

2026

Statewide Conference

Kalahari Resorts & Conventions

MAP

LOBBY LEVEL



LOWER LEVEL



“I’m OK. Are You OK?” Connections. Conversations. Communities.

October 27, 28, 29, 2026
Kalahari Resorts & Conventions | Round Rock, Texas

Welcome to the 2026 TCFV Statewide Conference

Welcome to the 2026 Texas Council on Family Violence Statewide Conference, *“I’m OK. Are You OK?” Connections. Conversations. Communities.* We are delighted to welcome you to the biennial statewide gathering of Texas advocates, leaders, service providers, partners, and changemakers who share a deep commitment to safety, healing, and hope for survivors and their families.

This year’s theme begins with a simple question that carries a powerful meaning: *I’m OK. Are You OK?* It reminds us that connection can open the door to awareness, compassion, and action. Each conversation we begin, each relationship we strengthen, and each lesson we carry forward helps build a stronger circle of support for survivors, advocates, and communities across Texas.

Over the next few days, you will have the opportunity to explore emerging issues, sharpen practice skills, and learn alongside presenters and peers who are advancing survivor-centered, trauma-informed, culturally responsive, and community-rooted approaches. From technology and safety to housing, healing, prevention, legal remedies, advocate wellness, and coordinated community response, every session is an invitation to gather tools, spark new ideas, and return home with renewed energy for the work ahead.

Thank you for the compassion, courage, wisdom, and persistence you bring to this movement. Your presence here matters. Together, we will learn, connect, imagine, and recommit to building a Texas where survivors are believed, advocates are sustained, and every community has a role in creating safety and healing.

In Unity,

Gloria Aguilera Terry, CEO

TCFV Statewide Conference Committee

Maria Jose Angelelli
Deborah Butts
Patricia Villagomez Diaz
Cathy Henzen
Vivian Sanchez
Krista Varney
William West

Monday, October 26

REGISTRATION OPEN

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm | Registration Booth F

Agenda Day 1 | Tuesday, October 27

REGISTRATION OPEN

8:00 am – 5:00 pm | Registration Booth F

Pre-Conference Exhibitors and Book Signing

9:30 am – 10:15 am | Acacia

Author Book Signing

BOOK SIGNING WITH DR. SHERRY HAMBY:

Battered Women's Protective Strategies: Stronger Than You Know

Stronger Than You Think: Four Pillars for a Stronger, More Resilient You

BOOK SIGNING WITH REV. DR. GENEECE GOERTZEN-MORRISON:

Taking It Seriously: A Faith Leader's Guide to Domestic Violence

Statewide Welcome and Opening

10:30 am – 10:45 am | Kalahari Salons F-I

TWILA CARTER, Member-at-Large, Houston City Council — Houston, Texas

Twila opens the conference with a statewide welcome rooted in this year's theme, "I'm OK. Are You OK?" She invites you to reflect on connection, awareness, and community as essential parts of strengthening support for survivors across Texas.

» **Learning Objectives:**

1. Explore the origin and purpose of the "I'm OK. Are You OK?" campaign.
2. Discover how the campaign connects to the 2026 Statewide Conference theme.

.25 CEUS: SW, LMFT, or LPC
.25 CEUS: TDCJ-CJAD FV

Opening Plenary

When They Don't Say "Abuse," Will You Be the One Who Hears Them?

10:45 am – 11:30 am | Kalahari Salons F-I

KIMYA MOTLEY, Chief Advancement Officer, A Call to Men — Charlotte, North Carolina

Survivors may not use the word "abuse" when reaching for help. Drawing on her experience as a survivor and her work with A Call to Men, Kimya will examine how advocates and systems can miss signs of fear, control, and danger when they listen only for specific labels. Through reflection and discussion, she'll help you practice more curious listening, recognize missed opportunities for connection, and consider how men can help interrupt harmful behavior.

» Learning Objectives:

1. Identify ways survivors may communicate fear, control, coercion, or danger without explicitly identifying their experience as abuse, and apply survivor-centered listening strategies that use curiosity and follow-up questions to better understand what a person may be experiencing.
2. Examine how professional language, assumptions, institutional practices, compassion fatigue, and resource limitations can create missed opportunities for connection and support.
3. Explore opportunities to engage men as active participants in violence prevention, including using relationships and influence with men to challenge harmful attitudes, interrupt concerning behaviors, and help prevent violence before it occurs or escalates.
4. Identify one concrete action you can take within your role, organization, or community to strengthen the response survivors receive and expand community responsibility for violence prevention.

.75 CEUS: SW, LMFT, or LPC
.75 CEUS: TDCJ-CJAD BIPP

Choose Your Own Keynote Round 1

Beyond Grit: Pathways to True Resilience for Survivors and the People Who Help Them

11:45 am – 12:45 pm | Cypress

SHERRY HAMBY, Distinguished Research Professor of Psychology, University of the South — Sewanee, Tennessee

Survivors and advocates can build resilience after violence and trauma. Drawing on more than 30 years of research, Dr. Hamby will explain why resilience is more than grit and introduce the resilience portfolio: meaning-making, regulation, relationships, and the physical environment. She'll share practical, evidence-informed tools you can use to strengthen resilience for survivors, advocates, and communities.

» Learning Objectives:

1. Understand the limits of resilience approaches that focus only on individual traits.
2. Identify the four resilience portfolio domains and examples of strengths that support healing after trauma.
3. Discover how family violence professionals can build resilience portfolios to reduce burnout and sustain the work.

1 CEU: SW, LMFT, or LPC
1 CEU: TDCJ-CJAD FV

Enhancing Access

11:45 am – 12:45 pm | Portia

ELENA (NENA) AGUAYO-AGUIRRE, Immigration Coordinator/Case Coordinator, Center Against Sexual & Family Violence — El Paso, Texas

RAY LAUSER, Attorney at Law, The Lauser Law Firm, P.C. — El Paso, Texas

Important legal rights and protections exist for immigrant survivors fleeing domestic violence. Nena and Ray will discuss the development of a collaborative program designed to support immigrant survivors of family violence. They'll share how community-based victim services and legal advocacy partners worked together to enhance access to information, resources, and support for survivors. Participants will learn about key considerations in building effective partnerships, addressing barriers experienced by immigrant survivors, and creating coordinated approaches to service delivery. Presenters will also highlight lessons learned, promising practices, and strategies that organizations may consider when strengthening services for immigrant survivors in their communities.

» Learning Objectives:

1. Understand the process of starting an immigration program in your agency.
2. Discover how to accomplish amazing things through developing a partnership with an attorney.
3. Create a process to achieve the goals you develop for your immigration program.

1 CEU: SW, LMFT, or LPC
1 CEU: TDCJ-CJAD FV

Lunch on Your Own

12:45 pm – 2:15 pm

LUNCH OPTIONS:

Located at Kalahari

- B-Lux Grill & Bar
- Cinco Ninos (Patio Bar Only)
- Macs - Macaroni and Cheese Shop
- Marrakesh Market Eatery
- Pizzeria Sortino

Less Than 5 Minutes by Car

- Blue Corn Harvest Bar & Grill
- MasFajitas Mexican Restaurant
- Misaki Ramen
- The Salt Lick
- Sangam Chettinad Indian Cuisine
- Culver's
- Firehouse Subs
- Golden Chick
- Tropical Smoothie Cafe
- Whataburger

Workshops Round 1

Balancing the Nervous System in BIPP

2:15 pm – 3:30 pm | Bamboo

GALIA GOYA, Senior Manager of Prevention and Intervention, Hope's Door New Beginning Center — Plano, Texas

Galia will explore breathing techniques, mindfulness practices, and metacognitive exercises that can strengthen the Battering Intervention and Prevention Program (BIPP) group work. She'll explain how nervous system regulation supports accountability, emotional regulation, and long-term behavior change, and offers practical tools facilitators can integrate into existing curricula.

» Learning Objectives:

1. Learn how nervous system activation affects emotional reactivity and behavior in BIPP participants.
2. Identify at least three regulation exercises that can be incorporated into BIPP group sessions.
3. Examine how metacognition supports accountability, intentional decision-making, and behavior change.

1.25 CEUS: SW, LMFT, or LPC
1.25 CEUS: TDCJ-CJAD BIPP

Abuse by Credit: Understanding Coerced Debt and Pathways to Solutions

2:15 pm – 3:30 pm | Crown Palm

ANN BADDOUR, Director, Fair Financial Services Project, Texas Appleseed — Austin, Texas

CARLA SANCHEZ-ADAMS, Senior Attorney, National Consumer Law Center — Austin, Texas

Coerced debt can prevent survivors from rebuilding safety and economic stability. Ann and Carla will explain how abusers use credit and debt as tools of control, review recent Texas legal remedies, and highlight resources and legal pathways that can help survivors address the financial harms of abuse.

» Learning Objectives:

1. Learn about coerced debt and resources to help screen for it.
2. Identify remedies that exist in state and federal law, including recent law changes from the 89th Legislative Session.
3. Review the coerced debt pilot, its successes, and the ongoing work to make legal help more available.

1.25 CEUS: SW, LMFT, LPC
1.25 CEUS: TDCJ-CJAD FV

Me, Myself, and AI: Children, Youth, and Online Risks in the Age of Generative AI

2:15 pm – 3:30 pm | Cypress

AUDACE GARNETT, Director, Safety Net Project, National Network to End Domestic Violence — Houston, Texas

Generative AI technologies have been rapidly adopted by many people, especially teenagers. While tools like chatbots can empower teens with enhanced educational opportunities and creative expression, they also introduce significant risks. In this talk, Audace will explore the impact generative AI is already having on teenagers. She'll examine how platforms expose teens to various vulnerabilities. You'll leave with practical tips for safeguarding youth against emerging threats, including the misuse of AI companions, nudification apps, deepfakes, social media, and more.

» Learning Objectives:

1. Discover how AI can shape young people's online experiences, including both benefits and safety risks.
2. Identify practical strategies advocates can use to help youth navigate AI-related risks, including harassment, grooming, deepfakes, and misinformation.

1.25 CEUS: SW, LMFT, LPC
1.25 CEUS: TDCJ-CJAD FV

Healing Together: Strategies for Building Pet-Inclusive Services for Survivors and Their Pets

2:15 pm – 3:30 pm | Portia

SAMANTHA HINCHEY, Director of Victim Services, Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence — Phoenix, Arizona

Pets are important sources of comfort and stability for many survivors, yet survivors may be forced to leave them behind when seeking safety. Samantha will share how ACESDV has supported pet-inclusive, trauma-informed services across Arizona through funding, training, technical assistance, and partnerships. You'll learn practical strategies for starting or strengthening pet-inclusive services in your own community.

» Learning Objectives:

1. Learn about the prevalence and impact domestic violence has on survivors and their pets.
2. Apply practical tools and resources to begin or expand pet-inclusive programming within your own organizations or communities.
3. Explore partnership opportunities with animal welfare organizations, veterinary providers, and community stakeholders to support pet-inclusive services.

1.25 CEUS: SW, LMFT, or LPC
1.25 CEUS: TDCJ-CJAD FV

Workshops Round 2

The Kids Are OK: Let's Talk About Youth Advisory Council

3:45 pm – 5:00 pm | Bamboo

AMY SAUSAMEDA, Intervention and Prevention Manager, Hope's Door New Beginning Center — Plano, Texas

Amy will share what Hope's Door New Beginning Center's Intervention and Prevention Team has learned over the past three years about starting, supporting, and sustaining an active youth advisory council.

