

Unpacking The SASHA Model:

**“Black Women's Triangulation of Rape” and
Why an Abandoned Warehouse in Detroit is
JUST NOT BIG ENOUGH.**

Working with African-American
Survivors and “*Experiencers*” of
Sexual Assault

Focus:

THE SASHA MODEL: Black Women's Triangulation of Rape

won't you celebrate with me

Lucille Clifton, 1936 - 2010

won't you celebrate with me
 what i have shaped into
 a kind of life? i had no model.
 born in babylon
 both nonwhite and woman
 what did i see to be except myself?
 i made it up
 here on this bridge between
 starshine and clay,
 my one hand holding tight
 my other hand: come celebrate
 with me that everyday
 something has tried to kill me
 and has failed.



*“Black women were
 and continue to
 be sorely in need
 of an anti-rape
 movement.”*

*— Angela Davis
 (1989, p. 44)*



Purpose and Learning Goals

- ◆ Learn about SASHA Center's Work
- ◆ Integrate the Personal, Professional and Political
- ◆ Explore The SASHA Model: Black Women's Triangulation of Rape (Exercise)



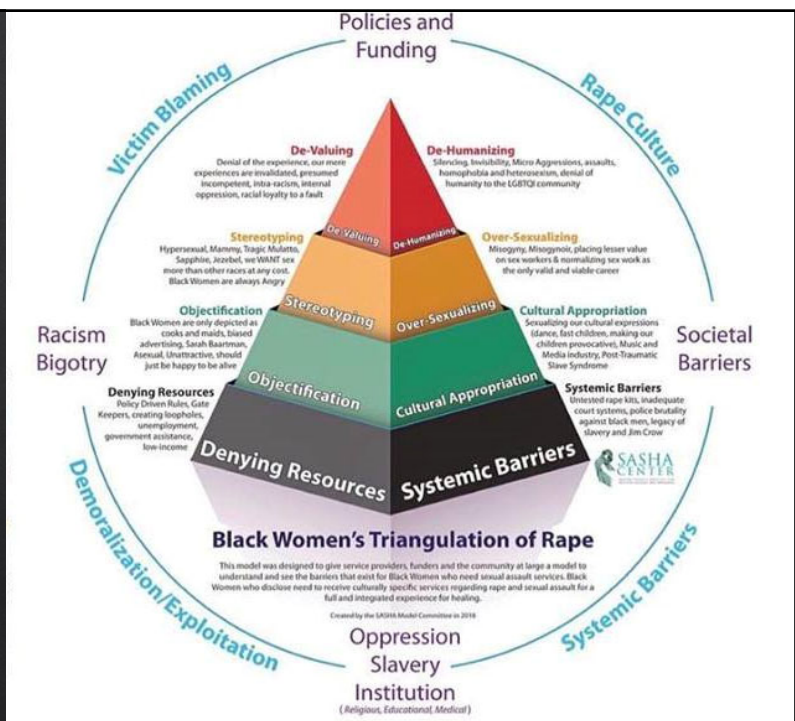
Guiding Principles





Terminology

- ◆ Experiencers
- ◆ Sexual Assault
- ◆ Black/African-American
- ◆ Women
- ◆ Alternative
- ◆ Survivors
- ◆ Victims
- ◆ Ancestors
- ◆ Non-Traditional



SASHA Model

- ✧ SASHA Center has been positively supported for being culturally specific but also challenged by it. We are creating safe spaces for black women to do their own work in healing as it relates to sexual assault and abuse. However, ALL women of any race can participate.
- ✧ Our groups are “geared” towards the African American female, 16 years of age or older, the groups are “peer educational” and we advise participants to also engage in “one on one individual counseling” and support with a therapist of their choice in addition to attending our group sessions. We do not provide individual counseling or therapy.
- ✧ It is not required, but we support and encourage survivors to get all the help needed in addition to our group sessions. This group is not ideal for clients who have untreated mental illness. We can provide referrals and we have strong relationships with WCSAFE and other agencies that can provide individual counseling as well as mental health services.

