

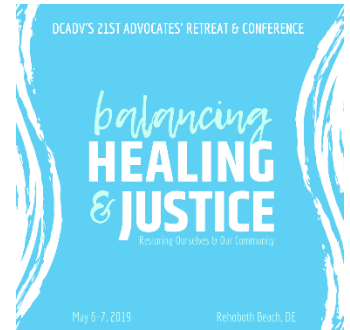


DCADV's 21st Advocates' Retreat and Conference

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On May 6-7, 2019, domestic violence advocates, service providers, and survivors gathered in Rehoboth Beach, DE, for DCADV's 21st Advocates' Retreat and Conference. This year's theme, ***Balancing Healing and Justice: Restoring Ourselves and Our Community***, reflected the value and need to sustain our domestic violence advocacy community. As advocates and service providers, we give so much of ourselves to the cause, both personally and professionally; it's important to balance our knowledge and skills with opportunities to reflect and recharge. Conference attendees participated in a variety of workshops to gain tools and insights to their work, all while connecting with fellow advocates and enjoying the salt air.



Varsha N. leads a workshop in exploring different healing modalities

Varsha N., JD, Founder of ROAR Training and Consulting and internationally-recognized speaker, opened this year's conference with an engaging and interactive keynote presentation *From Surviving to Thriving – What's Stress Got to Do With It? An Initial Exploration of Healing Modalities from Around the World*. Varsha provided a taste of a variety of tools and strategies for advocates to engage in self-care, including Breathing Techniques, Music, Storytelling, Chiropractic, Dance, Meditation, Tai Chi, Reiki, and Yoga.

Other workshops presented on the first day of the conference covered a variety of topics including an overview of the Family Court Enhancement Project and considerations for custody when domestic violence is present; development of our professional identity; a look

at the successes and challenges when serving teen survivors in Delaware; peer support in victim services; and working with victims/survivors in concurrent court systems. Participants also explored trauma-informed resources and supports at the individual and organizational levels.

To wrap up the first day of the conference, DCADV's Women of Color Task Force (WOCTF) hosted their 2nd Annual *Fun at Five* event. It was a great way to wind down, relax, and connect with colleagues at the end of a long day of learning.

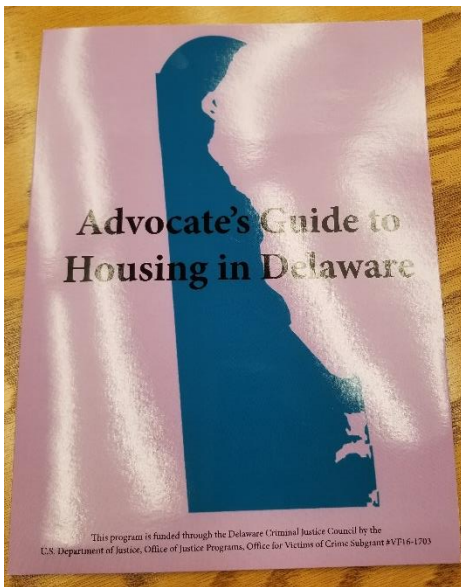
The second day of the conference opened with a recognition of Delaware's Certified Domestic Violence Specialists (DVS). Currently, there are 41 certified DV Specialists who work in a variety of settings across our state, providing both intervention and prevention services to those affected by domestic violence. Delaware's certified DVS have demonstrated a continued commitment to education, improving services, and mentoring the next generation of advocates. We appreciate the passion and dedication of these individuals as they help Delawareans recognize the importance of safe and healthy relationships.



WOCTF's "Fun at Five" Event

Access to safe and affordable housing is one of the most crucial needs for survivors of domestic violence, and knowledge about accessing those resources is important for advocates. The Housing Subcommittee of the

Domestic Violence Task Force brought together a panel of experts from the Delaware State Housing Authority, Housing Alliance Delaware, and People's Place to share tools and information to increase access to housing resources. Conference attendees were also the first to receive a copy of the *Advocate's Guide to Housing in Delaware*, a toolkit for advocates to better assist victims/survivors with their housing needs.



Thanks to the Housing Subcommittee for this incredible resource!

Panelists from L-R: Janell Stanton (People's Place); Rob Henry (Housing Alliance Delaware); Devon Maning (DE State Housing Authority); Christopher Whaley (DE State Housing Authority); Marcey Rezac (DCADV)



Other workshops on Tuesday covered topics such as collaboration/advocacy across systems; the impact of generational trauma; economic empowerment; engaging community members to address violence/trauma; and a more in-depth look at housing rights and resources for survivors.

Right: Carley Canada-Banks, DVS, talks about the impact of generational trauma on our lives and our work



Kim Pentico, NNEDV's Director of Economic Justice, presents Tuesday's plenary session

Tuesday's plenary session focused on economic justice, and featured Kim Pentico, Director of Economic Justice at the National Network to End Domestic Violence. Pentico provided an overview of existing public policies related to economic justice, including housing protections under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA); increased emergency housing resources and funds under the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA); the SAFE Act (ensuring safe & sick days); and protecting/expanding social safety nets through programs like SNAP and TANF. She also described the importance of economic justice in our work with survivors, as issues like financial stability, housing, healthcare, child care, and more can impact a survivor's ability to stay or leave. NNEDV has several programs at the national level, and Delaware has our own programs to assist victims/survivors with building their credit, establishing savings, and becoming more financially independent. Following the plenary session, Pentico led a workshop session to provide advocates with tools to not only help their clients, but to help manage their own finances as well.

For more information about the workshops and speakers featured at this year's Advocates' Retreat and Conference, visit www.dcadv.org/retreat.

This program is funded through the Delaware Criminal Justice Council by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Family Violence Prevention and Services Program.