New York State Office of Victim Services

2019 Conference

Innovation in Victim Services:
Transforming the Field through Creative Solutions

Tuesday, November 19 – Thursday, November 21
The Hilton Albany Downtown • Albany, NY
CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2019

9:00-5:00  Conference Registration  West Gallery

12:00-1:30  WELCOME AND CONFERENCE OPENING:  Governor AB
            Domestic Violence and Pets: “Happy Tails” of Co-Sheltering
            with Danielle Emery, Jennifer White-Reid and Lina Cohen

1:30-3:00  Session 1  Breakout Rooms

3:00-3:30  Break and Hotel Check-In  East Gallery/Reception

3:30-5:00  Session 2  Breakout Rooms

5:00  Welcome Reception  East Gallery

7:00  Special Film Screening and Panel Discussion
       Resilience: The Biology of Stress & the Science of Hope  Governor AB

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2019

7:00-5:00  Conference Registration  West Gallery

7:30-9:00  Breakfast  Kelsey’s

9:00-10:30  MORNING PRESENTATION:  Governor AB
            Surviving Columbine with Heather Martin

10:30-12:00  Session 3  Breakout Rooms

12:00-1:30  Lunch and Exhibitor Showcase  Kelsey’s

1:30-3:00  MIDDAY PRESENTATION:
            Beyond Massage Parlors: Exposing Asian Sex Market in the U.S.
            with Youngbee Dale  Governor AB

3:00-3:30  Break  East Gallery

3:30-5:00  Session 4  Breakout Rooms

5:30  EVENING PRESENTATION AND RECEPTION
       #SupportSurvivors with Zeke Thomas  Governor AB

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2019

7:00-8:30  Breakfast  Kelsey’s

8:30-10:00  Session 5  Breakout rooms

10:00-10:30  Break and Hotel Check-Out  East Gallery/Reception

10:30-12:00  Session 6  Breakout rooms

12:00  Conference End  --
PLENARY PRESENTATIONS

NOTE: All plenary presentations will take place in Governor AB, located on the lower ground floor of the Hilton Albany Downtown

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2019

Welcome and Conference Opening – 12:00pm

Domestic Violence and Pets: "Happy Tails" of Co-Sheltering
Danielle Emery, Jennifer White-Reid and Lina Cohen – Representatives from Urban Resource Institute's People and Animals Living Safely (PALS) program

Pets are an integral part of many families, including those impacted by domestic violence (DV). Research shows that when there is one form of violence in the home, everyone is at risk – both people and animals. In one study, more than 70% of pet-owning DV victims reported that their abusers had injured, killed, or threatened their pets; moreover, data demonstrates that 48% of victims delay leaving an abusive situation out of concern for their pet's safety (Ascione, 1998 & 2007). Given this growing awareness and these alarming statistics, how can victim advocates and agencies across New York respond to the unique needs of DV victims with pets? One innovative response is Urban Resource Institute's People and Animals Living Safely (PALS) program. Launched in 2013, PALS is New York City's first and only co-sheltering program that welcomes DV victims, together with their pets, into emergency shelter. PALS has served hundreds of families and their pets, helping them to heal together in a safe, comforting environment. This presentation will detail the process of developing and launching the PALS program, the importance of human-animal relationships within the context of trauma, how community partnerships are instrumental to offering a response to DV survivors with pets, and how to incorporate pets into both safety planning with victims and case management for those in shelter.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2019

Morning presentation – 9:00am

Surviving Columbine
Heather Martin – Columbine Shooting Survivor, Executive Director & Co-Founder of The Rebels Project

As a survivor of the Columbine shootings in April of 1999, Heather Martin shares her powerful story surrounding the varying impacts of trauma and important considerations for mass trauma support to mental health professionals, educators, law enforcement, first responders, and students around the country. After graduating, Heather enrolled in college, but eventually dropped out as a result of the trauma she experienced. 10 years after the shooting, after returning to Columbine High School for the anniversary, Heather began her journey to recovery. Today, Heather is the Executive Director of The Rebels Project, a non-profit dedicated to supporting survivors of mass trauma, and a high school English teacher.
Midday Presentation – 12:00pm

Beyond Massage Parlors: Exposing Asian Sex Market in the U.S.
Youngbee Dale – Anti-Trafficking Consultant at DaleConsulting, LLC, LLC.

This presentation will describe the Asian sex trafficking market beyond massage parlors in New York State. Much of the U.S. anti-trafficking effort has focused on combating the sex trafficking of Korean and Chinese women in storefront models like massage parlors. However, massage parlors are only a segment of the U.S. commercial sex market exploiting Asian women. This presentation will describe various brothel models and their operational tactics used in the local area. It will also present current shortcomings of anti-trafficking efforts and present several recommendations to tackle the issue.