» Learning Objectives:

1. Dive into the youth advisory council membership process, from recruitment through transition.
2. Identify training approaches that support youth leadership, nervous system regulation, and violence prevention.
3. Develop project-based service opportunities led by council members.
4. Identify the tools to navigate challenges in sustaining a youth advisory council.

1.25 CEUS: SW, LMFT, or LPC
1.25 CEUS: TDCJ-CJAD FV

Lightning Round: Elevating Advocate Wellness

3:45 pm – 5:00 pm | Crown Palm

HATTIE HEINER, Executive Director, The Grace Center of Fredericksburg — Fredericksburg, Texas

DARLENE LANHAM, Executive Director, Asian Family Support Services of Austin — Austin, Texas

Q. OLIVIA RIVERS, Executive Director, The Bridge Over Troubled Waters — Pasadena, Texas

Advocates sustain survivor services every day, but they also need support. Hattie, Darlene, and Olivia will share practices their programs use to promote staff well-being, prevent burnout, strengthen retention, and build cultures of care. The session will include an interactive Q&A for you to gather strategies to adapt to your own organization.

» Learning Objectives:

1. Identify a variety of strategies family violence programs are using to promote advocate wellness and reduce workplace stress and burnout.
2. Learn how organizational policies, practices, and culture can support staff well-being, resilience, and retention.
3. Explore ideas and resources you can adapt to strengthen advocate wellness efforts within your own organization.

1.25 CEUS: SW, LMFT, or LPC
1.25 CEUS: TDCJ-CJAD FV

Best Practices for Engaging Survivors: Strengths-Based, Trauma-Informed, Healing-Centered

3:45 pm – 5:00 pm | Cypress

REV. DR. GENEECE GOERTZEN-MORRISON, Founder, Hope Rise Thrive — Waco, Texas

Rev. Dr. Goertzen-Morrison will review strengths-based, trauma-informed, and healing-centered principles for creating safety in survivor interactions. She'll connect these practices to institutional courage, caregiving, advocacy, and organizational policy, using dialogue and case studies to help you apply the concepts.

» Learning Objectives:

1. Explore the impact of personal and collective trauma on survivors.
2. Identify safe and supportive trauma-informed responses.
3. Practice and promote healing-centered holistic survivor wellness.

1.25 CEUS: SW, LMFT, or LPC
1.25 CEUS: TDCJ-CJAD FV

Family Care Portfolio

3:45 pm – 5:00 pm | Portia

DR. ANGELA CUMMINGS, Assistant Professor, Baylor College of Medicine — Austin, Texas

ANDREA RINCONES, Research Administration Specialist, Baylor College of Medicine — Houston, Texas

The Family CARE Portfolio helps families coordinate services, track progress, identify strengths, and build stable environments for children. Dr. Cummings and Andrea will explain the tool's purpose, key components, and implementation considerations so you can determine how it may fit your work.

» Learning Objectives:

1. Learn about the purpose of the Family CARE Portfolio.
2. Familiarize yourself with key components of the Family CARE Portfolio.
3. Discuss questions to consider before you implement the Family CARE Portfolio.
4. Determine which sections of the Family CARE Portfolio would be most applicable for a particular situation.

1.25 CEUS: SW, LMFT, or LPC
1.25 CEUS: TDCJ-CJAD FV

Agenda Day 2 | Wednesday, October 28

REGISTRATION OPEN

8:00 am – 5:30 pm | Registration Booth F

Wellness Brisk Walk

Start your morning with a refreshing brisk walk led by Vivian Sanchez and Jen Mudge. Meet downstairs outside by Baobab Social from 7:15–7:45 a.m. No registration is needed — just wear comfortable shoes and clothes. If it rains, we'll meet at Baobab Social and walk indoors.

Wellness Yoga

Start your morning with some gentle stretches and quiet space. Meet downstairs in the designated room from 7:15 am – 8:00 am.

Breakfast Buffet

8:00 am – 9:00 am | Kalahari Salons F-I

Choose Your Own Keynote Round 2

Reimagining Human Services for Human Service Professionals and Advocates With AI: Lessons Learned and Looking Ahead

9:00 am – 10:00 am | Cypress

DR. MARINA BADILLO-DIAZ, Professor, New York University; Consultant, MABD Consulting — New York City, New York

Dr. Badillo-Diaz will examine how artificial intelligence is reshaping social work and human services while centering on ethical responsibilities. She'll highlight AI's benefits, such as efficiency, access, documentation, and data-informed decisions, while addressing risks related to bias, confidentiality, inequitable access, automation, and relational practice. You'll consider how transparency, consent, accountability, and professional judgment should guide AI use.

» Learning Objectives:

1. Identify key benefits and limitations of artificial intelligence in human services practice, including its impact on efficiency, access to care, and professional decision-making.
2. Analyze ethical considerations related to AI use in human services, including confidentiality, bias, transparency, and accountability, using social work values and professional standards.
3. Apply lessons learned from current AI implementation to articulate future-oriented, ethically grounded strategies for integrating AI into human services practice, education, and leadership.

1 CEU: Ethics: SW, LMFT, or LPC
1 CEU: TDCJ-CJAD BIPP

Advocacy Strategies for Multigenerational Healing

9:00 am – 10:00 am | Portia

DR. LEILA WOOD, Professor, UT Health Houston Violence and Injury Prevention Research Center — Austin, Texas

Dr. Wood will examine the needs of survivors as parents and the well-being of their children through a whole-family advocacy lens. Grounded in Texas-based research, this session will explore strategies that strengthen parental support, promote child well-being, and address family safety and healing across generations.

» Learning Objectives:

1. Explore multigenerational violence prevention strategies for family violence settings.
2. Identify family-based advocacy practices that support both survivors and children.
3. Develop strategies for addressing the needs of parents and youth in family violence services.

1 CEU: SW, LMFT, or LPC
1 CEU: TDCJ-CJAD FV

Break, Exhibitors, and Book Signing

10:00 am – 10:45 am | Acacia

Author Book Signing

BOOK SIGNING WITH MEG STONE:

The Cost of Fear: Why Most Safety Advice is Sexist and How We Can Stop Gender-based Violence

"Don't Fight Back": and 10 Other Myths About Crime, Personal Safety, and Gender-based Violence (Myths Made in America)

Workshops Round 3

"A Sense of Hope": Implementing a Community-Oriented Flexible Funding Assistance Program for Survivors

10:45 am – 12:00 pm | Bamboo

BARBIE BRASHEAR, Executive Director, Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council — Houston, Texas

SHANNON FALK, Grants Compliance Project Manager, Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council — Houston, Texas

MAGGY MCGIFFERT, M.A., Research Manager, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston Violence and Injury Prevention Research Center — Austin, Texas

DR. LEILA WOOD, Professor, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston Violence and Injury Prevention Research Center — Austin, Texas

Flexible funding assistance (FFA) can help survivors address urgent financial needs through cash support or third-party payments. The teams from the Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council and the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston Violence and Injury Prevention Research Center will share lessons from a Houston-based flexible funding program implemented with partner agencies and evaluated with a research team. You'll examine implementation barriers, survivor and advocate outcomes, and strategies for adapting flexible funding in your own community.

» Learning Objectives:

1. Understand the practical implementation of components of a flexible funding initiative with multiple agencies using the Domestic Violence Assistance Fund as an example.
2. Engage in study learnings about survivor-centered and advocate-informed outcomes of FFA programs.
3. Apply session learning to participant communities and contexts to implement FFA.

1.25 CEUS: SW, LMFT, or LPC
1.25 CEUS: TDCJ-CJAD FV

Mental Health, IPV, and the LGBTQ+ Community

10:45 am – 12:00 pm | Crown Palm

DIANA ANZALDÚA, Director, Austin Trauma Therapy Center — Austin, Texas

Diana will explore how intimate partner violence affects LGBTQ+ survivors through identity-based abuse, coercive control, outing threats, isolation, digital surveillance, financial control, and healthcare interference. You'll learn trauma-informed and affirming strategies for recognizing IPV, supporting survivor autonomy, and creating safer pathways to care.

» Learning Objectives:

1. Identify at least three ways intimate partner violence may uniquely manifest within LGBTQ+ relationships, including identity-based abuse, coercive control, outing threats, and isolation from community or chosen family.
2. Examine the mental health and trauma-related impacts of IPV among LGBTQ+ survivors, including anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress, hypervigilance, substance use, and other responses to chronic coercion and violence.
3. Apply trauma-informed, culturally responsive, and LGBTQ+-affirming strategies for screening, assessment, safety planning, and responding to IPV while preserving survivor autonomy.

1.25 CEUS: SW, LMFT, or LPC
1.25 CEUS: TDCJ-CJAD FV

AI for Organizations: Ethical and Responsible Practice

10:45 am – 12:00 pm | Cypress

DR. MARINA BADILLO-DIAZ, Professor, New York University; Consultant, MABD Consulting — New York City, New York

Dr. Badillo-Diaz will explore responsible AI use in human service organizations, including documentation, case planning, program development, grant writing, data analysis, and evaluation. She'll examine how AI can improve efficiency while raising concerns about confidentiality, bias, data governance, and ethical boundaries. You'll consider how to align AI use with professional ethics, human-centered values, and anti-oppressive practice.

» Learning Objectives:

1. Examine how AI tools can be responsibly integrated into direct practice, including documentation support, treatment planning, supervision preparation, and psychoeducation, while maintaining professional judgment, informed consent, and relational integrity.
2. Analyze ethical considerations at the organizational level, including data privacy, algorithmic bias, transparency, risk management, and compliance with professional standards, and explore how leadership can create clear AI policies that protect clients and staff.
3. Gain practical strategies for using AI at the mezzo and macro levels, including program development, grant writing, needs assessments, data analysis, reporting, and program evaluation, to strengthen funding opportunities and community impact without compromising ethical and anti-oppressive practice.

1.25 CEUS Ethics: SW, LMFT, or LPC
1.25 CEUS: TDCJ-CJAD BIPP

Invisible Injuries: Domestic Violence, Traumatic Brain Injury and Strangulation

10:45 am – 12:00 pm | Portia

RACHEL RAMIREZ, Director of Health and Disability Programs, Ohio Domestic Violence Network — Columbus, Ohio

Domestic violence often involves head, face, and neck injuries, including strangulation, yet brain injuries may go unnoticed. Rachel will explain how these injuries can affect cognition, memory, emotional regulation, safety planning, and access to services. You'll learn about the signs of concussion and strangulation and explore CARE, an evidence-based framework for creating more accessible and brain injury-aware services.

» Learning Objectives:

1. Identify at least three ways domestic violence victims can acquire a concussion or other type of brain injury.
2. Learn about the signs and symptoms of brain injury.
3. Discover two strategies to address brain injury with survivors of violence.

1.25 CEUS: SW, LMFT, or LPC
1.25 CEUS: TDCJ-CJAD FV

Lunch on Your Own

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

LUNCH OPTIONS:

Located at Kalahari

- B-Lux Grill & Bar
- Cinco Ninos (Patio Bar Only)
- Macs - Macaroni and Cheese Shop
- Marrakesh Market Eatery
- Pizzeria Sortino

Less Than 5 Minutes by Car

- Blue Corn Harvest Bar & Grill
- MasFajitas Mexican Restaurant
- Misaki Ramen
- The Salt Lick
- Sangam Chettinad Indian Cuisine
- Culver's
- Firehouse Subs
- Golden Chick
- Tropical Smoothie Cafe
- Whataburger

Choose Your Own Keynote Round 3

The Cost of Fear and the Benefit of Resilience: Challenging Harmful Safety Myths to Empower Survivors

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm | Cypress

MEG STONE, Executive Director, IMPACT Boston — Boston, Massachusetts

Meg will challenge fear-based safety myths that are spreading through social media and reframe safety planning as a trauma-informed practice rooted in agency, resilience, and evidence. You'll examine how to evaluate popular safety messages, reduce victim-blaming narratives, and support survivors in building practical skills without shrinking their lives.

