



Nova's 49th Annual Training Event
Workshop Sessions (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Session Title	Session Description
Igniting Impact: Collaborative Partnerships for Survivor Centered Community Response	This workshop discusses an innovative response model that partners systems such as advocacy, law enforcement, and prosecutors, with survivors moments after victimization. The DVERT Program (Domestic Violence Enhanced Response Team), in Hamilton County, Ohio is a community based response that works alongside law enforcement in over 20 jurisdictions, to provide trauma competent resources and safety planning. There will be an analysis of barriers, successes, benefits, and use in different communities.
Practical Guidance for Effective Advocacy	Advocacy is defined as the act or process of supporting a cause or proposal- borrowed from words meaning intercession or pleading. Mothers Against Drunk Driving, MADD, along with many other similar grassroots organizations, have helped thousands of victims and survivors feel less alone and encouraged them by walking alongside and amplifying their
Implementing Victim Services for Nonfatal Shooting Victims within a Police Department	The nonfatal shooting victim advocate project seeks to connect shooting survivors (i.e., victims and family members) to needed social and behavioral services during the post injury period. This workshop will discuss the implementation of a shooting victim advocate unit into the police department's aggravated assault unit. Two community advocates, who
Misunderstood Victimization and Trauma of Black Women	Description: In depth look into the historical and current victimization and trauma of black women both culturally and socially. We will explore how stereotypes contribute to societal and familial expectations and perceptions of black women. We will also discuss what
Serving While Surviving: The Survivors Perspective	Hear the story of Dr. Diandra Poe and how she came to serve in the military at the age of 34 years old and become a survivor after only had served less than 90 days in uniform. Through the interactive story, participants will learn how survivorship for some members may begin before they raise their right hand. How advocates can look for the signs and
From Child Victim to Resilient Adult Survivor: The Survivor Empathy Panels	The Survivor Empathy Panels is an innovative program that is utilized to develop empathy awareness with offenders on community supervision for domestic and sexual violence crimes. This adjunct program works alongside treatment that is statistically proven to create empathy awareness for offenders while providing survivors self-healing. There is
Title IX and Trauma Informed Care	The U.S. Department of Education enforce certain laws that protect the civil rights of students in schools, kindergarten through postgraduate. Entities that receive federal funding must comply with Title IX and must respond to allegations of sexual harassment/assault appropriately. Entities should have a Title IX coordinator to coordinate efforts and comply with Title IX regulations, and should have a trauma-informed, survivor-centered approach. Advocates can help survivors know their rights, know their options, ensure they're being treated with dignity and respect, support them through the process, and assist with resources and services.
Continuing the Conversation: A Mother's Experience with Victim-Offender Dialogue	Following the murder of my only child, I was left with many unanswered questions. Among those questions was how to go on from here. In my quest for answers, which included the founding of a victim's group, I would discover that conversations about lost loved ones should never end, even when they are difficult. This quest led to me becoming the second person in the state of Louisiana to participate in the Victim-Offender Dialogue, coming face- to-face with the man who murdered my son. In this workshop, learn how my experience with Victim-Offender Dialogue has allowed me to continue the conversation, for myself and other victims.

<p>Victims Abroad: How the U.S. Department of State is Working to Assist</p>	<p>The U.S. Department of State's Directorate of Overseas Citizens Services will provide information on services and support available to U.S. citizen victims of crime abroad, including new developments for hostage-taking, wrongful detention and early and forced marriage. An overview of the Department's Travel Advisory and Alerts messaging, specifically focused on crisis messaging and terrorist events will also be provided. Emphasis will be on understanding complexities for those experiencing violence overseas, how we develop and foster partnerships to assist victims, and how we train our staff to use a trauma-informed approach to empower survivors globally. The 90-minute workshop will include case studies, examples of interagency cooperation, and interactive scenarios for victim services professionals.</p>
<p>The Power of Pets: How Pet-Friendly Domestic Violence Shelters Aid Healing, Build Morale, and Support Fundraising</p>	<p>What happens when we support people in crisis and their pets? Join this interactive discussion to learn how creating a pet housing program not only removes a significant barrier to service, but also provides tremendous support in the healing process for people in crisis. You don't have to be an animal lover to see how including pets in programming can have a powerful effect on everyone involved - from pets, to pet parents, to staff. This will be an engaging discussion that requires only an open mind and the willingness to shift your lens. Attendees will leave feeling energized and ready to take on the next steps to creating a pet housing program!</p>
<p>Developing a No Wrong Door Approach: Enhancing Support for Military Domestic Violence Survivors</p>	<p>Magellan Federal will have two of their Military Domestic Abuse Victim Advocates (one with the Army and one with the Air Force) discuss what it is like to work with survivors associated with the Military. Working with Military survivors brings a unique set of challenges, including isolation due to Permanent Change of Station (PCS) moves, lack of income due to frequent moves, and command involvement which might affect the offender's career. Our advocates will discuss military services available to survivors, as well as partnering with civilian agencies to provide more options to survivors.</p>
