Ending Silence: Youth Speaking Up about Sexual Abuse in Custody - Charlie’s Report

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END SILENCE
YOUTH SPEAKING UP ABOUT SEXUAL ABUSE IN CUSTODY

CHARLIE'S REPORT

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END SILENCE: Youth Speaking Up About Sexual Abuse in Custody
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RESOURCES FOR YOUTH

Space intended for agencies to add resources reflective of their specific location and type of agency

Examples include:
- Your 1-800 reporting hotline (if you have one)
- Information and procedure for reporting abuse
- Address and phone number of grievance officer or outside reporting mechanism such as an ombudsman
- Phone number and address for a rape crisis center in the area
- Medical health information
- Guidance on telling parents

FOREWORD

Since 1999, The Project on Addressing Prison Rape (Project) at American University, Washington College of Law has provided training to key correctional decision makers, agencies, associations, and individuals looking to improve their practices on addressing sexual abuse of individuals in custodial settings. In 2009, the Project began to do intensive work within a number of state departments of juvenile justice and to work on of Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Intersex and Questioning (LGBTIQ) youth in custody.

The END SILENCE series is the product of that work and work by many organizations and individuals concerned about preventing and addressing sexual abuse of youth in custody. We would like to thank them for their insightful and honest commentary about the situations that youth face and how sexual abuse affects them.

The series includes four other graphic novels targeted to: (1) boys ages 10-14; (2) boys ages 14-18; (3) girls ages 10-14; and (4) LGBT youth.

END SILENCE is a first step in reaching out to youth in juvenile justice settings in order to help them identify, address, and respond to incidents of sexual abuse by staff or other youth. We hope the publication will deepen the dialogue about strategies to eliminate sexual abuse of youth in custody.
INTRODUCTION

*Charlie’s Report* is a graphic novel for male youth, aged 10-14, that focuses on an incident of inappropriate touching between a male youth and a female staff member in a group home.

At the end of the graphic novel you will find: blank slides for youth to fill in an appropriate continuation for the story; a glossary of terms; discussion questions; resources for youth; and note pages. While we understand different states house youth in different settings or classifications, this publication is meant to address sexual abuse of youth in custody nationwide. To that end, we have generalized some content and details of this novel.

This graphic novel is intended to be "stand alone" material to orient and educate youth about the issue of sexual abuse in custodial settings: we hope it provokes discussions with and between youth.

Please contact us with comments about these novels, the usefulness of graphic novels as a tool for training youth, and suggestions for other needed resources.

The Project on Addressing Prison Rape can be reached at: 202-274-4385 or endsilence@wcl.american.edu

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
(Feel free to ask other additional questions)

- Do you think Charlie made a good choice telling Mr. Johnson what was going on during his kitchen duties?

- Would you have told anyone? Who?

- Who else could Charlie have told about what happened?

- Did you think the adults would believe Charlie or Ms. Gregory? Why?

- Why do you think Ms. Gregory got in trouble for letting boys live with here after they left the group home?
GLOSSARY CONTINUED

Sexual Acts:
Carnal knowledge, oral sex, anal sex, rape, sexual assault with an object, sexual fondling

Sexual Assault with an Object:
The use of any hand, finger, object, or other instrument to penetrate, however slightly, the genital or anal opening of the body of another person.

Sexual Fondling:
The touching of the private body parts of another person, including the penis, vagina, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks, for the purpose of sexual gratification.

Sodomy:
Anal sex with a member of the same or opposite sex.

Staff Sexual Harassment:
Repeated verbal statements or comments of a sexual nature to a person in custody by an employee, volunteer, official visitor, or agency representative, including: demeaning references to gender or derogatory comments about body or clothing; or profane or obscene language or gestures.

Staff Sexual Misconduct:
Any behavior or act of a sexual nature directed toward a person in custody by an employee, volunteer, official visitor, or agency representative.
CHARLIE, YOUR PRESENCE IN MY COURTROOM IS BECOMING FREQUENT. IS THERE A REASON YOU SEEM TO BE GETTING INTO SO MUCH TROUBLE?

NO SIR.

WELL CHARLIE, YOU HAVE BEEN HERE TOO OFTEN FOR ME TO LET YOU OFF WITHOUT MORE THAN A WARNING THIS TIME.

YOU ARE NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL, YOU ARE GETTING INTO TROUBLE AFTER SCHOOL WITH YOUR PEERS AND YOU ARE GENERALLY UNRULY IN THE COMMUNITY. YOU ARE WHAT I CALL A GOOD KID WITH BAD TENDENCIES.

I THINK SOME TIME AWAY FROM YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS MAY DO YOU SOME GOOD. I AM PLACING YOU IN A GROUP HOME FOR SIX MONTHS. WE WILL SEE YOU BACK HERE AT THE END OF THAT TIME TO DETERMINE IF YOU CAN GO HOME.