» Learning Objectives:

1. Compare evidence-based and evidence-informed safety planning interventions and those that lack research validation.
2. Apply critical thinking skills to personal safety messages that are popular on social media, and understand strategies for helping teens build media literacy skills.
3. Identify approaches to personal safety that support healing, challenge victim blame, and reduce symptoms of anxiety and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in survivors of family violence.

1 CEU: SW, LMFT, or LPC
1 CEU: TDCJ-CJAD FV

Change Really IS Possible: Creating Survivor-Centered Systems and Policies

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm | Portia

MARIAH GARDNER, Advocate and Survivor

JEN MUDGE, Public Policy Manager, Texas Council on Family Violence — Austin, Texas

DENISE ROSE, Partner & Governmental Affairs Consultant, Jackson Walker — Austin, Texas

MOLLY VOYLES, Director of Public Policy, Texas Council on Family Violence — Austin, Texas

The presenters will explore practical strategies for survivor-centered policy advocacy in what feels like an ever-changing landscape for survivors and programs. You'll learn about TCFV's priorities for the 90th Legislative Session, ways to engage in advocacy for change, and wellness strategies for sustaining long-term policy work while navigating moral injury and fatigue.

» Learning Objectives:

1. Identify opportunities to engage in policy advocacy at the federal, state, and local levels and know the difference between advocacy and education and lobbying.
2. Understand TCFV's Legislative Agenda for the 90th and ways participants can be involved.
3. Apply approaches for sustaining long-term advocacy efforts by addressing barriers to engagement and recognizing the impact of moral injury and burnout.

1 CEU: SW, LMFT, or LPC
1 CEU: TDCJ-CJAD FV

Workshops Round 4

Connecting Communities Through Digital Education

2:45 pm – 4:00 pm | Bamboo

KIARA NICHOLSON, Prevention Educator, Hays-Caldwell Women's Center — San Marcos, Texas

MEGAN OSBORNE, Education and Communication Director, Hays-Caldwell Women's Center — San Marcos, Texas

Kiara and Megan will explore digital tools and community toolkits that can make prevention education more accessible, especially for rural and harder-to-reach communities. You'll learn how social media, zines, printable resources, and collaborative activities can expand outreach and strengthen community connection.

» Learning Objectives:

1. Gain knowledge and skills to create and manage your own community toolkits to enhance prevention efforts.
2. Come away inspired to implement digital strategies that amplify prevention messages and foster change and connection in your community.
3. Discover tools that can measure outreach efforts.

1.25 CEUS: SW, LMFT, or LPC
1.25 CEUS: TDCJ-CJAD BIPP

Before the Crisis: Community Care as Family Violence Prevention

2:45 pm – 4:00 pm | Crown Palm

NAKEENYA WILSON, Founder, Black Mamas Village — Austin, Texas

Nakeenya will reframe family violence prevention as community care before the crisis. Drawing from Black Mamas Village in Central Texas, she'll examine how trusted relationships, mutual aid, resource navigation, mental health support, food access, childcare, and emergency assistance can reduce stress, strengthen protective factors, and help families remain safely connected to community.

» Learning Objectives:

1. Recognize how material hardship, social isolation, caregiver stress, and lack of accessible support can increase family vulnerability, and identify community-based protective factors that promote safety, stability, and well-being.
2. Learn how community-based support, including mutual aid, resource navigation, mental health care, childcare, food access, emergency assistance, and trusted relationships, can function as both prevention and early intervention for families experiencing or at risk of violence, child abuse, or neglect.
3. Identify opportunities to shift from crisis-driven responses toward community-centered prevention, including partnerships and practices that connect families to culturally responsive, voluntary support before challenges escalate to crisis or formal systems involvement.

1.25 CEUS: SW, LMFT, or LPC
1.25 CEUS: TDCJ-CJAD FV

The Domino Effect and IPV Investigations

2:45 pm – 4:00 pm | Cypress

BARBARA FERRARA, Captain, Amarillo College Police Department — Amarillo, Texas

Barbara presents a high-lethality IPV case involving sexual assault, strangulation, stalking, childhood sexual abuse, and missed system responses across multiple agencies. She'll examine how one investigator recognized escalation and lethality risk, connected the survivor to support, and helped move the case forward. You'll identify investigative practices that improve safety, accountability, and trauma-informed response.

» Learning Objectives:

1. Recognize escalation and lethality risk and explore how lethality assessment tools can help identify high-risk situations.
2. Learn about common trauma responses.
3. Identify immediate safety planning needs.
4. Discover trauma-informed ways to ask questions (for example, avoiding "why" questions).

1.25 CEUS: SW, LMFT, or LPC
1.25 CEUS: TDCJ-CJAD FV

Reproductive Health Is Survivor Health: Addressing Reproductive Coercion in Trauma-Informed IPV Practice

2:45 pm – 4:00 pm | Portia

DR. JESSICA GRACE, Assistant Professor, University of North Texas — Denton, Texas

Survivors of IPV often face overlooked sexual and reproductive health risks, including reproductive coercion, unintended pregnancy, STI/HIV exposure, and gynecological cancers. Dr. Grace will explain why reproductive health is central to survivor-centered advocacy and share Dallas-Fort Worth research with survivors and service providers. You'll explore practical strategies for integrating reproductive health support into IPV services and organizational culture.

» Learning Objectives:

1. Understand the intersection of IPV and adverse sexual and reproductive health outcomes, including reproductive coercion.
2. Learn how IPV advocates and agencies integrate reproductive health into survivor-centered practices.
3. Identify concrete strategies for adapting reproductive health integration within your own agency settings.

1.25 CEUS: SW, LMFT, or LPC
1.25 CEUS: TDCJ-CJAD BIPP

Workshops Round 5

Honoring Our Relatives: The MMIW/MMIP Movement, Barriers to Safety, and the Paths to Healing

4:15 pm – 5:30 pm | Bamboo

CHRISTY SWIMMER MCLEMORE, Vice Chair, MMIW Texas Rematriate — Dallas, Texas

JODI VOICE YELLOWFISH, Chair, MMIW Texas Rematriate — Dallas, Texas

Jodi and Christy will introduce MMIW Texas Rematriate, its mission, and the broader movement to address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Missing and Murdered Indigenous People. They'll connect historical and current barriers to safety with community-led advocacy, cultural practices, and rematriation as pathways to healing, protection, and collective care.

» Learning Objectives:

1. Understand the MMIW/MMIP crisis and the work Texas Rematriate is leading.
2. Examine the history of violence and present-day contributing factors.
3. Witness the power of collective healing through stories of how our members have been touched by violence and how the work to stay safe heals.

1.25 CEUS: SW, LMFT, or LPC
1.25 CEUS: TDCJ-CJAD FV

Working in Harmony: The Role of Music Therapy in Family Violence Intervention

4:15 pm – 5:30 pm | Crown Palm

DR. AMANDA ST. GERMAIN-SEHR, Assistant Professor, Music Therapy, Texas Woman's University — Denton, Texas

The Texas Administrative Code (Rule §356.720), which requires that therapeutic services be available to survivors of family violence, includes a provision allowing for the use of non-traditional supportive modalities to meet mental health and wellness needs of survivors. Music therapy is a treatment modality that offers unique therapeutic benefits for survivors of domestic violence and abuse, providing opportunities for creative self-expression, emotional expression and regulation, resource building, coping skill development, resilience, and social connection and support. Dr. St. Germain-Sehr will discuss trauma-informed music therapy approaches with survivors of domestic violence and abuse, provide information about referral sources and procedures, and explore pathways for establishing collaborative partnerships with music therapists to offer services to survivors.

» Learning Objectives:

1. Discover the therapeutic benefits of trauma-informed music therapy for survivors of family violence.
2. Identify potential referral sources for music therapy services.
3. Learn strategies for developing collaborative partnerships with music therapists to provide services for survivors of family violence.

1.25 CEUS: SW, LMFT, or LPC
1.25 CEUS: TDCJ-CJAD FV

Protective Orders in Texas: 2025 Statewide Survey of County Policies and Practices

4:15 pm – 5:30 pm | Cypress

BRONWYN BLAKE, Chief Legal Officer, Texas Advocacy Project — Houston, Texas

AMANDA ELKANICK ODER, Chief Advocacy & Education Officer, Texas Advocacy Project — Houston, Texas

Protective orders are critical legal tools for survivor safety, but access varies across Texas. Bronwyn and Amanda will present findings from Texas Advocacy Project's 2025 statewide survey of county policies and practices, highlighting progress, persistent barriers, and county-level practices that affect survivors seeking protection from family violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking.

» Learning Objectives:

1. Evaluate jurisdictional differences in protective order access and implementation.
2. Identify and assess systemic barriers impacting survivors' access to protective orders.
3. Apply data-informed strategies to improve protective order processes and outcomes.

1.25 CEUS: SW, LMFT, or LPC
1.25 CEUS: TDCJ-CJAD FV

Faith-Based Partnerships in Domestic Violence: Promising Practices Beyond the Barriers

4:15 pm – 5:30 pm | Portia

DR. DENISE BERTE, Executive Director, Peaceful Families Project — Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

DR. SHARON O'BRIEN, Executive Director, Catholics for Family Peace — Silver Spring, Maryland

Dr. Berte and Dr. O'Brien will explore how faith communities can help prevent and respond to domestic violence. Drawing on examples from Peaceful Families Project, Catholics for Family Peace, and Jewish Women International, they'll share strategies for building partnerships, addressing misunderstandings, and supporting faith-identified survivors through trauma-informed and survivor-centered practices.

» Learning Objectives:

1. Examine the unique needs of faith-identified survivors and the role of faith communities in addressing domestic abuse.
2. Discuss promising practices within faith communities that can strengthen survivor-centered, trauma-informed responses and expand points of support for survivors and ways that victim service organizations can support faith communities seeking to implement such practices.
3. Identify common barriers and misunderstandings between domestic violence advocacy and faith communities, and apply practical approaches to build trust, effective collaboration, and sustainable partnerships.

1.25 CEUS: SW, LMFT, or LPC
1.25 CEUS: TDCJ-CJAD FV

Agenda Day 3 | Thursday, October 29

REGISTRATION OPEN

8:00 am – 2:00 pm | Registration Booth F

Wellness Brisk Walk

Start your morning with a refreshing brisk walk led by Vivian Sanchez and Jen Mudge. Meet downstairs outside by Baobab Social from 7:15–7:45 a.m. No registration is needed — just wear comfortable shoes and clothes. If it rains, we'll meet at Baobab Social and walk indoors.

Wellness Yoga

Start your morning with some gentle stretches and quiet space. Meet downstairs in the designated room from 7:15 am – 8:00 am.

