

"Moral authority comes from following universal and timeless principles like honesty, integrity, and treating people with respect."

- Stephen Covey

Vision, Promise, And Guiding Principles

A forerunner in the field of victim services and Founding Director of Praxis International, Ellen Pence was quoted as saying: "Activists and advocates need to be continually reflective about how institutions, such as the criminal justice system, reproduce relations of domination in society, whether gendered, racialized, or classes. And the workings of power are often far more visible to women on the margins of society, or those situated in the intersections of different relations of inequality, than to those nearer the center." For those reasons, the Advisors tasked with completing the Vision for Victim Safety project, have made a concerted effort to honor the "women on the margins of society. . . those situated in the intersections of different relations of inequality" when crafting the vision, promise, guiding principles, and recommendations which follow.

VISION, PROMISE, AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

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VISION

The Oklahoma Victim Service System's vision, our desired end-state, is denoted as the following one-sentence statement describing a clear, inspirational, long-term desired change resulting from the work of the many professionals within the geographic boundaries of the state. [Adapted and retrieved on 19 Nov 2017 from <https://topnonprofits.com/examples/vision-statements/>]

We envision an Oklahoma free from violence, where safety, security, and stability are realized for all.

PROMISE

A brand promise is an extension of an organization's positioning. We can think of positioning as the fertile ground which allows a brand to germinate, grow, and thrive. The brand promise is a brand's fruit—it's the tangible benefit that makes a product or service desirable, our "orange grove." [Adapted and retrieved on 19 Nov 2017 from <https://hingemarketing.com/blog/story/elements-of-a-successful-brand-4-brand-promise1>]

The Oklahoma Victim Service System promises to provide safety, security, and stability for those it serves by integrating innovative practices among collaborative partners to:

- Work together to interrupt the cycle of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, child abuse, and elder abuse;
- Provide long-term support for victims and their children to heal from trauma;
- Hold offenders accountable;
- Act as a catalyst to create a state and culture free from violence; and
- Empower survivors to thrive.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Guiding principles represent a broad philosophy which guides a system in all circumstances, irrespective of changes in goals, strategies, type of work, or the top leadership filter for decisions at all levels of the system. The Oklahoma Victim Service System recognizes the following guiding principles:

Solution-Focused	Acknowledging the complexities of trauma and healing, we know that we can develop creative solutions and accomplish more for survivors when we work together as a united team
Victim-Centered	To provide victim-centered services which promote victim autonomy and empowerment
Safety-Focused	To increase safety, promote healing, and foster empowerment through services for victims and their children
Culturally-Responsive	Commitment to the utilization of culturally relevant service approaches with respect for diversity and promotion of inclusion
Survivor Driven	Shape services to the needs of clients and support their right to choose their life's direction
Embrace Change	Evaluate and adjust services by including survivors input and evidence-based best practices

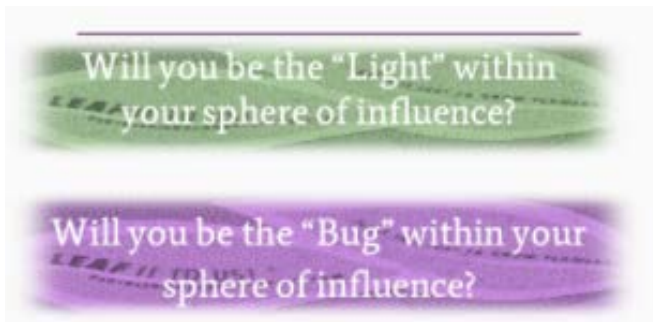
Relationship-Based	Maintain close working relationships among all collaborators/agencies
Prevention-Oriented	Integrate primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention approaches into all initiatives, programs, and projects
Kind-Hearted	Develop a victim services community that values, affirms, recognizes, and supports all partners, volunteers, and clients
Empowered	Offer survivors, and their children, a place to belong even after crisis intervention services are no longer necessary
Offender Accountability	Increase offender accountability through evidence-based prosecution strategies
Trauma-Oriented	Acknowledge the profound impact of trauma, which shapes all aspects of service
Holistic	Utilize a multifaceted treatment approach that meets the needs of the whole person

From the inception of the Threshold of Transformation project, the advisors have strived to remember, each member of the Oklahoma Victim Service System can only be themselves, each member is integral to a successful system, and each member has a sphere of influence through which change can occur.

To continue with our fruit analogy: bananas do not ripen into oranges, law enforcement officers do not ripen into therapists, nor should they. To address the complex issues surrounding interpersonal violence, we need a "fruit salad" to have a rich, satisfying response. When we embrace our uniqueness, and realize what we bring to the table, we are less likely to blame the "bananas" for not being "oranges." We are also better able to articulate how we and our spheres of influence can move the Oklahoma Victim Service System closer to the vision of safety, security, and stability for all.

