#### **Presenter Disclosures**

**Judy A Didion** 



The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months:

No relationships to disclose

# **Goals For Gals**



Judy Didion PhD, RN

## **Objectives**

• Describe the process of devising and implementing effective methods that will engage high risk female teens in discussion about personal risk reduction and prevention of STI's, HIV, unintended pregnancy and dating violence.

### **Objectives**

 Identify ways to develop collaboration between public health departments and the juvenile court system for the purpose of promoting sexual health and resiliency among adolescent females on probation.

### **Objectives**

 Discuss program outcomes related to the improvement of sexual health and decision making for adolescent females who are on probation

## Goals for Gals

A female adolescent sexual health promotion program in partnership with the public health department and the juvenile justice system in a rural community in Wood County, Ohio.

#### Purpose

• To provide a supportive sexual health education program for vulnerable adolescent females on probation.

• To promote Youth Asset Development.

#### Purpose

- Ultimately, to decrease the risk of teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections and
- To increase healthy relationships.

#### How?

 The program was built on the philosophy that building resources in a teens life will reduce their risks and ultimately decrease unhealthy behaviors. How? Using a behavior change framework

- Increase knowledge
- Significance to self
- Cost vs. Benefits
- Capacity Building
- Provisional Goal Setting

# **Capacity Building**

- Decision making skills
- Conflict management
- Communication skills
- Relationship building

# Goals for Gals



- Program Design
  - Adolescent Development
  - Multifaceted Approach to teen pregnancy and sexual health promotion
  - Youth Engagement and Empowerment

### Goals for Gals

- A summer program for female teens who are on probation.
- Ages 13-17 (Junior and Senior High School)
- Rural County in the Midwest
- Started in June, 2003
- The program served youth referred by Wood County Jobs and Family Services who live in foster care and youth referred by Wood County Juvenile Courts who are on probation.

#### Collaboration

• The program was a by-product of a county level interdisciplinary task force called PALS (Positive Adolescent Lifestyles) which was developed for the purpose of preventing teen pregnancy.

# Reaching the most Vulnerable

- Identified the most vulnerable groups in the community
  - Teenagers who are in the criminal justice system

# Planning Process

- Membership of PALS included a representative of the Juvenile Court System.
- Willingness by the probation officer in charge to approach the Juvenile Court Judge for support and collaboration.
- Recruitment of the probation officers as referral sources for teens.

## **Process of Planning**

- Probation officers invited the teens to attend the program as a means to fulfill their probation.
- Parents and guardians were requested to provide permission and transportation.
- Health Department provided funding for incentives to persuade teen involvement.

#### Goals

#### What do you want to be and how do you get there?

Where have you been.

# Program Strategies to Engage Youth

- Scrap booking
- Conversations over food
- Open Discussions and sharing
- Minimal lecturing
- Humor
- Guests like them
- Reflections on strengths
- Simulations



#### Scrap Booking

Reflection and Goal Setting Strategy Allows a peek into their world Brings value to their lives Takes the edge off during sensitive discussion

# Sensitive Discussion Part 1

- The Basics of Sexual Health
  - Puberty
  - Sexually Transmitted Infections
  - HIV
  - Pregnancy risks and prevention

# Risk



# Reality

- Discussions with someone with HIV who they can identify with in their own life.
  - Infected at 16
  - Involved in the Juvenile Justice system

# Reactions along the

Disbelief and denial ....
....HIV Testing

## The Basics of Parent

Parenting Roles
Babies, babies and babies



# Girl to Girl Talk

Medicines To Help You

#### Birth Control Guide



This guide gives the basic facts about the different kinds of FDA-approved medicines and devices for birth control. Ask your doctor to tell you about all of the risks and benefits of using these products.







*Infant Simulation The Realities of Parenting* 



**Excitement and Energy** Planning for Parenting Emotional, Social and Financial



#### After the project debriefing?

*Sleep deprivation, annoyance to family, support patterns, how did I do?* 

# What are their Goals



#### Relationships Part 2

- Relationships between girls and boys
- Friendship and Dating
- Respect and self esteem.
- When a relationship goes sour: Early Signs of abuse.
- How to get out of an abusive relationship.

# **Dating Violence**

- What can I expect in a relationship?
- What should I expect?





Officer from the Domestic Violence Program Talks with the Girls about the Cycle of Violence

# Reality

#### A mother's story



# Alicia's Story



Alicia Castillon 3/3/1977 - 3/29/2007



1424 Tumberry Court Bowling Green, Ohio 43402 Ph. 419,354,4314 www.aliciasvoice.org

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Domestic Violence Awareness & Prevention



#### Outcome

- Discussion of personal family violence
- Self disclosure of current relationships
- A sense of Hope
- A sign of caring

#### What have we Learne

- There was very little understanding about their human physiology in relation to reproduction and sexual health.
- There was less and less understanding about HIV/AIDS



#### What have we learne

- Majority have witnessed violence in their home.
- Majority are already sexually active
- Majority hope to be a mom by 21



#### What have we Learne

 Many have experienced early signs of emotional and physical abuse by their boyfriends.

 Many assumed that this was how it had to be.

#### What have we Learne

- They all have goals.
- Their reality is not always ours.
- Their relationships with adults are tenuous.



#### Children of Promise?



#### Stumbling along the Way



#### Constructing their Lives



# *How can We Write on their Pages?*