

Trauma Informed Response

Renovating the Victim Interview Room at Greenfield Police Department

Research on the neurobiology of trauma has shown that individuals who have experienced trauma are far more likely to recall the sequence and details of the events that occurred when placed in an environment that feels welcoming and safe. When put in an environment in which they feel unsafe or which is unfamiliar to them, it can make it more difficult for them to remember the details of what happened. It can even be re-traumatizing and could elicit a stress response.

Experiencing domestic violence and/or sexual assault is traumatic in and of itself. Once a person has come forward and reported what happened to them, they are already on the road to healing and survivorship. It is in the best interest of those serving survivors to refrain from re-traumatizing individuals, and work toward creating an environment which is warm and welcoming and helps survivors feel brave enough to tell their story and feel safe while doing so.

Alternatives Inc. has received \$1,500.00 in grant-funding from the City of Greenfield to implement trauma informed response at the Greenfield Police Department. This includes renovating the victim interview room to make the environment more inviting. If feasible, supplies to renovate the victim interview may include: furniture such as couches or soft chairs, tables, and rugs; lamps to provide soft lighting; paint or wallpaper; and other décor.

Any questions about this project can be directed to Madison Garrity, the Hancock County Outreach Advocate.



Example of victim interview room in Springfield, IL

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