Breakfast Buffet

8:00 am – 9:00 am | Kalahari Salons F-I

Workshops Round 6

Two Doors, One House: Culturally Specific Outreach Across Entry Points and What the Field Is Still Missing

9:00 am – 10:15 am | Bamboo

DEENAH KAFEEL, MSW Candidate at the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor — Ann Arbor, Michigan

NATKAY KAMAL, Community Education Advocate, Asian Family Support Services of Austin — Austin, Texas

Deenah and NatKay will examine the difference between cultural competency as a training requirement and cultural specificity as a lived practice. Drawing from AFSSA's faith-based outreach and immigrant and refugee youth programming, they'll explore how immigration status, religious identity, housing instability, intergenerational trauma, and community belonging shape safety and healing. You'll leave with reflective tools and a framework for deeper community-embedded outreach.

» Learning Objectives:

1. Identify how social determinants of health—including immigration status, religious identity, and intergenerational trauma—drive cycles of violence in culturally specific communities, and be able to name at least two entry points for disruption in your own organizational context.
2. Recognize how adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) accumulate differently across cultural contexts, and apply that understanding to community-embedded outreach that addresses cycles of violence before and after crisis.
3. Assess the cultural embeddedness of your organization's outreach using a community-embedded practice framework drawn from two distinct AFSSA program contexts (faith community outreach and Afghan refugee prevention programming).
4. Identify one concrete next step toward deeper community integration. This session will fulfill a training requirement outlined by TAC 356.404.

1.25 CEUS: SW, LMFT, or LPC
1.25 CEUS: TDCJ-CJAD FV

Rooted in Healing: Harnessing the Power of Nature for Domestic Violence Survivors and Their Children

9:00 am – 10:15 am | Crown Palm

DR. KRISTEN RAVI, Associate Professor, University of Tennessee, Knoxville — Knoxville, Tennessee

Dr. Ravi will explore how nature can support restoration, connection, and healing for domestic violence survivors and their children. You'll learn how nature-based experiences can strengthen well-being, support the parent-child bond, and be integrated into shelter, advocacy, and direct service settings.

» Learning Objectives:

1. Understand how nature impacts the physical, emotional, and psychological well-being of domestic violence survivors and their children, drawing on current research and trauma theory.
2. Identify ways that nature-based experiences can support healing, strengthen the parent–child bond, and promote resilience for survivors and their children.
3. Apply practical, accessible strategies for integrating nature into their organizations, shelter environments, and direct service work.

1.25 CEUS: SW, LMFT, or LPC
1.25 CEUS: TDCJ-CJAD FV

Disrupting Power and Control: Creating Cultures of Consent and Supported Decision-Making Through Education, Connection, and Community

9:00 am – 10:15 am | Cypress

LEIGH ANN MCKINGSLEY, Senior Director, Disability & Justice Initiatives, The Arc's National Center on Criminal Justice and Disability — Austin, Texas

MICHELLE SCHWARTZ, Director of Disability Services, The SAFE Alliance — Austin, Texas

Leigh Ann and Michelle will explore how cultures of consent and supported decision-making can strengthen autonomy, choice, and safety for people with disabilities. You'll learn practical tools for reducing risk of abuse and exploitation, addressing power in support relationships, and using disability- and trauma-informed approaches that center voice and choice.

» Learning Objectives:

1. Describe how cultures of consent can be built and sustained through disability- and trauma-informed approaches that center autonomy, choice, and respect in support relationships.
2. Apply practical strategies for supporting decision-making to strengthen consent-based practices, reduce risk of abuse and exploitation, and support healthy relationships for people with disabilities.
3. Consider how the role of power, communication, and mandatory reporting in support systems can impact the ability of crime victims with disabilities to share their experiences safely and effectively.

1.25 CEUS: SW, LMFT, or LPC
1.25 CEUS: TDCJ-CJAD FV

Housing Is Homicide Prevention: Intersection of Domestic Violence and Housing

9:00 am – 10:15 am | Portia

THECIA JENKINS, Training Director, Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council — Houston, Texas

Housing can be a critical homicide prevention strategy for survivors of domestic violence, but placement alone does not end coercive control. Thecia will explore how case management can address ongoing risks such as financial abuse, stalking, legal manipulation, and emotional intimidation while supporting housing stability, survivor engagement, and long-term safety.

» Learning Objectives:

1. Identify active Coercive Control Tactics using the Power and Control Wheel as a practical case management planning tool.
2. Integrate the current tactics into housing risks and assess risk level of clients.
3. Discuss resource alignment that supports both safety and housing retention.

1.25 CEUS: SW, LMFT, or LPC
1.25 CEUS: TDCJ-CJAD FV

Exhibitor Break and Book Signing

10:15 am – 11:00 am | Acacia

Author Book Signing

BOOK SIGNING WITH RACHEL LOUISE SNYDER:

No Visible Bruises: What We Don't Know About Domestic Violence Can Kill Us (2019): An investigative look into the crisis of domestic violence in America.

Women We Buried, Women We Burned (2023): A personal memoir detailing her early life as a teenage runaway and her path into journalism.

Choose Your Own Keynote Round 4

AI, Survivor Safety, and the Limits of Automation: What Helps, What Harms, and What We're Learning

11:00 am – 12:00 pm | Cypress

DR. MORGAN PETTYJOHN, Assistant Professor, University of Texas at Arlington — Arlington, Texas

DR. RACHEL VOTH SCHRAG, Associate Professor, University of Texas at Arlington — Arlington, Texas

Dr. PettyJohn and Dr. Voth Schrag will examine what AI chat tools can and cannot do when responding to survivor safety needs. Drawing on recent analysis and clinical insights, they'll highlight helpful uses, harmful gaps, and ways AI-enabled tools can be misused within abusive dynamics. You'll leave with a more cautious, ethical, and safety-centered approach to emerging technologies.

» Learning Objectives:

1. Explore the ways artificial intelligence technologies can both enhance and threaten survivor safety, including risks related to privacy, surveillance, impersonation, and technology-facilitated abuse.
2. Understand the ethical, practical, and safety considerations in using AI tools when working with survivors of intimate partner violence, sexual violence, human trafficking, and other forms of victimization.
3. Learn to identify and apply technology safety planning strategies that address both everyday technologies and emerging tools, helping survivors make informed decisions about privacy, security, communication, and digital risk management.

1 CEU: SW, LMFT, or LPC
1 CEU: TDCJ-CJAD FV

Redefining Trauma-Informed Care While Expanding Our Well-Being Lens

11:00 am – 12:00 pm | Portia

DR. JESSICA SANCHEZ, Assistant Professor of Practice, University of Texas at Arlington — Arlington, Texas

Dr. Sanchez will examine healing after sexual violence through a trauma-informed and well-being-affirming lens. She'll explore how language, culture, and bias shape survivors' experiences of safety, trust, embodiment, intimacy, and agency. You'll learn strategies for incorporating whole-person, survivor-centered approaches into advocacy and clinical practice.

» Learning Objectives:

1. Examine how trauma impacts intimacy, embodiment, and the capacity to experience well-being through a trauma-informed, intersectional, and sex-positive framework.
2. Identify at least three well-being-affirming, trauma-informed strategies that promote survivor safety, autonomy, trust, and connection in clinical practice and advocacy.
3. Evaluate how language, cultural beliefs, and personal biases influence conversations about intimacy and well-being.
4. Learn to apply more inclusive, survivor-centered communication approaches.

1 CEU: SW, LMFT, or LPC
1 CEU: TDCJ-CJAD FV

Luncheon

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm | Kalahari Salons F-I

Closing Plenary

No Visible Bruises: What We Don't Know About Domestic Violence Can Kill Us

1:00 pm – 1:45 pm | Kalahari Salons F-I

RACHEL LOUISE SNYDER, Author — Washington, District of Columbia

Rachel will discuss *No Visible Bruises: What We Don't Know About Domestic Violence Can Kill Us* and examine how communities can better recognize escalation, respond to domestic violence, and understand its connections to broader social and criminal justice issues.

» Learning Objectives:

1. Understand how communities can be more responsive to domestic violence.
2. Identify aspects of domestic violence and its escalations that often go unnoticed.
3. Learn how domestic violence intersects with other social and criminal issues.

.75 CEU: SW, LMFT, or LPC
.75 CEU: TDCJ-CJAD BIPP

Statewide Conference Closing

1:45 pm – 2:00 pm | Kalahari Salons F-I

GLORIA AGUILERA TERRY, CEO, Texas Council on Family Violence — Austin, Texas

> *.25 CEUS: SW, LMFT, or LPC*
> *.25 CEU: TDCJ-CJAD FV*

Continuing Education Units (CEUs)

We will offer a total of 13.5 hours SW, LMFT, or LPC CEUs. Certificates will be sent via email after the conference.

TDCJ-CJAD Continuing Education Units (CEUs)

Attendees may earn up to a combined total of 13.5 TDCJ-CJAD CEU hours for the entire conference. TDCJ-CJAD hours are divided into two categories based on the sessions you choose to attend:

Family Violence (FV) Hours: 7.25–12 hours

Battering Intervention and Prevention Program (BIPP) Hours: 1.5–6.25 hours

The mix of FV and BIPP hours you receive depends on which sessions you attend, but no matter how you choose, your TDCJ-CJAD total will never exceed 13.5 hours for the conference. For your convenience, we have a CEU Tracking Form at the registration booth to track your hours. Certificates will be sent via email after the conference.

Pop-Up Shops

KENDRA SCOTT: *October 27, 10:30 am – 3:30 pm* | **ONE DAY ONLY**

Visit Kendra Scott's pop-up shop to discover beautiful jewelry. 20% of the profits of every purchase supports a TCFV project and will benefit Texas domestic violence agencies long after we leave Kalahari.

SERENITY TATTOO: *October 27, 28 and 29*

Visit Serenity Tattoo's pop-up tattoo studio for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Choose from meaningful, pre-designed flash pieces available for $50 or $100 throughout the conference. Flashes will be available on arms or legs only. Your tattoo can be a personal reminder of strength, healing, empowerment, and the journey forward. Artist tips are always appreciated and are a wonderful way to support the artist's work. Every tattoo will require a completed consent form. You can pay with either cash, Venmo, or Cash App.

BOOKWOMAN: *October 27, 28, and 29*

Visit BookWoman's pop-up shop to discover powerful reads, featured author titles, and thoughtful gifts to take home from the conference. Every purchase supports a beloved local bookstore and keeps the conversations going long after we leave Kalahari.

TCFV STORE

Visit the TCFV Store during the conference to shop for special items that celebrate connection, community, and support for the movement. Available for purchase: mini billboards, blankets, and T-shirts.

WELLNESS ROOM

Do you need a moment to reset? The Wellness Room offers space to pause, breathe, and recharge throughout the conference. Begin the day with morning yoga before sessions start, join a brisk guided walk through the Kalahari grounds, receive a relaxing massage during announced times, or enjoy complimentary coloring pages for a quiet moment of reflection and creativity. For the guided walk, meet downstairs outside by Baobab Social from 7:15–7:45 a.m.

Sponsors

TCFV extends our sincere thank you to Live Oak Sponsor, ReloShare and our Texas Sage Sponsor, Vela by Element 74 for their generous support of the 2026 Statewide Conference. These partnerships create meaningful space for connection, learning, and community as we gather to strengthen the movement to end family violence across Texas. We are deeply grateful for your partnership.

LIVE OAK SPONSORS | $5,000

ReloShare

TEXAS SAGE SPONSOR | $1,000

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Exhibitors

Thank you to our exhibitors for standing with us at the 2026 Statewide Conference. Your generosity and presence create a space for connection, learning, and renewal as advocates from across Texas gather to strengthen the movement to end family violence. Thank you to each exhibitor for helping us build a stronger, safer Texas, together.

