



DV&...
**Safety, Justice,
and Prevention**

OCTOBER 28-30, 2024

TCEA CONFERENCE CENTER

3100 ALVIN DEVANE BLVD, BUILDING B • AUSTIN, TEXAS



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Dear Attendees,

We are thrilled to welcome you to the Texas Council on Family Violence’s (TCFV) 2024 Statewide Conference. Our last in-person gathering was in 2019, so it is with great excitement and renewed purpose that we come together to learn and grow as individuals, as a community, and as a movement.

This year’s conference comes at a critical time, as we gather to reaffirm our commitment to promoting safety, justice, and prevention within our communities. Our focus is to elevate the calls to action outlined in TCFV’s annual intimate partner homicide report, *Honoring Texas Victims*, and to drive meaningful change across our state.

In curating the agenda for this conference, our goal was to center the voices of survivors, address the pressing issues faced by marginalized communities, and uplift creativity and excellence in policy, service provision, and community engagement. We have worked diligently to bring forward diverse perspectives and innovative solutions, ensuring that our discussions and strategies champion racial equity and enhance services for those most in need.

We are honored to have you join us here in Austin for this conference, and we look forward

to the collective impact we can achieve through shared learning, collaboration, and community care. Together, let us advance our mission of creating a safer, more just Texas for all by ending relationship violence.

Thank you for being here and engaging with these topics, with TCFV, and with each other. Your dedication to safety, justice, and prevention is evident, and it is invaluable. Remember: individually we power change, collectively we power a movement.

In solidarity,

The Statewide Conference Speaker’s Committee



Mikisha Hooper
Consultant



Samantha McWhinney
*TCFV Prevention
Coordinator*



Lauren Lluveras
*TCFV Economic
& Immigration
Public Policy Manager*



William West
*TCFV Prevention
Manager*

STATEWIDE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Maria José Angelelli
Deborah Butts
Karen Elizarraras
Esmeralda Flores

Barbra Grimmer
Tracie Hill-Jones
Lalitha Kasal
Ana Martinez

Roy Rios
Viv Sanchez
Gloria Aguilera Terry
Ryan Thomas

Day One – Monday, October 28

11:00 AM

Lobby

Registration, Sponsors, and Exhibitors

Visit the check-in table, enjoy refreshments with our sponsors, and explore the sponsors' exhibit tables.

1:00 – 1:30 PM

Conference Room

Welcome

Hillary England

Deputy Director, Public Safety Office, Office of the Governor

Gloria Aguilera Terry

Chief Executive Officer, Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV)

1:30 – 2:15 PM

Conference Room

Plenary

Journey from Child Victim to Adult Advocate

Rev. Yvette “Vette” Christy

Survivor, Author, Owner/Consultant, Yvette Christy LLC

“I have graciously been asked to briefly share my story as a victim of childhood domestic violence, drug addiction, and sexual abuse that led to a bitter life of prostitution and commercial sexual exploitation that lasted decades and even shaped the lives of my children, one being the son of my trafficker. Without hostility, I reflect on how inept the social service systems were in truly seeing me as a child victim and providing comprehensive care that would have addressed at least some of the areas of abuse and vulnerability that I was experiencing at that time. I then go on to celebrate the power of awareness, personal well-being, and authentic service because it was the power of a few who ultimately helped me change the course of my life.”

Learning Objectives:

- Remind yourself how powerful you are.
 - Provoke you to use your power to gently and sacrificially create the world you want to see.
-

2:15 – 2:30 PM

Get to Know our Sponsors

DVBeds Saving Lives While Saving Time

Kimberly D. Davis

DVBeds Manager, Family Place

An easy to use, secure web-based solution that provides real-time shelter bed availability and resources for participating domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, emergency shelters and community partners.

Learning Objectives:

- Learn if your agency is eligible to participate.
 - Learn how DVBeds can secure survivors safe lodging.
-

Day One – Monday, October 28 *continued...*

2:30 – 3:45 PM
Conference Room

Pick a Workshop

A Transforming the Movement: Actualizing Racial Equity in our Work

Ivonne Ortiz

*Vice President of Program, Prevention, & Social Change,
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRCDV)*

For the past eight years, NRCDV's Racial Justice Initiative (RJI) has been committed to racial justice as an essential part of our work. The Racial Justice Initiative has helped NRCDV understand to truly end domestic violence we must address all systems that generate and sustain it and that working in solidarity across issues of justice is the only way to bring out meaningful social change. Ortiz shares learnings from NRCDV's journey to becoming an antiracist organization, tools to engage in conversations about race, and strategies to develop and implement programming that focuses on equity versus equality.

Learning Objectives:

- Learn how to engage in conversations about racism.
- Learn strategies for integrating a racial equity lens.
- Engage in conversation about how to access where your organization is in its antiracist journey.

2:30 – 3:45 PM
Inspiration A

B Shifting the Paradigm: The Evolution of Child Welfare Systems and Family Advocacy at a Local, State, and National Level

David Almager

*Director of Battering Intervention and Prevention Program (BIPP),
Denton County Friends of the Family*

Donna Bloom

*Executive Program Director of Legal Services,
Denton County Friends of the Family*

Krista Del Gallo

*Director of TA and Systems Change,
Caminar Latino-Latinos United for Peace and Equity*

The facilitators will take a historical look on key benchmarks addressing the intersections of domestic violence and child welfare, including the release of the Green Book over 25 years ago, the *Nicolson v. Scoppetta* case, 20 years ago, and the passage of SB 434, creating a task force in Texas, close to 15 years ago. They explore how these events served to disrupt rigid perspectives and practice and how it helped propel more progressive systems and family advocacy responses. Facilitators will discuss how agencies can replicate Denton County Friends of the Family's work and access National Center to Advance Peace for Children Youth, and Families (NCAP) resources.

continued on next page...

Day One – Monday, October 28 *continued...*

2:30 – 3:45 PM

Inspiration A

Pick a Workshop continued...

B Shifting the Paradigm: The Evolution of Child Welfare Systems and Family Advocacy at a Local, State, and National Level

Learning Objectives:

- Learn key benchmarks in publications, case law and policy that address the intersections of domestic violence and child welfare system.
- Discuss the pivotal perspective and practice shifts these events prompted.
- Learn new approaches and resources for working with families at these intersections.

2:30 – 3:45 PM

Inspiration B

C Immigration Relief for Victims of Crime

Rosie Martinez

Consultant and Owner, Regional Justice Center Consulting

Martinez discusses the different types of immigration relief available for victims of crime during investigations and prosecutions, including U-visas, T-visas, and VAWA self-petitions. Martinez explores how non-adjustment status can be used to secure the lawful presence of victims during investigations and prosecutions of crime.

Learning Objectives:

- Learn about U-Visas, T-Visas, and VAWA Self-Petitions.
- Learn about non-adjustment status, which can be used to secure the lawful presence of victims during investigations and prosecutions.

2:30 – 3:45 PM

Transformation

D Providing Specialized Support to LGBTQ+ Survivors of Domestic Violence

Noah Castro

Program Supervisor, STOP Violence Program, Los Angeles LGBT Center

Dinyar Mehta

Associate Director of Mental Health Services, Los Angeles LGBT Center

Mehta and Castro cover best practices around providing support services and domestic violence shelter access for LGBTQ+ survivors meeting the complex and unique factors domestic violence service providers face, providing culturally responsive care to LGBTQ+ survivors, and providing tangible skills building and guidance.

continued on next page...

Day One – Monday, October 28 *continued...*

2:30 – 3:45 PM
Transformation

Pick a Workshop continued...

D Providing Specialized Support to
LGBTQ+ Survivors of Domestic Violence

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the dynamics of IPV and the unique and specific ways these dynamics show up in LGBTQ relationships.
 - Be able to identify and build tangible skills in supporting LGBTQ IPV survivors through the systemic barriers and interpersonal bias that shows up in violence interventions, criminal justice system, social services, and systems of care.
 - Build language and skills in talking to clients about IPV, healthy relationships, and safety planning in a way that is culturally responsive to the unique needs of LGBTQ IPV survivors.
 - Equip service providers to be able to better support LGBTQ survivors as they navigate next steps in their healing, justice, and safety.
-

3:45 PM

Go to your hotel, relax, and get ready to join us at the Alamo Drafthouse!

