

Domestic Violence: Ending the Stigma (*Interview Transcripts*)

Marybeth Evans, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, OSF HealthCare

“The first time somebody pushes you, slaps you in an intimate relationship that is not okay under any circumstances. In sexual relationships, if somebody forces you to have sex against your will. Anybody that isolates you and doesn’t want you to be around your friends anymore you start seeing that, ‘I can’t leave the house.’ Maybe the car keys are taken away from you or they don’t want you to have a job or if you are at a job, they are calling you constantly.” (:32)

Marybeth Evans, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, OSF HealthCare

“I think a lot of these victims both men and women, young and old I think feel like it’s shameful and they tend to keep it in which basically empowers the person who is abusing them. And I feel like a lot of times that’s the first step that you need to take is you need to trust somebody.” (:22)

Marybeth Evans, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, OSF HealthCare

“If you’re working, try to find somebody at work who would keep your confidence. Come to the emergency room. Somebody will help you at that point. I just feel like you need to tell somebody. You can’t be alone in abuse because then you become more and more isolated. And if you don’t have a place to go or you don’t think you do, there ARE places to go.” (:25)

Cheryl Hickey, RN, Manager, Emergency Department, OSF HealthCare

“When they’re at that point of needing to leave, coming to the emergency department is first and foremost a safe place and it’s in a nonjudgmental, supportive environment. And I think that is what is so important.” (:15)

Cheryl Hickey, RN, Manager, Emergency Department, OSF HealthCare

“In triage, we standardize our scripting in regards to asking every patient two questions. Number one: Do they feel safe at home? And do they feel safe in their relationship? Depending on those questions, then we move further into helping provide more action.” (:19)

Marybeth Evans, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, OSF HealthCare

“It’s never their fault if they’re being beaten or abused. So I don’t think you can ever blame yourself, but people do. And when they come in and talk about that, basically what I try to do is say looking back a lot of times you can figure out what you might do differently in the future, but you can’t redo the past. So you don’t have to spend your life being re-abused in your mind or in your heart or in your spirit. I try to help people develop a sense of hope.” (:28)