PRAESIDIUM
Working with Youth in a Virtual Setting
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**A SAFE ENVIRONMENT**
We believe abuse is PREVENTABLE
Preventing Sexual Abuse

- Scope of the Issues
- Setting Boundaries
- Preventing False Allegations
- Reporting Concerns
- Restarting in the Fall
Scope of the Issues
One in four girls
One in seven boys
Ten percent of school children
Forty to fifty percent of child molestations committed by juveniles
Eighty percent of abuse does not get reported
Who is Most Likely to Molest a Child?

Of all molestations that are committed:

- 60% are by someone else the child knows
- 29% are by family members
- 11% are by strangers

Are you surprised by these numbers? What did you expect?
Approximately 95% of all Americans between 12 and 17 years old are online.

1 in 5 U.S. teenagers have received an unwanted sexual solicitation via the web (only 25% of those told a parent).

Nearly 30% of the victims of internet sexual exploitation are boys.

75% of children are willing to share personal information online about themselves and their family in exchange for goods and services.
Praesidium Data Trends

Adult-to-Youth Incidents

- Private Areas: 24%
- Common Areas: 28%
- Offsite: 21%
- Social Media: 27%
How Adult-to-Youth Abuse and False Allegations Occur

- Access
- Privacy
- Control
Setting Boundaries
Warning Signs

✔️ Prefers time and friendships with youth more than adults
✔️ Gives special gifts to youth, especially without permission
✔️ Engages in too much extra contact with youth
✔️ Bends the rules for certain youth
✔️ Ignores policies about interacting with youth

✔️ Has “favorite” or preferred youth
✔️ Uses inappropriate language or jokes
✔️ Behaves as a peer with youth rather than a supervising adult
✔️ Uses social networking sites and text messages to contact youth privately or away from programming
✔️ Finds reasons to spend time alone with youth
Setting the Tone

✔ Define Appropriate Boundaries
➢ Set parameters around the communication platform
➢ Conversations should be professional vs. personal
➢ Limit one-on-one interactions

✔ Maintain Professionalism and Supervision
➢ Set supervision procedures for monitoring interactions
➢ Scheduling and standardization
➢ Dress and maintain professionalism
What Programs Need to Know Now

✔ Keep Consumers & Parents Engaged
  ➢ Encourage Parent Involvement
  ➢ Create Youth Code of Conduct/Provide Policy Update
  ➢ Limit Barriers to Reporting for Consumers

✔ Respond and Report Concerns
  ➢ Conduct check-ins with newly transitioned programs
  ➢ Follow existing reporting procedures both internally and externally
  ➢ Remind of Responsibility
Preventing False Allegations
Decreasing Adult-to-Youth Abuse and False Allegation Risks

- Use the rule of “three or more”
- Don’t show favoritism
- Follow policies about appropriate and inappropriate interactions
- Avoid, address, and respond to crushes
- No secrets with students
- Avoid gift-giving
- Avoid non-group social media and electronic communications

Ask yourself: How would this appear to an outsider?
Youth-to-Youth Abuse and Sexualized Behaviors
Youth-to-Youth Abuse

17,000 reported incidents between Fall 2011 and Spring 2015

For each incident involving an adult, seven incidents of abuse by another youth occur

Majority of incidents involve youth 10 years or older

Types of Peer-to-Peer Abuse

- Bullying
- Hazing
- Sexualized Behaviors

• Left unattended, bullying and hazing often progress from less severe behaviors to sexual behaviors
Preventing Youth-to-Youth Sexualized Behaviors and Abuse

- Staff behavior sets the tone; youth should not define what is appropriate behavior.
- There is no standard definition of “normal curiosity.”
- Monitoring and supervision is key.
- Report any inappropriate activity.
Decreasing Youth-to-Youth Risks

- Structured activities
- Maintain Supervision
- Follow guidelines for appropriate interactions
- Maintain “zero tolerance”
- Document and report policy violations
- Respond to incidents of youth-to-youth inappropriate activity
Transitioning Back to In-Person Programming
How to Respond if a Minor Discloses Abuse or Neglect

Stay Calm  Listen  Comfort  Don’t Criticize  Note the Facts  Report

Remember: It is never your responsibility to probe or investigate. Always report the allegation up to your supervisor.
Reporting Suspected Abuse to EXTERNAL Authorities

WHO  WHAT  WHEN  WHERE
Who is a Mandated Reporter

California law as of January 1, 2013

An employee or administrator/official at UC Irvine whose duties bring them into contact with children on a regular basis, or who supervises those whose duties bring them into contact with children on a regular basis.

*If you are a student, you may not be a Mandated Reporter and should direct questions to your supervisor.*
Campus & Praesidium Support
UCI RISK SERVICES - RESOURCES

• ADA COMPLIANCE –
  • http://accessibility.uci.edu/

• IT SECURITY –
  • https://techprep.oit.uci.edu/zoom/accessible-zoom-meetings/

• UC WAIVERS

• UCLC online classes – Search ‘CANRA’
Solutions to Support Your Campus

- Existing online course: *Safe Social Media*
- General Consultation for Youth Programs
- Updated [Resources](#) in Response to COVID-19

- [Tip of the Month](#)
- [2020 Praesidium Report](#)
KEEP IN TOUCH

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