6:00 – 9:00 PM

Alamo Drafthouse
South Lamar
1120 S Lamar Blvd
Austin, TX 78704

SURVIVOR MADE Film Exclusive Premiere

Set in Los Angeles during the holiday season, SURVIVOR MADE invites you into the lives of six dynamic survivors, each on their own unique healing journey. Follow them as they navigate big entrepreneurial dreams, balance a rich family life, and strive toward a collective holiday sales goal. Discover the abundant potential that emerges when we invest in survivor wealth and healing.

Join TCFV and FreeFrom for a sneak preview of the film and a talkback with the cast and crew—all survivors themselves. Tickets are expected to sell out, so purchase your ticket online before the event! Your \$18 ticket includes a curated craft cocktail or mocktail, a movie snack, and several opportunities to celebrate survivors. Add your voice as we flip the script on gender-based violence—from stories of pain to stories of possibility.

Panelists:

Drew Denny

Director, SURVIVOR MADE

Cherry Morse

Sales and Marketing Manager, Gifted & Cast Member, SURVIVOR MADE

Sonya Passi

Founder and CEO, FreeFrom & Cast Member, SURVIVOR MADE

Moderator:

Gloria Aguilera Terry

CEO, Texas Council on Family Violence

Day Two – Tuesday, October 29

7:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Lobby

Registration Open

Visit the Registration booth and explore our sponsors' tables in the lobby throughout the day. Welcome refreshments available with sponsor tables.

8:00 – 9:00 AM

Lobby

Breakfast

Start your day with a delicious breakfast.

9:00 – 9:30 AM

Conference Room

Welcome

Darlene Lanham

*Executive Director, Asian Family Support Services of Austin
TCFV Board Secretary, Area Director Region 9*

Gloria Aguilera Terry

Chief Executive Officer, Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV)

Rhonda Williamson

*Executive Director, Safer Path Family Violence Shelter
TCFV Area Director Region 8*

9:30 – 10:15 AM

Conference Room

Plenary

Firearm Policy and Domestic Violence Response

April Zeoli, PhD, MPH

Associate Professor, University of Michigan School of Public Health

Dr. Zeoli discusses the intersection of firearms and intimate partner violence, focusing on risks to safety and unequal distribution of risk by race. She discusses intimate partner violence-related firearm restriction laws and what research finds about their effectiveness. Finally, Dr. Zeoli covers current issues surrounding the constitutionality of these laws and their implications for safety.

Learning Objectives:

- Learn about the frequency, character, and consequences of nonfatal firearm use within intimate partner violence.
 - Learn which federal and state laws disallow intimate partner violence perpetrators from purchasing and possessing firearms and the evidence around the effectiveness of those laws.
 - Understand the landscape of firearm safety laws pertaining to intimate partner violence in Texas.
-

10:15 – 10:45 AM

Break — Visit sponsors in the lobby, stretch, and be mindful of your wellness.

Day Two – Tuesday, October 29 *continued...*

10:45 – 11:45 AM
Conference Room

Choose your own Keynote Speaker

A Uplifting Survivors Voices in Your Community’s Efforts to Reduce and Prevent IPV Homicides

Sarah Colomé

CEO/Founder, Collective Futures LLC

Michelle Toledo-Cainas

Program Manager, Center for Justice Innovation

Criminal Justice professionals often seek to implement strategies and/or risk assessments to decrease intimate partner violence cases and prevent homicides. Critical issues such as confidentiality, safety and healing may be missed, if survivors’ voices are not included in the strategic planning process. Survivor voices are essential when deciding if a specific risk assessment or homicide prevention strategy should be implemented. Intentionally engaging with survivor insights and experiences can ensure a thorough and proactive discussion of potential unintended consequences, and better avoid further re-traumatization and further harm within the intervention process. Toledo-Cainas and Colomé examine how survivors’ voices can be uplifted in a community’s response to intimate partner violence, address how lethality and recidivism factors can be used to create safer communities, and discuss strategic ideas for survivor engagement.

Learning Objectives:

- Discuss intimate partner violence lethality and recidivism factors while understanding the importance of community collaboration.
- Examine how survivor engagement strategies such as community listening sessions can create an open space for individuals impacted by policies, particularly those from marginalized communities.
- Examine the roles of victim services and/or social services within criminal justice settings, such as law enforcement departments.

10:45 – 11:45 AM
Inspiration AB

B An Introduction to the National Plan to End Gender-Based Violence

Caroline Bettinger-López, JD

Professor of Law, Human Rights Clinic Director, University of Miami

Linda Phan

Deputy Director of Policy, Communication, and Strategic Engagement, Office of Violence Against Women

The National Plan to End Gender-Based Violence, which was launched by the White House last May with the participation of 15 federal agencies, provides an important framework and blueprint to establish and strengthen a “federal coordinated community response” to prevent and address gender-based violence (GBV).

continued on next page...

Day Two – Tuesday, October 29 *continued...*

10:45 – 11:45 AM
Inspiration AB

Choose your own Keynote Speaker continued...

B An Introduction to the National Plan to End Gender-Based Violence

Attendees will learn about the comprehensive, government-wide approach that aims to prevent and address gender-based violence across the United States through seven strategic pillars: Prevention; Support, Healing, Safety, and Well-Being; Economic Security and Housing Stability; Online Safety; Legal and Justice Systems; Emergency Preparedness and Crisis Response; and Research and Data.

In this session, representatives from the federal government who worked on the plan will introduce and share insights into its key components, as well as discuss how communities can actively engage with the plan's initiatives and implement their own state or local strategies to combat GBV.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the main aspects and the importance of the US National Plan to the Federal Government's response to gender-based violence.
- Report updates on the implementation of the US National Plan.
- Identify positive impacts of the Plan to the Office of Violence Against Women's work.
- Explore how civil society, local communities, and advocates can continue to engage in the process.

11:45 AM – 1:00 PM
Conference Room

Lunch

Enjoy lunch and get to know our sponsors.

12:45 – 1:00 PM

Get to Know our Sponsors

The Worth Program

MD Anderson Cancer Center

Women-serving Organizations Rallying for Tobacco-free Health

1:00 – 1:15 PM

Get to Know our Sponsors

DVBeds Saving Lives While Saving Time

Kimberly D. Davis

DVBeds Manager, Family Place

An easy to use, secure web-based solution that provides real-time shelter bed availability and resources for participating domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, emergency shelters and community partners.

Day Two – Tuesday, October 29 *continued...*

1:15 – 2:30 PM
Conference Room

Pick a Workshop

A Assaulted by the System

Lisa Pous

Peer Support Program Director, SAFE Alliance

Pous explores the Vitality of Embracing Survivor-Led Support Groups: Amidst the arduous journey for justice within the legal realm, survivors frequently confront daunting obstacles. In the sanctuary of survivor support groups, we delve into the profound emotional toll of systemic injustices, offering a haven for individuals to voice their narratives and discover solace. These groups serve as nurturing spaces wherein mutual support cultivates resilience, empowering individuals amidst the intricate quest for safety within diverse systems.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the multifaceted harms caused by systemic structures and institutions.
- Develop strategies for establishing and sustaining survivor-led support groups.
- Recognize the importance and benefits of providing space for survivors to express their pain and engage in healing processes within supportive communities.

1:15 – 2:30 PM
Inspiration A

B Abusive Partner Intervention Programming and Intimate Partner Violence Risk Assessment: Survivor Safety and Participant Accountability

Gene Johnson, Jr.