MOUNTAIN LAUREL EXHIBITORS | $500

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TRLA
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TCFV Membership: Connect. Engage. Recharge.

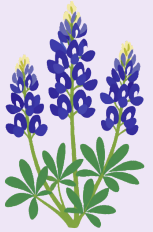
Stop by the TCFV Membership Table during the conference to say hello, learn about new and upcoming member benefits, ask questions, and find easy ways to stay connected with TCFV throughout the year. While you're there, grab a few giveaways, check out TCFV merchandise, and sign up for a complimentary wellness massage available to all TCFV members during the conference. Take a few minutes to connect, recharge, and let us celebrate you for being part of the TCFV membership community.

Be sure to stop by early to sign up, as space may be limited!

Serenity Wellness will be available:

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27: 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28: 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm



Speaker Bios



AMANDA ELKANICK ODER is the Chief Advocacy and Education Officer at Texas Advocacy Project, a statewide nonprofit law firm providing free legal and social services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking. A nationally recognized leader in the movement to end abuse, Amanda brings over 20 years of experience in program development, public policy, and systems advocacy. She leads statewide training initiatives, advances legislative strategies, and builds enduring cross-sector partnerships to expand access to justice. Amanda regularly presents at national and statewide conferences and serves on multiple task forces focused on legal reform, systems advocacy, coordinated community response to violence, and maternal health equity.



AMANDA ST. GERMAIN-SEHR, PhD, LPC-S, MT-BC is an Assistant Professor of Music Therapy at Texas Woman's University. Dr. St. Germain-Sehr is a licensed professional counselor supervisor and board-certified music therapist with over fifteen years of clinical experience in counseling and music therapy with a broad range of diverse client communities across the lifespan. In the field of music therapy, she specializes in music therapy in mental health settings and has worked with adults and adolescents in an in-patient behavioral health hospital; adolescents and families in residential treatment for juvenile offenders; children and adolescents in foster care; children and adolescents in a domestic violence shelter; and unhoused and at-risk adults in an emergency shelter. Dr. St. Germain-Sehr has multiple publications in music therapy and counseling literature and has provided over 30 presentations at international, national, regional, and state counseling and music therapy conferences on a variety of topics related to clinical practice, supervision, and professional practice issues in the fields of music therapy and counseling. She currently serves as the past president for Texas Counselors for Social Justice and as an Assembly of Delegates Alternate for the Southwestern Region of the American Music Therapy Association.



AMY SAUSAMEDA is the Intervention and Prevention Manager at Hope's Door New Beginning Center (HDNBC). Before joining HDNBC in 2023, she dedicated 29 years to teaching high school and middle school students while building relationships that created safe spaces to learn. She is a Dallas CASA, a board member of Altrusa International of Garland, and committed to creating partnerships and programs that create pathways for opportunity youth and adults. Amy's life and work experiences kindle her passion to teach self-advocacy for prevention of domestic violence.



ANDREA K. RINCONES is a Community Health Worker Instructor (CHWI) at Baylor College of Medicine with more than a decade of experience advancing health equity and strengthening connections between communities and the healthcare systems that serve them. Raised with deep ties to the Rio Grande Valley, Andrea brings a culturally grounded perspective to her work and is passionate about helping organizations provide services that are culturally responsive, trauma-informed, and centered on the strengths of families. Drawing from years of direct service across Harris County and Texas, she challenges professionals to look beyond programs and policies and truly understand the resilience and lived experiences of the communities they serve. Andrea currently supports the implementation of the Family CARE Portfolio, an innovative strengths-based tool designed to empower families and strengthen partnerships between providers and caregivers. Her mission is simple: when we truly listen to communities, we build systems that change lives.



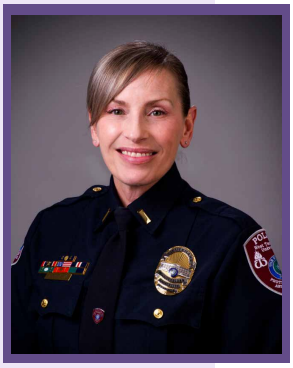
ANGELA CUMMINGS, DrPH is an assistant professor in the Division of Public Health Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital. She has over 12 years of public health experience, conducting research and evaluation in community, government, and academic settings. Her current work is focused on strengthening families through research and evaluation related to home visitation, Family CARE Portfolio, pediatric suicide prevention, and re-entry support for women in recovery. Overall, she aims to improve the wellbeing of children and families, with a focus on vulnerable populations and equity.



ANN BADDOUR is the state director of Appleseed projects aimed at bringing low-income and immigrant consumers into the financial mainstream. She is actively involved in reform of regulations governing payday and auto title lending in Texas to build greater consumer protection into these transactions. She also advocates for consumer protections to address financial exploitation of vulnerable populations and improve protections against abusive debt collection practices. She was a member of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Consumer Advisory Board, serving a four-year term ending in 2018. Ann is a Fulbright Scholar with a Master of Public Affairs Degree from the LBJ School of Public Affairs and a master's degree in Middle Eastern Studies from The University of Texas at Austin.



AUDACE GARNETT is an advocate with more than 20 years of experience supporting survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and other forms of abuse, including youth and survivors with disabilities. She has worked at local programs such as Barrier Free Living NY and Day One NY supporting youth, as well as at the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office in the Victim Services Unit. Today, she leads the Safety Net Project at the National Network to End Domestic Violence, where she focuses on the intersection of technology and abuse. In her role, she provides national and international training and technical assistance, develops practical tools and resources, and partners with organizations and communities to strengthen responses to technology-facilitated abuse. Her work centers on enhancing safety, building capacity, and helping advocates and service providers navigate the rapidly evolving digital landscape with clarity and confidence.



BARBARA FERRARA has served in law enforcement since 1991 and as a Texas peace officer since 1998, with experience spanning corrections, patrols, investigations, accreditation compliance, and training. A TCOLE-certified instructor since 2010, she specializes in child abuse, sexual assault, family violence, strangulation, trauma-informed response, and related fields, holding certifications including SAFVIC, TxIPS, and CRASE. She spent over a decade with the West Texas A&M University Police Department, six years supervising its Criminal Investigations Division, and previously worked as a Special Investigator with Child Protective Services on joint child abuse and child death investigations. She holds a Master Peace Officer license, a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, and over 7,600 hours of continuing education. Barbara is active in the Amarillo Area Domestic Violence Coalition, TAASA, and the Governor's Sexual Assault Survivors' Task Force, and has presented at numerous regional conferences. In June 2026, she moved to the Amarillo College Police Department as Police Captain.



BARBIE BRASHEAR, MSW is the Executive Director of the Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (HCDVCC), where she leads countywide efforts to strengthen coordinated responses to domestic violence through systems collaboration, innovation, and public policy. With more than 30 years of experience in the domestic violence field, Barbie has worked across direct services, program leadership, and systems change initiatives focused on improving survivor safety and offender accountability.



BRONWYN BLAKE, UT LAW '05, is the Chief Legal Officer of the Texas Advocacy Project and the Founder of their Teen Justice Initiative, a program that advocates for teen victims of dating violence. Blake was awarded the first UT Faculty Fellowship in Public Interest Law from the William Wayne Justice Center to start this valuable work. In 2016, Blake was awarded the Texas Access to Justice Commission's James B. Sales Boots on the Ground Award for her legal services work. She is also a graduate of Leadership Austin's Emerge Program for young leaders and the former President of the Young Women's Alliance, a professional organization in Austin, Texas. She has served as an officer on the board of Girlstart, an organization that empowers girls in science, technology, engineering, and math and as the President of the Balcones Hills Women's Club, the oldest neighborhood association in Austin. She is an adjunct professor at UT Law teaching "Domestic Violence and the Law."



CARLA SANCHEZ-ADAMS is a senior attorney at the National Consumer Law Center (NCLC) focusing on emerging issues in banking and payment systems, fintech, and the economic rights of survivors of domestic violence. Carla is board-certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in Consumer and Commercial Law and serves as a member of the Texas State Bar's Consumer and Commercial Law Section's Council. Carla previously served as a board member for the National Association of Consumer Advocates (NACA) and was a member of the American Bar Association's Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence from 2022-2025. She now serves as a Liaison to the American Bar Association's Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence. She is a co-author of NCLC's Consumer Banking and Payments Law treatise. Prior to joining NCLC, Carla was a managing attorney with Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, Inc., assisting low-income Texans on issues related to debt collection, credit reporting, auto fraud, debt management, and other consumer-related disputes. She led a team of advocates who utilized a holistic approach to achieving economic security for victims of crime, including survivors of family violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.



CHRISTY SWIMMER MCLEMORE is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. She is one of the founders and Vice Chair of the nonprofit MMIW Texas Rematriate. She is a proud mother and grandmother. Christy is a survivor of trafficking and domestic violence and guides the work MMIWTXR does.



DARLENE LANHAM is Executive Director of Asian Family Support Services of Austin (AFSSA), which exists to break the cycle of violence in Asian and Immigrant communities. She brings over 15 years of leadership in association management and public affairs to serve the movement. Darlene 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. She earned her master's degree from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at UT Austin.



DEENAH KAFEEL is currently pursuing a Master of Social Work at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. She is a former Community Education and Outreach Advocate at the Asian Family Support Services of Austin (AFSSA), where she developed and led trauma-informed programming at the intersection of domestic violence advocacy, faith community engagement, and somatic wellness. Her work at AFSSA focused on building trust-based relationships with immigrant and faith communities across Austin and rural Texas, creating pathways for survivors to access services through the institutions they already belong to. She integrates faith frameworks, body-based wellness, and evidence-informed approaches to address the social determinants of health that shape how survivors in faith communities and culturally specific spaces experience both harm and healing. As a Pakistani-Muslim immigrant, survivor, and community builder, Deenah brings a deeply personal lens to culturally specific advocacy. She is a co-founder of Mu Delta Alpha, the first professional Muslim sorority in the U.S., and holds a yoga teacher certification with a focus on trauma-informed practice. Deenah holds a background in journalism and community organizing and is currently completing her Master of Social Work at the University of Michigan. Her work is grounded in the belief that genuine community-embedded practice requires community voices at every stage of design. She is committed to building a field that meets culturally specific communities where they are, rather than where frameworks assume them to be.



DENISE BERTE, PhD is a licensed clinical psychologist in Pennsylvania, Delaware, and the State of Palestine for over 35 years with a specialty in trauma, torture, oppression, war, interpersonal violence, and indigenous populations. Dr. Berte has written over 20 published professional articles, five chapters and presented on over 700 occasions domestically and internationally related to her topics of specialty including violence, trauma, multi-cultural practice, and human rights. Dr. Berte is a forensic psychologist who has evaluated over 1800 individuals and served as an expert witness in over 800 cases involving criminal, family, immigration, and human rights law. Dr. Berte has worked in the United States, West Africa (Liberia, Sierra Leone, Cameroon), Latin America (Mexico, Guatemala, Brazil, Peru), and the Middle East (West Bank Palestine, Jordan). She has previously served as the Director of Children and Adolescent Services for Community Behavioral Health in Philadelphia, the Executive Director of the Liberty Center for Survivors of Torture, the Vice President of the Latin American Community Center in Wilmington, as the clinical Director of the An Najah Child Institute and as a professor in the medical Faculty at the An Najah National University of Palestine. Dr. Berte is currently the Executive Director of Peaceful Families Project, which is a 23-year-old national project addressing Family Based Violence in Muslim communities in the United States with international impact with the goal of eliminating violence in Muslim homes utilizing the core values and models of Islam. PFP conducts trainings, research, develops resources and curriculums and serves as a strategic representative of Muslim voices in US. Dr. Berte manages programs funded by the US Department of Justice's Office of Violence Against Women. Dr. Berte is fluent in Spanish and English and has moderate fluency in French and Arabic.