Join us Wednesday evening for a not to be missed evening of food, dancing, and special guests hosted by DJ Zeke Thomas and OVS Director Elizabeth Cronin. RSVP required.

Evening Presentation and Reception – 5:00pm

#SupportSurvivors
Zeke Thomas – Survivor, Sexual Assault Awareness Advocate, DJ, Producer, & TV Host

@Zeke_Thomas, the renowned DJ, producer, TV host and advocate speaks out in support of survivors of sexual violence and shares his personal story of surviving rape and overcoming trauma in the hopes of sparking positive change. Zeke is on a mission to continue the conversation to #SupportSurvivors to create openness, acceptance and understanding of survivors and help their loved ones understand what support actually looks like. #SupportSurvivors with Zeke Thomas is a breakout session designed to spark conversation and understanding.

A special thank you to our gracious host:

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2019

Session 1 1:30pm – 3:00pm

Workshop 1  
If We Build it, Will They Come? The CVLN – Part 1  
Room TBD

Remla Parthasarathy, Project Leader, Crime Victims Legal Network – Empire Justice Center  
Susan Dietzel, Senior Research Scientist – Center for Human Services Research, University at Albany, State University of NY  
Tim Baran, LawHelpNY Program Manager – Pro Bono Net  
Aimee Latorre, LiveHelp Program Coordinator for LawHelpNY – Pro Bono Net

The Crime Victims Legal Network (CVLN) seeks to connect victims of crime with civil legal information and assistance through the use of technology. The Network’s central hub, NY Crime Victims Legal Help (crimevictimselpn.org), was specifically designed for crime victims and their providers, using their input and feedback to develop the site’s features, content and user experience. Now that we have built the site, are victims coming to it? How are they using it? Are providers referring clients to this online resource? And what’s on the horizon for the Network? In this workshop, participants will learn (1) about the Crime Victims Legal Network and the features of its central hub, NY Crime Victims Legal Help, (2) how the online resource is being used by victims of crime, (3) ways their organization can interact with the Network to improve victims’ access to information and resources, and (4) anticipated technology features for the website and upcoming plans for the CVLN. While this workshop will be centered on the CVLN initiative, the lessons and strategies shared by presenters will be relevant to other online efforts to reach victims of crime.

Workshop 2  
Safety Planning in an Era of Anti-Immigrant Rhetoric  
Room TBD

Rikki Nawotka-Ace, Domestic Violence Program Coordinator – International Institute of Buffalo

Since the change in federal leadership, a climate of fear has plagued the immigrant community. For foreign-born victims of crime, this has added yet another impediment to accessing services that many have both the right to access, as well as the need for stabilization and healing. This session aims to provide tips and tools to more effectively engage and serve immigrant victims of crime within your community. The session will provide an overview of specialized safety planning, strategies for effective outreach and engagement, and skills on working appropriately with interpreters in order to grow you/your agency’s cultural responsiveness.

Workshop 3  
Advocating for Victims of Cyber Harassment and IPV  
Room TBD

Andrew Sta. Ana, Director of Legal Services – Day One

Cyber harassment is the use of communications technology to harass, harm, threaten, and victimize another person. Cyber harassment can take the form of incessant social media posts, unwanted or threatening text messages, videos and pictures, the creation of fake profiles, and the sharing of intimate images or videos, among many other behaviors. While cyber harassment has many parallels to forms of harassment that occur in person, it has an added element of inescapability. Abusers can potentially reach their victim at any time and in any place. For victims of intimate partner violence, this poses particular challenges. This workshop will identify challenges, share advocacy tips and relevant law and discuss how safety planning should include strategies to address cyber harassment. Simultaneously this workshop will explore how technology can be used to support victim autonomy and safety.
Workshop 4
Anti-Violence Task Force
Sarah McGaughne, Community Outreach Training & Support Services Manager – Unity House Domestic Violence Services
Demaxia Wray, Ursula Forem Fellow – Unity House Domestic Violence Services

The AVTF, led by Unity House Domestic Violence Services, is charged with developing a comprehensive county wide strategy to address one of the most urgent challenges facing our city. Violent crime continues to plague Rensselaer County families and community members in a multitude of aspects. The AVTF addresses this troubling reality by addressing all aspects of the problem as a community and remaining goal-oriented. The Task Force is charged with identifying ways to help community members, both those who have been exposed to violence and those who have not, and provide education and outreach surrounding risk factors. We need to make it safer and easier for victims of any violent crime to report to service providers or law enforcement as soon as signs of abuse begin, and to improve response once the violence comes to the attention of the AVTF. The AVTF develops strategies to make it easier and safer for Rensselaer County community members to not only live but flourish in the area. AVTF will work on the creation of strategies for long-term violence reduction. The Task Force consists of invested community members, experts in their fields and programs serving those at the highest rate of violence in Rensselaer County. These members allow us to develop a comprehensive, county wide approach to all violence that plagues the community.