Associate Director, Center for Justice Innovation

Michelle Toledo-Cainas

Program Manager, Center for Justice Innovation

The criminal justice system uses Abusive Partner Intervention Programs (APIP) for those who cause harm through intimate partner violence (IPV) and enhance survivor safety and accountability. APIPs have begun to include IPV risk assessments during their work with those who cause harm to measure either the risk of recidivism and lethality and further center survivor safety and accountability for the person causing harm. IPV risk assessments are frequently used by first responders and advocates but at least two risk assessments have been identified to be used by APIP providers. Although the primary objective of the APIP programs is to work with the person who causes harm, enhancing survivor safety is central to their work. Toledo-Cainas and Johnson discuss the risk assessments best suited for APIPs, illustrate examples of programs using them and how to best identify an assessment for the community for the opportunity to elevate survivors' voices during the process of holding the person accountable.

continued on next page...

Day Two – Tuesday, October 29 *continued...*

1:15 – 2:30 PM

Inspiration A

Pick a Workshop continued...

B Abusive Partner Intervention Programming and Intimate Partner Violence Risk Assessment: Survivor Safety and Participant Accountability

Learning Objectives:

- Discuss appropriate IPV Risk Assessments such as the Domestic Violence Risk and Needs Assessments (DVRANA) and others.
- Learn how the New York City Courts and Pretrial programs engage and hold accountable those who cause harm while being aware of survivors' safety.
- Learn best-practices when implementing an IPV risk assessment in APIP settings.

1:15 – 2:30 PM

Inspiration B

C Implementing Firearm Transfer Protocols

Jennifer Becker, Esq.

Director, BWJP

April Zeoli, PhD, MPH

Associate Professor, University of Michigan School of Public Health

To most effectively promote survivor safety and reduce lethal risk, sustainable and effective firearm transfer protocols are essential. Yet, there is little infrastructure to support firearm transfer practices, and it falls on local community leaders to develop and implement policies and procedures to enforce firearm prohibitions. Dr. Zeoli and Becker discuss strategies for engaging community leadership in holding domestic violence offenders accountable through enforcement of firearm prohibitions and implementing firearm transfer protocols as a crucial component of a coordinated response to domestic violence.

Learning Objectives:

- Summarize the federal and state legal framework that prohibits firearm possession by domestic abusers and the critical role a local multidisciplinary firearm transfer protocol plays in giving those laws effect.
- Discuss the elements of an effective firearm transfer protocol and identify who and how to get started.
- Summarize the research that supports prioritizing consistent implementation of an effective firearm transfer protocol.

continued on next page...

Day Two – Tuesday, October 29 *continued...*

1:15 – 2:30 PM
Transformation

Pick a Workshop continued...

D Office on Violence Against Women Listening Session: Enhancing Support for Communities to Implement the Violence Against Women Act

Linda Phan

*Deputy Director of Policy, Communication, and Strategic Engagement,
Office of Violence Against Women*

Conference attendees are invited to participate in a listening session hosted by the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW). OVW is a component of the U.S. Department of Justice that implements the provisions of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and provides grants to support communities' responses to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. OVW's Deputy Director of Policy, alongside other OVW staff, looks forward to a discussion to garner firsthand insights from service providers and criminal justice partners regarding the successes and challenges encountered in implementing VAWA provisions and protections.

Learning Objectives:

- Provide feedback and diverse perspectives to OVW.
- Identify service gaps for survivors.
- Explore avenues for fostering stronger collaborations between OVW and the field.
- Inform grant and policy development through insights and discussion.

2:30 – 2:45 PM

Refreshment Break / Networking

Take a walk, stretch, and be mindful of your wellness.

2:45 – 4:00 PM
Conference Room

Pick a Workshop

A Community Engagement Lightning Rounds

Join us for a unique lightning round session focusing on innovative engagement practices in intimate partner violence services and community education. In this dynamic session, four expert speakers will each deliver a 15-minute presentation showcasing unique approaches and strategies within the field. These lightning rounds will cover a range of topics, from community-based interventions to technological advancements and cultural competence in service delivery. Following the lightning rounds, participants will have the opportunity to engage directly with the speakers during a 15-minute Q&A session.

continued on next page...

Day Two – Tuesday, October 29 *continued...*

2:45 – 4:00 PM
Conference Room

Pick a Workshop *continued...*

A Community Engagement Lightning Rounds

Interactive Lightning Session – Round 1

A Tale of 3 Congregations

Rev. Genece Goertzen

*Advocate, Author, Speaker, Researcher, Minister, and Consultant,
Hope Rise Thrive*

A case study on the responses of three different congregations to survivor experiences with domestic violence. Many survivors struggle to find support in their faith communities after disclosing abuse. They feel that justice is denied as they encounter misinformation and judgment, or have their faith used against them. Others find significant healing and recovery in supportive faith environments. Still others receive mixed messages, leaving them confused and unsure about how to navigate their spirituality in the confusion. Risk factors can be mitigated, and protective factors can be enhanced, allowing faith communities to improve their support and provide much-needed community connections. Rev. Goertzen discusses her recently published research on the topic of congregations and domestic violence.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand how faith communities respond to abuse.
 - Discuss ways to improve responses to support survivors.
 - Create change within local faith communities.
-

Interactive Lightning Session – Round 2

Empower Through Education: The A.R.T. of Building Healthy Relationships to Prevent Intimate Partner Violence

Jamie R. Wright

Domestic Violence Survivor-Advocate, Jamie R. Wright LLC

Wright discusses the aim of improving the quality of life for communities affected by domestic violence through the empowerment and education brought about by sharing the “A.R.T. of Building Healthy Relationships.”

Learning Objectives:

- Understand Healthy Relationships; What Makes a Relationship Healthy?
- Recognize Unhealthy Patterns in Relationships; How Do I Address the Signs?
- Foster Respect within Relationships; How Do I Nurture Equality and Support in my Relationship?
- Build Trust in Relationships; How Do I Cultivate Equality and Support in Relationships?

continued on next page...

Day Two – Tuesday, October 29 *continued...*

2:45 – 4:00 PM
Conference Room

Pick a Workshop *continued...*

A Community Engagement Lightning Rounds

Interactive Lightning Session – Round 3 Accountability Walk: Taking Responsibility for Our Actions and Ending Violence

Kenneth Scott

*Domestic Violence High Risk Team (DVHRT) Coach,
Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council*

Similar to “In Her Shoes®,” “Accountability Walk” is a powerful interactive activity that simulates the experience of domestic violence offenders and their journey to rehabilitation. Participants are assigned a fictional character and are asked to make decisions and navigate through different scenarios based on that character’s experiences. Through this activity, Scott helps raise awareness and allows you to reflect on attitudes and behaviors towards domestic violence and how you can support victims, prevent abuse, and, most importantly, provide resources to offenders to break the cycle and make positive changes.

Learning Objectives:

- Increase awareness and understanding of the experiences of domestic violence offenders.
 - Reflect on attitudes and behaviors towards domestic violence and its impact on victims.
 - Explore ways to support victims and prevent abuse.
 - Learn the resources and information to help offenders break the cycle of domestic violence and make positive changes in their lives.
 - Foster empathy and compassion for all individuals affected by domestic violence.
 - Inspire you to act and advocate for positive change in your communities.
-

Interactive Lightning Session – Round 4 Small Group Success: Running Effective Prevention Groups on Teen Dating Violence

Amy Dossett

Prevention Coordinator, At-Risk Youth, SafeHaven of Tarrant County

We know that one in three adolescents is a victim of physical, sexual, emotional, or verbal abuse from a dating partner, a figure that far exceeds rates of other types of youth violence. Reaching these teens in a meaningful way is crucial to prevention of such abuse. Dossett will lead a discussion on best practices for setting up, implementing, and running engaging small groups for teens, with the goal of prevention of dating violence and the promotion of healthy relationships.

continued on next page...

Day Two – Tuesday, October 29 *continued...*

2:45 – 4:00 PM
Conference Room

Pick a Workshop continued...