<p>GoFundMe? Financial Donations Following Incidents of Mass Violence</p>	<p>Following incidents of mass violence and domestic terrorism, many people want to help. Funds are often started to benefit victims and their families -- some totaling multiple millions of dollars. While these funds can make a meaningful impact on victims and families, they also come with unforeseen challenges. Where should funds be collected? How do the funds impact other forms of victim compensation and/or government programs? What if the recipient is under 18? How do you ensure the money is used responsibly? In this presentation, the National Compassion Fund will discuss the dos and don'ts of financial donation management from an administrative perspective while a victim advocate will discuss the challenges and opportunities of supporting victims who receive large sums of money.</p>
<p>Know More, Do More: Recognizing and Responding to Stalking</p>	<p>Stalking is a prevalent, dangerous and often misunderstood crime. This presentation explores the dynamics of stalking, focusing on the highly contextual nature of the crime by discussing common tactics used by perpetrators, stalking's co-occurrence with domestic and sexual violence as well as tools to plan for victim safety and hold offenders accountable.</p>
<p>Go Team: Utilizing Police Partnerships to Address Trauma and Assist Victims of Crime</p>	<p>In this session attendees will learn about Family Service of Rhode Island's Go Teams which have been serving Rhode Island communities for nearly two decades. The Go Team model pairs trauma informed social service workers with law enforcement to provide immediate, on-scene crisis intervention and stabilization, language and emotional support, safety planning, basic needs assistance, and triage for victims and witnesses of violent crime and children exposed to trauma. This session will cover how the model is utilized through specific case examples, calls on which go-team members most often respond to and the follow up provided to the victim's and families in the days after a crime has occurred. This session will also discuss the process for starting a go-team in different communities.</p>

<p>Completing the Victim Advocacy Puzzle: The Separate but Complementary Roles of System-Based and Community-Based Advocates</p>	<p>Crime victims may encounter dozens of professionals in the criminal justice system, and they are best served when collaboration occurs. Collaboration between victim advocates -- system-based (e.g., law enforcement, prosecution, probation/parole) and community-based (e.g., non-profit organizations) -- is particularly important. There is a general lack of understanding of the distinction between these roles and how they can effectively partner to best serve victims. Role confusion can lead to miscommunication and damage to professional relationships and, ultimately, misunderstanding or harm to victims. This workshop highlights key role components and strategies for maximizing partnerships. Legal intersections and their impacts will also be discussed.</p>
<p>Ethics, Confidentiality, and Boundaries in Victim Services</p>	<p>This training is designed to explore common ethical conflicts and how to apply ethical standards and decision-making to resolve them in the field. Victim Advocates will review the standards for the National Advocate Credentialing Program for Victim Assistance Programs and Providers, and take an Ethical Self-Awareness Inventory. The overall objective of this training is to exceed the annual training requirements for Victim Advocates and to educate them on how to make ethical decisions.</p>
<p>Connecting with Teen Brains: Teens, Technology & Social Media</p>	<p>When it comes to technology, children and teens are the ultimate experts. Ninety-five percent of teenagers between the ages of 13 and 17 in the United States have a smartphone. Technology provides opportunities to connect, learn, and have fun. But technology also carries risks, such as inappropriate relationships, cyberbullying and too much screen time. Both the positive and negative aspects of technology can be amplified by some key features of the developing teenage brain. This workshop will explore the impact of technology and social media on the developing teenage brain.</p>
<p>HOT TOPIC: Healthy Relationships</p>	<p>Interactive Advocacy's "HOT TOPIC: Healthy Relationships" real-time approach to violence prevention initiatives boosts the theatrical platforms of performance-based intervention surrounding this methodology to impact each community it serves. Numerous scholars have noted that theatrical drama that incorporates interactive and participatory components can produce openings for personified and affective learning that may contribute to rendering Knowledge into practice (Casale & Hanass-Hancock, 2011; Christensen, 2013; CobbettOndiek, 2016; Heard, Mutch, and Fitzgerald 2017; Madsen, 2018; Plourde et al., 2016; Ponzetti et al., 2009). In addition, employing a social norms approach to Interactive Advocacy's theoretical framework for each performance vignette ensures that the Knowledge essential to society's customs, cultures, and traditions, including military and higher education environments, are presented.</p>

<p>Haciendo Servicios Inclusivos y Acogedores para Víctimas Hispanohablantes Spanish presentation: Making Services Inclusive and Welcoming to Spanish Speaking Crime Victims</p>	<p>Este taller está diseñado para ayudar a los defensores bilingües, abogados y profesionales aliados a ayudar a las víctimas de delitos de habla hispana con información y herramientas para un enfoque culturalmente competente e informado sobre el trauma. Repasaremos el método del California Victims Legal Resource Center (CVLRC, por sus siglas en inglés) para garantizar que las víctimas de delitos de habla hispana tengan acceso a servicios y recursos. Esta estrategia integral cubre la interpretación/traducción, la competencia cultural y atención basada en el trauma. Las víctimas de habla hispana enfrentan muchas barreras al acceder a los servicios, como el idioma, la situación económica, cultural y migratoria. En consecuencia, los proveedores de servicios deben brindar un servicio equitativo, por lo que en este taller repasaremos las mejores prácticas al atender a las víctimas de delitos de habla hispana.</p> <p>This workshop is designed to assist bilingual advocates, attorneys, and allied professionals when helping Spanish-speaking crime victims with information and tools for a culturally competent and trauma-inform approach. We will go over the California Victims Legal Resource Center (CVLRC) approach to ensuring that Spanish-speaking crime victims have access to services and resources. This comprehensive approach covers interpretation/translation, cultural competency, and providing services in a trauma-informed manner. Spanish-speaking victims face many barriers when accessing services, such as language, economic, cultural, and immigration status. Consequently, service providers need to provide equitable service, so in this workshop, we will go over best practices when serving Spanish-speaking crime victims.</p>
