

DELAWARE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE April 2020





Uncharted Territory

As we make our way through this public health crisis it's important to take care of yourself and stay up to date on new developments. Along with your own research and news sites, we have added a resource page to our website. We hope you find it helpful. Stay healthy.



April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month



An interview with

PAULETTE SULLIVAN MOORE

In honor of Women's History Month, DCADV's Jen Uro interviewed Paulette Sullivan Moore to highlight her commitment to equality and equity and her historical role in Delaware's history. Paulette Sullivan Moore is Delaware's first African American female lawyer. She completed her legal education at Rutgers University Law School (1976). In 1977, Moore became the first African American female admitted to practice law in Delaware. In the same year, she was admitted to practice before Delaware's U.S. District Court and the Third Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals. During the 1990s, Moore served as the New Castle County Recorder of Deeds. She has worked as a Policy Coordinator for the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Vice President of Public Policy of the National Network to End Domestic Violence.

What does Women's History Month mean to you?

I think of Women's History Month as a time to both celebrate broken barriers as well as reflect upon barriers that are yet to be broken.

I was watching the WITN22 video about you and it said "Since becoming the first African-American woman to practice law in Delaware, Sullivan Moore has inspired countless African-American women to pursue a career in the legal field". How do you respond to that?

What advice do you have for the young leaders in our community/state? In 1994 I was quoted as saying, "It doesn't matter that I'm the first. What matters is that I'm not the last. I am glad that the number is growing. Now I want to see our power increase." Today I am completely thankful to and in awe of those black women who have made my wish come true. They have become judges in every Delaware court, founders and partners in law firms, leaders in industry, and key players in government. If my admission in 1977 inspired them, imagine what their achievements are doing for others.

First of all, be kind to yourselves--and each other--because leadership done well--is tough work. Secondly, as you are working to make social change, work to ensure that all voices are at the table--not in token--but in population reflective numbers. Ensure that those voices (and the concept of "stakeholder") include those who will (or may) be impacted by your leadership ideas. Even include at least some voice of those who might even approach the issue in a way that is inconsistent with yours. (I'm not saying that you need to adopt your opponents' ideas--only that you need to sincerely search them for opportunities to advance all society.) My thought is that future leaders will need to work especially hard to transform our definition of "advocacy" to include the "whole" of society--rather than only the part that we receive funding to think about. That, of course, means doing the incredibly difficult job of working to transform our entire world-culture into something that requires every policy/initiative/idea to include items that satisfy each person's needs as highlighted in the base tier of Maslov's pyramid. Oh, did I say, "I'm praying for you!"? Well, I am.



2020 is the 100-year anniversary of women's right to vote. What equity achievements have you seen as they relate to African-American women in Delaware? Where do we go from here to achieve equality?

Regarding women's right to vote, I have, over the past several years, seen more regression than achievement. Under the guise of protecting our elections from specious claims of "voter fraud", we have, as a society, permitted legislators to maliciously engage in wholesale unscrupulous acts of voter suppression. Theft of rights -- such as the right to vote -occurs when those whose exercise of those whose rights are not compromised fail to engage in sufficient and thoughtful inquiry into the potential harm that seemingly innocuous policy and legislative initiatives might have on others. For example, on its face, the requirement to have "current photo ID" might sound like a sensible idea to the "average" person. In the U.S., we believe that the average person drives, so we think, well everyone has a driver's license--what's the big deal. But if you don't have a car, why would you need a license? And if you have an expired license, why should you be required to have a *"current one"? Unless you had major face surgery your expired license"* still has your name and face on it. When I, as I age, discontinue driving why should I have to ask "someone" to take me to the DMV so that I can spend money unnecessarily on ID? And what about those states that permit one to use an NRA card--but not a student ID--as an approved form of voter ID? And what about those states that rule your signature invalid because you don't sign or accent your name at age 43 or 70 the same way you did when you registered to vote at age 18? (Or those states that incorrectly typed your name into voter registration rolls?) And what about those states that strike you from the voter rolls because you did not vote in the last two elections (because you didn't want to) so now won't permit you to vote in the current one? All of these issues greatly impact women's right to vote. Women are the majority of the U.S. population--and we are poorer, more likely to change/modify our names, and older than the rest of the population. WOC are, in terms of income, even more negatively impacted. Moving forward, I submit that the new national women's suffrage task is for all of us to work to enhance/streamline/make easier (rather than suppress) the right for everyone--especially women--to vote.



DCADV teaches *Advocacy in Domestic Violence Services* at University of Delaware. DCADV has had a long partnership with the University of Delaware and as part of this collaboration, the Coalition teaches a course called Advocacy in Domestic Violence Services.

The course is offered through the Domestic Violence Concentration within the Women and Gender Studies department. DCADV's Executive Director, Sue Ryan, facilitates the class and invites in representatives from the domestic violence advocacy community to share their experiences and insights with the students.

The class offers the students an opportunity to hear directly from those who work every day with victims of domestic violence about best practices and trauma-informed approaches. The class covers the dynamics of domestic violence, the intersection of domestic violence and health, the impact on children, teen healthy relationships and prevention of intimate partner violence. Students work on class projects that build upon their collaboration and presentation skills. The *Advocacy in Domestic Violence Services* class prepares students as they plan to embark upon their own careers, many of whom will become advocates within Delaware.