A Community Engagement Lightning Rounds

Interactive Lightning Session – Round 4

Small Group Success: Running Effective Prevention Groups on Teen Dating Violence

Learning Objectives:

- Learn the most common teen dating violence curriculums and share which work best for their agencies.
 - Discover examples of effective and engaging activities that are used to prevent dating violence and promote healthy relationships.
 - Compare their most proven ways to both set up and implement successful small groups at the secondary level.
-

2:45 – 4:00 PM
Inspiration A

B IPV Prevention: Community Action Planning Session

Jyoti John

Case Manager Supervisor, Texas Muslim Women's Foundation

Mona Kafeel

CEO, Texas Muslim Women's Foundation

Kafeel and John lead an engaging brainstorming discussion to collaborate and develop actionable plans for implementing IPV prevention strategies within your communities, workplaces, or schools. Kafeel and John introduce and frame community action planning, encourage creativity and innovation to ensure all voices are heard, and help identify priorities and challenges while troubleshooting solutions. By engaging in a collaborative action planning process, we can harness the collective wisdom, creativity, and commitment of the community to develop meaningful and sustainable IPV prevention initiatives.

Learning Objectives:

- Develop actionable plans for implementing IPV prevention strategies.
- Consider how these plans can be applied to various contexts (i.e., communities, workplaces, schools).

continued on next page...

Day Two – Tuesday, October 29 *continued...*

2:45 – 4:00 PM

Inspiration B

Pick a Workshop continued...

C Building & Engaging Critical Connections: Community Partnerships to Enhance IPV Risk Assessments

Sarah Colomé

CEO/Founder, Collective Futures LLC

Michelle Toldeo-Cainas

Program Manager, Center for Justice Innovation

Colomé and Toldeo-Cainas discuss effective and sustainable implementation, or enhancement of an intimate partner violence (IPV) risk assessments in communities. True partnerships require buy-in, collaboration, and engagement. When these interdisciplinary partnerships are strong, they can lead to assessment demands requiring a collective approach, but where to start? Diverse partnerships are essential to this process; often, system stakeholders may not have essential community partners at the table to ensure IPV risk assessments do not cause further harm to victims of crime, particularly those within marginalized or shared sustainability, survivor-centered responses, and offender accountability. Colomé and Toldeo-Cainas highlight the importance of not just creating partnerships to address intimate partner violence, but practical strategies to maintain these relationships to bolster sustainability when using IPV risk assessments in the community.

Learning Objectives:

- Learn the importance of community and system partnerships to ensure effective use of IPV risk assessments.
- Explore practical partner engagement strategies to increase survivor safety and offender accountability.
- Identify strengths and opportunities for collaboration and buy-in in your own community.

2:45 – 4:00 PM

Transformation

D Cultural Responsiveness for Coordinated Community Response Teams

Carvana Cloud

Executive Director, The Empowered Survivor

LeTasha Davis Pyke

Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team Senior Specialist, Ujima, The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community

Homicides affect women of all ages and races, but young minority women are disproportionately impacted. Cloud and Pyke explore the vital roles and purposes of high-risk teams and domestic violence fatality review teams and the need for a culturally specific lens when reviewing these cases. Cloud and Pyke explore a deeper understanding of their differences and similarities and how they both work to reduce domestic violence homicides. Pyke discusses the importance of effectively collaborating in coordinated responses to mitigate domestic violence fatalities.

continued on next page...

Day Two – Tuesday, October 29 *continued...*

2:45 – 4:00 PM
Transformation

Pick a Workshop continued...

D Cultural Responsiveness for
Coordinated Community Response Teams

Learning Objectives:

- Explore the vital roles and purposes of high-risk teams and domestic violence fatality review teams.
 - Understand the differences and similarities of both teams.
 - Improve cultural responsiveness and coordinated community responses to domestic violence.
 - Understand how coordinated community responses can prevent future domestic violence homicides.
-

Day Three – Wednesday, October 30

8:00 AM
Lobby

Registration Opens

8:15 – 9:30 AM
***Conference Room
and Lobby***

Breakfast and Networking

Enjoy a delicious breakfast in the lobby and visit our sponsors' tables.

9:30 – 10:30 AM
Conference Room

Choose your own Keynote Speaker

A Implementing Flexible Financial Assistance Programs as a
Promising Strategy to Prevent Homelessness among Survivors:
Considerations for Community-based Agencies

Dr. Oyesola Oluwafunmilayo “Funmi” Ayeni

*Director of Research and Evaluation,
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence*

Lavon Morris Grant

*Director of Community Engagement,
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence*

continued on next page...

Day Three – Wednesday, October 30 *continued...*

9:30 – 10:30 AM
Conference Room

Choose your own Keynote Speaker continued...

A Implementing Flexible Financial Assistance Programs as a Promising Strategy to Prevent Homelessness among Survivors: Considerations for Community-based Agencies

Across the United States, the flexible funding model is gaining national popularity as an emerging solution to increase safety, housing, and economic stability among domestic violence survivors. As diverse institutions and communities seek to implement this intervention, a shared understanding of the guiding principles and core components of the flexible funding model is needed to promote implementation fidelity and yield the best outcomes among survivors. To this end, Dr. Ayeni and Grant present information about the guiding principles of the flexible funding model, discuss core considerations for agencies and communities seeking to implement the model, and conclude with an overview of preliminary evidence of the effectiveness of the flex funding model.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the principles and values that form the foundation of the flexible assistance model.
- Identify the components and benefits of implementing the flexible financial assistance model for agencies and communities.
- Explore a case study of successful implementation of the model.

9:30 – 10:30 AM
Inspiration AB

B The Person: What Lies at the Core of Culturally Specific Care

Lul Mohamud

Executive Director, The Person Center

Cultural specificity is critical to the discussion of equity, inclusivity, and justice in domestic violence response and prevention. However, when responders approach culturally specific care through the lens of “competency”, we are taught that an outsider’s view of an entire people is “competence.” But given that DV response is founded upon the principle of empathy, this concept collapses upon considering one simple question: How do you decide how much empathy for marginalized and oppressed peoples is “competent”? Mohamud explores the failures of “cultural competency” and the approach of culturally specific care by a culturally specific organization.

Learning Objectives:

- Engage in critical reflection of experiences with cultural competency approaches and be able to identify gaps in cultural competency approaches in context to marginalized minority populations.
 - Understand the core components of the theoretical framework to culturally specific care for survivors of multi-layered minority identities.
-

Day Three – Wednesday, October 30 *continued...*

10:30 – 10:45 AM

Refreshment Break / Networking

Take a walk, stretch, and be mindful of your wellness.

10:45 – 11:30 AM

Conference Room

Closing Plenary

Thank You for Your “Why”

Jamie R. Wright

Domestic Violence Survivor-Advocate, Jamie R. Wright LLC

Jamie Wright, a survivor and advocate, shares her journey to advocacy. Through her passionate narrative, Jamie sheds light on the realities of domestic violence, the power of a supportive community, and the importance of faith and resilience. Wright shares insight into the critical role advocates hold in empowering survivors and driving lasting change.

Learning Objectives:

- Practice centering survivor voices.
 - Consider the complexities of a survivor’s journey.
 - Reflect on your role in empowering survivors and driving change.
-

11:30 – 11:45 AM

Conference Room

Closing

William West, MPH, CHES

Prevention Manager, Texas Council on Family Violence

CEUs: 12.25 hours

12.25 total hours of Continuing Education Units for Social Work, Licensed Professional Counselors, and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists

TDCJ-CJAD BIPP Hours: 4.25

TDCJ-CJAD Family Violence Hours: 8



David Almager

Director of Battering Intervention and Prevention Program (BIPP), Denton County Friends of the Family

Almager is a veteran in family violence, having served as a facilitator and program director in four separate state-funded Domestic Violence programs. He has worked with both incarcerated and court ordered family violence offenders for over 25 years and was instrumental in the development of the Dallas County Felony Domestic Violence Court Program, specializing in the treatment of high-risk batterers. He has presented local, state and national trainings in the area of battering intervention and prevention, group facilitation, high-risk offender treatment, and gender-based violence prevention. In 2022, Almager was the sole invitee from Texas to join other practitioners and policy makers from across the nation for a two-part series discussion on Establishing National Values-Based Standards for Abusive Partners Intervention programs. He holds a Master of Science degree in Interdisciplinary Studies (Counseling/Health) from West Texas A&M University.