Workshop 5
Invisible Victims: Concerned Persons of Elder Abuse Victims
Risa Breckman, Director – New York City Elder Abuse Center at Weill Cornell Medicine Division of Geriatrics and Palliative
Philip C. Marshall, Founder – Beyond Brooke
Nancy Oatts, Founder – Nancy Oatts Design

Within the broader field of elder abuse, little attention is devoted to the family, friends, and neighbors ("concerned persons") in the lives of older victims of mistreatment. Recent research conducted by the NYC Elder Abuse Center at Weill Cornell Medicine and colleagues found that concerned persons experience significant distress knowing about elder abuse and trying to assist victims (2017). In addition, our direct work with concerned persons has brought us to understand that they can also be directly victimized by the elder abusers. By both knowing about and becoming involved in elder abuse situations, concerned persons experience significant emotional and practical problems. Unfortunately, like the victims they help, they are largely invisible. They often need a responsive professional to help, e.g., explain abuse and safety issues, assist in defining a realistic helping role, identify available services, engage an effective response from those able to help, respond to their concerns and distress, and bolster their support of the older victim, if possible. NYCEAC’s Elder Abuse Helpline for Concerned Persons, a phone- and email-based service, provides needed support, information and referrals to concerned persons. Guidance is provided by an advisory board, including two concerned persons, Philip C. Marshall and Nancy Oatts. This presentation will include first-hand experiences from them and how their involvement assisting elder abuse victims has impacted their lives.

Session 2 3:30pm – 5:00pm

Workshop 6
Growing Partnerships, Building Technology: The CVLN – Part 2
Susan Dietzel, Senior Research Scientist – Center for Human Services Research, University at Albany, State University of NY
Tim Baran, LawHelpNY Program Manager – Pro Bono Net
Rachel Chazin Halperin, Chief Program Officer – Legal Services of the Hudson Valley
Remla Parthasarathy, Project Leader, Crime Victims Legal Network – Empire Justice Center

The Crime Victims Legal Network (CVLN) was developed to connect victims of crime with civil legal information and assistance through the use of technology. The Network’s website, NY Crime Victims Legal Help (crimevictimshelpny.org), was specifically designed for crime victims and service providers using their input and
feedback to develop the site’s features. “Referral Partners” - organizations that have agreed to offer an additional mechanism through which a crime victim user of the Network can access legal services - play a key role as the Network matures and grows. During this session, participants will (1) learn about the role of, and the process of becoming, a Referral Partner, including the practical outcomes of this partnership; (2) learn the results of a Service Provider survey to understand how the site is being used by providers, and help refine it; and (3) have an opportunity to offer their thoughts about new features planned for the website and the growth of the Crime Victims Legal Network.

**NOTE:** Participants are asked to either attend “CVLN – Part 1” or to have knowledge of the CVLN in order to participate in this session.

**Workshop 7**
**Taking the Onus off Victims and Putting it on the Community**
Sarah Kramer-Harrison, Crime Victims Counselor/Volunteer Coordinator – Ulster County Crime Victims Assistance Program
Amy Westberg, Crime Victims Counselor/Enough is Enough Coordinator – Ulster County Crime Victims Assistance Program
Cynthia Craft, Probation Officer – Ulster County Probation Department

Ulster County Bystanders Against Sexual Assault (UCBASA) does not look to traditional victim centered approaches of sexual assault prevention which often place the burden on the victim and lead to victim-blaming. We take a community minded approach, saying we all have a stake in keeping our community safe. We look towards upholding community values through the active bystander. This is not a new concept, but our program takes a unique spin on a proven method of prevention. Utilizing community organizing frameworks, we seek to establish containers which invite invested parties to teach and learn from one another. In this training, individuals will walk away with tools to further develop or begin programming that is centered on their personal community needs and reflective of their communal growth and development.

