



2026 Statewide Conference | Agenda

“I’M OK. ARE YOU OK?” CONNECTIONS. CONVERSATIONS. COMMUNITIES.

STATEWIDE WELCOME & OPENING

DAY 1 | MORNING | OCTOBER 27, 2026

Twila Carter, Member-at-Large, Houston City Council, Houston, Texas

Twila Carter opens the conference with a warm statewide welcome, grounding you in the spirit and purpose of this year’s theme. Drawing on the history and growing impact of the “I’m OK. Are You OK?” campaign, she invites you to reflect on the power of connection, awareness, and community in strengthening support for survivors. Her remarks will set an engaging tone for the conference as you and your colleagues learn together, build relationships, and renew your shared commitment to safety and healing across Texas. *.25 CEUS: SW, LMFT, or LPC; .25 CEUS: TDCJ-CJAD FV*

OPENING PLENARY

Kimya Motley, Chief Advancement Officer, A Call to Men, Washington, D.C.

CHOOSE YOUR OWN KEYNOTE | ROUND 1

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

Sherry Hamby, Distinguished Research Professor of Psychology, University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee

Even after high doses of victimization or other trauma, people can still put together the pieces of a good life. Survivors of family violence or other trauma are not doomed to a lifetime of PTSD, depression, or other problems. Unfortunately, early research on resilience often got it wrong. Resilience is not just toughness or grit. It’s not something you either have or you don’t. Instead, resilience is a modifiable process, meaning anyone can learn, practice, and benefit from it across every stage of life.

Drawing on more than thirty years studying violence, trauma, and recovery, as well as her own experiences as a therapist, teacher, survivor, and community advocate, Sherry shares what the latest science reveals about the key resources and assets to thrive after violence and trauma. This work includes research in ten countries with more than 30,000 participants. Sherry introduces the concept of a resilience portfolio. Resilience portfolios have four key domains: meaning making, regulation, interpersonal relationships, and the physical environment. The more and different kinds of strengths in our portfolios, the more quickly we can bounce back from adversity and weather future challenges. A robust resilience portfolio with resources to spare is also important for advocates, therapists, and other providers, who must learn how to cope with the trauma exposure that comes from working with victims of violence. *1 CEU: SW, LMFT, or LPC*

[A] Balancing the Nervous System in BIPP

Galia Goya, Senior Manager of Prevention and Intervention, Hope’s Door New Beginning Center, Plano, Texas

Galia explores breathing techniques, mindfulness practices, and metacognitive exercises for BIPP groups to support deeper behavioral change. These techniques emphasize that nervous system regulation is essential, as heightened emotional states can impair rational thinking and increase reactive behavior. Breathing and mindfulness tools help participants calm their bodies, increase self-awareness, and pause before reacting. Metacognitive exercises strengthen the ability to recognize and challenge harmful thought patterns, promoting intentional decision-making. Galia discusses how these strategies together enhance existing BIPP curricula by improving emotional regulation, accountability, and long-term behavior change. *1.25 CEUS: SW, LMFT, or LPC; 1.25 CEUS: TDCJ-CJAD BIPP*

[B] Abuse by Credit: Understanding Coerced Debt and Pathways to Solutions

Ann Baddour, Director, Fair Financial Services Project, Texas Appleseed, Austin, Texas

Carla Sanchez-Adams, Senior Attorney, National Consumer Law Center Austin, Texas

Pets are beloved members of many families, offering critical companionship and emotional support to survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Yet, for many survivors, fleeing abuse means making the heartbreaking decision to leave their pets behind, often because domestic violence agencies have not historically accommodated animals in shelter settings. Samantha highlights the work of the Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence (ACESDV) in advancing pet-inclusive, trauma-informed services across the state. Beginning in 2018, ACESDV received its first pet-focused grant from PetSmart Charities, launching a statewide effort to expand awareness, provide technical assistance, and develop curriculum to support pet-inclusive programming. Over the past eight years, continued funding has allowed ACESDV to lead critical conversations and support domestic violence programs in creating or expanding services that keep survivors and their pets together. You will gain insight into the challenges, successes, and practical strategies involved in implementing pet-inclusive services, as well as tools to begin or strengthen this work within their own communities. *1.25 CEUS: SW, LMFT, LPC 1.25; CEUS: TDCJ-CJAD FV*