Dr. Oyesola Oluwafunmilayo “Funmi” Ayeni

Director of Research and Evaluation, National Resource Center on Domestic Violence

Dr. Oyesola Oluwafunmilayo “Funmi” Ayeni is an applied researcher and community-engaged evaluator with several years of demonstrated experience using community-centered equity approaches to conduct research and evaluation projects that fill in the gaps in our knowledge of gender-based violence, particularly intimate partner violence, and examine the effectiveness of victim/survivor service programs and community interventions. Funmi’s work focuses on mixed-methods evaluations of community interventions for survivors, improving the community response to gender-based violence, evaluating victim/survivor service programs, and policy advocacy. She has deep knowledge and use of participatory, empowerment, and culturally responsive approaches, and is proficient in using data-driven, learning, and innovation-focused evaluation and assessment methods. She is passionate about improving the safety and well-being of people of color and focuses on elevating and centering the values and perspectives of those most impacted by research and program work.



Jennifer Becker, Esq.

Director, National Center on Gun Violence in Relationships; Project Director, National Resource Center on Domestic Violence and Firearms, BWJP

Becker provides policy analysis, training, and technical assistance related to domestic violence and firearms and implementation of domestic violence firearms prohibition laws. Becker is an attorney and began her career as a prosecutor in Bronx, NY where she specialized in cases involving sexual assault, domestic violence, and child abuse. She subsequently served as the Title IX Coordinator for the largest K-12 school district in the country, charged with ensuring effective prevention and response to gender-

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based violence among students and staff. Prior to BWJP, Becker served as the Legal Director at Legal Momentum, the Women’s Legal Defense and Education Fund, where she implemented innovative legal strategies combining impact litigation, policy advocacy, and educational initiatives affecting a range of issues faced by survivors of gender-based violence, including work on issues related to the intersection of domestic violence and firearms, the Violence Against Women Act, and the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act.



Caroline Bettinger-López, JD

Professor of Law, Human Rights Clinic Director, University of Miami

Bettinger-López’ scholarship and advocacy focus on gender-based violence, international human rights law, and policy reform. She has been instrumental in advancing efforts to combat violence against women and marginalized communities, including LGBTQ+ individuals. As a Senior Advisor on Gender and Equality at the U.S. Department of Justice from 2022 to 2024, she played a key role in developing the first U.S. National Plan to End Gender-Based Violence. Her previous roles include serving as the White House Advisor on Violence Against Women during the Obama-Biden Administration, where she led initiatives such as the Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault and the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative. Bettinger-López has also contributed to significant international cases, such as *Jessica Lenahan (Gonzales) v. United States*, and has worked extensively on issues affecting Indigenous women and LGBTQ+ individuals in Latin America. Her advocacy extends to litigation against discriminatory practices and mass expulsions, and she has held prominent positions at the Council on Foreign Relations and Columbia Law School.



Donna Bloom

*Executive Program Director of Legal Services,
Denton County Friends of the Family (DCFOF)*

Bloom manages a team of attorneys, advocates and support staff who exclusively work with victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in a broad range of civil legal matters and advocacy needs, including divorce, custody disputes, CPS issues, housing concerns, protective orders, and victim’s rights within the criminal justice system. Before joining the team at DCFOF, Bloom served as a staff attorney with the Texas Advocacy Project, a statewide legal services organization for victims of violence. Bloom’s 30-year professional commitment to ending violence against women and children has included her legal career and a host of roles with the Family Place and New Beginning Center, including victim advocate, community educator and Executive Director of the Women’s Center of East Texas. During her time at the Women’s Center of East Texas, she saw first-hand the overwhelming need victims of domestic and sexual violence have for legal assistance, especially the importance of having an attorney who appreciates the complexities involved in this type of victimization and the intersection with civil legal remedies. She made the decision to attend law school and devote herself to this cause. Bloom is a recognized expert in the intersection between domestic violence and the child welfare system. She also regularly lectures

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and provides professional trainings on effective victim advocacy within the civil and criminal justice system. Finally, Bloom serves the agency as the point person for all public policy related matters facing victims of domestic and sexual violence both in the State of Texas and nationally by serving on the public policy committees of both the Texas Council on Family Violence and the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault and participating on the Board of Directors for the nationally recognized thought leader, the Battered Women’s Justice Project.



Noah Castro

Program Supervisor, STOP Violence Program, Los Angeles LGBT Center

Castro has been a dedicated advocate against LGBTQ+ domestic violence for nearly a decade in Los Angeles. As the Program Supervisor for the STOP Violence Program at the Los Angeles LGBT Center and a partner with the National LGBTQ Institute on Intimate Partner Violence, Castro offers deep expertise on the unique challenges LGBTQ+ individuals face. They lead trainings and workshops to educate both professionals and community members about LGBTQ+ intimate partner violence. With a background in political science, public policy, and management, Castro provides crucial insights into systemic barriers and societal prejudices affecting LGBTQ+ survivors. As a gay person of color, Castro’s unique perspective helps address intersecting layers of marginalization within the LGBTQ+ community. Their commitment to amplifying marginalized voices reflects their honor and dedication to this vital cause.



Rev. Yvette “Vette” Christy

Author, Owner/Consultant, Yvette Christy LLC

Rev. Christy is a United Methodist elder currently appointed to Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas, where she is working on her Doctor of Ministry degree. Rev. Christy is also a survivor of human trafficking and the founder of The Reclamation Project, a nonprofit organization that is building long-term housing options and vocational opportunities for other survivors. She has also written an autobiography entitled, */Hôr/?*, which became available August 1, 2024.



Carvana Cloud

Executive Director, The Empowered Survivor

Cloud is an attorney who has served as a prosecutor, criminal defense, and immigration attorney. She now leverages her 17+ years criminal justice experience to provide public safety consultation and training on developing innovative policing solutions to enhance community-based responses to reduce violent crime. She is the founder of The Empowered Survivor, an organization dedicated to uplifting and empowering victims and providing restorative justice to survivors. She has dedicated her career to amplifying the voices of the unheard and underserved survivors of color who often suffer in silence or whose cries go unheard.



Sarah Colomé

CEO/Founder, Collective Futures LLC

Colomé brings a passion for collective liberation to all aspects of her work. Catalyzed by her commitment to advancing liberatory frameworks, she founded Collective Futures LLC in 2021 with the mission to actualize intersectional equity by transforming intention into practice. With more than a decade of experience in the movement to end violence, she has bolstered the capacity of organizations as a strategist, trainer, Technical Assistance provider, policy advisor, and educator. During her tenure as the Director of the Women’s Resources Center at the University of Illinois, she oversaw the Center’s three key divisions: gender equity, sexual misconduct prevention, and advocacy and support. Through this role she secured the institution’s first OVW Campus Program grant and created UIUC’s Embedded Confidential Advisor Model in collaboration with two campus cultural centers. Prior to Illinois, she served as the Manager of Break the Cycle’s Capacity Building Program, focusing on preventing and addressing gender-based violence among young people age 12-24, across the nation. As a community-centered educator and capacity builder, Sarah has presented across the globe and collaborated with a diverse group of partners such as FreeForm, Georgetown University, Johns Hopkins University, the Arkansas Office of the Attorney General, End Rape on Campus, and the Center for Justice Innovation. She has also managed three OVW technical assistance projects supporting grantees with a focus on youth-led approaches that center marginalized communities. Building on her experiences as a domestic violence and sexual assault survivor advocate, Colomé currently serves on the Campus Advocates and Prevention Professionals Association (CAPP) Leadership Council, and on Board of Directors for End Rape on Campus. In 2015, she was selected as an International Delegate to the Centre Hubertine Auclert in Paris.