DENISE ROSE, when she came to Jackson Walker, her primary experience was in the healthcare arena; however, in the time she was at the Firm, she expanded her practice across the business spectrum. Denise continues to work successfully for a broad array of clients on their legislative and regulatory issues, whether those issues are environmental, healthcare, local government, licensing, or procurement focused. She is adept at navigating the nuanced and complicated Texas budget process and has successfully helped clients achieve their goals. Denise has been working in and around the Texas Capitol for two decades, and her strength is a deep knowledge of the legislative process and the people involved. She has cultivated relationships throughout the Texas Capitol and in state agencies. Denise provides effective strategic counsel to clients on a wide variety of issues, including but not limited to Medicaid and hospital finance, special utility districts, occupational licensing, health care quality, and agency rulemaking processes and requests for proposals. Denise is adept in the legislative drafting process. She represents non-profit organizations, nationally ranked hospitals, and Fortune 500 companies at the Capitol. Prior to joining Jackson Walker, Denise served as Assistant Vice President for Legislative Affairs at the Texas A&M Health Science Center, where her work was primarily focused on the Health Science Center's budget needs for the state's healthcare workforce. Prior to the A&M Health Science Center, Denise served as the Senior Director of Government Relations at the Texas Hospital Association. She has years of experience tracking and analyzing legislation specific to hospitals and health-related institutions, and she has also drafted legislation, amendments, and expert witness testimony on various topics, as well as legislative appropriations requests and budget riders. Previously, Denise served as the Government Relations Liaison for Texas Children's Hospital and as a policy analyst at the Sunset Advisory Commission. She began her career at the Capitol as a Health Law Legislative Fellow for State Representative Vicki Truitt.



DIANA ANZALDÚA, LCSW-S is a Xicanx psychosomatics trauma therapist, community practitioner, and founder of Austin Trauma Therapy Center and Contigo Wellness. With more than 17 years of experience, her work centers on trauma healing, mental health equity, and culturally responsive care for historically marginalized communities. She is a Board-Approved Clinical Supervisor and Ph.D. scholar in Depth Psychology, specializing in Community, Liberation, Indigenous, and Eco-Psychologies. Her work has been featured by BBC, The Atlantic, Allure, and other national media.



ELENA (NENA) AGUAYO-AGUIRRE has over 30 years of experience in immigration law. She has an associate's degree in legal assistance from El Paso Community College and a bachelor's degree in business management from the University of Phoenix. She has been with the Center Against Sexual and Family Violence (CASFV) for 26 years as their Immigration Coordinator/Case Coordinator. She has presented at the state level and locally and has participated in Citizenship Workshops in the community sponsored by Texas State Representative (presently, State Senator) Cesar J. Blanco and the Mexican Consulate. She initiated the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), now the Office of Legal Access Programs (OLAP), recognition for CASFV and accomplished it in 2010. She has partial accreditation from OLAP, and throughout her years with CASFV, she has helped hundreds of survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault obtain their legal status through the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and U-Visa immigration programs.



GALIA GOYA was born and raised in Mexico and earned a Law Degree with the goal of promoting human rights and social change. After completing her Master of Laws at Yale, she relocated to Texas, where legal restrictions prevented her from practicing law. This challenge led her to reinvent her path through nonprofit work, contributing to organizations like Hope's Door New Beginning Center, Human Rights Initiative, and CASA of Collin County. She also founded a volunteer group supporting refugees in Dallas. A certified 500-hour Yoga Instructor and Health Coach, Galia now works as a Senior Manager of Violence Prevention and Intervention, continuing her mission of service and empowerment.



REV. GENEECE GOERTZEN-MORRISON PhD, LMSW, MDiv is a researcher, educator, author, speaker, and advocate for domestic violence awareness. Her research and policy interests are based on her concern regarding structural inequalities in society that continue to disadvantage survivors. She serves on local, state, and national boards and committees for organizations dedicated to ending violence and supporting those who have experienced abuse. As a survivor of more than two decades of domestic violence herself, she is passionate about bringing awareness to issues that survivors encounter as they seek to rebuild their lives after abuse.



GLORIA AGUILERA TERRY is the CEO of the Texas Council on Family Violence, where she has spent more than two decades bringing people together to strengthen responses to domestic violence across Texas. She enjoys working at the intersection of community, public policy, and emerging issues, including the responsible use of artificial intelligence and believes the best solutions are built when people with different perspectives are willing to learn from one another.



HATTIE HEINER has served as the Executive Director of The Grace Center since 2021. She oversees general operations, fundraising, strategic planning, and was instrumental in the building of the shelter center. Hattie attended Texas Tech University in Lubbock where she received a Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations and a Master of Public Administration. She has worked on both the state and local levels with victims of domestic violence and social service agencies for the last 25 years. Prior to taking the position at The Grace Center, Hattie served as Chief Executive Officer for Kendall County Women's Shelter in Boerne for seven years. She previously served as training specialist for Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas where she assisted in developing curriculum for training forensic interviewers to interview young victims of human trafficking. She worked as a Membership Coordinator for the Texas Council on Family Violence and Coordinator of Community Education and Development for Women's Protective Services of Lubbock. Hattie has extensive experience in shelter management and operations, fundraising, grant writing, and community outreach. Her life work is dedicated to providing safety and hope for those in need.



JEN MUDGE, LMSW is a Public Policy Manager for the Texas Council on Family Violence. Jen has 20 years of experience in diverse social work settings, with a focus on serving and working alongside survivors of intimate partner violence and sexual violence. Jen's work with survivors has spanned direct advocacy services, clinical therapeutic settings, and statewide policy efforts. Jen also has experience in research, which has centered on the effectiveness of community-based services for survivors of intimate partner violence, as well as the experiences of pregnant women with opioid use disorder participating in a wrap-around service model. Jen has passionate interests in plants, birds, grief work, dance, and elder rescue pitties like her beloved late dog Jazz.



JESSICA GRACE, PhD, LMSW is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Social Work at the University of North Texas. Trained in both social work and health sciences, she brings two decades of professional experience to her interdisciplinary research at the intersection of violence and health behavior. Dr. Grace earned her BSW from Illinois State University, her MSSW from the University of Texas at Arlington, and her PhD in Health Sciences from Texas Christian University. Her research focuses on the sexual and reproductive health of individuals impacted by interpersonal violence, with particular attention to how violence influences health decision-making, service utilization, and health outcomes. Grounded in public health and health behavior frameworks, she aims to develop trauma-informed, survivor-informed approaches that can be integrated into healthcare and community-based settings. Dr. Grace's long-term goal is to advance equitable, evidence-based interventions that strengthen health system responses to violence and improve sexual and reproductive health outcomes for underserved populations.



JESSICA SANCHEZ is a proud Chingona, licensed sex & trauma therapist, educator, & sound healing practitioner with more than 10 years of experience in human sexuality, higher education, sexual violence prevention, & advocacy. She is passionate about empowering women to reclaim their sexual autonomy, reconnect with their bodies, & heal through trauma-informed, culturally responsive care. Her clinical specialties include sexual trauma, perinatal mental health, sexual exploration, sexual pain, body image, and imposter syndrome. Dr. Sanchez also integrates holistic & ancestral healing practices to decolonize mental health & support embodied healing. As a sound healing practitioner, she bridges vibrational healing & somatic work with trauma-informed care. Through her clinical work, teaching, & community engagement, Dr. Sanchez is committed to helping individuals move beyond survival & into healing, pleasure, & wholeness. She serves as Chair of the NASW Texas Women's Rights Committee & proudly holds multiple board of director positions.



JODI VOICE YELLOWFISH is Cherokee, Muscogee Creek, and Oglala Lakota. Born and raised in Dallas, Texas, Jodi has focused on helping her Native community in the city in many ways. Jodi is one of the Founders and Chair of MMIW Texas Rematriate (Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women). Jodi is also on the board of directors for the nonprofit IndigiCommunity and a parent/community member for the DISD American Indian Education Program's Parent Advisory Committee. She is also a proud wife and mom.

HCWC
Empowering Survivors Together

KIARA NICHOLSON is a Prevention Educator at HCWC in San Marcos, where she works towards ending interpersonal violence by engaging adolescents and adults in conversations related to gender equity, advocacy, and healthy relationships. Her passions include cats, crafts, and social change. She has been with HCWC since 2013.



KIMYA MOTLEY is an educator, activist, author, director, and producer working to end violence against all women and girls. As the Chief Advancement Officer at A Call to Men, Motley leverages her personal experiences and profound storytelling ability to touch hearts, galvanize support, and inspire a call to action to prevent violence against women and girls while promoting healthy, respectful manhood. Motley's harrowing journey as a brave survivor of domestic violence has fueled her passion for advocacy. Her story of strength and resilience has been featured on the We Are Man Enough Podcast, Essence magazine, Good Day Atlanta, The Red Table Talk Show, The Rachael Ray Show, and Daily Blast Live, and more. Motley's memoir, Born of Violence, reached number four on the Amazon Hot New Releases List for Partner Abuse. Motley is a lead facilitator at A Call to Men on domestic violence prevention, male socialization, and trauma-informed care. Her powerful keynote speeches have rallied support to prevent gender-based violence nationwide. Motley's story is used in domestic violence training videos administered to the National Football League teams, and she also designed a violence-prevention training module used across Major League Baseball teams. She also directed, co-wrote, and co-produced A Call to Men's first full-length feature film, "Intentionally Erased," a documentary spotlighting the experiences of Black trans women in the United States. Kimya Motley harnesses the power of filmmaking as a transformative tool to confront and dismantle deeply rooted social injustices. Through her creative vision, she sheds light on urgent issues such as gender-based violence, systemic oppression, restorative justice, and the experiences of those at the margins. Her storytelling not only raises awareness but also fosters dialogue, empathy, and action, creating a space for healing and advocacy. By centering the voices of those often marginalized, Kimya's work challenges audiences to rethink societal norms and inspires meaningful change through the lens of truth and resilience. Motley has been nationally recognized by former Georgia Governor Nathan Deal, The Investigation Discovery Channel, and the Georgia Commission on Family Violence. Through her work, Motley continues to challenge harmful norms and ideologies. She uses her voice and platform to promote respectful interactions and relationships, and advocates for a world free from violence and inequality.



KRISTEN RAVI, PhD, LMSW is an Associate Professor at the College of Social Work at the University of Tennessee and a Licensed Master Social Worker with over 15 years of research and practice experience with children and families. Her program of research centers on the experiences and impact of intimate partner violence (IPV) on survivors and their children, with an emphasis on identifying protective factors, including parent-child bonding and nature engagement. A primary focus of her work is children's exposure to parental IPV and the resulting proximal and distal outcomes across social, mental health, and academic domains. She also examines IPV help-seeking behaviors and service utilization among survivors. Additional research interests include children's experiences of trauma more broadly, positive child experiences, and the role of nature in supporting child and family wellbeing. Dr. Ravi's current research is funded by the Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Violence Prevention and Services. This work evaluates the efficacy of an intervention designed to support IPV survivors and their children, while also building provider capacity across Tennessee to better serve this population.