DCADV is honored to continue our collaboration with the University of Delaware as we work together to develop the knowledge and skills of future advocates and community partners.



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On March 4-5, DCADV presented our signature **Domestic Violence 101** (DV101) training. There were 48 people in attendance from a variety of agencies, including court staff, community-based social service programs, therapists, policy analysts, and domestic violence hotline/shelter staff. The first day of this training focuses on the foundational knowledge of the dynamics of domestic violence, trauma, and prevention and social change. On the second day, we take that knowledge and apply it through the development of advocacy skills and resource connection. DV101 is designed for anyone interested in learning more about domestic violence intervention and prevention services. Our next sessions will be held June 23-24 (in Wilmington) and September 16-17 (in Dover). For more information on this training, please visit www.dcadv.org/DV101.







Focusing through the lens of social justice

As we know, the coronavirus has created an unprecedented public health crisis, and extraordinary circumstances requiring us to prioritize the health and safety of our community. Given the growing concerns over safety and the CDC's latest guidance for large events and mass gatherings (CDC recommends that for the next 8 weeks, organizers (whether groups or individuals) cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 10 people or more throughout the United States), we must cancel this year's Advocates' Retreat and Conference.

Refunds will be issued to registered participants in the original form of payment. If you have received an invoice, you may disregard it. DCADV plans to continue offering training to our DV advocacy community throughout the year, and we're hoping to be back at the beach in Spring 2021!



As part of the CDC's Delta Impact grant that is designed to promote primary prevention strategies to address intimate partner violence[1], DCADV is engaging influential adults and peers with a program called Coaching Boys Into Men. This program is an evidence-based prevention program structured to help athletic coaches discuss healthy relationship behaviors and bystander intervention strategies to the young men on their teams[2]. The goal of Coaching Boys Into Men is to leverage the tremendous impact sports has over our culture and the influential role that male coaches have over their athletes to model healthy behaviors to transform those athletes into leaders that help shape changing gender and social norms in their communities, which in turn will reduce violent behaviors[3].

One of the ways DCADV has engaged influential adults and peers is by creating a partnership with the Warehouse, a teen-focused community center that is part of the REACH Riverside community-development initiative. With this collaboration, DCADV has been working with the Warehouse staff and the teens on the Warehouse planning team to be fully trained on the Coaching Boys Into Men curriculum and implementation strategies in preparation for running the program during their Grand Opening Week. This collaboration would move beyond the cultural impact of sports, coaches, and athletes and highlight the leadership opportunities that influential peers can have in the community.

Source 1: https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/delta/impact/index.html Source 2: https://www.coachescorner.org/ Source 3:Ibid.

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The Community Health Advocates have served 166 individuals, made 643 face to face contacts in 38 different types of settings/locations, <u>and</u> supported over 55 individuals with flexible financial assistance (Health Access Funds / Flex Funds)

Data is from Feb 2019-Feb 2020

Flex Funds are a best practice for preventing homelessness among DV victims and survivors. Funds are spent on a range of safety, social, and immediate needs like housing, transportation, healthcare, and basic essentials.

Flex Funds are available, call the referral number!

DCADV's policy team has been active despite the fact that DE's General Assembly has postponed the current session until further notice. DCADV has been working with member programs and others within the non-profit sector to address the evolving needs the current public health crisis is causing. Although services are shifting to incorporate social distancing, agencies remain committed to providing lifesaving services and support. Member programs and DCADV's policy team continue to explore ways to make services safer and more accessible, and we ask that you keep up to date through <u>DCADV.org</u>.

With the closure of the General Assembly it seems unlikely that legislative initiatives started this session will be passed. This includes HB 215, the Victim Confidentiality and Advocate privilege bill. This break however has enabled DCADV to continue its research into victims' rights for privacy and effective confidentiality protections in other states. We continue to learn from other states that laws can be weakened over time, and that DE should have the strongest bill possible. DCADV remains committed to working on getting this policy passed, and will keep it as a priority moving forward.

Our policy and legislative priorities for the remainder of the session will likely focus on the state's response to COVID19. These are uncertain times, and the essential nature of our member programs requires us to stay engaged even though legislators aren't in their offices at the capital. We anticipate action to be taken on the Budget, Grant in Aid, and the Capital Improvement bill. We will keep you informed as legislation is introduced.

JOIN US AS A MEMBER

Financial support from people like you helps us continue our good work!



We can't do our work without **YOU**! Now more than ever we need individuals to help support the mission and philosophy of the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence and who want to help create a less violent world by becoming a supporting member through a tax-deductible contribution. Visit www.dcadv.org to join us now!

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Membership Benefits

Membership within a statewide coalition working to end domestic violence

Early notification and registration for DCADV events

Discounted price for DCADV events, trainings, and conferences

Invitation to our Annual Meeting which is held in December of each year and name recognition in annual report.

Membership fee is 100% tax deductible and 100% of the fee directly supports the work of DCADV



Prevention Director

RPE Program Manager

https://dcadv.org/who-weare/careers.html

STAY IN CONTACT

Want to know what the Coalition is up to? Follow us on Facebook and Twitter for the latest and greatest!





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Our Member Organizations