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

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. This has brought forth a need for advocates working with children and youth who are experiencing dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking to understand how these technologies can create safety concerns. While tools like chatbots can empower teens with enhanced educational opportunities and creative expression, they also introduce significant risks. In this talk, we will explore the impact generative AI is already having on teenagers, and the intersections it has with dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. We will examine how platforms expose teens to various vulnerabilities. Additionally, we’ll offer practical tips for safeguarding youth against emerging threats, including the misuse of AI companions, nudification apps, deepfakes, social media echo chambers, and AI-enabled plagiarism. *1.25 CEUS: SW, LMFT, or LPC.; 1.25 CEUS: TDCJ-CJAD BIPP*

[D] Healing Together: Strategies for Building Pet-inclusive Services for Survivors & their Pets

Samantha Hinchey, Director of Victim Services, Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence, Phoenix, Arizona

Pets are beloved members of many families, offering critical companionship and emotional support to survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Yet, for many survivors, fleeing abuse means making the heartbreaking decision to leave their pets behind, often because domestic violence agencies have not historically accommodated animals in shelter settings. Samantha highlights the work of the Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence (ACESDV) in advancing pet-inclusive, trauma-informed services across the state. Beginning in 2018, ACESDV received its first pet-focused grant from PetSmart Charities, launching a statewide effort to expand awareness, provide technical assistance, and develop curriculum to support pet-inclusive programming. Over the past eight years, continued funding has allowed ACESDV to lead critical conversations and support domestic violence programs in creating or expanding services that keep survivors and their pets together. You will gain insight into the challenges, successes, and practical strategies involved in implementing pet-inclusive services, as well as tools to begin or strengthen this work within their own communities. *1.25 CEUS: SW, LMFT, or LPC*

[A] The Kids are OK: Let’s talk about Youth Advisory Council

Amy Sausamed, Intervention and Prevention Manager, Hope’s Door New Beginning Center, Plano, Texas

Hope’s Door New Beginning Center Intervention and Prevention Team will share what has worked and what they’ve learned in the last three years about starting and maintaining an active youth advisory council. *1.25 CEUS: SW, LMFT, or LPC*

[B] Lightning Round: Elevating Advocate Wellness

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
Rhonda Williamson, Executive Director, Safer Path Family Violence Shelter, Pleasanton, Texas

Supporting survivors requires compassion, resilience, and sustained commitment, but who supports the advocates? This engaging lightning round session spotlights four local family violence programs that have made advocate wellness a strategic priority within their organizations. Hattie, Darlene, Olivia, and Rhonda share innovative practices, lessons learned, and tangible approaches to fostering staff's well-being, preventing burnout, strengthening retention, and creating cultures of care. Hear real-world examples of how these four programs are investing in their teams while navigating the demands of this critical work. The speakers conclude with an interactive Q&A, offering you the opportunity to engage directly with presenters, explore ideas in greater depth, and gather practical strategies they can adapt within their own organizations. Join us for an inspiring conversation about sustaining the people who sustain our movement. *1.25 CEUS: SW, LMFT, or LPC*

[C] Best Practices for Engaging Survivors: Strengths-based, Trauma-informed, Healing-centered

Rev. Dr. Geneece Goertzen-Morrison, Founder, Hope Rise Thrive, Waco, Texas

Learn, review, and appraise foundational principles for creating psychological and felt safety in interactions with survivors. This will include examining strengths-based, trauma-informed, and healing-centered principles necessary to promoting holistic wellness in the survivors we support. Additionally, we will look at institutional courage to evaluate how organizational policy can influence the provision of care. This session will facilitate interactive dialogue and examination of common elements of caregiving and advocacy and how to integrate those into our own practices. Bring and share your own best practices! Case studies will be used to encourage group discussion and synthesize these principles into our learning. *1.25 CEUS: SW, LMFT, or LPC*

[D] Family Care Portfolio

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 is an organizational tool designed to support pregnant women facing complex social or medical needs. It helps families coordinate with their healthcare and social service providers to track progress, demonstrate their strengths, and build stable environments for their children. Angela and Andrea describe the purpose and key components of the Family Care Portfolio and discuss the questions you should consider before implementing the Family CARE Portfolio. *1.25 CEUS: SW, LMFT, or LPC; 1.25 CEUS: TDCJ-CJAD FV*

[A] Reimagining Human Services for Human Service Professionals and Advocates with AI: Lessons Learned and Looking Ahead

Dr. Marina Badillo–Diaz, Professor, New York University; Consultant, MABD Consulting, New York City, New York