LEIGH ANN MCKINGSLEY, MSSW, MPA is the Senior Director of Disability and Justice Initiatives for The Arc of the United States where she founded and directs The Arc's National Center on Criminal Justice and Disability (NCCJD), a clearinghouse for research, information, evaluation, training and technical assistance for criminal justice and disability professionals focused on people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). During her 30 years at The Arc, she oversaw the creation of the Center's signature training program "Pathways to Justice," authors scholarly articles, curricula, and other publications, presents nationally and internationally, and regularly speaks to national media outlets. She manages a diverse portfolio of projects for the Center that includes both victim and suspect issues. As a survivor of incest continuing her own healing journey, she is passionate about teaching others the importance of self-advocacy, speaking out against all types of violence and protecting the rights of people with IDD in the criminal justice system as victims, witnesses, or suspects.



LEILA WOOD, PhD, MSSW is a researcher, educator, and social worker with over 20 years of experience working with interpersonal violence survivors. Dr. Wood is Professor and Social Work program director at UTHealth Houston. She is the Director of Research at the Texas Violence and Injury Prevention Research Center. Dr. Wood's research focuses on the primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention of IPV, sexual assault, child maltreatment, elder abuse, and human trafficking. She is the author of over 100 published works about interpersonal violence. Her research is supported by the National Institute of Justice and the National Institutes of Health.



MARINA BADILLO-DIAZ, DSW, LCSW is an experienced former school administrator and counseling director with a demonstrated history of working in community mental health and in education as a social worker. She is the founder of MABD Consulting, where she conducts training educators and social workers to integrate artificial intelligence (AI) ethically and responsibly into their practice. Badillo-Diaz is also an adjunct professor, teaching at New York University, Columbia University, Hunter College, and Louisiana State University. She is the author of "The AI Social Worker", a widely recognized blog that serves as a 21st-century skill and AI guide for social workers. Her teaching portfolio includes courses for NYU's Silver School of Social Work postgraduate certificate programs, specifically focusing on school social work practice, data and technology, and AI in mental health. She currently serves on the NASW-NY State Chapter Board as secretary and is a former northeastern rep board member of the School Social Work Association of America. She has presented nationally and internationally on AI and social work practice, including engagements with the National School Social Work Association of America, the Canadian Association for Social Work, and the School Social Work Association of America, and has conducted trainings for over 7,000 human service workers across the United States and Canada. Her current research explores how school social workers are integrating AI into their daily practice.



MARIAH GARDNER is a survivor advocate committed to creating safer pathways for individuals and families impacted by domestic violence. After surviving an act of domestic violence that took the life of her young daughter, Mariah transformed unimaginable loss into a commitment to hope, prevention, and change. Her work centers on empowering survivors to recognize their worth, reclaim their voices, and build lives beyond violence. She believes every survivor deserves to be believed, protected, connected, and free. She believes the path to protection begins with creating systems that truly support survivors, honor their voices, and help them find safety, connection, and freedom.



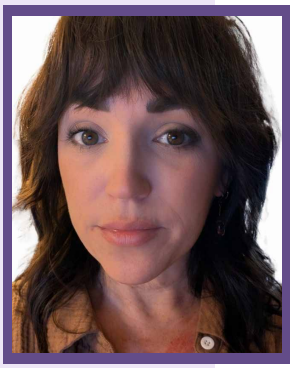
MAGGY MCGIFFERT, MA is a Research Manager at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth Houston)'s Violence and Injury Prevention Research (VIPR) Center. She has worked for 30 years on the prevention of intimate partner violence, sexual assault, children's exposure to violence, child abuse, and homelessness. She has directed community-based services, advocated policy changes, and now manages community-based research studies and evaluations that center the voices of survivors and those working directly with them.



MICHELLE SCHWARTZ, MA is Director of SAFE's Disability Services in Austin, Texas, with more than 25 years of experience advancing accessible victim services, disability rights, self-determination, abuse prevention, and healing from violence-related trauma. Michelle began her career in community psychology and later focused on educational equity and self-determination research with The Arc of the United States. Her work has centered on developing accessible, trauma-informed resources and education that promote healthy relationships, safety, self-determination, and recovery for youth and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Michelle recently led the development of My Rights My Life, a free, accessible healthy and safer relationships curriculum for adults and high school students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In 2026, she also developed and edited SAFE's digital guide for professionals—including sexual assault advocates, SANE nurses and other medical personnel, law enforcement, and protective services—on responding to adults with disabilities who have experienced sexual assault, violence, abuse, or neglect. Michelle is a co-author of Beyond Labels: Working with Abuse Survivors with Mental Illness and Substance Abuse Issues; Promoting Justice: An Essential Resource Guide for Responding to Abuse Against Children with Disabilities; and ...and Justice for All: Responding to Crimes Against People with Disabilities and Deaf People. She continues to work collaboratively on resources that promote safety, justice, accessibility, and healing for people with disabilities and those who support them.



MEG STONE is the Executive Director of IMPACT Boston, a nationally recognized abuse prevention and safety training organization. Her first book, THE COST OF FEAR: Why Most Safety Advice is Sexist and How We Can Stop Gender-based Violence, was called a "deeply needed resource that expands rather than diminishes options for women" by Booklist. Her second book, "DON'T FIGHT BACK" and 10 Other Myths about Crime, Personal Safety and Gender-based violence was praised by author and domestic violence advocate Rachel Louise Snyder, who said Meg has delivered a book that empowers rather than weakens women. Meg has worked in domestic violence and sexual assault advocacy organizations since 1993 in capacities including court advocacy, prevention education, and staffing the night shift in an emergency shelter. Her writing has been published in Huffington Post, Boston Globe, Newsweek, Washington Post, Dame, and Ms.



MEGAN OSBORNE has a background in Public Health and has been working in prevention since 2016. In her current role, she oversees HCWC's social media, podcast, digital education, and supports the education team with their grant goals, program planning, and community outreach. In her personal life, Megan is a mom of three humans, four cats, and a dog. In her free time, she enjoys playing roller derby, going to the river, and supporting local art.



MOLLY VOYLES is the Director of Public Policy for the Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) and has worked in the movement to end violence for 30 years. In her position at TCFV, she is focused on public policy efforts that center the needs of survivors and advance systems change.



MORGAN PETTYJOHN, PhD is an Assistant Professor at the School of Social Work at The University of Texas at Arlington. She is also co-founder and Clinic Director for the Mavericks Ending Technology-Facilitated Abuse (MAVS ETA) Project. Dr. PettyJohn's research focuses on the intersections of interpersonal violence and digital technologies, both from the perspectives of help seeking and perpetration of harm.



NAKEENYA WILSON is a maternal health advocate, nonprofit leader, restorative justice practitioner, and founder of Black Mamas Village. She serves as Co-Director of Funders for Birth Justice and Equity and is a founding member of the Maternal Health Equity Collaborative. Her work centers on community care, systems change, and building conditions where families and communities can thrive.



NATKAY KAMAL is a prevention educator at Asian Family Support Services of Austin, working with youth and caregivers in schools and community settings to build skills and awareness in disrupting cycles of harm. NatKay is passionate about empowering young people, building meaningful relationships, and fostering resilience through education and community engagement. Her work centers on culturally responsive practices, community connection, and creating safe, supportive spaces for youth and family to grow.



Q. OLIVIA RIVERS, named one of Houston Business Journal's Top 40 Under 40, Q. Olivia Rivers is an international speaker and trainer who serves as the CEO at The Bridge Over Troubled Waters. She earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees in criminal justice & forensic Anthropology from the University of Central Missouri and later studied Organizational Leadership, earning an Executive Leadership Certificate from Northwestern University. As a former White House intern, Olivia draws on her experience in public policy to advocate for policies that strengthen offender accountability and enhance safety and justice for survivors of gender-based violence. She recently launched Q. Olivia Consulting & Mosaic Mentoring, which supports organizational management, leadership development, BIPOC mentorship, corporate wellness, and nonprofit cultural transformation through a collective healing-centered lens. Olivia also lends her leadership to boards of directors, young professional organizations, chambers of commerce, and nonprofits throughout Greater Houston. A lifelong dancer and choreographer, she believes movement is more than performance; it is a sacred tool for storytelling, healing, liberation, and empowerment.



RACHEL LOUISE SNYDER is the author of four books, including the novel What We've Lost is Nothing, No Visible Bruises: What We Don't Know About Domestic Violence Can Kill Us, and the memoir Women We Buried, Women We Burned, a best book of the year from Kirkus and Audible, among others. Her work has appeared in the New Yorker, the New York Times Magazine, the Washington Post and on NPR, and she was a 2021 Guggenheim Fellow. No Visible Bruises was awarded the 2018 Lukas Work-in-Progress Award, the 2020 New York Public Library's Bernstein Award for Excellence in Journalism, and the Sidney Hillman Book Award for Social Justice. It has been translated into more than a dozen languages and was named one of the best books of 2019 by the Los Angeles Times, Esquire, Amazon, Kirkus, the Library Journal, the Economist, and BookPage; the New York Times included it in their "Top Ten" books of 2019. No Visible Bruises was also a finalist for the Kirkus Award, the National Book Critics Circle Award, the LA Times Book Award, and the Silver Gavel Award. Over the past two decades, Snyder has traveled to sixty countries, covering stories of human rights, gender-based violence, natural disasters, and criminal justice reform. She lived, for six years, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and two years in London before relocating to Washington, DC in 2009, where she is currently a professor at American University and a contributing writer to the New York Times opinion pages.



RACHEL RAMIREZ, LISW-S is the Director of Health and Disability Programs and the Founder of The Center on Partner-Inflicted Brain Injury at the Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN). She has been with ODVN for 19 years. In her role, she focuses on helping healthcare, justice, advocacy, and other systems better understand the intersection of traumatic stress, violence, and brain injury. Rachel has provided training in over 25 states and has authored multiple peer-reviewed journal articles on these topics. Her work has been featured in national media outlets including NPR, NBC News, The New York Times, and The Washington Post.



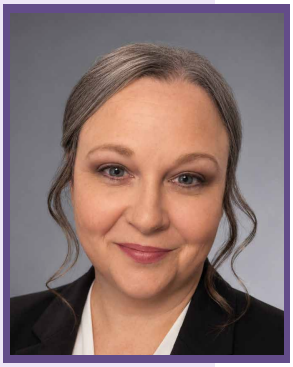
RACHEL VOTH SCHRAG, PhD is an Associate Professor and the PhD Program Director at the University of Texas at Arlington School of Social Work. Her research employs mixed methods to address secondary and tertiary prevention of intimate partner and sexual violence by uncovering the need for, improving survivors' access to, and understanding the efficacy of survivor centered services. She is the Project Director of the Mavericks Ending Technology-Facilitated Abuse (MAVS ETA) project, integrating the strengths of the School of Social Work and College of Engineering Security and Privacy Research Lab to conduct research and provide support for community partner agencies in addressing tech-facilitated abuse. The MAVS ETA project website is: https://www.mavsetalab.uta.edu/.



RAY LAUSER was born in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico and immigrated to the United States at the age of six, not speaking a word of English. He grew up in El Paso, Texas next door to Albert Armendariz Sr., the legendary crusader for Mexican-American civil rights and a former Immigration Judge (and for whom the federal courthouse in downtown El Paso, Texas is named after). Albert Armendariz Sr. became like a second grandfather to Ray and was the ultimate inspiration for choosing to go to law school and become an immigration attorney. Another inspiration for practicing immigration law is the fact that Ray is not only an immigrant himself but immigrated to the United States having escaped poverty and otherwise extremely humble circumstances in Mexico. Ray went on to attend the University of Texas at El Paso for his undergraduate studies and earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science. He graduated cum laude, Phi Alpha Delta, Alpha Chi and was named a Top Ten Senior for his graduating class of 2000. He then attended law school at the University of Texas at Austin School of Law, graduating in 2003. After graduating from law school, Ray returned to his hometown of El Paso, Texas to work for CLINIC (Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.) to become their first (and to date their only ever) labor law Attorney, representing migrant farmworkers under federal labor & immigration laws. Subsequently, he went on to practice immigration law for Maney & Gordon until he decided to open his own law practice in 2006, The Lauser Law Firm, P.C. He has been practicing immigration law on his own ever since.



