



Rape Crisis Counselor Program

Rape Crisis Counselors (RCCs) are on-call to respond to any Suffolk County hospital to meet with survivors of rape/sexual assault. All RCC volunteers are specially trained by ECLI-VIBES under guidelines from the New York State Department of Health. Upon acceptance into the program, the prospective RCC will complete 30 hours of training before meeting with survivors.

Overview of program requirements

- Training time commitment: 30 hours total, normally 1-2 months self-paced
- Participation as a volunteer for 1 year is required to be eligible for final certification: this commitment renews annually by mutual agreement
- After the initial 30-hour training, RCCs will be required to complete an additional 10 hours of training during the first year of volunteering to be fully certified. A passed background check is also required.

Anticipated Learning outcomes:

- Develop an understanding of trauma and trauma-informed care practices as applied to sexual assault victims.
- Enhanced knowledge of the dynamics of Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Violence, and Human Trafficking.
- Develop skills to respond appropriately to survivors in crisis.

Program Benefits:

- State-wide recognition of this specialized certification.
- Work with professionals in real-time on the front lines of medical and forensic care for assault victims.
- Close-up view of Suffolk County hospitals and the medical response to sexual violence
- Opportunity to observe county-wide leadership during Sexual Assault Response Team meetings.

Note: In order to maintain certification credentials, the candidate must continue to be active in the ECLI/VIBES RCC program.

Modules & Course Descriptions

Module 1: Understanding Domestic Violence: This program identifies abusive behaviors, power and control, and the dynamics of domestic violence. This module also covers teen dating and stalking. After completion, students will have a clearer understanding of the general dynamics of intimate partner violence as it relates to adults and teens.

Module 2: Rape and Sexual Assault: This section covers the specific dynamics of sexual violence, the differentiation between the types of sexual assault and an overview of Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault. It also covers sexual violence on college campuses and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

At the conclusion of this module, students will be able to confidently discuss sexual violence as it pertains to the survivors they will be serving.

Module 3: Child Abuse and Maltreatment: This module covers adverse childhood experiences (ACES), child physical abuse, child sexual abuse, and incest. It will also cover the impacts domestic violence has on children.

At the end of this module, the RCC will understand child abuse, ACES, and the impacts of sexual abuse on children. The RCC will also understand relevant laws and policy pertaining to mandated reporting. Note: RCCs are not mandated reporters.

Module 4: Trauma-Informed Communication (TIC): This section covers the importance of establishing a relationship with the survivor, even on a short-term basis.

At the end of this module, the RCC will understand basic rapport building and crisis intervention skills and trauma-informed language and behaviors.

Module 5: The Criminal Justice System. This module covers the criminal and family court system, arrest, and orders of protection.

At the end of this module, the RCC will understand the civil legal protections for survivors.

Module 6: Safety Planning. This module covers the basics in creating a safety plan for survivors living with abusive partners, planning with pets, and planning with children.

At the end of this module, the RCC will be able to assist a survivor to establish a safety plan.

Module 7: Diverse Populations. This module will cover cultural sensitivity, elder abuse, foster care, incarcerated individuals, LGBTQ+ survivors, survivors with disabilities, immigrant survivors, male survivors, and survivors of human trafficking.

At the end of this module, the RCC will understand the specific and unique element that culture plays in the lives of survivors of rape and sexual assault.

****You will also learn about community resources and client confidentiality requirements.****

If you would like to volunteer to be an RCC, please click on the link below to fill out an application:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSegDCN4aTA5c53khL326KOi8pm6TOjvkeCNmLAOfA51uVcmFQ/viewform>