<p>Violence Across the Lifespan of Latinx LGBTQ+ Survivors: Reflections on Research and Practice</p>	<p>Esperanza United, a federally designated national resource center on gender based violence in the Latin@ community, will be presenting recent research on the lived realities of Latinx LGBTQ+ victims/survivors. Research shows that Latinx LGBTQ+ victims/survivors experience compounding violence from youth to adulthood. For advocates to provide culturally relevant and trauma-informed services, advocates must understand the through line of early socialization and familial and cultural bonds to the present-day lived realities of Latinx LGBTQ+ victims/survivors.</p>
<p>Sin by Silence: Impact on Family Members of Domestic Violence</p>	<p>This workshop will address the impact of domestic violence on a family suffering from Familial Abuse and will include a personal account from a child in a family of domestic violence where her mother ended up murdering her husband for the abuse the family endured. We will discuss the important of early intervention on the children, as well as helping families find alternatives to staying in the home with the abuser. This session will include movie clips from a documentary on the co-presenter's mother. This is a compelling workshop that will provide help in dealing with long term effect of abuse on victims in domestic violence.</p>
<p>Grief and GRACE</p>	<p>Arthur Schopenhauer stated "Mostly it is loss which teaches us the worth of things". My talk on Grief and Grace dives deeply into how being broken is not the same as being broken open. There is an invitation at the confluence of heartbreak and despair to rise up. I speak on how I responded to this invitation using the acronym GRACE that I coined. The talk offers actionable tools for navigating loss and trauma. It is suitable for anyone that has encountered grief or trauma, or who supports those that do.</p>
<p>Surviving Sexual Trauma / Intimate Partner Violence; The Journey</p>	<p>This presentation will tell the journey of a victim through the eyes of not only the victim, but through the eyes of the legal team. The presenters will share the journey and highlight the challenges a victim faces with the legal processes when the prosecution team represents the state/government not the victim and how to help your clients overcome the fear of testimony. A guilty verdict isn't always the outcome -- how to manage a client's expectations.</p>

<p>Breaking Out of the Man Box: Ending Violence Against Women and the Promotion of Healthy Manhood</p>	<p>This keynote presentation addresses the collective socialization of men by examining the social norms, culture, and traditional images of manhood that have created an environment that supports, tolerates and often encourages men's violence against women. The keynote will also address how the promotion of healthy respectful manhood will prevent domestic violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment, discrimination, and other social ills. Discussion will include the negative impact the Man Box has on men's socialization and mental health. This keynote is interactive, engaging, powerful, and transformative for all genders.</p>
<p>Survivors and Formerly Incarcerated Colleagues in the Field of Victim Offender Dialogue: The Mend Collaborative Model of Co-Facilitation</p>	<p>The Mend Collaborative is pioneering a new model of VOD Co-Facilitation. In this model, survivors and formerly incarcerated people partner in supporting VOD participants. This innovative model improves the depth and quality of preparation and participation for the incarcerated person responsible for harm, and also meets the needs of survivors. Hear from a survivor and formerly incarcerated facilitator team about the power of this model, how we have implemented it in California, and how it can meet the needs of survivors post-conviction.</p>
<p>Trauma Brain & The Power of Validation</p>	<p>In this interactive workshop participants will learn the common reactions that individuals experience during traumatic events. Participants will also learn the essential skill of validation to assist individuals who are experiencing trauma to feel heard and seen.</p>
<p>Amplifying the Voices & Experiences of Young Survivors</p>	<p>What if we had the power to cultivate a culture free of abuse in a generation? BLOOM365's Lead Advocate, Julisa Segovia, will facilitate and empower the voices of young survivors who experienced interpersonal violence. Throughout this panel these survivors will share how they turned their experience into advocacy through spreading awareness, eliminating stigmas of young survivors, and empowering others to amplify their voice. At BLOOM365 we recognize the unique resiliency Generation Z has when faced with interpersonal violence. When attending this workshop you are supporting young people who have experienced interpersonal violence by joining them on their path to healing and hope. In addition participants will be given the opportunity to ask anonymous questions as it relates to their personal and/or professional experience.</p>
<p>When Self-Care Isn't Enough</p>	<p>On a good day, victim advocates are tired. On the worst of days, they're so burnt out that they're barely recognizable. We know this is a major problem in the field and yet, we are still unable to manage the impact. The culture of self-care tells us that we should be doing more to maintain our own wellness - but what if the responsibility isn't actually on us? This workshop will introduce the concept of burnout as being a symptom of systemic issues and guide advocates in identifying the root causes of burnout, redirecting advocacy efforts to their own wellbeing, and defining actionable steps to address burnout on a structural level.</p>