BUT... I WANT TO STAY WITH MY FAMILY.

THEN PROVE TO ME YOU CAN DO THAT WITHOUT GETTING INTO TROUBLE. WHILE AT THE GROUP HOME GO TO SCHOOL, DO YOUR CHORES AND NO FIGHTING. WE WILL SEE YOU BACK HERE IN A FEW MONTHS, HOPEFULLY WITH A GOOD REPORT. I DO NOT WANT TO SEE YOU BEFORE THEN.

MR. LINCOLN WILL BE ASSIGNED TO YOUR CASE AND WILL CHECK IN WITH YOU PERIODICALLY WHILE YOU ARE AT THE GROUP HOME.

GLOSSARY

Abusive Sexual Contact:
Contact with any person without his or her consent; contact with a person who is unable to consent or refuse; and intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing, of the penis, vagina, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks of any person

Custody:
When a person is under the power and control of an entity – the police, the juvenile justice system, the prison system, or person – and is not free to leave

Carnal Knowledge:
Contact between the penis and the vagina or the penis and the anus including penetration of any sort

Non-Consensual Sexual Acts:
Contact with any person without his or her consent, or with a person who is unable to consent or refuse; contact between the penis and the vagina or the penis and the anus including penetration, however slight; contact between the mouth and the penis, vagina, or anus; or penetration of the anal or genital opening of another person by a hand, finger, or other object

Oral Sex:
Contact between the mouth and the penis, the mouth and the vagina or the mouth and the anus.

Rape:
Includes all of the following actions: oral sodomy, sexual assault with an object, or sexual fondling of a person forcibly or against that person’s will; forcibly or against that person’s will where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of youth, temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity; achieved through exploitation of the fear or threat of physical violence or bodily injury
FINISH THE STORY...

GOOD AFTERNOON MR. LINCOLN, GOOD TO SPEAK WITH YOU. ACCORDING TO CHARLIE’S PAPERWORK, HE WILL STAY WITH US FOR SIX MONTHS.

CORRECT, I WILL VISIT CHARLIE ONCE A MONTH TO CHECK ON HIM AND TO SEE HOW HE IS DOING.

THAT’S FINE, MY STAFF AND I WILL ALSO MEET WITH CHARLIE REGULARLY AND SEND YOU PROGRESS REPORTS WEEKLY.

THANK YOU, MRS. WILLIAMS AND YOU HAVE ALL MY CONTACT INFORMATION IF YOU NEED TO REACH ME.

YES, ALL THE CONTACT INFORMATION IS IN FILE, I WILL SEE YOU BOTH THIS AFTERNOON.
GOOD AFTERNOON MR. LINCOLN.
GOOD AFTERNOON MRS. WILLIAMS, THIS IS CHARLIE.
HELLO CHARLIE, WELCOME TO OUR HOUSE.

MS. GREGORY, THANK YOU FOR MEETING WITH ME THIS AFTERNOON. AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE BEEN LOOKING INTO SOME ALLEGATIONS AGAINST YOU OVER THE PAST WEEK. I AM SORRY TO SAY THAT WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO LET YOU GO.

TOUCHING THE BOYS WHO RESIDE WITH US AND ALLOWING CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN THROUGH OUR PROGRAM TO LIVE WITH YOU IS AGAINST OUR POLICY AND WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

HI MRS. WILLIAMS.
CHARLIE, THIS IS YOUR COUNSELOR, MR. JOHNSON. MR. JOHNSON IS GOING TO GIVE YOU A TOUR OF OUR HOME, SHOW YOU WHERE YOUR ROOM IS AND INTRODUCE YOU TO YOUR ROOMMATE, MARCUS.

LATER...
Packing up?
Hey Marcus.

Okay.
Hey Charlie, how are you doing?
I'm okay, I guess.

Yep. It's my last day. I'm going home!
WELL, MS. GREGORY, IT IS OUR OBLIGATION TO LOOK INTO THIS MATTER.

YOU WILL BE ON PAID LEAVE UNTIL WE DETERMINE WHAT HAPPENED HERE. MR. JOHNSON WILL ESCORT YOU OUT.

LATERO...

AS YOU CAN SEE, WE HAVE QUITE A FEW BOYS YOUR AGE STAYING WITH US. I KNOW YOU MUST FEEL A LITTLE NERVOUS SO WHY DON'T WE SIT DOWN AND TALK ABOUT OUR EXPECTATIONS AND RULES AND I CAN ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU HAVE.

LET'S GO OVER THE HOUSE RULES FIRST. IN THE PACKET YOU WILL RECEIVE THERE IS A LIST OF THE RULES THAT EVERY RESIDENT MUST FOLLOW. THEY ARE ALSO LISTED ON THE WALL IN THE DINING AREA AND IN THE COMMON ROOM.

WE ALL HAVE TO FOLLOW RULES, IF YOU BREAK A RULE HERE, THERE ARE CONSEQUENCES.