Kimberly D. Davis

DVBeds Manager, Family Place

Davis manages the DV Beds program, a secure web-based solution that provides real-time shelter bed availability for participating domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, emergency shelters and community partners. Davis began at The Family Place as an Administrative Program Advocate. As an advocate she acted as liaison between survivors and case managers and counselors, providing comprehensive support. Her empathetic approach and ability to build trust with survivors fostered a culture of respect and safety, ensuring that every survivor she reached felt supported in their journey to rebuild their lives. Davis is proud to play a key role in the nationwide expansion of the DV Beds program, fully embracing the trust and responsibility placed in her. She is a public speaker, professional voice artist and is transforming her message of empowerment into a powerful and impactful presence.



Drew Denny

Director & Producer, Survivor Made

Denny is passionate about representing women and LGBTQ+ characters on stage and screen. Her forthcoming documentary *Second Nature*, narrated by Elliot Page, was selected by the Sundance Documentary Fund and the Frameline Completion Fund, and Harper's Bazaar called her one woman show turned Academy Award nominated podcast *Asking For It* "a Fleabag fix in a post-Fleabag world." Her action comedy film *Momster*, starring Amanda Plummer and Brianna Hildebrand, premiered in Competition at the Tribeca Film Festival where it was selected for their debut Pride program and called "Tarantino and Nicolas Refn's queer feminist love child," and Marta Kaufman's shingle OK Goodnight is producing her documentary *Queer Habits*—following drag queen nuns who save a rural homophobic community from ruin. She was selected for the Sundance Interdisciplinary Lab where she developed her next narrative feature, a psychological thriller exploring crimes she survived. In her fictional films, stage productions, and over a dozen documentaries, Denny has represented never before seen characters and secured unprecedented access to subjects as diverse as drag queen nuns in California, abortion clinics in Texas, climate change refugees in the Maldives, NASA scientists in Greenland and sex changing fish in the Pacific Ocean. She earned a BFA in Cinema and Television Production from the University of Southern California and an MA in Aesthetics and Politics from California Institute of the Arts. She moonlights in a band called HIPS and runs the non-profit Allies in Arts supporting artists who are women, BIPOC and LGBTQ+ with paid educational programs such as Transchool and mutual aid initiatives like transanta.



Amy Dossett

Prevention Coordinator, At-Risk Youth, SafeHaven of Tarrant County

Dossett has 18 years of experience working in the family violence field, with one as a case manager and 17 in prevention. Dossett primarily serves high school and college aged students, resolving to prevent abusive relationships and promote healthy relationships. Dossett holds a master's degree in Family Studies and a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Texas Woman's University. Her previous work experience includes working with the homeless and with foster children.



Hillary England

*Deputy Director for Victim Services and Prevention Programs,
Office of Texas Governor Greg Abbott*

In her role as Deputy Director for Victim Services and Prevention Programs in the Office of Texas Governor Greg Abbott, England has leadership oversight of the Governor's Sexual Assault Survivors' Task Force, the Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Team, and the Public Safety Office's Victim Services grant program team. England has over 25 years of cross-sector leadership experience with over 10 years of experience in the human services field. Her areas of expertise include organizational

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effectiveness, performance quality improvement, data-driven practice, and program evaluation. She received her BA from Yale University and her Master's Degree in Social Work from the State University of New York at Buffalo, where she completed extensive training and research in program evaluation, trauma interventions, and the theory and practice of trauma-informed care.



Krista Del Gallo

*Director of TA and Systems Change,
Caminar Latino-Latinos United for Peace and Equity,
National Center to Advance Peace for Children, Youth and Families*

Del Gallo formerly worked as Legislative Director at the Texas Council on Family Violence. Her work focuses on researching, analyzing, and promoting laws, policies and options that expand the critical social safety nets for survivors of family violence and their children, with a particular focus on health, economic stability, immigration remedies, and child custody. Del Gallo has been working within the domestic violence and sexual assault movements since 1994. She has worked within case management, children's advocacy, legal advocacy, and training at crisis programs in rural Indiana, the Rosebud Lakota Reservation in South Dakota, and Austin, Texas. Del Gallo received the 2012 Woman of the Year Award for Economic Empowerment from the YWCA of Greater Austin.



Rev. Genece Goertzen

*Advocate, Author, Speaker, Researcher, Minister, Consultant,
Hope Rise Thrive*

Rev. Goertzen is a survivor of more than two decades of domestic violence who seeks to turn that tragedy into advocacy for others. After escaping abuse, she completed her master's degrees in theology and social work. She is now a PhD student at Baylor University. She has taught numerous workshops on abuse and serves on the board of directors for the Family Abuse Center in Waco. She recently completed a pastoral study grant through the Louisville Institute, conducting research on resiliency in survivors and how churches and faith affect healing after abuse. She has also authored a book for faith leaders on best practices regarding the response to domestic violence in their congregations.



Jyoti John

Case Manager Supervisor, Texas Muslim Women's Foundation

As manager, John has been an advocate and case manager for domestic violence survivors from immigrant and refugee communities for over 15 years. John is multilingual and belongs to the South Asian community.



Gene Johnson, Jr.

Associate Director, Center for Justice Innovation

Johnson is an Associate Director of the Center for Court Innovation Gender and Family Justice Team. He facilitates, develops curriculums, and provides technical assistance for battering intervention programs for men and young men. Johnson has worked with several intervention programs including the Center for Court Innovation's Supervised Release Tactics and Choices (in partnership with CASES and CJA), Urban Resource Institute Abusive Partner Intervention Program in collaboration with the Office of the District Attorney of New York, Dignity and Respect (in partnership with EAC, The Osbourne Association, and Fortune Society), Rising Ground's (formerly Edwin Gould Services for Families) STEPS to End Family Violence Teen Accountability Program in partnership with Kings County Criminal Court Youthful Offender Domestic Violence Court, Community-Driven Solutions and Safe Horizon's Domestic Violence Accountability Program. Johnson also co-chairs HEARTS (Healing. Equity. Accountability. Restoration. Transformation. Safety) formerly New York's Coalition of Working with Abusive Partner (CoWAP), a New York based member organization of representatives of institutions concerned with preventing and ending abusive behavior in intimate relationships. Johnson has facilitated and designed various processes to promote dialogues about masculinity and its role in society. Johnson has also developed and facilitated conflict resolution, mediation, and restorative justice trainings and models in various New York City public schools. He is also a mediator, conflict resolution consultant, New York State certified basic mediation trainer, New York State certified ombudsman, facilitator, and a parliamentarian (Robert Rules of Order) experienced with divorce, custody and visitation, child support, family, restorative justice, transformative mediation, and victim offender mediation. He also was on a committee that created a mediation domestic violence screening tool used in New York State Family Courts.



Mona Kafeel

CEO, Texas Muslim Women's Foundation

Kafeel is a dedicated advocate currently serving as the CEO of the Texas Muslim Women's Foundation (TMWF), where she serves with a steadfast commitment to uplifting women and families. Kafeel brings a wealth of experience and unwavering dedication to the movement against gender-based violence, channeling her efforts into survivor-centered solutions aimed at fostering positive change. Over her 17-year career, Kafeel has earned a distinguished reputation for her expertise in organizational growth, strategic partnerships, and successful fundraising endeavors. Her tenure at TMWF has afforded her a deep understanding of the nonprofit landscape, enabling her to navigate complex challenges while fostering innovation and collaboration. Mona's impactful initiatives include spearheading the establishment of trauma-informed domestic violence shelters in Dallas and providing vital support for elderly women facing abuse and abandonment. Additionally, her entrepreneurial spirit shines through her establishment of a culinary social enterprise, offering sustainable economic opportunities to those in need. Recognizing the importance of sustainable philanthropy, Mona has played a pivotal role in creating a women-led Giving Circle,

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fostering a collaborative ecosystem for impactful contributions. Through her strategic partnerships and compelling communication skills, she has successfully garnered significant support for TMWF’s mission, while also serving as a respected national speaker on gender-based violence. Keef’s leadership style, rooted in servant leadership principles, reflects her humility and dedication to service. Her strategic vision, operational prowess, and unwavering commitment to excellence continue to make a profound and lasting impact on the lives of those she serves, exemplifying the transformative power of compassion and vision.



