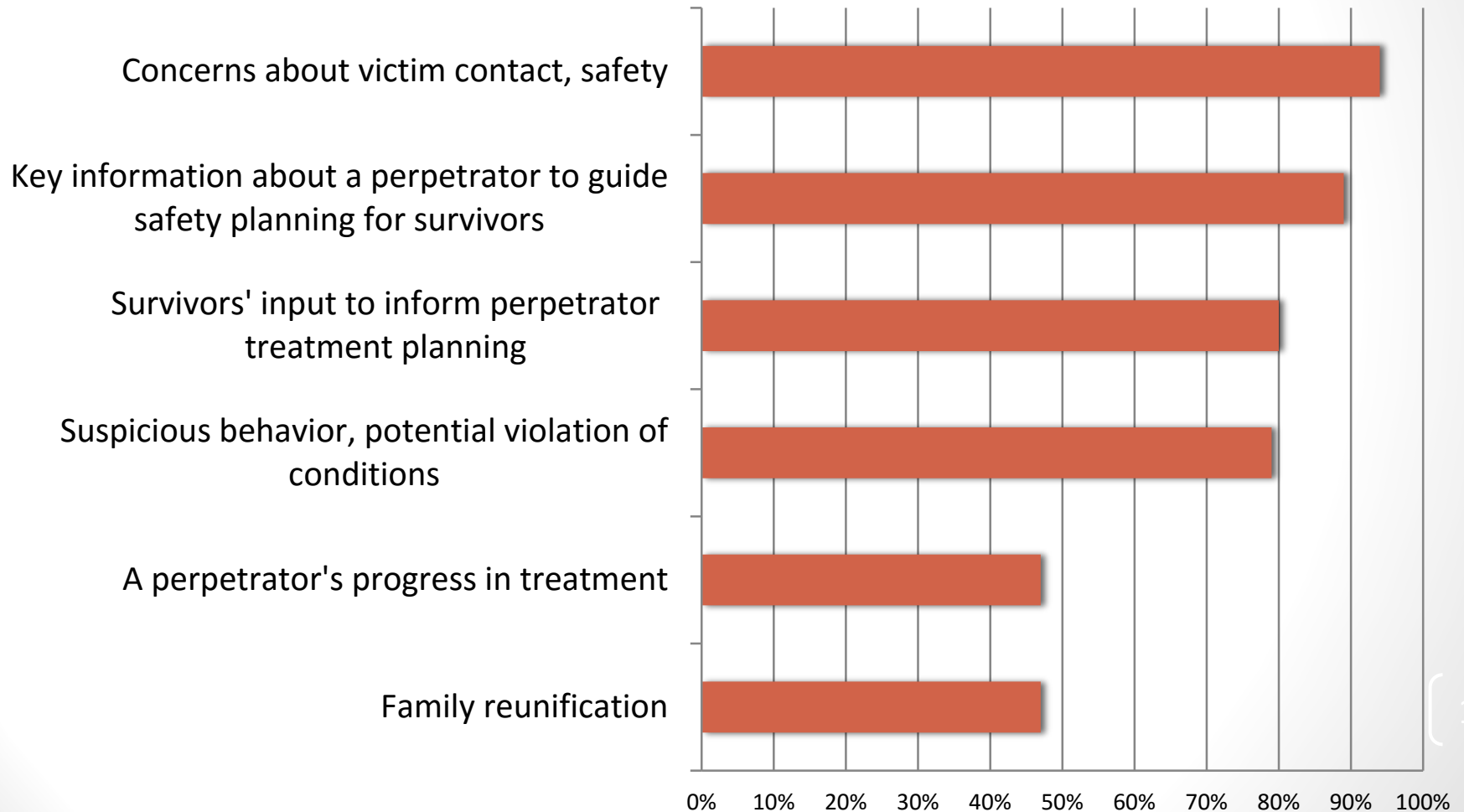
- Explore perspectives, practice trends, strengths and challenges regarding such collaboration;
- Assist recipients with facilitating cross-disciplinary dialogue and collaboration;
- Disseminate information and tools to the field; and
- Provide training and technical assistance to promote collaboration.



