

History of Victim Rights Discipline

The Concept of Law

- The Code of Hammurabi
 - King of Babylon approximately 2000 B.C.
 - Commercial center of the known world
 - Needed certainty of behavior for trade
 - Consisted of five sections
 - A penal code
 - A manual of instruction for judges, police, witnesses
 - Handbook of rights and duties of husbands, wives, children
 - Regulations establishing wages and prices
 - Code of ethics for merchants, doctors, officials

Citizen obligations and objectives

- An assertion of the power of the state
- Protection of the weaker from the stronger
- Restoration of equity between the offender and the victim

National Crime Victim Services Curriculum

Another Perspective

- Woman was equally liable for acts of rape
- Victim and the perpetrator were subject to death
- Only husbands could commute a death sentence for the wife

A Walk through History of Law

- The Bible
 - Old Testament
 - Deuteronomy
- Early Roman Law – Justinian Code
 - Public laws – organization and administration of the Republic
 - Private laws – contracts, property rights, legal status of slaves, husbands and wives, injuries to citizens

- Legal system in England
 - Gradual abandonment of Code of Hammurabi
 - Depended on local customs and rules
 - Crime as personal wrong, private disputes – blood feuds
- Norman Conquest 1066 A.D.
 - Royal administrators to administer justice

- Common Law
 - Unwritten legal precedents created by court decisions
 - Cases heard and decided by judges
 - King Edward the Confessor – Common Law is law
 - Court decisions recorded and created written law
- Magna Carta – June 15, 1215
 - Basic liberties to all British citizens
 - Foundation of American law, government

United States Law

- What did we see created from 1787 to mid 1950's and what does it tell us about the perspective that resulted in those laws?
- Population based congressional positions
- Jim Crow
- Amendment 14

Four movements strategically opened the way for the victims' rights discipline:

- Civil Rights Movement (1963-72).
- Anti-war Movement (1967-72).
- Women's Movement (1970-Present).
- "Law and Order" Movement (1968-Present).

Americana

- “Ideal” Leave it to Beaver households
- Post WW II
- Education makes a difference
- American dream viable
- President Kennedy elected with strong black vote
- Community and childhoods

Civil Rights Movement (1963-72)

- Segregation a reality
- Difference in north and south
- Community organizing
- Emergence of young, black leaders – particularly from churches
- Strategy of alliance with Kennedy Whitehouse
- James Farmer and Ghandi
- Freedom Rides – 15 years after Brown v Board of Education
- Strategy of nonviolent civil disobedience

Important Decisions Made

- Non-violent strategy
- Move further south to heart of segregation and racism
- Use of Rev. King oratory skills
- Shift from political alliance to action
- Leadership and conscience of Robert Kennedy and his ability to influence President
- March on Washington
- Understanding of and use of TV

Anti-war Movement (1967-72)

- Camelot
- Race to outer space
- Youth and vitality
- Race issues
- Assassination of President Kennedy
- Escalation of war in Viet Nam
- College campus involvement
- Draft

Decisions Made

- We saw the war in our living rooms every day
- Back fire of draft
- Use of folk music social commentary
- Beginning of distrust of government
- Beginning of power of baby boomers
- Building of affluence
- Moving to more violent demonstration

Women's Movement (1970-Present)

- Traditional gender roles
- Trying to stay in the "idealistic" 1950s
- Economic discrepancies based on gender
- Sexism in government bureaucracy and institutions
- Tired of violence as experience of women
- Educated, white women as leaders
- Became political issue

Decisions/Strategies

- Building political base of power
- Attack on institutions and governmental bureaucracy as accomplice
- HUGE MISS: women other than white, middle class
- HUGE MISS: link between oppressions of racism, sexism
- HUGE MISS: reluctance to embrace GBLTQ

1973-1976

1977-1981

Law and Order Movement

- Probably partially response to other movements
- Common citizens could manage his/her own protection
- Justice should be accomplished without expanding governmental assistance and monetary support
- Criminals punished more
- Potential victims should be more careful
- Victims should be self-sufficient

Decisions/Strategies

- Willingness of some to work towards some level of alliance to eventually work on better balance between criminals rights, offender accountability and victim needs

1982-1986

1987-1991

1992 - Present

What about Washington?

- 1972 national scene:
 - Aid for Victims of Crime, St. Louis, Missouri
 - Bay Area Women Against Rape, San Francisco, CA
 - Rape Crisis Center, Washington, D.C.
- First SA in Washington?
- First DV in Washington?
- First Crime Victims in Washington?

Coalitions

- Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs – when?
- Washington State Shelter Network – when?
- Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence – when?
- Washington Coalition of Crime Victim Advocates – when?
- Who were all the “who”s?

Strategies/Decisions

- Separate coalitions (SA, DV)
- State funding first thing
- Marital rape in next Session
- DV Shelter model
- Alliances/partnerships
- HUGE MISS: victims of crime was much later in developing statewide
- HUGE OPPORTUNITY: do better in marginalized communities

What's Your History?

- How, when, who started your agency in your community?

What will history say about us?

- What are the tools we can use better?
- Where are the partnerships that should be stronger?
- What are the next big gains?
- What is the next frontier in victim services?
- Will we ever get to prevention and social change?

The future of the advocacy movement rests with you.