Marina examines how artificial intelligence is already reshaping social work and human services while centering on the profession’s ethical responsibilities. Maria reflects real-world lessons from practice, education, and systems-level implementation, highlighting the benefits of AI, such as increased efficiency, improved access to services, enhanced documentation, and data-informed decision-making. At the same time, she addresses concerns including algorithmic bias, threats to confidentiality, inequitable access, over-reliance on automation, and the risk of eroding relational, human-centered practice. Grounded in social work values and ethical frameworks, Marina invites you to consider how AI can strengthen, and not replace, human connections and how transparency, informed consent, accountability, and professional judgment must guide AI use. *1 CEU: Ethics: SW, LMFT, or LPC; 1 CEU: TDCJ-CJAD BIPP*

[B] Advocacy Strategies for Multigenerational Healing

Dr. Leila Wood, Professor, UT Health Houston Violence and Injury Prevention Research Center, Austin, Texas

Advocates work with parents and children, but too often that work happens in silos. What advocacy strategies meet the needs of survivors as parents and focus on the whole family? Grounded in a decade of Texas-based research, this session examines the multigenerational needs of survivors and their children in domestic violence services. Participants will examine concrete approaches to strengthen parental support, enhance child well-being, and address family safety and wellbeing holistically. Join us to discover how whole-family advocacy can disrupt intergenerational trauma and drive lasting prevention across the lifespan. *1 CEU: SW, LMFT, or LPC*

[A] “A Sense of Hope”: Implementing a Community Oriented Flexible Funding Assistance Program for Survivors

Barbie Brashear, Executive Director, Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, Houston, Texas
Dr. Leila Wood, Professor, UT Health Houston Violence and Injury Prevention Research Center, Austin, Texas

Flexible funding assistance (FFA) is an innovative practice including provision of cash or third-party payments to address financial needs. The Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (HCDVCC) implements FFA with 15+ partner agencies working with survivors in Houston, Texas. This FFA program has been collaboratively evaluated by HCDVCC, partner sites, and a research team at UTHealth. In this session, the team from UTHealth and HCDVCC will share 1) findings related to implementation facilitators and barriers of FFA, and 2) staff and survivor program outcomes and 3) lead a discussion on key strategies for implementing and evaluating FFA programs with survivors. *1.25 CEUS Ethics: SW, LMFT, or LPC*

[B] Mental Health, IPV, and the LGBTQ+ Community

Diana Anzaldua, Director, Austin Trauma Therapy Center, Austin, Texas

Diana explores the intersection of intimate partner violence (IPV), mental health, and LGBTQ+ identities through a trauma-informed and culturally responsive lens. She examines how IPV may include identity-based abuse, coercive control, threats of outing, isolation from chosen family and community, digital surveillance, financial control, and interference with healthcare. Diana will also address the mental health impacts of IPV and the ways being a member of an underserved community can create additional barriers to safety and support. Participants will gain practical strategies for recognizing IPV beyond traditional gendered assumptions, responding in ways that preserve survivor autonomy, and creating affirming pathways to care for LGBTQ+ survivors. *1.25 CEU: SW, LMFT, or LPC*

[C] AI for Organizations: Ethical and Responsible Practice

Dr. Marina Badillo–Diaz, Professor, New York University; Consultant, MABD Consulting, New York City, New York

Marina explores the responsible integration of artificial intelligence within human service organizations, with attention to both direct practice and community-level impact. She examines how AI tools are increasingly being used in documentation, case planning, program development, grant writing, data analysis, and evaluation. She discusses how these tools can enhance efficiency, reduce administrative burden, and strengthen organizational decision-making. This workshop critically analyzes the risks related to confidentiality, bias, data governance, and ethical boundaries and places emphasis on aligning AI use with professional codes of ethics, human-centered values, and anti-oppressive practice. *1.25 CEUS Ethics: SW, LMFT, or LPC; 1.25 CEUS: TDCJ-CJAD BIPP*

[D] Invisible Injuries: Domestic Violence, Traumatic Brain Injury and Strangulation
Rachel Ramirez, Founder and Director of the Center on Partner-Inflicted Brain Injury, Ohio Domestic Violence Network, Columbus, Ohio