<p>Ethics for Professionals Who Work With Trauma and/or Victimization</p>	<p>As responders, we have the privilege to serve people in pain. It is essential that we function on an ethical foundation. This presentation will explore common dilemmas and how to apply ethical standards to decision making. We will look at implicit bias that fuel case management, boundaries and limitations, confidentiality and privacy, client autonomy and empowerment, and working with limited resources. It will also explore our relationships to the culture in which we work. It can be difficult to maintain an ethical compass when the systems themselves are not functioning because of toxicity, collective trauma, gaps, or outdated perspectives.</p>
<p>Ecosystems of Equity in Victim Services: Collaborations & Models for Systems Change</p>	<p>With many victim service providers focusing on survivors of gender-based violence, survivors of other crimes are often left behind. This workshop seeks to encourage providers and advocates to address the underserved and under-resourced victim populations in their community through uncommon partnerships and proven legislative advocacy. Attendees will walk away with concrete actions steps based on a replicable model with sample policy considerations.</p>

<p>Transforming the Cycles of Institutional Betrayal: How to Promote Transparency on College Campuses</p>	<p>When an institution lacks transparency and accountability with its constituents, the term is called Institutional Betrayal. Strictly defined, institutional betrayal refers to wrongdoings perpetrated by an institution upon individuals dependent on that institution, including failure to prevent or respond supportively to wrongdoings by individuals committed within the context of the institution. Survivors, campus advocates, prevention specialists, and student affairs professionals have experienced institutional betrayal through outdated policies, procedures, and practices within their institution of higher education. NOVA's Campus Program team breaks down common examples of institutional betrayal, while setting up an interactive framework for creating the transparency and accountability needed to move towards institutional courage.</p>
<p>Don't Give Them a Seat at the Table, Build a New One: Proactive Cultural Response Initiatives in the Human Services and Victim Services Field</p>	<p>Organizational cultural competence is a dynamic process that does not have a start or end date. It begins with awareness of the issues and evolves into proactive culturally responsive policies and procedures. Proactive cultural responsiveness is important to provide clients with the opportunity to access services that reflect their cultures and values. This presentation will discuss working within the communities you serve and adapting your practices instead of expecting clients to adapt to you. For organizations that have begun this work, a structure for the next steps will be discussed to continue serving the self-identified needs of our communities.</p>
<p>Human Trafficking and People with Disabilities: A Deeper Look at Best Practices</p>	<p>This presentation will showcase a more in-depth look into best practices when providing services to adult crime victims of human trafficking with disabilities and provide the audience with resources that victims/survivors with disabilities have available. Participants will receive the information in a myriad of forms, including lectures, facilitated group discussion, videos, and other activities as appropriate.</p>
<p>Invisible Scars: Domestic Violence In the Military Community</p>	<p>Did you know that 33% of women veterans versus 23.8% of non-veteran women have reported incidents of domestic violence and veteran women survivors of Intimate Partner Violence are three times more likely to experience housing instability or homelessness?</p> <p>Did you know that the number of women killed by a current or former male partner added up to nearly double the Soldier lives lost in war in Afghanistan from 2001 to 2012? Finally, did you know the most common form of IPV among veteran women was psychological? (sabotaging birth control, controlling social contacts, and outing those who are in the LGBTQ community)? The workshop would be focused on domestic violence in the military (which includes our veterans and military spouses) As a survivor of domestic violence who served in the military for 20 years, we as military members often have to face different challenges being domestic violence survivors then those that have never served. We often talk about scars from the battlefield but not the invisible scars that come with domestic violence. Challenges such as stigma when it comes to reporting, resources (for our veterans, military members, and military spouses); trying to keep the trauma confidential, and if we do report, the risk of losing respect from our peers and supervisors, our careers that come with benefits, or even our clearance. We will focus on all the stigmas that come as a military member, veteran, and military spouse and how the community (outside of the military) can assist those survivors.</p>
<p>LEVELing with Gen Z: Listen, Empathize, Validate, Encourage, Link to Resources</p>	<p>Do you feel fully prepared to respond to and support teens who are going through or who have experienced victimization? If not, this LEVEL(TM) response training was created just for you. Listening skills or lack thereof, implicit bias, and "adultism" can create roadblocks to good advocacy for teens. During this highly interactive workshop, you will utilize the practical LEVEL(TM) advocacy tool developed specifically to provide culturally inclusive and non-judgmental support to teens. A LEVEL(TM) conversation with a teen going through victimization could make all the difference by preventing feelings of isolation, shame and fear. You don't have to be an expert to LEVEL(TM) and provide help. It's all about non-judgmental support, absent of advice giving and opinion. Participants will gain practical tools and tangible resources to provide teen victims and survivors with empathetic, validating, encouraging and relevant support.</p>