SAMANTHA HINCHEY in January of 2017 started at the Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence as an intern. Samantha graduated that year with a degree in Nonprofit Leadership and Management. During her internship she was offered a position with the Coalition as a trainer, which she happily accepted. Since then, she has provided training all over the state and nationally, as a Domestic Violence Response Coordinator, in collaboration with the AZ Department of Child Safety, ASU, NOVA, and the AZ Department of Child Support Services. She has developed specific trainings on topics such as reproductive coercion, the intersection of pets and domestic violence, technology misuse, the roots of violence, perpetrator treatment in Arizona, and survivor advocacy. She has a particular interest in the intersection of pets and domestic violence and has been working on this intersection for 8 years at ACESDV. In 2021, Samantha received her master's degree in Victim Service Management at Sam Houston State University in Texas. In 2024, she was promoted to Director of Victim Services at ACESDV, where she supports the AZ State Sexual and Domestic Violence Helpline staff as well as continuing her work with pet-inclusive services. Samantha is honored to work closely with ACESDV's Survivor Advisory Committee, which supports the Speaker's Bureau, as well as facilitating the ACESDV Education and Support Group. For self-care, Samantha enjoys reading, being with her close family members, and spending time at Disneyland.



SHANNON FALK earned her bachelor's degree in Sociology from Texas A&M University in 2004 and later received her Master of Social Work in 2018 from Walden University. Over the past 20 years, her work in the social work field has been both diverse and impactful, covering areas such as child abuse and neglect, kinship placements, early childhood interventions, and supporting individuals experiencing homelessness. Since 2018, she has worked with those fleeing domestic violence and/or sexual assault at HCDVCC. She shares a commitment to addressing critical social issues and a dedication to serving vulnerable populations. In her current role as Grants Compliance Project Manager at HCDVCC, Shannon is managing the Domestic Violence Assistance Fund program for flexible assistance to survivors.



SHARON O'BRIEN, PhD is co-founder and Executive Director of Catholics for Family Peace: National Education and Research Center and an author and international presenter on how faith communities can create informed and compassionate responses to domestic abuse and violence. Her dissertation work was recognized at the International Family Violence Research Conference. As Executive Director, she led the 2016 organizational effort that created the first national Catholic Conference on Domestic Abuse. Held in D.C., it was attended by 350 people from across the U.S. and internationally. While Sharon works closely with the Catholic community, she brings an interfaith perspective to this issue having served as Co-Founder and then President of the Interfaith Community Against Domestic Violence of Montgomery County, Maryland (2004-2013); Co-Founder and Board member of the Peaceful Families Project (2007-2013); and service on the State of Maryland's Interfaith Domestic Violence Coalition of Maryland (2013-2015). Among many leadership roles, Sharon's service has included Advisory Board of the Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse (JCADA) and Province Director of the National Council of Catholic Women (2012-2017) which has addressed domestic abuse for many years. She is especially grateful for having been an original member (2007) of the Jewish Women International's coordinated Interfaith Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. Among years of advocacy and educational work, they wrote the Bill that was introduced into the U.S. House of Representatives in May 2026: Supporting Survivors from Faith-Based Communities Act. She invites all to visit catholicsforfamilypeace.org for free downloadable resources.



SHERRY HAMBY, PhD is a Distinguished Research Professor of Psychology at the University of the South of Tennessee. She is also the Director of the Life Paths Research Center and founder of ResilienceCon, a conference on strength-based approaches to overcoming trauma. She also has experience working as a therapist, domestic violence advocate, and board member of a domestic violence shelter. She was founding editor of the American Psychological Association journal, Psychology of Violence. Dr. Hamby has authored or co-authored over 200 scholarly articles and six books, with citations placing her in the top 2% among more than 10 million published scientists (h-index of 82 according to Google Scholar, indicating 82 papers with at least 82 citations each). Her awards include Outstanding Contributions to the Science of Trauma Psychology from the Trauma Psychology division of the American Psychological Association and the Christine Blasey Ford Woman of Courage Award from the Association of Women in Psychology. See her on TEDx at https://www.ted.com/talks/sherry_hamby_trauma_is_everywhere_but_so_is_resilience. Her newest book is Stronger Than You Think: Building Lifelong Resilience (Penguin Random House, 2026).



THECIA JENKINS is the Training Director with Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council and the Founder/Principal Consultant with I Am BOLD, LLC. She has been developing curricula and training professionals in law enforcement, healthcare, education, and social services on the topics of domestic and sexual violence, emotional intelligence, and trauma informed response for thirty years. Thecia serves as an expert witness. She is a graduate of Texas Woman's University and holds certifications in Diversity, Mediation, Behavioral Consulting, Emotional Intelligence, Trauma Informed Practitioner, and coaching. As Gender Based Violence consultant and Emotional Intelligence Practitioner, Thecia has been hired as a consultant and speaker in Trinidad and Tobago United States Embassy and in West Africa (Accra Ghana) to provide training to clergy, victim advocates, and law enforcement. She consulted and was featured on the Oprah Winfrey Network's production of The Book of John Gray addressing the issue of sexual assault. Thecia's favorite quote is "No significant learning occurs without a relationship" ~ Ruby Payne.



TWILA CARTER is a dedicated public servant and dynamic leader with a deep commitment to building a stronger, more resilient Houston. With a career spanning both the private and nonprofit sectors, she brings a strategic and compassionate approach to her role as Houston City Council Member At-Large, Position 3. Prior to her election to City Council, she spent more than a decade as Senior Vice President of Community Relations for the Houston Astros and as Executive Director of the Astros Foundation. Under her leadership, the Foundation raised over $60 million to support programs that uplift underserved communities and enhance quality of life across the city. Raised in humble circumstances and often reliant on welfare as a child, Council Member Carter has worked diligently to break cycles of poverty.

Today, she champions policies that promote collaboration, accountability, and meaningful progress for all Houstonians. Council Member Carter knows that safe communities are prosperous communities. Her commitment to the men and women in uniform runs deep and she is committed to fully funding law enforcement. A passionate advocate for families and survivors of domestic violence, she serves as Ex Officio of the Texas Council on Family Violence and is an Ex-Officio Director of Houston First Corporation. Her past board services include Family Time Crisis and Counseling Center, Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse (AVDA), the Houston Area Women's Center (HAWC), United Service Organizations (USO), YMCA of Greater Houston, and the Houston Police Foundation. She leads the City of Houston's Resilience Committee as Chair, in addition to serving as Vice Chair of the Ethics and Governance Committee.

TCFV Organizational Members

Thank you for being a TCFV member! We appreciate you and your continued efforts in the movement to end domestic violence

CATEGORY I MEMBERS: FAMILY VIOLENCE PROGRAMS

Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse
Asian Family Support Services of Austin
Bay Area Turning Point
Casa de Misericordia
Center Against Sexual & Family Violence
Crisis Center of Anderson and Cherokee Counties
Crisis Center of Comal County
Crisis Center of the Plains
Crisis Center of West Texas
Daya
Denton County Friends of the Family, Inc.
Domestic Violence Prevention, Inc.
East Texas Crisis Center
Eastland County Crisis Center, Inc.
Families in Crisis, Inc.
Family Abuse Center, Inc.
Family Crisis Center
Family Crisis Center, Inc. (of the Rio Grande Valley)
Family Services of Southeast Texas
Family Support Services of Amarillo
Family Violence Prevention Services, Inc.
FamilyTime Crisis and Counseling Center
Fannin County Family Crisis Center
First Step, Inc.
Focusing Families
Fort Bend County Women's Center, Inc.
Freedom House
Friendship of Women, Inc.
Gateway Family Services, Inc.
Genesis Women's Shelter & Support
Grayson County Crisis Center
Hays-Caldwell Women's Center
Highland Lakes Family Crisis Center
Hill Country Crisis Council
Hope Alliance
Hope, Inc.
Hope's Door New Beginning Center
Houston Area Women's Center
Institute of Cognitive Development/Family Shelter of San Angelo
Janelle Grum Family Crisis Center of East Texas
Johnson County Family Crisis Center
Mission Granbury, Inc.
Noah Project, Inc.
Resources and Crisis Center of Galveston County
SAAFE House
Safe Place of the Permian Basin
Safe Place, Inc. /Freedom Center
Shelter Agencies for Families in East Texas
Southwest Family Life Centers, Inc.
Texoma Alliance to Stop Abuse
The Archway (formerly SafeHaven of Tarrant County)
The Ark Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Shelter
The Bridge Over Troubled Waters
The Crisis Center - Bay City
The Family Place
The Purple Door
The Safe Alliance
Thriving Hearts Crisis Center (Formerly GVFVS)
Wintergarden Women's Shelter, Inc.
Wise Hope Shelter & Crisis Center
Women In Need, Inc.
Women Together Foundation Inc. /Mujeres Unidas
Women's Center of Brazoria County
Women's Center of East Texas
Women's Protective Services of Lubbock, Inc.

CATEGORY II MEMBERS: SUPPORTING FAMILY VIOLENCE PROGRAMS

Abigail's Arms - Cooke County Family Crisis Center, Inc.
Asians Against Domestic Violence
Awaaz
Cross Timbers Family Services
Deaf Smith County Crisis Center
Dove Project, Inc.
Emily's Place
Families to Freedom
Family Crisis Center of the Big Bend, Inc.
Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (HCDVCC)
Kendall County Women's Shelter
Mid-Coast Family Services
Mosaic Family Services
Northwest Assistance Ministries' Family Violence Center
One Safe Place
P.E.A.C.E. Initiative
Peace in the Home Family Services (formerly TxMWF)
Safer Path Family Violence Shelter
Sarah's House
The Grace Center of Fredericksburg
The Haven Family Shelter of McCulloch County, Inc.
The Montrose Center
The Salvation Army

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American Indians In Texas at the Spanish Colonial Missions
An Nisa Hope Center
Beautiful Butterflies Transitioning, Inc.
Brazos Valley Mental Health and Wellness
Burleson County Attorney
Comal County Criminal District Attorney
Dispute Resolution Center (Austin)
Empowered Survivor
Gracious Hearts
Her Well Center, Inc.
Holistic Recovery Alliance (B'Nai-El Ministries)
J2 Leadership & Learning Solutions Consulting, LLC
Methodist Justice Ministry
Mission Righteous Roots
Rooted in Hope Beyond Survival
Stories to Solutions
Survivor's Shield Coalition
Tahirih Justice Center
Texas Advocacy Project, Inc.
Texas Homeless Network
The Harbor Children's Alliance & Victim Center
The Heights Ellis County Family Resources
Travis County Counseling & Education Services
Yesterday's Gone

CATEGORY V MEMBERS: BIPP ORGANIZATIONS

Behavioral Adjustment Counseling Center
Chance 2 Change
Dutch-Will Assessment Group, LLC
First Choice Social Services
Path of Righteousness Ministries
The Center for Cognitive Education
Your New Beginning

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