Domestic violence frequently involves blows to the head, face, and neck, as well as strangulation, yet the resulting brain injuries often go unrecognized and untreated. These invisible injuries can affect cognition, behavior, memory, emotional regulation, and a survivor's ability to safety plan, access services, and heal from their experiences. Drawing on Ohio's groundbreaking research, Rachel explores the intersection of brain injury, trauma, and coercive control while highlighting practical strategies to improve survivor support. Rachel discusses common signs of concussion and strangulation and be introduced to CARE (Connect, Acknowledge, Respond, Evaluate), an evidence-based framework developed by the Ohio Domestic Violence Network and The Ohio State University. Rachel provides practical tools and accommodations you can immediately implement to create more brain injury-aware, accessible, and effective services. *1.25 CEU: SW, LMFT, or LPC*

CHOOSE YOUR OWN KEYNOTE | ROUND 3

DAY 2 | AFTERNOON | OCTOBER 28, 2026

[A] The Cost of Fear and the Benefit of Resilience: Challenging Harmful Safety Myths to Empower Survivors
Meg Stone, Executive Director, IMPACT Boston, Boston, Massachusetts

Some of the most tired myths about stranger violence are seeing a resurgence on TikTok. Everyone from fashion influencers to retired law enforcement officers is telling women to stop wearing ponytails, avoid parking near vans, and beware of zip ties on gas pumps lest we be lured into sex trafficking. Meanwhile, real people are struggling to survive and heal from family violence. Safety planning doesn't have to mean living in fear or following rigid rules. There are practical trauma-informed skills we can use to make ourselves and our communities safer. Survivors and advocates can resist coercive control, reclaim our power, and work for change - not by shrinking our lives, but by expanding our agency. *1 CEU: Ethics: SW, LMFT, or LPC*

[B] Change Really IS Possible: Creating Survivor Centered Systems and Policies
Mariah Gardner
Jen Mudge, Public Policy Manager, Legislative, 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

Each of you hold a wealth of expertise on creating a survivor-centered Texas but what practical strategies exist for engaging in policy advocacy? Join this session to explore how you can raise your voice to influence policy, learn about TCFV's priorities for the 90th Legislative Session, and discover ways to engage in meaningful advocacy. We'll also discuss how moral injury and fatigue intersect with the demands of our ever-changing environments and share practical wellness strategies to help sustain you in our collective work to create a safer Texas! *1 CEU: SW, LMFT, or LPC*

WORKSHOPS | ROUND 4

DAY 2 | AFTERNOON | OCTOBER 28, 2026

[A] Connecting Communities Through Digital Education
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 designed this discussion for educators, advocates, and community leaders and explore tips and digital tools to help reach a broader audience, including connecting with rural and harder to reach communities. You will learn how to make prevention efforts more impactful and accessible by harnessing the potential of community toolkits. Kiara and Megan cover how social media, zines, printable resources, and collaborative activities can create a bridge to community connection & empowerment. *1.25 CEU: SW, LMFT, or LPC*

[B] Before the Crisis: Community Care as Family Violence Prevention

Nakeenya Wilson, Founder, The Village Place, Austin, TX

What if preventing family violence, child abuse, and neglect began not with identifying families in crisis, but with building communities where families have what they need to thrive?

This session explores community care as both a prevention and intervention strategy for families experiencing violence, instability, or heightened stress. Drawing from the work of Black Mamas Village in Central Texas, participants will examine how trusted relationships, mutual aid, resource navigation, mental health support, food access, childcare, emergency assistance, and spaces for connection can strengthen the protective factors surrounding children and caregivers.

The session will challenge approaches that wait until families reach a point of crisis, or rely primarily on surveillance, reporting, and formal systems to respond. Instead, it will explore what becomes possible when communities have accessible, culturally responsive infrastructure that families can turn to early, voluntarily, and without judgment.

Through the Black Mamas Village model, participants will see how seemingly distinct supports- help with rent or utilities, a food pantry, counseling, childcare, peer connection, family activities, and a trusted person to call, work together as an ecosystem of care. These resources can reduce stress and isolation, strengthen caregiver capacity and family relationships, interrupt escalating crises, and help families remain safely connected to their communities.