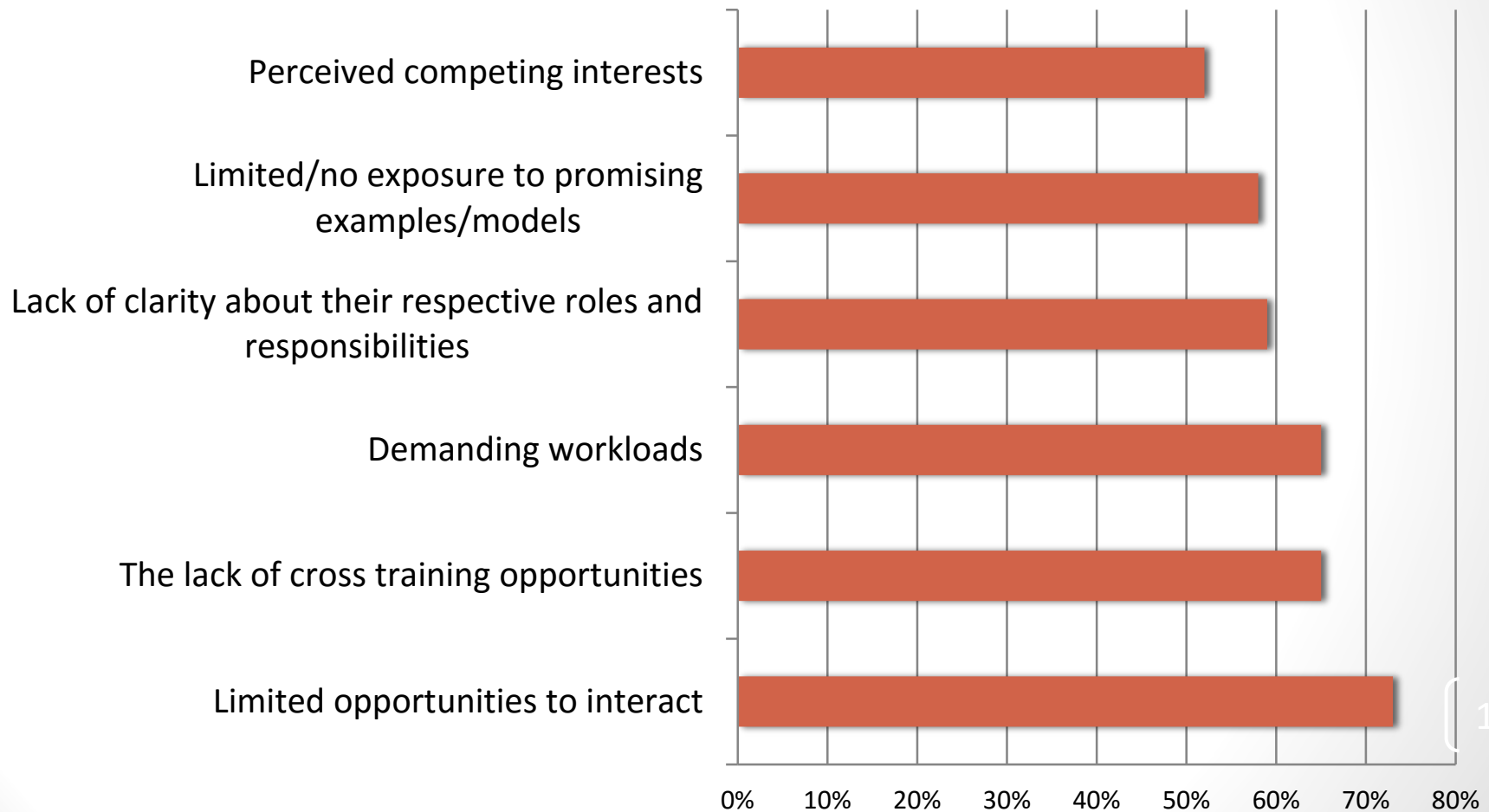
# Needs Assessment Findings: Victim Advocates

