

## **November SADI Corner**

## Shared Language Work Group

The ability to communicate to others and express ourselves is a basic human need. As we develop our understanding of the world, based on our upbringing, education and so on, our perspective and the way we communicate can differ from those around us. Engaging and interacting with others is a critical part of healthy living. It is the responsibility of the individual to ensure that they are understood in the way they intended.

Language provides a medium for communication, sharing of ideas, and effective problem solving amongst groups of peers. Working together to develop and understand common language, terms, and concepts in this field ensures that team members have a familiar understanding of the sometimes complex world of sexual assault advocacy.

With this in mind, we are developing a Shared Language Work group, geared towards more effective communication. In this group, we will be able to discuss language used in and around advocacy by state coalitions and local programs, to help foster better teamwork and more rational communication and decision making.

The shared language work group will meet once a month and discuss the language frequently used, merge the academic with the lived experience in the language, and share ideas on best practices and implementation. There will be group discussions, project activities, and guest speakers. <u>The group will meet every 4th Thursday, from 2:30pm- 3:30pm, beginning February 25th</u>. If interested, please contact Erica Blackwood, at erica@nccasa.org.