Participants will leave with a broader understanding of prevention: not simply preventing an individual act of harm, but creating the relational, material, and community conditions that make safety, stability, healing, and family well-being more possible. *1.25 CEU: SW, LMFT, or LPC*

[C] The Domino Effect and IPV Investigations

Barbara Ferrara, Captain, Amarillo College Police Department, Amarillo, Texas

An overview case study about a high lethality IPV case involving a college student who was both a survivor of childhood sexual abuse and IPV that included multiple overlapping things. Over the course of two years, she was sexually assaulted, assaulted, and strangled multiple times along with relentless stalking throughout that period. There were multiple calls to police in multiple agencies with very little action taken, misinformation given regarding protective orders, no referrals to advocacy, and minimal support measures or safety planning, all with rapidly escalating lethality. It was not until one investigator took her seriously and recognized the escalation and lethality risk that her case moved forward. The perpetrator was arrested for two counts of sexual assault, two counts of strangulation, and two counts of stalking, and ultimately pled and was sentenced to 8 years in TDCJ. *1.25 CEUS Ethics: SW, LMFT, or LPC*

[D] Reproductive Health is Survivor Health: Addressing Reproductive Coercion in Trauma-Informed IPV Practice

Dr. Jessica Grace, Assistant Professor, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas

Survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV) face significant and often overlooked sexual and reproductive health (SRH) risks, including reproductive coercion, unintended pregnancy, STI/HIV exposure, and gynecological cancers. Despite these risks, SRH remains one of the most under-addressed dimensions of survivor well-being in IPV service delivery. Jessica proposes that addressing survivors' reproductive health is not outside the scope of advocacy; it is central to it. Drawing on findings from research conducted with IPV survivors and service provider agencies in the Dallas-Fort Worth metro area, Jessica provides an evidence-informed overview of the intersection of IPV and adverse SRH outcomes, centering the voices of survivors and providers who have named this gap directly. Jessica presents the findings in an accessible and practice-relevant way, designed to inform and equip you across roles, from frontline advocates to agency administrators. She includes an overview of a pilot SRH training intervention currently being implemented in the region, alongside other promising approaches that agencies of varying sizes and capacity can adapt to begin addressing reproductive coercion and supporting survivor reproductive health within their own settings. Jessica concludes by exploring concrete strategies and models that IPV agencies can consider better integration of SRH into your services and organizational culture. *1.25 CEUS: SW, LMFT, or LPC;*

1.25 CEUS: TDCJ-CJAD BIPP

WORKSHOPS | ROUND 5

DAY 2 | AFTERNOON | OCTOBER 28, 2026

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

Christy Swimmer McLemore, Vice Chair, MMIW Texas Rematriate, Dallas, Texas

Jodi Voice Yellowfish, Chair, MMIW Texas Rematriate, Dallas, Texas

Jodi and Christy introduce participants to MMIW Texas Rematriate, its mission, and the broader movement to address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIW/MMIP). They begin by grounding everyone in who they are, why they exist, and how community-led advocacy continues to protect Indigenous relatives across Texas. From there, they explore the historical and present-day obstacles to safety that Indigenous communities face. Participants will learn how colonization, jurisdictional gaps, systemic racism, trafficking, resource extraction, and modern social conditions create environments where violence persists. They will connect past harms to current realities, helping attendees understand why the crisis continues and what structural changes are needed. Finally, they move into healing and rematriation. Through stories shared by our members—stories of loss, survival, and resilience—they highlight how community care, cultural practices, and safety work become pathways to healing. Participants will hear how advocacy itself can be medicine: restoring voice, strengthening families, and reconnecting us to Indigenous ways of protecting one another. *1.25 CEU: SW, LMFT, or LPC*

[B] Faith-based Partnerships in Domestic Violence: Promising Practices Beyond the Barriers
Dr. Denise Berte, Executive Director, Peaceful Families Project, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Dr. Sharon O’Brien, Executive Director, Catholics for Family Peace, Silver Spring, Maryland

Come explore how partnering with faith communities can play a meaningful role in both preventing and responding to domestic violence. Offered by Peaceful Families Project, Catholics for Family Peace, and Jewish Women International, Denise, Alana, Sharon draw on real-world examples and community-based experiences across diverse faith contexts. You will examine strategies for building effective partnerships between faith leaders and domestic violence advocates, promising practices within faith settings that create partnership opportunities, and approaches to addressing common misunderstandings that can create barriers to support for victims and survivors. Grounded in survivor-centered and trauma-informed principles, the speakers offer practical tools and frameworks to help you build partnerships with faith communities, incorporate faith communities into coordinated community responses, and meet the unique needs of victims and survivors from faith communities. *1.25 CEUS Ethics: SW, LMFT, or LPC*