As the reader reviews the vision, promise, and guiding principles and moves forward to the recommendations for creation of the Vision for Victim Safety Strategic Planning and Implementation, the advisors request you contemplate:

INTENTION



SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL MODEL



- How will you present yourself within your Interpersonal Relationships?
- How will you incorporate your Interpersonal Relationships within your Organization?
- How will your Organization incorporate itself within Community/Local Efforts?
- How will these Community/Local Efforts be incorporated within the Comprehensive Statewide Plan?
- How will the Comprehensive Statewide Plan lead to Safety, Security, and Stability to all residents of Oklahoma?

PLANTING

- What Personal Thoughts Impact Your Organization?
- What Personal Speech Impacts Your Organization?
 - Do I encourage co-workers and community partners?
 - Do I disparage co-workers and community partners?
 - Do I share my opinions of co-workers and community partners with the victims I serve?

What seeds of "wholesomeness" will you plant?
 How will you nourish the "wholesomeness" within you and within your organization?
 How will you transform the "unwholesome" within you and within your organization?

As members of the Oklahoma Victim Service System formulate and implement the strategic plan, these are some of the questions which will be asked, and hopefully answered. As the reader and the reader's colleagues review the following recommendations, you are invited to ask these questions of yourselves and of your organizations.

NOURISH

- How do we maintain and “water” the wholesome seeds (effective services) within our organizations?
- What components of the current system will be nurtured, expanded, and modeled?
- When was the last time you expressed gratitude for those who have come before and planted seeds of wholesomeness?



SEEDS TO NOURISH



TRANSFORM

- In what ways do we perpetuate the services which do not provide safety, security, or stability?
- How can we stop "watering" these unwholesome seeds?
- How can we gently and kindly bring these unwholesome seeds to the surface, expose them to the truth, and transform them into wholesome seeds?



SEEDS TO TRANSFORM



How can I transform my unwholesome seeds?



NOURISH OR TRANSFORM?

The “Indeterminate” Seeds -- Can we recognize which ones can go either way?

What Personal Thoughts Impact Your Organization?

- “They get what they pay for.”
- “I got out, so can this victim.”
- “I want to be of service. This is my calling”

What Organizational Beliefs Impact Your Community?

- Does your organization meet the victims where they are?
- Does your organization have a “reputation” to uphold? i.e. “these are our victims”
- How does your agency meet victims where they are?

What Organizational Speech Impacts Your Community?

- Are you against violence or are you for peace?
- Do you start by believing or do you start by questioning?
- Are you a “safe” place or are you a “crisis” place?
- How bad does it have to be to be a “crisis”?

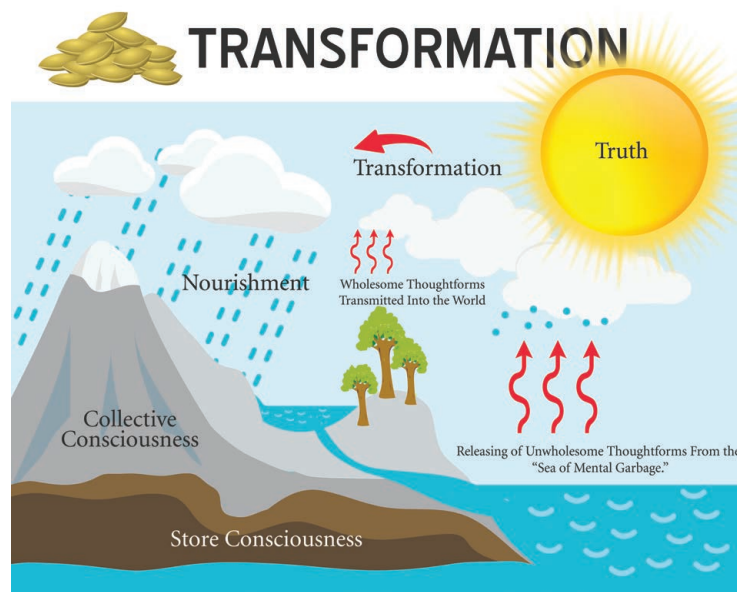
What Personal Physical Actions Impact Your Organization?

- Do you greet guests at the door?
- Do you make them come to you?
- What does your office look like?
- Is it welcoming, is it threatening?
- Is it behind a locked door?

- What do you do at your agency that impacts people?