Black Women's Triangulation of Rape

- ✧ In the African-American community, the act of secret keeping throughout our generations and within the context of surviving slavery, sexual assault, mutilation, bondage and hate has been what facilitators of groups at the SASHA Center identify as a “coping mechanism used by our people to survive” (Johnson, Davis, L., Davis, Z., & Ventour, 2018).
- ✧ However, this strategy of secret keeping does not work, creates even more isolation and keep individuals from healing. Culturally specific services for this population must first and foremost challenge the notion and functionality (or the lack thereof) of the “**no-snitching**” phenomenon, which has impeded on this community's capacity to integrate healing as a human right for sexual assault survivors. This notion and idea of “**no-snitching**” started during slavery and continues to present day.
- ✧ **Dr. Joy DeGruy** talks about the transatlantic slaved trade and the rape of Black women in her critically acclaimed book, *Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome* (2005). In it she states,
- ✧ Because she is a slave, her children are also slaves and she must come to grips with the fact that she is incapable of defending them against assaults from masters and overseers...there will be a day when white men will demand to have access to her daughter...the mother anguishes over this fact...she attempts to tell her how best to prepare and survive, tells her to lie...not resist, bear the pain...(paraphrased).

The SASHA Model Exercise:

We will review the SASHA Model together and assign sections to groups of two or more people.

You have 10 minutes to review and prepare a report back.

Your table will identify examples which would be idea to address the issues identified in the model with your clients and within your shelters.



Ancestors and
Honoring
History



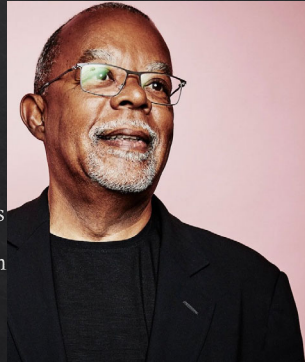
◆ Kwanzaa
◆ Sankofa
◆ Pouring Libations



Humor, Irony, Satire

DR. HENRY LOUIS GATES-Signifying Monkey

- ◆ This groundbreaking study explores the relationship between the African and African-American vernacular traditions and black literature, elaborating a new critical approach located *within* this tradition that allows the black voice to speak for itself. Examining the ancient poetry and myths found in African, Latin American, and Caribbean culture, Gates uncovers a unique system of interpretation and a powerful vernacular tradition that black slaves brought with them to the New World. He uses this critical framework to reassess several major works of African-American literature, including Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*, and Ishmael Reed's *Mumbo Jumbo*.



"I LOVE MYSELF WHEN I'M LAUGHING, AND THEN AGAIN WHEN I'M LOOKING MEAN AND IMPRESSIVE"
HUMOR, IRONY, AND SATIRE IN AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE AND POPULAR CULTURE.-
DANA A. WILLIAMS



Non-Traditional Activities

- ◆ Dance, Music, Movement
- ◆ Prayer, Meditation, Reflection
- ◆ Urban Legends, Story Telling

Events as Cathartic





JUSTICE

Success!!!

A TAKE BACK THE NIGHT DETROIT EVENT
VOICES FROM THE BACKLOG:
A COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

PANEL DISCUSSION

FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2019

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS • Lecture Hall

5200 Woodward Avenue • Detroit, MI 48202

Parking will be available in self parking lot on John R Street • Access museum thru John R entrance.

6:00-8:00 P.M.

MODERATOR:
Kalimah Johnson-
Founder and Executive
Director of SASHA Center

GUEST PANELISTS:
LaQuetta (Elle) Travis-
Survivor/Road Lead Coordinator for TBTN/October 2019
Rebecca Campbell-
Researcher/Professor Michigan State University

Mark Farrah-
Lead Investigator/SAKI/Detroit
Danelle Foster-
Sexual Assault Advocate/WCSAFE
and Special Invited Guests

Community Partners for the 11th Annual Take Back the Night-Detroit are the DIA, WCSAFE and SASHA Center. Together we are acknowledging April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month with a Panel Discussion. This event will center the voices of survivors and support women of color leadership in Detroit.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Kalimah Johnson (888) 865-7055 • info@sashacenter.org • www.sashacenter.org





Our Work with MEN

- ◆ Detroit VS. Everybody
- ◆ Detroit Hustles Harder
- ◆ Former NFL Player DeAndre Levy
- ◆ A CALL TO MEN
- ◆ City Council Members



Resources...

WOCN, Inc.
922 N. 3rd Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102

Website: www.wocninc.org

SASHA Center
701 McDougall St.