[C] Protective Orders in Texas: 2025 Statewide Survey of County Policies and Practices
Bronwyn Blake, Chief Legal Officer, Texas Advocacy Project, Austin, Texas
Amanda Elkanick Oder, Chief Advocacy & Education Officer, Texas Advocacy Project, Houston, Texas

Protective orders remain one of the most powerful legal tools available to survivors of violence, but access to these life-saving orders continues to vary widely across Texas. Bronwyn and Amanda present findings from Texas Advocacy Project's latest publication Protective Orders in Texas: 2025 Statewide Survey of County Policies and Practices, a comprehensive statewide study examining how protective orders are requested, issued, enforced, and supported across all 254 Texas counties. Building on the original 2013 statewide analysis, this updated study identifies where progress has been made and where persistent barriers remain for survivors seeking protection, including inconsistencies in local policies, court practices, prosecutorial involvement, and procedural requirements that can unintentionally impede access. Bronwyn and Amanda share data-driven insights on how county-level practices affect survivor safety, particularly for victims of family violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking. *1.25 CEUS: SW, LMFT, or LPC; 1.25 CEUS: TDCJ-CJAD FV*

[D] Strategies for Staying Grounded and Connected: Reflective Practice and Relational Approaches to Domestic and Sexual Violence Services
Rachel Cox, Deputy Director of Programs, New Mexico Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs, Taos, NM

Ever wonder why some of the same dynamics of trauma and gender based violence that are present in the lives of people in our services can show up in our own agency structures and relationships? This presentation will share information that supports our understanding of the presence and impact of trauma in our work, how it can impact us emotionally, physically and spiritually and offers reflection, relationship, role clarity and tapping into our own humanity as strategies for staying grounded and connected while working in the field of gender based violence. *1.25 CEUS Ethics: SW, LMFT, or LPC*

WORKSHOPS | ROUND 6

DAY 3 | MORNING | OCTOBER 29, 2026

[A] Two Doors, One House: Culturally Specific Outreach Across Entry Points and What the Field Is Still Missing
Deenah Kafeel, Community Advocate, Austin, Texas
NatKay Kamal, Community Education Advocate, Asian Family Support Services of Austin, Austin, Texas

NatKay and Deenah aim to address the significant gap between cultural competency as a training checkbox and cultural specificity as a lived practice and to fulfill the requirement outlined in the Texas Administrative Code for all direct service employees and their supervisors to receive training on the importance of cultural diversity. Two advocates from Asian Family Support Services of Austin (AFSSA) who work in distinct but overlapping communities (faith-based outreach with South Asian and Muslim communities, and empowerment and prevention programming with immigrant and refugee youths and families in schools and residential settings to examine what community-embedded practice actually requires) come together to share their experiences. Using a holistic wellness framework, this session explores how social determinants of health: immigration status, religious identity, housing instability, intergenerational trauma, and community belonging compound cycles of violence and shape what healing and safety can look like for survivors in culturally specific communities. Participants will also examine how adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) show differently across cultural contexts, and how community-embedded outreach can disrupt cycles of violence before, during and after crisis. Participants leave with a comparative field-tested framework, reflective tools, and a more honest picture of what the field’s existing training still leaves out. *1.25 CEU: SW, LMFT, or LPC*

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

Dr. Kristen Ravi, Assistant Professor, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Knoxville, Tennessee

Nature has long been recognized as a powerful source of restoration, calm, and connection, yet it remains an underutilized tool in trauma-informed care. Kristen invites you to explore the profound relationship between the natural world and human healing and to discover practical ways to bring that relationship into their work with survivors and children. *1.25 CEUS: SW, LMFT, or LPC; 1.25 CEUS: TDCJ-CJAD FV*

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

Leigh Ann McKingsley, Senior Director, Disability & Justice Initiatives, The Arc’s National Center on Criminal Justice and Disability, Austin, Texas

Shell Schwartz, Director of Disability Services, The SAFE Alliance, Austin, Texas

Creating cultures of consent with people with disabilities requires more than individual skill-building; it requires shaping environments where autonomy, choice, and respect are embedded in everyday interactions and systems of support. Leigh Ann and Shell explore how supported decision-making can be used to strengthen consent-based practices and reinforce self-determination. You will gain practical tools for fostering consent-centered relationships, reducing risk of abuse and exploitation, and applying disability- and trauma-informed approaches that prioritize voice and choice. Leigh Ann and Shell examine how power operates within support roles and how intentional connection and communication can help sustain cultures of trust and accountability. They close with a discussion of mandatory reporting, including its benefits and limitations, and consider how supported decision-making can expand safer, more empowering ways for crime victims with disabilities to express their experiences and be heard. *1.25 CEU: SW, LMFT, or LPC*