**Workshop 8**
**Supporting All Survivors of Human Trafficking: Working with Male and LGBTQ+ Survivors**
Ahlea Howard, Human Trafficking Program Coordinator – International Institute of Buffalo
Nicole Jones, Youth Trafficking Case Manager – International Institute of Buffalo

Who are victims of human trafficking? There are many misconceptions about what victims of human trafficking look like, and media portrayals of trafficking do not represent the full scope of who survivors are or what their experiences may be. These misconceptions create barriers in identifying and supporting the needs of survivors who don’t fit into stereotyped descriptions of who victims can be. Years of work and survivor experience demonstrate that human trafficking can happen in any industry, and to people of any gender, age, nationality or sexual orientation. Male and LGBTQ+ survivors may be more difficult to identify, and often face additional barriers to seeking and receiving services not experienced by female survivors. Trafficking is a crime in which the perpetrators intentionally manipulate and exploit the vulnerabilities of their victims. When communities fail to recognize that men, boys, and LGBTQ+ people can be survivors of human trafficking, these victims remain under-served and further vulnerable to exploitation. Programs serving trafficking survivors must be equipped to recognize and support the needs of male and LGBTQ+ survivors.

**Workshop 9**
**Exploring the Intersection of Domestic Violence, Disability and Trauma**
Cynthia Amodeo, Chief Program Officer – Barrier Free Living
Jules Perkel, Program Director of Secret Garden – Barrier Free Living

If you’ve ever thought, “My organization doesn't treat people with disabilities,” – oh yes, it does! People with disabilities include those with mental health, medical, physical, sensory, cognitive, and developmental conditions. According to the Office on Women’s Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, “Research suggests that women with disabilities are more likely to suffer domestic violence and sexual assault than women without disabilities, and
women with disabilities report abuse that lasts longer and is more intense.” This workshop will explore how interpersonal violence affects individuals with disabilities and the barriers they face to seeking services and safety. Attendees will explore reasons people with disabilities stay in an abusive relationship and how the trauma of abuse affects their decision to leave. Presenters will then review barriers faced when a person with a disability tries to access a domestic violence program and discuss how inaccessible service providers can add to the trauma of not being able to leave the abusive relationship. Lastly, the workshop will cover strategies to overcome these barriers. Presenters will incorporate the Americans with Disabilities Act and educate service providers about what it means to be accessible.

Workshop 10
Innovative Interventions: Trauma-Informed Creative Arts Therapy
Dr. Lucy Barbera, Director – Creative Art Therapy Studio

The Creative Art Therapies are uniquely equipped clinicians with innovate intervention tools to help clients recover from traumatic experiences. As trauma is especially difficult to reveal and heal with words alone, the creative arts offer non-verbal therapeutic and assessment approaches for working with individuals and families suffering from post-traumatic stress. This training will assist mental health professionals in developing a repertoire of quick dynamic modalities for treating clients recovering from trauma and/or who are in post trauma distress by offering the Creative Arts to their clients as a means to access and use their own deep source and wellspring of wisdom and healing imagery, as allies in their regeneration, safely, without re-traumatization. No prior art experience is necessary to attend this training.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2019

Session 3 10:30am – 12:00pm

Workshop 11
Chat with OVS Experts: Performance Measurement Tool
OVS Grants Unit Staff
Moderated by Kelly Matthews, Chief Operating Officer – New York Council of Nonprofits, Inc.

In this panel-style forum, OVS staff will review updates and common challenges with the Performance Measurement Tool (PMT). At this OVS grant-related session, the panel will dive into the quarterly federally required data and statistic tracking system. Attendees will have the opportunity to pre-submit questions regarding the PMT as well as participate in a moderated question and answer session.

Workshop 12
The Dual Power of Grounding: Skills that Root Trauma Survivors and their Practitioners
Maya Williamson, Clinical Supervisor, Non-Residential Program – Sanctuary for Families
Helen Flores, Adult Counselor, Non-Residential Program – Sanctuary for Families

Survivors of gender-based violence suffer from a variety of post-traumatic symptoms, both during and even long-after the abuse has taken place. A myriad of triggers including co-parenting, court dates, and environmental factors can cause a survivor to become significantly dysregulated. The teaching and implementation of grounding skills by all service professionals are critical to addressing common signs of re-experiencing, avoidance, depression, and arousal and reactivity in survivors of gender-based violence. Together with their providers, adult survivors and child witnesses of abuse alike can develop powerful, concrete techniques involving one or all of the five senses to de-escalate anxiety and work towards a more mindful state. This dual learning facilitates both an improvement in the clients’ well-being and the provider’s therapeutic effectiveness. This workshop will outline the benefits of mindfulness-based grounding.
practices for survivors of gender-based violence and their children. Interactive demonstrations showing various realistic grounding techniques will facilitate a conversation around their use and effectiveness with this population and the service providers who support them.