LIKE WHAT?
GENERALLY, PRIVILEGES WILL BE TAKEN AWAY, TV TIME, NO X-BO... THINGS LIKE THAT. YOU WILL ALSO HAVE HOUSE CHORES TO DO EVERY DAY AS WELL AS PROPER HYGIENS REQUIREMENTS. SO, STARTING TODAY, YOU WILL HAVE KITCHEN DUTY.

YOU WILL ALSO ATTEND SCHOOL AND DO YOUR HOMEWORK AND ATTEND COUNSELING SESSIONS WHILE YOU ARE HERE.

WELL THE ALTERNATIVE IS MUCH WORSE, SO LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE OUR TIME HERE POSITIVE.

Uh, okay. No one told me all of that.

THE NEXT DAY...

Good morning Charlie, I am Miss Ames, I am on duty during the day.

Mr. Johnson told me you would have kitchen duty. I want to introduce you to the cook, Ms. Gregory.

So you are the new boy assigned to kitchen duty?

Yeah, I guess so.

You guess so? Listen Charlie, I don't play - I am strict about my kitchen, you will be here on time, dressed and ready to work.

Okay.

Good, I will see you later this evening for your duty shift.

Charlie, I am not happy that Ms. Gregory made you uncomfortable and I am not happy to hear boys are living with her when they leave our house, but I did not say I did not believe you. I need to talk with Ms. Gregory about this allegation.

Well, I am not sure Charlie, we will have to talk to Mr. Lincoln. We may need to find a more suitable placement for you.

For now, you will be off kitchen duty while we talk to Ms. Gregory as well as the other staff and boys about what happened here.

Later...

Ms. Gregory, we have had some rather unnerving allegations against you today. We have a resident reporting some inappropriate touching, but more problematic is that some boys are living with you when they leave here, is that true?

No!
Charlie, now that you have told me, I have an obligation to tell Mrs. Williams. If you don’t want to come with me it’s okay, but I would like her to hear from you. I cannot make promises to you about what will happen, but it has to be reported.

Later...

Ms. Williams, Charlie and I have something we would like to talk to you about. Go ahead, Charlie you start.

Later that day...

Well good that you are here on time. Sign in when you arrive and sign out when you are done, you can start by setting the table.

Hello Ms. Gregory.

Now you can help me carry the food out.

Okay Charlie, now that dinner is through help me clear the table and let’s clean the kitchen spotless.

You did a good job today Charlie.

Err... thanks.

Charlie, I am not happy about this.

See, I told you she wouldn’t believe me.
A FEW MONTHS LATER...

MR. JOHNSON. CAN I TALK TO YOU PLEASE?

SURE CHARLIE, COME ON IN.

CHARLIE, I'M SORRY. I DID NOT MEAN THAT WHAT YOU TELL ME WILL MEAN YOU CANNOT GO HOME. GO AHEAD, TELL ME WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN THE KITCHEN.

WELL... SOMETIMES MS. GREGORY HUGS ME TO SAY 'THANK YOU'.

IT JUST MAKES ME UNCOMFORTABLE. IT'S BEEN GOING ON FOR A WHILE AND I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

MR. JOHNSON, I WAS HOPING I COULD GET CHANGED FROM KITCHEN DUTY.

WHY CHARLIE? MS. GREGORY HAS SPOKEN VERY HIGHLY OF YOU AND SHE GIVES ME GOOD REPORTS ABOUT YOUR WORK. IS EVERYTHING ALRIGHT?

MY ROOMMATE, MARCUS, SAID I HAD TO WATCH OUT FOR HER BECAUSE SOMETIMES WHEN THE BOYS LEAVE HERE THEY GO LIVE WITH HER, NOT BACK TO THEIR FAMILY, AND I REALLY WANT TO GO BACK TO MY FAMILY.

UMMM, YEAH, I GUESS SO, BUT WELL, MS. GREGORY, SHE MAKES ME UNCOMFORTABLE SOMETIMES.

I SEE, WHY DID YOU COME TO ME NOW?

IT'S GOTTEN WORSE, FOR THE PAST FEW WEEKS IT'S MORE THAN HUGGING. NOW SHE HITS MY BUTT AND RUBS MY PRIVATE S.

CHARLIE WHAT'S GOING ON? YOU HAVE BEEN DOING REALLY WELL HERE AND ARE ON SCHEDULE TO GO HOME EARLY. I DO NOT WANT ANYTHING TO CHANGE THAT.

OH, UMMM NEVERMIND, ITS FINE.

CHARLIE, WE NEED TO TALK TO MRS. WILLIAMS ABOUT WHAT YOU TOLD ME, BUT WE CAN GO TOGETHER OKAY?

WHAT IF SHE DOES NOT BELIEVE ME? MS. GREGORY SAID YOU WOULD NOT BELIEVE ME IF I TOLD ON HER.