Detroit, MI 48207

1-888-865-7055

Website: www.sashacenter.org



Resources and Promising Practices

◆ WOCN

◆ SASHA Center

◆ NO! The Rape DOCUMENTARY

◆ Lori Robinson, "I Will Survive" The African American Guide to Healing from Sexual Assault and Abuse



Culture Cures/History Heals
Survivor's Healing Tour
SASHA CCHH SESSIONS
(Culture Cures/History Heals)

The format used is exclusively for 6 women participants 18 years of age or older to create an open and receptive atmosphere for exploration and discussion of such personal topics as sexual assault and harassment, domestic and dating violence and overall relationship safety and management. This historical/cultural series will be led by our Founder/Executive Director Kallimah Johnson, LMSW and Lead Facilitator Larmender Davis, LMSW with Co-Facilitators Kendra Ventour, BSA and Zenobia Kindle-Davis, LMSW.

Combined, these survivor focused healers have over 30 years of experience working with sexual assault and domestic violence survivors. Safe space creation, smudging, prayer, music, meditation, chanting, walking, exercise, touring of historical sites and other rituals will be a major part of the sessions culminating in a 4 day visit to New Orleans in October 2019.

LEAD FACILITATORS

DETROIT SESSIONS		NOLA SESSIONS	
September 27th - Definitions, Myths and Facts, Goals and Purpose	October 16th - Travel Orientation	October 24th - Whitney Plantation, Slavery, Plantation Life, Survival	October 25th - Women With a Vision, Integration, Healing, Forgiveness, Survival
October 2nd - Victim Blaming	October 30th - Dabiering, Next Steps, Learned Lessons	October 26th - Congo Square, Music, Culture, Religion	
October 9th - Paper Culture			

SESSION TOPICS

FOR RULES TO APPLY AND TO FILL OUT SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE VISIT: WWW.SASHACENTER.ORG

SOUL HEALING CONSULTING, LLC AND SASHA CENTER HAVE PARTNERED WITH NFL SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY TO CONDUCT A SPECIAL 8 MONTH SERIES

The format used is exclusively for participants to create an open and receptive atmosphere for exploration and discussion of such personal topics as sexual assault and harassment, domestic and dating violence and overall relationship safety and management.

Open discussion, spectrogram exercises, Q and A, video and roles plays may be used to drive the main points. Under consideration of current trends, we will specifically include respect of women and girls in the African-American community, diversity and inclusion, sexual harassment, disclosures and issues related to rape culture and victim blaming-the fuel that keeps victims silent and perpetrators unaccountable. We can't exclude anyone from attending these sessions, however we are asking community members to respect and honor this space by making room for those who live and/or identify as men in their everyday lives.

February 21, 2019
R.J. Page and Omari Barksdale
Reflections of Who You Are

March 21, 2019
Teferi Brent and Omari Barksdale
How to Stand Beside

April 18, 2019
Kahn Davison and Omari Barksdale
Nikki, Maya, Sonia, Legacy

May 16, 2019
Teferi Brent, Khary Kimani Turner, Omari Barksdale
The Devil Made Me Do It

June 20, 2019
Calvin Mann and Omari Barksdale
Iron Fist

July 18, 2019
Kahn Davison and Omari Barksdale
The Healing

August 15, 2019
R. J. Page and Omari Barksdale
It's My Prerogative

September 19, 2019
Omari Barksdale and Kenneth Coleman
Watch Your Hands Son

10-17-10

GUEST SPEAKER

Tony Porter
from A CALL TO MEN

LEAD FACILITATOR

Omari Barksdale
From SASHA Center

GUEST FACILITATOR

Former NFL Player DeAndre Levy

10-17-10 SASHA CENTER'S MALE ENGAGEMENT NOW!

**HEALING IS POSSIBLE
(HIP Series)
SEXUAL ASSAULT HEALING CIRCLES**

A weekly, safe space to provide support, a listening ear, and opportunity to heal for those who have experienced sexual assault and their support persons.

**~Every Tuesday~
2019
6:00 PM-8:00 PM
Topics are Trauma Informed
TechTown Detroit
440 Burroughs (at Cass) ~ DETROIT, MI 48202**

This is a confidential, open group session for self-identified women who have been sexually assaulted, facilitated by a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and a Sexual Assault expert.

Pre-registration is REQUIRED and participants must call to attend. There is no cost to participate and refreshments will be served. Space is limited. Free Parking.

Call the SASHA Center at 1-888-865-7055 to register and for more information.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