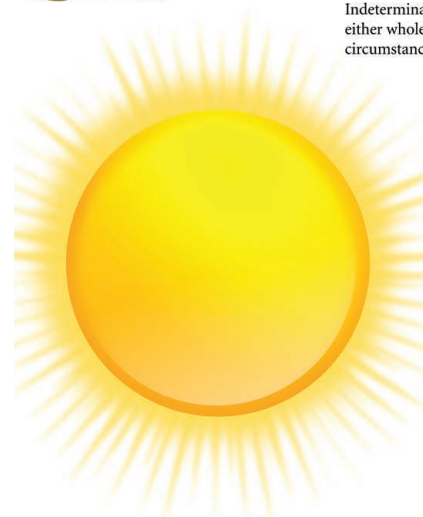
What Organizational Actions Impact Your Community?

- Do you have “Women” in your organizational name?
- Where do you display your “dead red people?”
- Can you smell coffee brewing?
- How does your organization view hospitality?



INDETERMINATE SEEDS

Indeterminate – Action, word, or thought which can be either wholesome or unwholesome depending on the circumstances and our way of living



The Light

"My actions are my only true belongings. I cannot escape the consequences of my actions. My actions are the ground on which I stand."

Are my perceptions based on fear or ignorance?

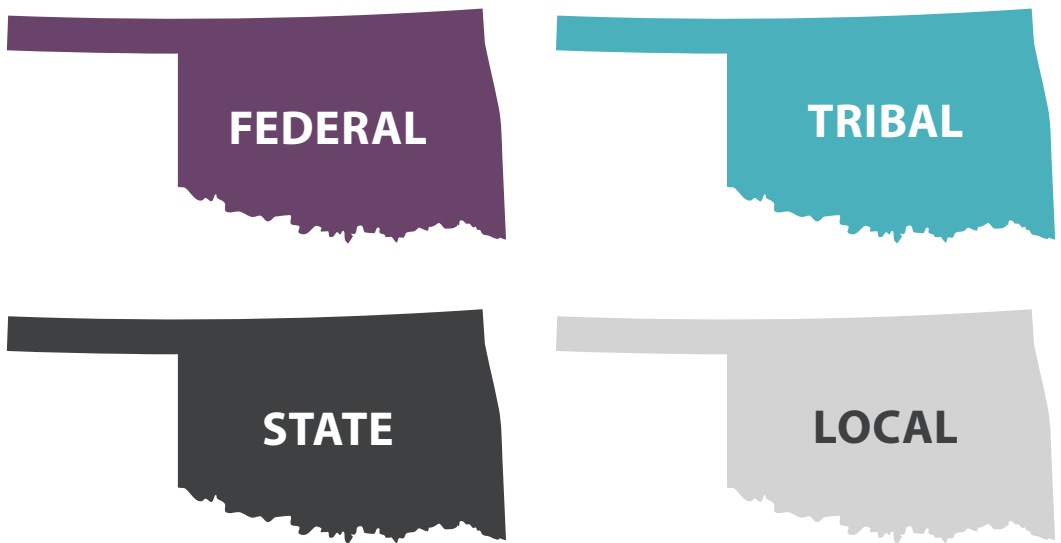
Recognize, Embrace, and Transform Unwholesome (Negative) Habits

Are my perceptions based on love and wisdom?

Cultivate, Celebrate, and Grow Wholesome (Positive) Habits

As members of the Oklahoma Victim Service System, we can learn from a colleague and fellow Oklahoman. When reflecting in 2008 on the 40 years since the 1968 enactment of the Indian Civil Rights Act, Stacy Leeds, member of the Cherokee Nation and Dean for the University of Arkansas College of Law, said: "If there's a lesson to be learned and employed in the next 40 years, I think it's simple: We need to spend less energy concerning ourselves with outside legitimacy and, instead, concentrate the bulk of our energy internally." Moreover, she indicated that "[i]t's when Indian people get together and think deeply about the issues in our communities we always find our solutions from within. We have to work hard sometimes to listen to ourselves, but the knowledge is there." [Quote retrieved 4 Nov 2017 from https://www.americanbar.org/publications/human_rights_magazine_home/2014_vol_40/vol--40--no--1--tribal-sovereignty/judge-stacy-leeds.html]

As with members of our Oklahoma tribal nations, we victim service providers must "concentrate the bulk of our energy internally. . . get together and think deeply about the issues in our communities. . . we always find our solutions from within." Now is the time to "work hard. . . to listen to ourselves . . ." and know " . . . the knowledge is there."



**THE OKLAHOMA VICTIM SERVICE SYSTEM
MUST ALSO FOCUS OUR ENERGY INTERNALLY.
WE HAVE THE ABILITY TO TO FIND AND
IMPLEMENT SOLUTIONS TO INTERPERSONAL
VIOLENCE WITHIN OUR COMMUNITIES.**