







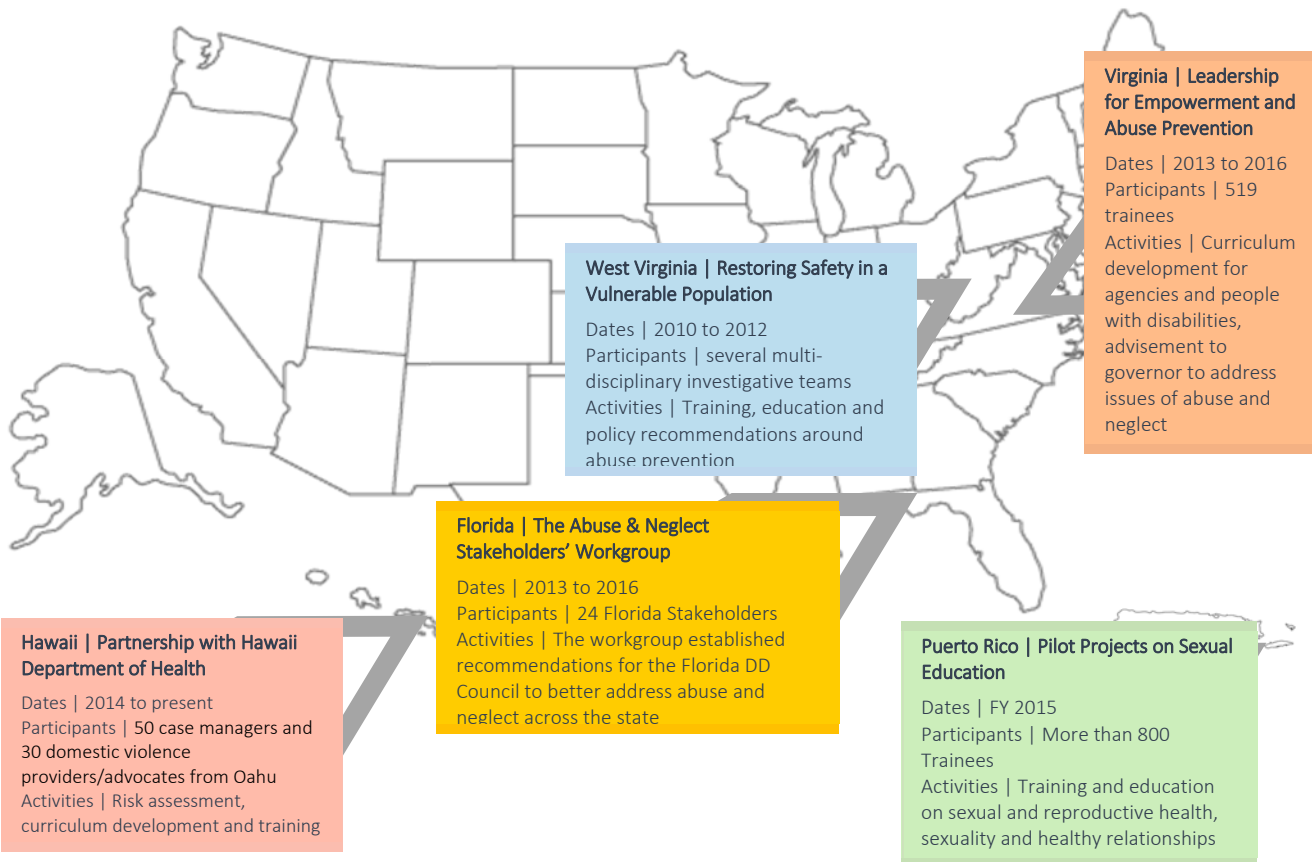




DD Councils have the opportunity to address these atrocities head on; through research, training, programs and initiatives, DD Councils can continue to build states capacity to recognize and reduce abuse and neglect. The above initiatives and programs have shown that states can make progress, particularly when multiple agencies and entities (e.g. DD Councils, State offices, UCEDDS, etc.) collaborate.

One way that DD Councils might engage in a larger collaborative effort to address abuse and neglect is to follow the advice outlined in the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS)<sup>xix</sup> recommendations to CMS to convene a workgroup to “develop core elements (and definitions) of abuse, neglect and exploitation (and other potential critical elements), similar to the core services definition... to provide a key framework for CMS expectations” around mitigating and monitoring abuse and neglect.

Whatever the efforts, DD Councils are uniquely positioned to support statewide enhancement of services, supports and lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. To do this, they must continue to address the critical issues of abuse and neglect that affect too many people with IDD today.



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