

Safety-Forward Approaches with Military - Connected Survivors Presenter Bios

Training Date:
May 4, 2023

Angela Duhon, MSCJ/FP,CA

Military/Civilian Victim Services Sr. Program Manager, National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA)

Mrs. Duhon has been providing direct services for over 15 years to survivors of domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and has extensive knowledge relating to victim rights, strangulation, and LGBTQIA+ Intimate Partner Violence (IPV). Prior to joining NOVA in 2020, Angela was employed by a local LGBTQIA+ agency in Virginia where she provided crisis counseling and was the agency's subject matter expert on LGBTQIA+ IPV. Angela worked to enhance victim services to better meet the needs of LGBTQIA+ survivors.

Angela has an extensive history with the military, not only as a proud wife of a 25-year USAF veteran, but also serving for over 7 years as a military domestic violence and sexual assault victim advocate at several military installations. Additionally, Angela has provided 24/7 on-call advocacy, crisis intervention, extensive safety planning, and facilitated psychoeducational groups to survivors of domestic and dating violence and/or sexual assault. She has also facilitated presentations, trainings, and briefings to both military and civilian audiences throughout her career.

Angela is a nationally credentialed advocate at the advanced level, and has successfully completed the Basic Crisis Response Training through NOVA.

Angela holds a Master's degree in Criminal Justice, with a Forensic Psychology concentration and a Bachelor's degree in Criminology, with a minor in Sociology from Saint Leo University.

Dr. Ava Ramirez-Ene, Ph.D.

Military/Campus Training & Technical Assistance Program Coordinator, National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA)

Ava is a U.S. Marine Corps Veteran, with almost nine years of service, including a deployment to Afghanistan and stations in Japan and around the U.S. During her active duty service, Ava discovered her passion for advocacy and supporting survivors while serving as a Uniformed Victim Advocate (UVA) for military sexual assault survivors.

Following her service and prior to NOVA, Ava worked in the non-profit sphere conducting outreach, education, prevention, and intervention in schools and in her community. She also holds internships hours with the Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Division within Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE), and holds supplementary volunteer hours as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for youth in foster care.

Ava earned her Ph.D. in Forensic Psychology, with a specialization in Victimology in 2021, with past academic achievements to include a Masters of Philosophy in Forensic Psychology, a Masters of Arts in Human Behavior, and a Bachelors of Arts in Sociology. Ava is also a RYT-500 certified yoga instructor, with specialty training in Trauma-Informed approaches, and is a certified Reiki level I/II Practitioner. She is currently in training to obtain her Yoga Therapist (IAYT) Certification.

Altogether, Ava is a major proponent for advocacy, education, and empowerment for all peoples.

Katie Chiarantona, MSW

Associate Director, Coordinated Community Response, Department of Defense (DoD)

Located in the office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy. Ms. Chiarantona brings together all entities across the DoD that have equity following an incident of domestic abuse to improve interagency coordination in delivering a coherent, uniform process that enhances victim safety and holds abusers accountable.

Ms. Chiarantona began her service with domestic abuse survivors and their children volunteering in an emergency shelter in 2003. Since then, she has worked in various capacities to advance domestic abuse prevention and response to include supporting dating violence intervention, victim advocacy within the legal system, healthy marriage and relationship education, and responsible fatherhood.

Ms. Chiarantona served on active duty for 4 years in the Air Force before separating to earn her Master of Science in Social Work degree from Columbia University in New York. She joined the Department of Defense to work with the DoD Family Advocacy Program in 2013, and also serves part-time as an aircraft maintenance officer in the Virginia Air National Guard.