

Turn the Talk Information Sheet

Background

Change the Conversation (CTC) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in 2004 to provide services to those impacted by child sexual abuse. CTC's mission is to engage all communities in the prevention of and healing from child sexual abuse. The organization fulfills its mission by providing grants for counseling to adult survivors of child sexual abuse and by the delivering prevention and recovery training to caregivers, medical professionals, and mandated reporters. CTC leverages partnerships with medical and research institutions as well as licensed practitioners to expand its reach and impact. CTC envisions a world where we all understand the innumerable impacts of child sexual abuse and are compelled to eliminate this abuse.

Scheduling

All individuals seeking to schedule a presentation should email Chelsea McGonigle at chelsea@cthec.org to discuss availability. Presentations are scheduled on a first-come, first-serve basis. For classroom presentations, CTC is committed to providing a minimum of one presentation per health class each academic quarter.

School-Based Presentations

Turn the Talk is an evidence-inspired program that seeks to equip adolescents with tools to address child sexual abuse. The goal of the program is to define child sexual abuse and discuss relevant laws, policies, and effects. Additionally, we teach adolescents how to report child sexual abuse and minor sex trafficking, as well as how to investigate community resources and advocate for those who have experienced abuse.

Through PTA/PTO meetings and professional development trainings, Turn the Talk is also available to parents and school-based staff, such as teachers, counselors, student resource officers, and administrators. While content is amended based on the identified needs of the target audience, parents and staff will be able to identify best practices for engaging with adolescents on sensitive subjects while also receiving up-to-date information around trends in the field of child sexual abuse prevention and recovery.

Policies

All teachers must remain in the classroom during the entire duration of the presentation in order to provide the presenter with a safe and effective learning environment. In addition, all teachers must remain in the classroom if a student requests to speak with the presenter following a presentation. School-based staff is responsible to connect with the appropriate personnel when there is an urgent risk matter involving a student (CPS, Suicidal, Homicidal, etc.). Turn the Talk is responsible for completing a Child Abuse report when a student discloses current or historic child abuse, even if the perpetrator is deceased.

Additional Support

The content, discussion, and activities in this course will necessarily engage with topics surrounding child sexual abuse, which may be emotionally and mentally challenging to engage with. Turn the Talk will ensure each classroom remains a space in which students may engage bravely, empathetically, and thoughtfully with difficult content.

Turn the Talk is available for staff and student consultations immediately following a classroom presentation, when requested. Presenters will provide students with additional community-based resources to encourage in-depth safety planning and deliver ongoing emotional support.