- 323 respondents
  - Community-based, system-based, and corrections/supervision agency-based advocacy representatives
  - Providers of direct services to victims, families
  - Administrators in victim advocacy organizations, offices
  - Volunteers for victim advocacy organizations

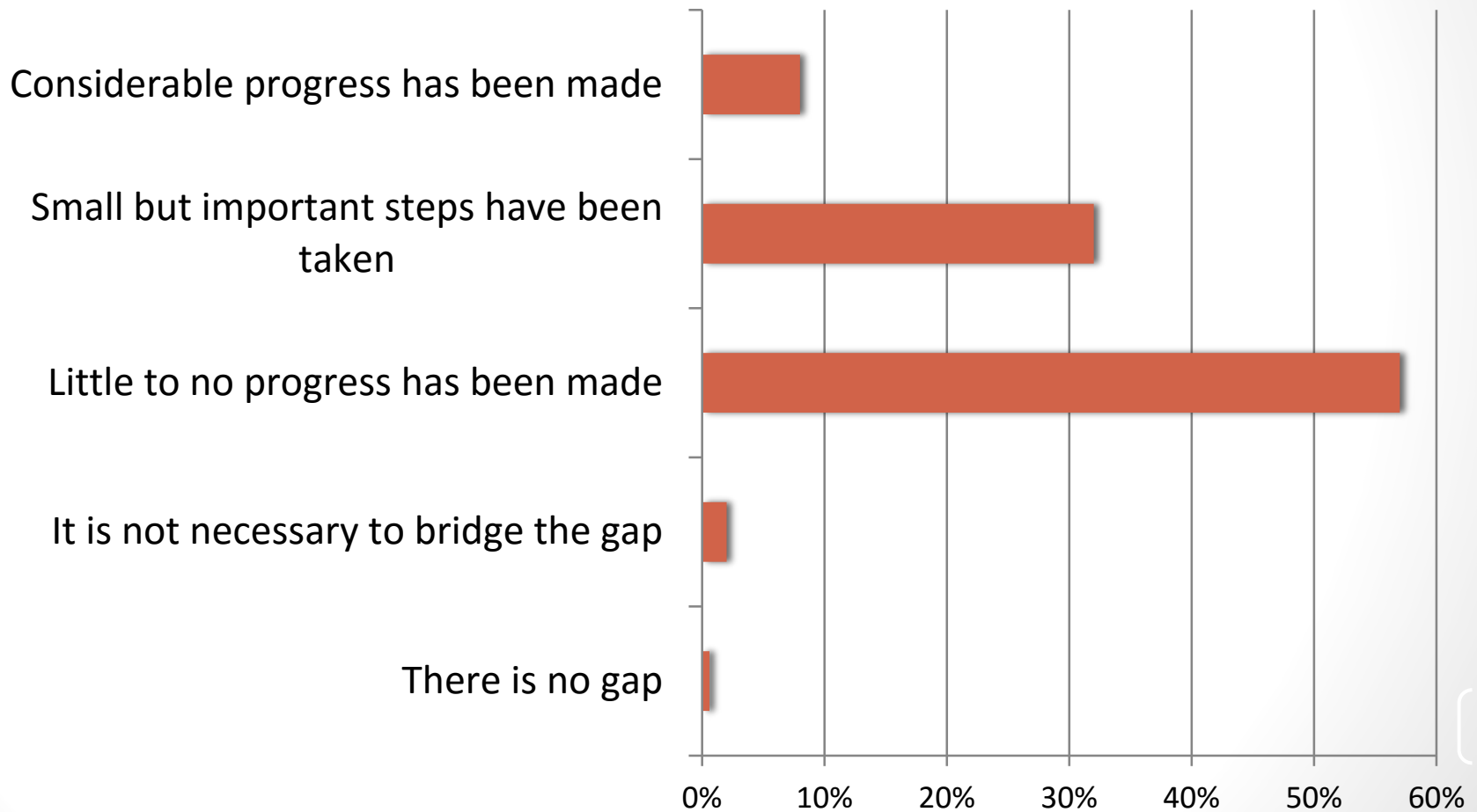
# Advocates' Perspectives: Issues about Which Victim Advocates Should Communicate with Sex Offender Treatment Providers