[D] Housing Is Homicide Prevention: Intersection of Domestic Violence and Housing

Thecia Jenkins, Training Director, Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, Houston, Texas

Housing is a critical homicide prevention strategy for survivors of domestic violence. When survivors have a safe place to live, they are less likely to return to a dangerous relationship. However, housing alone does not end the coercive control. Survivors often continue to experience financial abuse, stalking, legal manipulation, and emotional intimidation after placement, factors that can quietly destabilize housing and increase risk. Thecia explores how case management serves as the bridge between housing placement and long-term safety. Thecia emphasizes survivor-centered, trauma-informed approaches that strengthen engagement, reduce exits, and reinforce housing as a true homicide prevention intervention. *1.25 CEUS: SW, LMFT, or LPC; 1.25 CEUS: TDCJ-CJAD FV*

CHOOSE YOUR OWN KEYNOTE | ROUND 4

DAY 3 | MORNING | OCTOBER 29, 2026

[A] AI, Survivor Safety, and the Limits of Automation: What Helps, What Harms, and What We’re Learning

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

Morgan and Rachel explore what current AI chat tools can and cannot do when responding to survivor safety focused requests. Drawing on recent analysis of chatbot responses, Morgan and Rachel share clear findings and concrete examples that illustrate both responsible uses of AI and moments where AI responses can be dangerously inadequate or harmful. They highlight patterns emerging from clinical work related to AI enabled technologies being used within dynamics of violence, including how these tools can be misused and what practitioners should be attentive to when supporting survivors. This is not focused on using AI for advocacy workflows such as documentation, note taking, or administrative tasks. Instead, it centers survivor safety, clinical insight, and harm prevention, with the goal of supporting more informed, cautious, and ethical engagement with AI technologies. *1 CEU Ethics: SW, LMFT, or LPC; 1 CEU: TDCJ-CJAD BIPP*

[B] Redefining Trauma-Informed Care While Expanding Our Pleasure Lens
Dr. Jessica Sanchez, Assistant Professor of Practice, University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, Texas

When we think about supporting survivors of sexual violence, conversations about pleasure and intimacy are often overlooked, filtered, or treated as taboo. Yet these are fundamental aspects of the human experience and deserve a place in healing. If we are truly committed to victim-centric and trauma-informed care, our advocacy must be intersectional, inclusive, and affirm the whole person, not just their trauma. Jessica challenges traditional approaches to trauma care by exploring healing through a sex-positive, pleasure-affirming lens. Drawing from current research, clinical experience, and culturally responsive practice, you will examine how language shapes survivors' experiences of safety, trust, embodiment, and connection. Attendees will gain practical, trauma-informed strategies to integrate pleasure-affirming care into clinical practice and advocacy while expanding their understanding of healing beyond symptom reduction. Together, we will reimagine healing as not only surviving what happened, but reclaiming intimacy, agency, joy, and the right to experience pleasure. *1 CEU: SW, LMFT, or LPC; 1 CEU: TDCJ-CJAD FV*

CLOSING PLENARY DAY 3 | AFTERNOON | OCTOBER 29, 2026

No Visible Bruises: What We Don't Know About Domestic Violence Can Kill Us
Rachel Louise Snyder, Author, Washington, DC

Rachel discusses her book "No Visible Bruises: What We Don't Know About Domestic Violence Can Kill Us" and examines what we miss about escalating domestic violence, how communities can be more responsive, and what we need to understand about the intersection of domestic abuse and other social and criminal issues we face as a country. *.75 CEUS: SW, LMFT, or LPC*

CLOSING OF STATEWIDE CONFERENCE

Gloria Aguilerra Terry, CEO, Texas Council on Family Violence, *Austin, Texas*

.25 CEUS: SW, LMFT, or LPC



2026 Statewide Conference | Agenda

“I’M OK. ARE YOU OK?” CONNECTIONS. CONVERSATIONS. COMMUNITIES.

Continuing Education Units (CEUs)
We will offer a total of 13.5 hours SW, LMFT, or LPC CEUs and 13.5 for TDCJ-CJAD CEUs for this conference.

If you have any questions, please email statewide@tcfv.org.