<p>"Are You In A Safe Place To Talk?" An Inside Look Into A Domestic Violence Crisis Hotline</p>	<p>Domestic violence hotlines are often known as the "first responder" to crisis situations and are often the gateway to multiple victim services. Domestic violence hotlines are an essential service to all domestic and sexual violence centers. This workshop explores the dynamics of a domestic violence crisis hotline and examines the ins and out of how domestic violence hotline advocates handle crisis intervention, risk assessments, and immediate safety planning over the phone. Ethical procedures of domestic violence hotline staff will be discussed and attendees will attain knowledge of the functionality of the hotline including communication alternatives, types of hotline calls, and web chat/text features.</p>
<p>Actualizing Racial Equity in Our Work</p>	<p>For the past six years, NRCDV's Racial Justice Initiative (RJI) has been committed to racial justice as an essential part of our work. The Racial Justice Initiative has helped NRCDV understand that to truly end domestic violence, we must address all systems that generate and sustain it and that working in solidarity across issues of justice is the only way to bring about meaningful social change. This presentation will share learnings from NRCDV's journey to becoming an antiracist organization, tools to engage in conversations about race, and strategies to develop and implement programming that focuses on equity versus equality.</p>
<p>You Are Not Alone: Coordinating Statewide Prosecution- Based Victim Services</p>	<p>Maine and Georgia's statewide advocate coordinators team up to highlight how they built programs that provide consultation, training, technical assistance, and support for prosecution-based victim advocates. They will share how this statewide coordination promotes consistency, victim rights compliance, information sharing, professionalism, leadership, retention, and more. Examples from the field and specific program ideas will demonstrate how forging connections across rural and urban counties and tribal communities helps advocates feel less alone in their work. Ultimately, statewide programs help ensure that all crime victims receive access to high quality services no matter where they live.</p>
<p>Safety Planning</p>	<p>Safety planning can be the most critical area of advocacy an advocate will provide that can have serious - even life and death consequences. Yet, the vast majority of advocates possess neither a risk management or basic security background. And, although safety planning is a widely recommended intervention for victims and survivors of domestic violence and other violent crime, several studies examining advocate safety planning concluded that planning for safety happened less frequently even among those who had significant injuries and who wanted safety planning. This workshop will provide the Advocate and/or Program Manager with: (1) an understanding of a basic risk management framework by which to plan and manage victim-survivor safety; (2) an introduction to various assessment tools; (3) an understanding of basic security principles that will improve any safety plan; and. (4) an understanding of potential organization liability for providing safety planning services.</p>
<p>Advocacy in College Culture: Working With Student Survivors and Advocates</p>	<p>This workshop covers what advocacy looks like on college campuses, assisting student survivors of gender-based violence, and resources on campus to provide the best possible support for survivors coming from a diverse population. For campuses with student peer- advocates, what is the best way to provide supervision, training, and support to them? Discuss what it looks like to work with other departments and resources on campus and in your community, and tackling rape culture and violence in campus organizations like athletics and Greek Life.</p>

<p>Victim Services in the Post-Conviction Setting</p>	<p>The need for trauma-informed, wrap-around support services in the post-conviction setting is more prevalent now than ever. In recent years, Louisiana has changed several laws to reflect just sentences for the crime committed. While this was a pivotal move in righting the wrongs of Louisiana's past, the victims of these crimes did not receive the same relief. To provide relief to victims in this space, the department created a program to compassionately address the needs of victims and survivors through education about the post-conviction process, destigmatizing and addressing mental health issues, and creating a community of support for those affected. This workshop will focus on how one can implement a similar program, the significance of transparency and outreach efforts, and how to measure outcomes to ensure program success.</p>
<p>16 Lessons Learned from 16 Mass Violence Incidents</p>	<p>The Improving Community Preparedness to Assist Victims of Mass Violence and Domestic Terrorism Training and Technical Assistance Program (ICP TTA) is supported by four national partners. Collectively, the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA), National Sheriff's Association (NSA), International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), National Compassion Fund, and ICP TTA staff have responded to more than 40 incidents of mass violence and domestic terrorism. In this session, presenters will detail 16 lessons learned from 16 different incidents. Each lesson learned will stem from different areas of response efforts and provide valuable insight for attendees as they consider how their community would respond to an incident of mass violence.</p>
<p>Addressing Secondary Trauma in Victim Serving Organizations</p>	<p>Victim Advocacy work, which focuses on helping victims of violence and other crimes, inherently exposes helping professionals to trauma. This exposure puts professionals at risk for secondary traumatic stress (STS), which is the stress placed on a person when exposed to trauma descriptions, trauma images, or the reactions and responses of persons who have experienced primary trauma. We know that STS is an inherent occupational hazard. When unaddressed, STS reactions can impair personal and professional functioning and impact the morale and functioning of the staff and organizations.</p> <p>This workshop will focus on understanding the complexity of STS, and exploring other concepts which impact STS, including risk and protective factors. We will also discuss strategies resilience-building and wellness strategies for individuals and supervisors.</p>