# Most Commonly Cited Barriers to Collaboration between Victim Advocates and Sex Offender Management Professionals



# Progress Towards Collaboration



# About Victim Advocates

# Victim Advocate

- Focus on the victim/survivor
- Victims rights (civil, criminal and other)
- Walk through the criminal justice system
- Provide necessary emotional support
- Connect to resources
- Advocate with systems on behalf of the victim/survivor

# Benefits of working together

- Magnitude
- Multiple stakeholders
- Decision making
- Provides a safety net
- Resources
- Victim centered policies
- Prevention

# Collaboration Promotes a Trauma-Informed Approach

- *Realizes* the widespread impact of trauma and understands potential paths for recovery
- *Recognizes* the signs and symptoms of trauma in clients, families, staff, and others involved with the system
- *Responds* by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, and practices
- Seeks to actively resist *re-traumatization*“



# Community Based Advocate



SASHA  
CENTER

SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES FOR  
HOLISTIC HEALING AND AWARENESS

- Provide services 24/7
- Confidential services
- Not based on criminal justice involvement

# System Based Advocate

- Generally only involved when case is in criminal justice system
- Services related to criminal justice system
- Limited confidentiality
- Limited hours

# What sexual assault victim advocates bring to the table

- Expertise in responding to all aspects of sexual violence. The needs of victim/survivors will be addressed consistently and thoroughly
- New victim/survivors who are identified during supervision, treatment, as well as family and friends of the offending person can routinely be connected with services
- Gaps in services for victim/survivors will be identified and addressed
- Case management and policy decisions

# Role of the Victim Advocate

- Help victim and family navigate system

# Role of the Victim Advocate

- Serve as liaison with other system actors
- Provide or refer to services, resources

# Role of the Victim Advocate

- Assist treatment providers with developing victim empathy/impact interventions
- Participate in case management team meetings

# Role of the Victim Advocate



- Safety planning efforts
- Promote sound family reunification policies, practices
- Assist with professional training, community education, information-sharing, and networking
- Partner to promote informed legislation, policies

# Difference in Perspective

- Believe the victim
- Empowerment
- Society resists acknowledging the pervasiveness of sexual violence

## My Father, Woody Allen, and the Danger of Questions Unasked (Guest Column)

3:00 AM PDT 5/11/2016 by Ronan Farrow



Ronan Farrow

Gilbert Carrasquillo/Getty Images

Despite Dylan Farrow's damning allegations of sexual abuse, the director of Cannes' opening film today remains beloved by stars, paid by Amazon and rarely interrogated by media as his son, Ronan Farrow, writes about the culture of acquiescence surrounding his father.

"They're *accusations*. They're not in the headlines. There's no *obligation* to mention them." These



Ultimately have Common Goals  
– END SEXUAL ABUSE

GOOD NEWS!

LIMITED  
TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE IS  
AVAILABLE!

# TTA Opportunity

- Limited on-site TTA available
- Examples of potential TTA could include:
  - Providing cross-training
  - Facilitating planning meetings to build/sustain collaborative partnerships
  - Working with teams to identify opportunities to enhance victim-centered sex offender management policies, practices

Interested? Contact Leilah Gilligan, CSOM Project Manager  
[lgilligan@cepp.com](mailto:lgilligan@cepp.com)

# How to Apply for TTA

- Develop brief (less than one page) description of:
  - Type of assistance in which you are interested
  - Support demonstrated by requesting agency's administration
  - Desired time frame for delivery of assistance
  - Proposed stakeholders that will receive assistance
- Submit to Leilah Gilligan at [lgilligan@cepp.com](mailto:lgilligan@cepp.com)

# Webinar Series

*"Introduction to Sex Offender Treatment and Supervision"*

**June 24, 2016, 1-2:30 ET**

*"Promising Examples of Collaboration Between Sexual Assault Victim Advocates and Sex Offender Management Practitioners"*

**July 22, 2016, 1-2:30 ET**

# Brief Evaluation Form

- Please complete the brief evaluation form located here to provide feedback and ideas:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MQ9SLVW>

# Contact Us

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