Darlene Lanham

*Executive Director, Asian Family Support Services of Austin (AFSSA)
Austin, Texas, Region 9 Area Director, Second Three-Year Term*

Asian Family Support Services of Austin exists to break the cycle of violence in Asian and Immigrant communities. Lanham brings over 15 years of leadership in association management and public affairs to serve the movement. Lanham is a Trustee of University of the West, a private university that offers a whole person education informed by Buddhist wisdom. She leads workshops to create inclusive communities using the National Coalition Building Institute’s model. She is past Chair of the Capital Area Council of Governments Criminal Justice Advisory Committee, which prioritizes grant funds on behalf of the Governor’s Office for services such as domestic violence shelters. She is past Chair of the City of Austin Commission for Women, which advises the city council on matters affecting women and the families who are connected to them. Lanham earned her master’s degree from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at UT Austin.



Rosie Martinez, CA, DVT

Consultant and Owner, Regional Justice Center Consulting

Martinez is a subject matter expert national trainer and the Director of the Victims Unit of the Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney’s Office. She has 24 years of experience in victim services. She is a nationally accredited Advanced Level “Comprehensive Victim Intervention Specialist” and is accredited by the American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress in Domestic Violence Trauma and Crisis Response. She is a member of the National Center for Crisis Management and the International Speakers and Trainers Bureau of the American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress, the Academy’s Expert Witness Directory, and the Academy’s Deployment Directory. She is certified as an Advanced Sexual Assault Family Violence Investigator, as a Crime Victim Advocate by the Office of Victims of Crime, the Office of the Attorney General of Texas, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and has a trainer certification for Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool from the Office of the Governor of Texas Child Sex Trafficking Team and a Baylor University Certification for Motivational Interviewing for Commercially Sexually Exploited Children.



Dinyar Mehta, MA, LMFT, JD, CPCC

Associate Director of Mental Health Services, Los Angeles LGBT Center

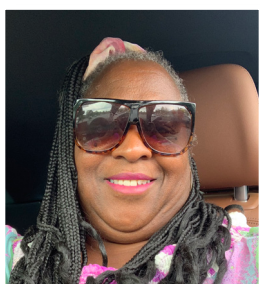
Mehta identifies as a queer/gay, multiracial, psychotherapist of color. He is the Associate Director of Mental Health Services and is proud to work at the Los Angeles LGBT Center. He engages extensively with members of QT/BIPOC, among other communities, through 1:1 and group psychotherapy, and multi-level advocacy and consultation—skills honed at the Center’s STOP Violence Program. Mehta earned his Juris Doctor from the University of San Diego School of Law and experienced a long and established career in the Legal Information Technology space. He then earned his MA in Marriage and Family Therapy at Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota. He is an Assistant Faculty member at Saint Mary’s University and teaches “Psychotherapy with LGBTQ+ Individuals and Families” and “LGBTQ+ Family and Intimate Partner Violence.” Additionally, Dinyar continues to present at conferences, and instructs on capacity building on LGBTQ+ Violence.



Lul Mohamud

Executive Director, The Person Center

Lul Mohamud is the Executive Director of The Person Center based in Washington DC. The Person Center is a community-based nonprofit that serves survivors of domestic and sexual violence in the African Immigrant and Refugee Community. She led the relaunch of The Person Center in 2021 and continues to serve the organization as it expands culturally specific and survivor-informed direct services, education, and advocacy initiatives to ensure access for all African Immigrant survivors in the DC Metro Area. Mohamud earned a Masters of Public Health in Global Health, Community Health Development with a Certificate in Mental Health from the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University.



Lavon Morris-Grant

*Director of Community Engagement,
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRC DV)*

Lavon joined NRC DV as the Director of Community Engagement in 2021. Working in close collaboration with the Vice President of Strategic Partnerships and Systems Change, Vice President of Programs, Prevention and Social Change, the Director of Policy and the Director of Housing and Economic Justice, she is a bridge to people with lived experience in communities most impacted by housing insecurity to guide and inform the work of NRC DV’s housing capacity center and across all initiatives. Lavon has been a social justice advocate for over 25 years, where she founded and was the Executive Director of MACOSH Healing Network from 2013–2021. It is the first culturally specific, holistic, African American non-profit domestic violence organization providing resources through the Arts in the State of Georgia. She is a gifted international and keynote speaker and dedicated political activist on vital social and psychological issues including homelessness, domestic violence, sexual assault, mental illness, trauma recovery, suicide prevention and gun control.



Cherry Morse

Sales and Marketing Manager, Gifted

Morse is the Sales and Marketing Manager at Gifted, a social enterprise created by FreeFrom that supports survivors by purchasing handmade self-care products from survivor entrepreneurs and paying living wages to its survivor employees. Morse manages the brand's marketing campaigns, promotions, and corporate partnerships. Morse was born and raised in the Philippines and she applied her Hotel and Restaurant Management degree to work in the hospitality industry across Asia and the Middle East. Morse moved to the US in 2001, where she met her ex-partner. After a 12-year marriage, she divorced in 2018. Morse found the courage to leave the abusive partner while pregnant with her youngest daughter, and began a new, violence-free life with her children. While in a domestic violence shelter, Morse focused on healing holistically with her children. Once she secured stable housing, she pursued a business degree at LACC while working as a paralegal at the Los Angeles Superior Court. Morse is featured in a documentary that highlights her journey as a single mother of four and a survivor while working at Gifted. She also founded her LLC, HerFortitude, a women empowerment company, and she is member of the Survivor Advisory Council at Finability, a nonprofit that provides financial resources and programs for survivors. Morse is on this panel to share her story, amplify the voices of survivors, raise awareness about domestic violence, and inspire others by demonstrating that hope and support are available. She emphasizes that organizations like FreeFrom are here to support survivors and that no one has to face this alone.



Ivonne Ortiz

*Vice President of Program, Prevention, & Social Change,
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRCDV)*

Ortiz is a human rights activist with more than 25 years of experience working to end gender-based violence. She is nationally recognized as an advocate, community organizer, and racial justice advocate. In 2005, Ortiz received the Arte Sana's National Comadre en la Lucha Award for her advocacy efforts on behalf of the Latinx communities. As a member of the NRCDV family since 2013, Ortiz has been responsible for coordinating specialized technical assistance, training, and resource development on a wide range of subjects and issues that intersect with domestic violence like dynamics, prevalence, intervention, prevention, and public awareness. She is an orgullosa Puertorrican thrifter, and mother of three who continues to advocate for social change in her homeland of Puerto Rico and the US. Ortiz has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology from the University of Puerto Rico.



Sonya Passi

Founder and CEO, FreeFrom

Passi is the Founder & CEO of FreeFrom, a national organization transforming our society's response to gender-based violence so that survivors and their families can thrive. To date, FreeFrom has served over 30,000 survivors and successfully changed policy to support the financial security of over 5.3 million survivors in the US. Passi has been an anti-violence activist since she was 16 years old. During high school, she started an Amnesty International Community Group, and, while working on their global violence against women campaign, discovered her life's work. While earning her law degree at UC Berkeley, she launched the Family Violence Appellate Project (FVAP). Based in Oakland, California, FVAP provides free appellate legal services to survivors of intimate partner violence in California and has fundamentally transformed the legal landscape in California. Passi also holds a B.A. and MPhil from the University of Cambridge (Trinity College). For her work in the field, Sonya was awarded the 2024 Elevate Prize, listed in Forbes' 30 Under 30 Class of 2017 For Law and Policy, and has served as an Ashoka, Roddenberry, Draper Richards Kaplan, and New America California fellow. She has presented her work to the UN, White House, members of Congress and federal agencies, major corporations and various city and state agencies and commissions. Her work has been featured in the New York Times, CNN, Marketwatch, Business Insider, and other leading news outlets.