**Workshop 13**

**NY’s Innovative Elder Abuse Enhanced Multidisciplinary Team Initiative**

Paul Caccamise, Vice President for Program – Lifespan of Greater Rochester Inc.
Risa Breckman, Director – New York City Elder Abuse Center at Weill Cornell Medicine Division of Geriatrics and Palliative Care
Jennifer Rosenbaum, Assistant Director – Division of Policy, Planning, Program, and Outcomes, NYS Office for the Aging
Ginny Miller, Deputy Director of Administration – NYS Office of Victim Services

Enhanced Multidisciplinary Teams (E-MDTs) investigate and intervene in complex cases of elder abuse. They bring together professionals from various disciplines, which may include but are not limited to Adult Protective Services, aging services, victim services, health and human services, and law enforcement to provide an effective and efficient means of addressing complex cases of elder abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation of people aged 60 and older. The Elder Abuse Interventions and Enhanced Multidisciplinary Team Initiative, funded by Office of Victim Services, New York State Office for the Aging, and New York City Department for the Aging, aims to launch an E-MDT in every New York State county by 2020. This workshop will provide an overview of the Initiative’s goals and status of the E-MDT expansion and development throughout the state. Presenters will discuss the E-MDT Initiative and how the roll-out is benefiting individual communities, as well as the state as a whole. Additionally, this presentation will describe the statewide resources available through this Initiative to support professionals assisting victims of all forms of elder abuse, even where a local E-MDT is not yet developed in a county, including case consultations, access to forensic accounting, ongoing educational opportunities, and more.

**Workshop 14**

**Historical Trauma and Its Impact on LGBT Survivors and Survivors of Color**

Katherine Grant, Social Worker – In Our Own Voices
Phillip Burse, Director of Operations – In Our Own Voices

The goal of this workshop is to discuss historical trauma, power/privilege, and working with populations facing additional barriers and unique needs. As a culturally specific organization, In Our Own Voices works to increase the capacity for combating oppression and marginalization. By attending this workshop, participants will be able to walk away with promising practices that they can adapt into their work environment and in their engagement with survivors to begin creating more accessible spaces.

**Workshop 15**

**Understanding Culture and Language: A Foundation for Providing Culturally Responsive Services**

Jose Juan Lara Jr., Project Manager – Casa de Esperanza/National Latin@ Network

Recognizing and respecting individual cultural differences in language and communication are important to sensitive and effective work with survivors of limited English proficiency. Language is a way of communicating thoughts and feelings. It can also constitute a means of asserting one’s identity, rights and safety. Survivors of diverse communities may face challenges when systems of help do not acknowledge language as a cultural identity. Ensuring meaningful access to limited English proficient (LEP) survivors of domestic and sexual violence is recognizing how gender bias and cultural identity may prevent access to services. This workshop will engage participants on the challenges limited English-proficient survivors encounter in accessing services due to limited culturally linguistic responsive systems of help.
Session 4 3:30pm – 5:00pm

Workshop 16
Chat with OVS Experts: OVS Compensation Updates and Overview
OVS Staff
Moderated by Kelly Matthews, Chief Operating Officer – New York Council of Nonprofits, Inc.

In this panel-style forum, OVS staff will provide attendees with updated information on all phases of compensation claims processing (from Intake to Investigations to subsequent medical bill payment). The session will highlight updates to the claims process in recent years only. Attendees will also have the opportunity to pre-submit questions regarding claims updates as well as participate in a moderated question and answer session.

Workshop 17
Innovating Rape Crisis Volunteer Programs Through Creative Solutions
Cameron Balon, Training Specialist – Crisis Services

As the designated rape crisis center for Erie County, NY, the Advocate Department of Crisis Services often relies on volunteers to assist in their hospital response to all local emergency departments for presenting victims of domestic violence, family violence, sexual assault and elder abuse. By engaging the community, using innovative technology and maintaining positive volunteer relationships, the Advocate Department has increased volunteer involvement by 40% between 2017 and 2018. In this workshop, participants will learn how the Advocate Department of Crisis Services recruits, trains and engages with both community-based and college-based volunteers in order to replicate this model within their own programs.