<p>What Makes a Monster?: Sexual Violence Prevention, Responses, & Justice NACP</p>	<p>This highly interactive and impactful workshop will explore what we think we know about sexual violence perpetration versus the actual dynamics of sexual violence. Participants will explore how monster stories shape our understanding of sexual violence, increase knowledge about survivor-centered advocacy, and begin building community strategy plans. Participants will leave this workshop with resources and ongoing opportunities to continue learning about how we expand options for survivor justice.</p> <p>TBD</p>
<p>Working With Spanish-Speaking Latinx Survivors of Sexual Assault: Challenges, Barriers, and Best Practices</p>	<p>Certified Bilingual Sexual Assault Advocates will present on common challenges observed when working with Spanish-speaking Latinx survivors of Sexual Assault in Southwest Connecticut. As part of improving services, this presentation will delve into challenges observed in three primary areas: advocacy, counseling and prevention education.</p> <p>Participants will leave with knowledge about recommended best practices on how to overcome some of the common challenges seen and will be invited to engage in a cross-learning dialogue.</p>

<p>RISING ABOVE THE SCARS: "One Child's Nightmare; One Woman's 12 Step Journey to Her Miraculous Awakening"</p>	<p>RISING ABOVE THE SCARS: "One Child's Nightmare; One Woman's 12 step Journey to her Miraculous Awakening" is the true account of Johnnetta McSwain's triumphant life story. Born to an alcoholic mother and an absent father, the odds were unceremoniously stacked against her even as she drew her first breath. By the innocent age of five, she was viciously raped and incessantly battered by her three uncles while in the custody of her grandparents. This workshop will teach individuals how to overcome and triumph over unforeseeable, extraordinary circumstances and social ills. The workshop and book, "Rising Above the Scars", is written and created from the personal life experiences of Johnnetta McSwain, an African-American woman who overcame a vicious cycle of poverty, domestic violence, sexual, mental and physical abuse and self destruction. Participants will view the Emmy Award winning documentary, "The Road Beyond Abuse", which depicts the triumphant journey of Johnnetta McSwain.</p>
<p>Boxes in the Attic</p>	<p>Boxes in the Attic speaks directly to those professionals who are facing difficult, "soul wounding" situations on the front lines of our criminal justice system each day and the long term impact of vicarious trauma. Nancy & Mike bring a unique perspective that offers insight and hope to those who are searching for methods with which to process their own emotions and struggles within a traditional criminal justice culture. In addition, Nancy, a sexual assault survivor, shares contemplative insight into her own battles with fear and shame regarding how she might be perceived if her "secret" was known by her professional colleagues. With transparency and sincerity, Mike & Nancy offer encouragement and inspiration to professionals who daily fight the good fight against all forms of injustice.</p>
<p>GPS Trackers: The Silent Stalker</p>	<p>The development of new technology has grown exponentially; providing assistance with everyday life. What happens when this technology is utilized for fear and control? GPS tracking devices are a helpful friend for stalkers to locate and follow their victims. The use of GPS trackers makes it easier to commit the crime of stalking. Attendees will learn about the relationship of technology, pop culture, and social media within stalking. A case study will be presented where a victim was stalked by her abuser by using GPS devices and other means to instill fear. It will explain lessons learned, best practices, and development in protocols. This training will show how law enforcement-based Victim Services can work closely with the victims from the onset all the way through the court process. The training will provide victim advocates, law enforcement, and prosecutors, with the importance of a team-based investigation.</p>
<p>Deepening our Economic Justice Work</p>	<p>This session will explore the intersection between domestic violence, finances and survivor safety. Additionally, an overview of past and current public policy that impacts survivors lives will be highlighted, as well as how to look internally at our own EJ equity challenges.</p>
<p>Fostering Resilience after Mass Violence Incidents: Lessons Learned, Best Practices and a Vision for the Future</p>	<p>Over the past decade, approximately 20 resiliency centers have been established in mass violence impacted communities, with several new centers being created each year. The National Mass Violence Victimization Resource Center hosts a Forum of Resiliency Center Directors and through this networking of professionals and leaders, best practices are being developed. This session will provide an overview resiliency concepts. The history of resiliency center models will be reviewed along with discussion of its mission, goals, and scope of programs. Participants will engage and provide feedback on the current drafted best practices to inform the victim service field.</p>

<p>Navigating Ethical Dilemmas from a Leadership Perspective</p>	<p>This interactive and scenario-based workshop will focus on developing the ethical aspects of leadership, to include creating a safe-space for taking accountability and addressing ethical situations with those within our leadership influence. This workshop will identify characteristics of an ethical leader as it relates to being a victim assistance provider; create an understanding the importance of creating a safe space for taking accountability as well as identifying the elements required to create this type of environment; and demonstrate the ability to navigate ethical dilemmas from a leadership perspective.</p>