Linda Phan

Deputy Director of Policy, Communication, and Strategic Engagement, Office of Violence Against Women (OVW)

Phan joined OVW in May 2022. In this role, she ensures the priorities of OVW's grant-making and policy making is responsive to the needs of survivors and the field. Before joining OVW, she spent over 23 years in the field working on issues of domestic violence and sexual assault, beginning her career with SAFE—the Travis County Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center in Austin, Texas—and the Texas Advocacy Project, a statewide legal hotline. In 2005, she joined Asian Family Support Services of Austin (AFSSA) as its first executive director. The organization provides a wide range of holistic and culturally grounded services for Asian and other immigrant survivors. A major component of Linda's work at AFSSA focused on systems advocacy and working with institutions to develop best practices in response to the needs of immigrant survivors of violence. In 2018, she joined the Texas Council on Family Violence as the director of public policy, where she oversaw a portfolio covering shelter policy, child welfare, criminal justice responses, immigration, and economic support for survivors. She played a key role in the appropriations of state funding to support Texas shelters and helped pass state laws to improve criminal justice responses and expand economic options for survivors. Focusing on racial equity, she served as an advisor on language access for the National Domestic Violence Hotline and chaired the City of Austin Commission on Immigrant Affairs. She was appointed in 2014 by President Obama as a commissioner on the Presidential Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, where she worked on anti-bullying in Asian communities, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) rollout. Linda is committed to serving OVW's mission and to survivors of gender-based violence.



Lisa Pous

Peer Support Program Director, SAFE Alliance

Wild Woman falling madly in love with herself. Activist. Advocate. Mother. Healer. Warrior. Student. Pous is a self-proclaimed Survivor Extraordinaire and expert at keeping herself alive and reclaiming her personal power. Pous is the Peer Support Specialist Program Director and MHPS Supervisor at The SAFE Alliance in Austin, Texas, where she helped to develop and build peer support programming, contributes statewide on safe housing education, and participates with the Central Texas Coalition Against Human Sex Trafficking DMST and AST (minors and adults). Pous has also served on the Texas state mental health advisory board from 2017 to 2019 with ViaHope. She now shares her voice and personal story consulting to reach other survivors, raise awareness, and build equitable and diverse communities serving survivors. Pous is a founding member of Survivor Voices Project ATX, as well as a mom, artist, healer, friend, and lover. A proud advocate for human rights, Pous is known for lifting others up, laughing, and rattling cages.



LeTasha Davis Pyke

Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team (DVFRT) Senior Specialist, Ujima, The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community

Pyke leads the DVFRT-ECSR project to enhance the cultural responsiveness of fatality review teams. With 12 years of experience in the violence against women movement, she previously worked with the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence as Director of Public Affairs and Ally Engagement. She managed the agency's strategic communications, training and technical assistance, and public policy efforts and supervised projects on coordinated community responses and domestic violence prevention. Earlier in her career, Pyke provided trauma-informed care in a crisis shelter. She has since been involved in extensive legal and systemic advocacy, including co-founding the Family Justice Center of Acadiana. She is actively involved in multiple task forces, certified in danger assessment, and as a group facilitator for offenders.



Kenneth Scott

Domestic Violence High Risk Team (DVHRT) Coach, Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council

Kenneth Scott is a passionate advocate for social health. He obtained two degrees as a student-athlete from the University of Utah and received numerous accolades for his leadership, community service, athletics, and academic performance. Furthermore, he was awarded the Most Inspirational Male Student-Athlete and got opportunities to play professionally in the NFL and CFL. Currently, he oversees the DVHRT Pilot Program within the Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (HCDVCC) under the Domestic Violence High-Risk Team (DVHRT), which helps individuals who have caused harm in intimate partner relationships become better partners, parents, and individuals.



Gloria Aguilera Terry

Chief Executive Officer, Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV)

Aguilera Terry joined the Texas Council on Family Violence in January 2008. In her role as CEO, Gloria guides and directs the statewide activities of TCFV, such as the Texas Legislative Session, establishing and fostering statewide tactical partnerships, working with staff to provide outstanding services to programs, and strategically positioning TCFV to create the influence necessary to continue serving the needs of victims and their families. Prior to TCFV she served as Executive Director of the Center against Family Violence (CAFV), the largest domestic violence program along the US / Mexico border. Before joining the CAFV, she was Senior Vice President of Finance and Administration for the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce. She directly managed the daily operations of three corporations and two limited Liability Companies with a varied spectrum of missions, from workforce preparedness to affordable housing for the largest chamber of commerce in the region. She currently offers her time to the VAWA Planning Committee with the Office of the Governor, Faculty to the national LEAP project with ValorUS, member of the Sexual Assault Prevention Workgroup with the Office of the Governor, Treasurer to the National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project, Texas Society of Association Executives and National Resource Center on Domestic Violence.



Michelle Toledo-Cainas

Program Manager, Center for Justice Innovation (CJI)

Toledo-Cainas is a program manager for the Gender and Family Justice team at CJI's Domestic Violence Resource for Increasing Safety and Connection project. She engages communities to identify challenges and opportunities in addressing intimate partner violence risk assessments. Before coming to CJI, Toledo-Cainas founded the Georgia Latinos Against Domestic Violence task force in 2009 to support Latino community members and those who work with them, and has been an advocate for domestic violence cases in system and community settings. She has participated with the Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Arte Sana, and the Ahimsa House boards of directors.



William West, MPH, CHES

Prevention Manager, Texas Council on Family Violence

West (he/him) has been working in the movement to end gender-based violence for the past eleven years, focusing on youth empowerment and engagement; the intersection of health, public health, and violence prevention; and healthy masculinity. He started as an AmeriCorps member serving as a Relationship Abuse Prevention facilitator and then worked as a Family Advocate in a shelter in Florida. He earned his Master of Public Health at Emory University in Atlanta. He has been at TCFV for more than six years and is currently serving as the Prevention Manager—a role which enables him to facilitate a variety of trainings, work at the intersection of health and intimate partner violence, and co-host *Down the Rabbit Hole*, a prevention-centered podcast. He is also currently serving as Board President for Every Body Texas—an organization advocating for safe, unbiased, high quality reproductive and sexual healthcare for all Texans and the largest administrator of Title X funds in the country.



Rhonda Williamson

*Executive Director, Safer Path Family Violence Shelter
TCFV Area Director, Region 8*

Williamson has served as the Executive Director of Safer Path Family Violence Shelter in Pleasanton, Texas since 2018. Over the last 6 years, she has led the organization through dramatic changes and growth—rebranding, opening a shelter, adding transitional housing, and launching prevention programs. Williamson has 20 years of experience working in nonprofit management and prevention, previously serving as the President/CEO of Girls Inc. of San Antonio, Primary Prevention & Education Manager for the Purple Door in Corpus Christi, and the Director of the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Women’s Center for Education and Service. She has a Master of Science in secondary education and a Bachelor of Arts in communication and public relations from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.



Jamie R. Wright

Domestic Violence Survivor-Advocate, Jamie R. Wright LLC

Wright is an award-winning Resilience and Encouragement Speaker, advocate, activist, coach, and domestic violence survivor with a mission to provide survivor-led awareness, empowerment, and advocacy to underrepresented and historically marginalized communities impacted by domestic violence. Wright has appeared on 60 Minutes, BBC News, NBC, CBS, Fox26, and numerous podcasts; has been featured in various articles around the world; and has also appeared on *The Doctors* and HGTV’s *House Hunters* TV show.



April Zeoli, PhD, MPH

Associate Professor, University of Michigan School of Public Health

Dr. Zeoli is an Associate Professor in the School of Public Health and Director of the Policy Core for the Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention at the University of Michigan. She conducts interdisciplinary research, aiming to bring together public health, criminology, and criminal justice. Her main fields of investigation are preventing firearm violence, intimate partner violence, and homicide through policy and law. She is one of the nation’s leading experts on policy interventions for firearm use in intimate partner violence and on extreme risk protection orders. She is on the editorial boards of the scholarly journals *Injury Prevention*, *Criminology & Public Policy*, *Injury Epidemiology*, and *Homicide Studies*, and serves as the research expert for the National Domestic Violence and Firearms Resource Center.

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TEXAS COUNCIL ON FAMILY VIOLENCE PROMOTES SAFE AND
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