Workshop 18
Fostering Agency Collaboration: How One Agency Has Expanded Communication to Provide Effective Services to Children and Families At Risk
Jennifer Hamilton, Family Crimes and Intervention Coordinator/Child Advocate – Sandy City Police Department
Evan Keller, Detective – Sandy City Police Department

The Department of Justice shares this: Children’s exposure to violence, whether as victims or witnesses, is often associated with long-term physical, psychological, and emotional harm. Children exposed to violence are also at a higher risk of engaging in criminal behavior later in life, becoming part of a cycle of violence. Children and families in crisis require a different approach than that of a victim of a crime due to this understanding of the impact of crime on a child. There are many children that live in criminal and/or unhealthy environments. These children are encountered by Police, schools and Social Workers on a regular basis. Though significant resources are available for victims and children, there is a lack of coordination, collaboration and communication between the agencies that control these resources. Further, children whose situation, while averse to successful development, is not sufficiently “bad enough” to warrant full intervention, tend to “fall through the cracks.” Police, Victim Advocates, DCFS Caseworkers, School Officials, and other concerned parties can greatly benefit from learning to better coordinate their efforts. The Sandy City Police Department has a child advocacy program and DCFS collaboration project that has been requested by legislators to be taught throughout the state of Utah. Sharing this training nationwide allows not only state collaboration but fosters interstate collaboration to help children and families at risk.
Workshop 19
Engaging with Law Enforcement: Best Practice for Supporting Survivors and Ourselves
Ashleigh Anderson, Intervention Coordinator – NYC Alliance Against Sexual Assault

There is little information and rarely a discussion around barriers to engaging with law enforcement as a sexual assault survivor before, during, and after making a formal complaint. This presentation will provide a complete understanding of barriers to reporting, as well as concrete tools to prepare and support a survivor to create a space for healing and reduce further traumatization.

Workshop 20
When Words Aren't Enough: Creative Approaches to Working with Survivors
Mollie Kenerson, Advocate – Safe Harbors of The Finger Lakes

As we grow and gain language, we are expected to *tell* people how we feel, even though we express these feelings in a variety of other ways. In this workshop, attendees will discuss creative approaches to helping trauma survivors express the painful experiences that may be disrupting their daily lives and ability to communicate with service providers. This interactive workshop will include applicable skills those working with survivors can use to help guide journaling, mindfulness and other activities that open up new ways of communicating feelings. Expand your knowledge of free resources available for you and your clients that can act as valuable outlets for healing and growth. Increase your confidence in utilizing activities in client meetings that go beyond questions and answers, especially with those who struggle to verbalize their experiences and feelings.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2019

Session 5 8:30am – 10:00am

Workshop 21
Understanding Victims’ Rights & Parole Board Decisions
Tina Stanford, Chairwoman – NYS Board of Parole

With this presentation, we strive to provide a better understanding of the Parole Board interview process when there are victims involved. We will break down the three major sections of each interview – Pre-Interview, Interview & Post-Interview, and dive into the rights that victims have during this process.

Workshop 22
Effectively Responding to Domestic Violence within Child Welfare
Sarita Green, Associate Director – Safe Homes of Orange County
Leah Horrevoets, Case Supervisor – Orange County Department of Social Services
Shilo Kennedy, Child Protective Services Domestic Violence Program Manager – Safe Homes of Orange County

In this workshop, presenters will share the strengthened collaboration between Safe Homes of Orange County and the Orange County Department of Social Services, specifically regarding their Child Protective Services Domestic Violence (CPSDV) Collaboration. The CPSDV Collaboration, though in formal existence for 10 years, has significantly evolved over the last five. Its standards and practices focus on ensuring safer outcomes for adult and child victims/survivors of domestic violence while supporting and encouraging accountability for perpetrators. These practices also serve to
ensure competent, informed responses to parents in an effort to ensure that parenting responsibilities and expectations are equitable and that interventions do not create further harm or risk. Both systems have agreed to shift focus away from the decisions and behaviors of victims/survivors and instead focus interventions on the ways in which perpetrators of violence and abuse impact safety and stability for adult and children victims/survivors. Enhanced collaboration between two historically adversarial systems has created an overall shift in the response to victims/survivors and perpetrators, thereby supporting safer outcomes for adults and children affected by domestic violence and accountability for those who perpetrate it.