<p>Brown Skin Girls: I Am Because We Are</p>	<p>Sexual assault is a widespread problem that disproportionately affects Black women. Yet, despite this reality, on an institutional and societal level, healing after experiencing sexual assault is often an issue of racial equity. In research and practice, our field tends to take a race-evasive, individualized, and psychological approach to healing resources that silence and eclipse the needs and intersectional lived experiences of Black women.</p> <p>In this session, an intersectional and anti-violence educator will examine healing from sexual assault through a critical theoretical lens. The presenter will use counterstories from Black women survivors to disrupt the masternarrative that healing is the same for all women and explore concrete ways to center Black college women in policy and practice.</p>
<p>Ethics in Victim Advocacy: The SARC Toolkit for Teaching and Learning</p>	<p>Dr. Kate Watson has trained approximately 10,000 advocates to integrate their own personal values with a professional code of ethics, with a heavy focus on diversity and inclusion. In 2023, Dr. Watson is giving away her training to leaders and managers who must teach ethics to their teams. In this session, she will walk through her curriculum and rationale for every component of it. All participants will receive access to the online toolkit for teaching ethics in victim advocacy. All advocates (not just leaders) are welcome to attend because the session highlights strategies for LEARNING, as much as it focuses on teaching.</p>
<p>Know Better, Do Better: Seeking Racial Justice in the Victims' Rights Context</p>	<p>This workshop will be a personal conversation about what to do when you realize you're not doing enough. In the wake of the 2020 murder of George Floyd, many were forced to confront the injustice and inequity purposefully built into the criminal justice system and the role victims' rights can play in that injustice and inequity. For us, this realization led to an ongoing effort to ensure that all staff are educated on racial justice and prepared to take action to address it within the context of victims' rights work.</p>
<p>Self Care for Professionals: Transforming Secondary Trauma</p>	<p>In the digital age, with mobile technology taking an omnipresent role in our lives today, victim service professionals must understand the importance of self-care when working with victims/survivors. Working with victims/survivors who have experienced violence can take a toll on your professional and personal lives. Victims and survivors of abuse experience lack of knowledge, safety planning, and more. It's now more important than ever to talk about ways that service providers can take care of themselves in order to minimize harm, both to themselves and to their clients. Equifax/Victim Services is leading the way, tailoring its Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) service, by making critical local and national resources more accessible to advocacy-based professionals and law enforcement, as they guide victims in the healing process. This interactive workshop is most impactful for professionals who may experience physical and emotional effects of secondary trauma.</p>

Cold Case Homicide Advocacy: Expectations, Accountability, and Redefining Success	This presentation will go through the expectations we should provide survivors, which includes the possibility of no resolution. It will teach ways to address accountability by law enforcement through constructive private dialogue as well as publicly through the media. We will also focus on public perception of successful cold case advocacy vs. how we should define success amongst ourselves as advocates. A case study will be included.
From Numbers to Practice: Evidenced Based Family Violence Response	Georgia responds to fatal domestic violence-related incidents with evidenced based prevention and response programs. Family violence fatalities and murder-suicides decimate families and communities shattering the equilibrium that once held them secure. This workshop will reveal commonalities between Georgia and other communities and how to use data to strengthen and secure communities from the tragedy of domestic violence- related fatalities and murder-suicides.
Canadian Sexual Assault Support Program: Advocating For a New Approach	The Sexual Assault Support Program (SASP) is an initiative between the Hamilton Police Sex Crimes Unit and the Civilian branch of Hamilton Police Victim Services. Since becoming a permanent position in October 2020, over 550 victims of sexual assault have been supported. In 2022, SASP was awarded The Attorney General's Victim Services Award of Distinction for exceptional achievement. This training event will provide a thoughtful and engaging overview of SASP, which provides new and innovative approaches to supporting victims/survivors of sexual assault, particularly for those initiating police involvement.
Intimate Partner Violence and Digital Abuse	In an age when it is easier than ever for abusers to use technology and communication tools to control, stalk, and harass victims, it is important for community members to understand how the law defines these crimes. In this training we will identify the laws and remedies available to protect survivors and discuss practices for safety planning around technology.
Making Victims' Rights A Reality: A National Perspective on Emerging Victims' Rights Issues	Across the nation, victims' legal rights have passed in the majority of state constitutions. However, many victims are still unaware of these rights or how to exercise their rights. Many system based and community based service providers are not familiar with the nuances of these rights, how they can assist victims with rights issues, and the role of a victims' rights attorney. Join us as we discuss the current state of victims' rights across the country, why victims' rights are important to the proper functioning of our criminal justice system, and what you can do to help victims with their rights.
In Their Shoes: Understanding Survivor's Cultural Barriers	This workshop focuses on cultural sensitivity related to working with immigrant and non English speaking survivors. The presentation covers myths, barriers, benefits, and safety focused outcomes. Both presenters are bilingual advocates, fluent in Spanish and English, who work daily with survivors, systems, and community partners. After this session, you will be able to: identify 5 barriers unique to immigrant and non English speaking survivors; debunk at least 4 myths about immigrant and non English speaking survivors; discuss 3 benefits of considering cultural sensitivity in crisis intervention; and identify 4 ways bilingual advocacy provides safety and comfort to immigrant and non English speaking survivors.
