

Handout for Session by Jane McCall
Friday, November 16, 2012
1:45 pm to 3:15 pm
Room - Aster

Guidelines for Working with Survivors of Trauma

1. Provide assurance that any abuse was not the survivors fault.
2. Validate the experience of sexual abuse (“I believe you”) and reassure the survivor that she is not alone (“This has happened to others”).
3. Offer the survivor support and the ability to be in control of her body during any medical examinations, especially during genital exams, rectal exams and other invasive procedures.
4. Assess if the survivor is in a safe living situation at the present time.
5. Assess if there are any children living with the survivor who are currently at risk for sexual abuse.
6. Incorporate knowledge of the survivor’s history into current and future interactions, including any teaching about risk reduction.
7. Make appropriate referrals for counselling, crisis intervention, safe housing and other services.