Workshop 23

**Trauma Informed Advance Directives for Victims of Elder Abuse**

Deirdre Lok, Assistant Director and General Counsel – The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Center for Elder Justice at the Hebrew Home at Riverdale

Glendale Olivera, Senior Elder Justice Specialist – The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Center for Elder Justice at the Hebrew Home at Riverdale

Strategic and thorough advance directives are a critical tool for all people to maintain security and autonomy as they age. For individuals who have experienced elder abuse, comprehensive advance directives are critical to halting exploitation, reclaiming power and control, and restoring financial and legal health. However, discussing issues surrounding end of life decisions, complicated family relationships and painful memories can be triggering, resulting in negative emotions and possible retraumatization. The Trauma Informed Advanced Directives Project was conceived to incorporate advance planning into the process of healing and empowerment. Created by the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Center for Elder Justice at the Hebrew Home at Riverdale, the nation’s first elder abuse shelter, the project has social workers and lawyers work together utilizing a best-practice evidence-based methodology for holistic advance planning to ensure a safe, positive process as well as an effective and just outcome for those who experience elder abuse.

Workshop 24

**Screening and Enhancing Services for Polyvictims at Queens FJC**

Edward Hill, Assistant Commissioner – New York City Mayor’s Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence

Jennifer DeCarli, Assistant Commissioner for Family Justice Centers and Outreach – New York City Mayor’s Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence

In 2016, the Office for Victims of Crime, U.S. Department of Justice, funded a first of its kind demonstration project at the Mayor’s Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV), Queens Family Justice Center (FJCs), along with five other FJCs across the United States to develop and pilot a screening tool to identify clients who have experienced multiple victimizations in their lifetime, known as polyvictimization. Over an 18-month period, through the input of a consulting committee of service providers and the work of site evaluator Urban Institute, the Queens FJC implemented an 8-question screening tool at initial client intake to proactively identify clients experiencing polyvictimization. A 41-question polyvictim assessment was then implemented by the polyvictim case management and counseling staff meeting with those identified clients. Workshop participants will learn how the polyvictimization screening tool was developed, implemented and lead to the discovery that almost 9 out of 10 Queens FJC clients were self-identifying as polyvictims. This includes: (1) screening in an environment where clients are usually seeking services for an immediate crisis situation, (2) a collaborative approach to developing/implementing the tool, (3) ensuring the effectiveness of the tool in identification of the most at-risk clients and (4) physical changes to a location that can assist in providing a more trauma-informed space for clients.
Workshop 25

Creative Solutions: The Value-Add of Victim Impact Sessions in Corrections
Karel Amaranth, Director – Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc./Victims Assistance Services
Mark Cardona, Assistant Director – Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc./Victims Assistance Services
Charles Norris, Victim Impact Volunteer Speaker – Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc./Victims Assistance Services

The WestCOP/Victims Assistance Services Victim Impact Program provided at the Westchester County Corrections facility in Valhalla, New York, is rooted in the following evidence-based intervention programs: Manalive, Resolve to Stop the Violence, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and Federal Office for Victims of Crime Victim Impact. Each of these programs focus on aspects of initiating and supporting choices of behavioral change (Prochaska and Di Clementi: Transtheoretical Model of Change) to impact decision-making in order to reduce crime and recidivism. The program as developed by Victims Assistance Services engages men in the group in victim impact presentations and discussions, thereby effectively combining tools for personal empowerment and choices, building empathy, restorative justice and victims’ rights. Group members accept responsibility for their behaviors; are educated about the impact of crime on victims, families, and the community; contribute to their own empowerment to make positive choices; and develop an awareness of victims’ rights and available services including services for victims within Corrections. In addition, volunteer speakers who have been victims of crime can share their experiences and be heard, receive the support of the group, and contribute to the change experienced and expressed by group members in a restorative justice model.

Session 6 10:30am – Noon

Workshop 26

Integrating Victim Services into School Diversion Initiatives
Thomas Andriola, Chief of Policy and Implementation – NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services
Kerri A. Canzone-Ball, Ed.D, Director of Pupil Personnel Services – City School District of Albany

Traditional punishment often results in students being removed from the classroom, and ultimately returning to a situation that remains unchanged. This session will describe the development of an alternative pathway to connect disruptive students with services designed to address the underlying causes of their behavior so that they are more likely to return to the classroom ready to learn. In 2015, DCJS was selected to participate in a SAMHSA/MacArthur Foundation collaborative that led to a highly successful diversion program in the Schenectady City School District. Last year, the City School District of Albany asked DCJS to assist in creating a similar model, but with a victim services component included. Under the provisions of the model, any youth who is referred to a superintendent's hearing is provided with an alternative pathway option that provides access to mental and behavioral health services, which potentially reduces the amount of time they are removed from the classroom. The diagnostic process that accompanies this option provides these students with services that are specifically targeted to address their needs, thereby reducing the likelihood that they will continue their disruptive behavior upon their return to the classroom. Unlike other models being developed across the country, however, this model intentionally includes the integration of victim services to ensure that the needs of victims are also met.