Silly Rabbit: Technology Isn't Just For Kids: The Role of Technology When Working with Older Adult Victims of Crime	Technology has opened the world up for more connections, more information sharing, and allowing victims and survivors to connect with service providers like never before. Using technology is not just for youth and young adults. More older adults are using technology to bank, connect with family and friends, date, and more. It is imperative for service providers to understand the nuances of how Older Adults are using technology, the ways this technology can be misused, and how Older Adults can use technology in an empowered way.

<p>Measuring the Difference You Make: A Free New Tool to Capture Outcomes and Quality in Victim Services</p>	<p>A new free survey tool, iMPROVE (Measuring Provider Responses to Victimization), equips victim service providers to measure program outcomes and quality. Developed with funding from the U.S. Department of Justice and currently supported by the Office for Victims of Crime, this easy-to-use tool collects important anonymous responses from victims and survivors about the services they received and how they changed their lives and well-being. These data can be used to promote program improvement, demonstrate program value, or support new funding requests. Come learn more from the tool's creators and some victim service providers who have already used the tool.</p>
<p>Cultural Considerations in Mass Violence Incident Response</p>	<p>This session will provide an overview of current definitions of mass violence incidents (MVIS) and hate crimes, impact on victims and communities, as well as discuss cultural considerations in preparing for and responding to MVIs. Participants will learn about health and healthcare disparities among trauma-impacted populations and approaches to trauma informed care that includes concepts of cultural humility. Specifically, both individual and organizational trauma informed strategies that integrate cultural humility and context will be provided. Example suggestions (i.e. faith, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, age, gender and gender identity considerations) to consider including in local Mass Victimization Response Protocols will be discussed.</p>
<p>Serving Survivors of Homicide...The Wait for Justice.</p>	<p>This workshop will provide information and resources to assist in developing services specific to survivors of homicide. The workshop participants will gain innovative, collaborative, and evidenced based approaches past and present used to assist survivors on the journey to justice. The workshop will also include instruction for future use or replication.</p>
<p>Claim Your Power & Confidence Through Boundary Setting</p>	<p>This interactive program will empower individuals of all gender identities with the skills to enforce their boundaries regardless of the relationship, context or location. We'll discuss the importance of identifying uncomfortable or manipulative behavior, establishing personal space, trusting our intuition, and using assertive communication. Nicole will provide simple and actionable tools that participants can use to establish boundaries using body language and verbal skills. Setting boundaries is an important element of self-efficacy and autonomy which can benefit both advocates and survivor populations. Confidently claim your power to enforce boundaries in familial, school, professional, and personal settings.</p>
<p>Fierce Self-Care for Fierce Hearted Caregivers: Bold, Determined and Taking Care of Yourself from the Inside Out</p>	<p>In this experiential workshop clinicians and victim advocates will learn how to increase resiliency, emotional and cognitive flexibility and maintain healthy boundaries to prevent compassion fatigue, burnout and the effects of vicarious trauma so that they can better support themselves and their clients. Harnessing the power of the ventral vagal system, mindfulness tools and body-based interventions will help attendees expand their self-care repertoire beyond bubble baths and chamomile tea and begin to regulate their autonomic nervous system and support co-regulation with clients.</p>
<p>Invisible Injuries: Addressing Brain Injury from Violence in Your Services</p>	<p>This session digs deeper to better understand the brain and its functions, as well as characteristics of partner-inflicted brain injury. Brain injury caused by violence is rarely identified and almost never immediately treated, and results in short- and long-term physical, emotional, and cognitive consequences that can impact every area of a person's life. People serving crime victims have a tremendous opportunity to change the trajectory of a person's life by learning more about brain injury and will equip you to use the innovative CARE framework and CARE tools in your agencies.</p>
<p>"Impacta la vida de mujeres sobrevivientes de abuso y deja tu legado en el mundo convirtiéndote en una mentora estrella"</p>	<p>Como acompañar a sobrevivientes de violencia domestica sexual en su proceso de sanación y restauración a través de una metodología práctica y eficaz que le permita a la persona defensora (advocate) crear espacios seguros y confiables, elevando y trabajando sus habilidades como mentor y así llevar a sus clientes a un nivel de empoderamiento tal, que pasen de víctimas a personas restauradas, en menos tiempo.</p>

The Road from Law Enforcement to Advocacy - Lessons Along the Way

Law enforcement and advocacy are two sides of the same coin - both have a great deal in common as well as some very important differences. This presentation will highlight a 47 year journey as a practitioner in both worlds. Through the use of story telling, humor, and candor, the presenter will share important lessons learned along this journey that both professions and other allied professionals can draw from and learn as well. Drawing on these lessons, recommendations for improvements in both systems will be provided.