Workshop 27

Project Safe Release: Leveraging Community Partnerships to Serve Incarcerated Survivors of Domestic Violence
Jenny Stasio, Director of Operations – Through These Doors
Jen LaChance, Director of Advocacy and Victim Services – Through These Doors
Shawn LaGrega, Deputy Director – Maine Pretrial Services, Inc.

Participants will learn about an innovative collaboration between Through These Doors (the domestic violence resource center in Cumberland County, Maine) and Maine Pre-Trial Services to screen and provide victim services to
incarcerated women being considered for pre-trial release and supervision. Through These Doors and Maine Pre-Trial Services were awarded a prestigious grant from the MacArthur Foundation in October to improve collaboration between the two organizations in order to reach incarcerated women identifying as victims/survivors of domestic and sexual violence. This pilot project, Project Safe Release, is one of the first in the nation to partner victim advocacy and pre-trial services. This session will provide an overview of the necessity of providing victim advocacy services to incarcerated women as well as the unique role that pre-trial services play. The logistics of the collaboration as well as current successes and challenges will be shared. This workshop will provide hands-on information for advocates interested in bolstering their involvement with the criminal justice system and developing services for incarcerated women who identify as victims and survivors.

Workshop 28
The Intersection of Addiction and Human Trafficking

Emily Waters, Director of Human Trafficking Programs – The Safe Center LI
Keith Scott, Director of Education – The Safe Center LI

Sex trafficking and opioid addiction are growing problems throughout the US, with a significant increase in sex trafficking victims reporting opioid use and dependency initially forced upon them by their traffickers or pimps. Peer reviewed studies have found a direct link with the increase in addiction and the increase in human trafficking, specifically regarding the addiction process in beginning the trauma bond between the trafficking victim and trafficker. This results in an increased difficulty for victims to leave their trafficking situation, as now both trauma and addiction issues must be addressed. This workshop explores the dynamics of sex trafficking while focusing on the prevalence of trafficking in the U.S., tactics of traffickers, and the role addiction plays in the world of trafficking. In-depth analysis of trafficking case studies will be provided.

Workshop 29
Victims at the Margins: Young Men of Color Healing from Trauma

Stephen Dacey, Clinician, Make It Happen - Neighbors in Action/Center for Court Innovation
Shawn Deverteuil, Men’s Empowerment Coordinator, Make It Happen – Neighbors in Action/Center for Court Innovation
Kenton Kirby, Director of Trauma and Healing – Community Development and Crime Prevention Department/Center for Court Innovation

We will discuss Make It Happen (MIH), an OVC-funded program at the Center for Court Innovation. MIH serves young men who have been overexposed to violence; MIH staff encourage participants to discuss how their definition of manhood is intertwined with trauma and gender roles and support them in recognizing their trauma(s) and engaging in healing. MIH staff will present strategies for therapeutic intervention with participants. As many of these young people are unfamiliar with voluntary counseling, suspicious of service providers, and hypervigilant due to trauma, and given social norms constraining emotional processing for men, MIH clinicians provide eclectic interventions tailored to our participants’ experiences. MIH’s work is informed by analyses of trauma responses and structural oppression; through individual counseling, we offer tools aimed towards individual and community healing to our participants. Within group counseling, MIH clinicians disseminate knowledge about trauma symptoms and the way they intertwine with traditional masculinity. We will speak about other avenues we offer our young people towards being agents of change and healers within their communities, including training peer mentors in group facilitation; provision of mentorship with men who have survived violence, and are thriving with healthy definitions of masculinity; and offering participants the chance to share their stories with wide-ranging audiences across platforms.
Workshop 30

Meeting Survivors (Literally) Where They’re At: Creating Accessible Community-Focused Programs

Dori Scallet, Program Coordinator, Red Hook CARES – Center for Court Innovation
Coleta Walker, Associate Director, Peacemaking – Center for Court Innovation

Historical trauma and complex trauma have devastating impacts on individuals and communities. These experiences, in addition to disenfranchised community members' skepticism of criminal justice systems, make it extremely difficult for victims/survivors to access services. This presentation will help participants to identify and explore historical and complex trauma, and it will discuss how two programs within the Red Hook Community Justice Center – the victim assistance program Red Hook CARES and the restorative justice program Peacemaking – work together to remove some of the barriers most challenging to underserved populations. By meeting clients literally where they are at, whether a neighborhood office located in a public housing projects or at a transfer high school comprised of students who have not succeeded in traditional high school, our programs collaborate to serve people who may not initially be identified as victims but are in dire need for healing-focused support.