

ENVISIONING PEACE

Expanding Access & Equity



22nd Advocates' Retreat & Conference

Atlantic Sands Hotel & Conference Center
Rehoboth Beach, DE

MAY 1- 2, 2023

WWW.DCADV.ORG/RETREAT

ABOUT THE ADVOCATES' RETREAT & CONFERENCE

After a three-year hiatus, the Advocates' Retreat and Conference has returned to Rehoboth Beach! This event brings together victims/survivors, advocates, and victim service providers from across the state (and sometimes, beyond!) to connect, share information, and engage in critical thinking analysis about efforts needed to address and prevent intimate partner violence, family violence, sexual violence, dating violence, and/or stalking. Over two days, there are many opportunities for training/education, networking, and self-care.

This year's theme and workshop topics have been carefully chosen through a variety of ways. In the fall 2023, DCADV issued a Call for Workshop Proposals to local and national partners in victim services, prevention, and related fields. DCADV's Retreat Planning Advisory Committee (consisting of representatives from DCADV's member organizations, task forces, and other interested individuals) came together to review workshop proposals and provide feedback on the training and service needs of Delaware's DV community. DCADV also used recommendations/suggestions received through training participant evaluations to pursue workshop topics and presenters that would be most relevant to our community.

Our conference theme, *Envisioning Peace: Expanding Access and Equity*, offers an opportunity for us to explore how we can continue to incorporate and promote equity, accountability, and accessibility in our services to people affected by gender-based violence.

We also recognize that this work is hard, and we all need time to relax and recharge! We hope that these two days will offer you an opportunity to engage in self-care, connect with colleagues and friends, and enjoy springtime at the beach!

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.



REGISTRATION RATES

DCADV Member Organizations, Supporting Members, and Delaware Certified Domestic Violence Specialists

\$130.00 (March 1-29, 2023)

\$140.00 (March 30 - April 21, 2023)

Nonmembers

\$140.00 (March 3-29, 2023)

\$150.00 (March 30 - April 21, 2023)

NOT A MEMBER? VISIT WWW.DCADV.ORG/MEMBERSHIP TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BENEFITS! MEMBERSHIP RATES START AT \$15!

Attending One Day Only

\$80.00

LODGING

A limited number of hotel rooms will be available at the Atlantic Sands Hotel and Conference Center at the group rate of \$135.00/night (plus 11% hotel occupancy tax and \$1.50 resort fee). To reserve a room, please call 1-800-422-0600 and refer to **Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence Booking ID #10808**. The group rate is in effect for stays from 4/29/23 - 5/3/23. Rooms must be reserved by **March 29, 2023** to receive the group rate.

Attendees are responsible for making their own lodging arrangements and for the associated costs.

MONDAY, MAY 1, 2023

8:00 - 9:15 a.m.	Continental Breakfast, Registration, and Welcome Remarks
9:15 - 10:15 a.m.	Keynote Presentation
10:15 - 10:30 a.m.	Break/Travel to Workshops
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Workshop Session #1 (3 breakouts)
12:00 - 1:15 p.m.	Buffet Lunch/Self-Care
1:15 - 2:45 p.m.	Workshop Session #2 (3 breakouts)
2:45 - 3:00 p.m.	Break/Travel to Plenary Session
3:00 - 4:30 p.m.	Plenary Session

TOTAL INSTRUCTIONAL TIME: 5.5 hours

TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast and Registration
9:00 - 10:00 a.m.	Opening Plenary Session
10:00 - 10:15 a.m.	Recognition of Certified Domestic Violence Specialists
10:15 - 10:30 a.m.	Break/Travel to Workshops
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Workshop Session #3 (3 breakouts)
12:00 - 1:30 p.m.	Buffet Lunch/Self-Care
1:30 - 3:00 p.m.	Workshop Session #4 (3 breakouts)

TOTAL INSTRUCTIONAL TIME: 4 hours

KEYNOTE/PLENARY PRESENTATIONS

DAY 1

Monday, May 1, 2023

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: VANESSA TIMMONS

Vanessa Timmons is the executive director of the Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence and has been a writer, activist, and women's health advocate for over 25 years. She attended Marylhurst University's Multidisciplinary Studies Program in Portland, Oregon, and has continued her formal education through certificates and training, including the Interpersonal Neurobiology of Trauma Certification Program at Portland State University. Vanessa has served nationally as a Northwest regional field organizer for the National Organization for Women, and currently serves on the National Network to End Domestic Violence Board of Directors, and National Women of Color Network Public Policy Committee.

AFTERNOON PLENARY: DO ASK, DO TELL: GATHERING DATA TO PROVIDE AFFIRMING SERVICES TO THE LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY

Jess Harman (she/her) is a Queer survivor, anti-violence advocate, trainer, and consultant. She has over 10 years of experience working with diverse populations including youth, survivors of sexual/domestic violence and sex trafficking, LGBTQIA individuals, folks with disabilities, people experiencing severe and persistent mental illnesses, individuals impacted by substance use, incarcerated folks, people experiencing homelessness, and people living with HIV/chronic health conditions. Her career has primarily focused on anti-violence systems advocacy, direct services advocacy & case management, and supervising anti-violence advocates. Jess has trained thousands of working professionals how to appropriately work with trauma survivors utilizing best practice methodologies. She has presented at state and national conferences. Jess holds a bachelor's degree in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies with a minor in History from the University of Kansas and is currently pursuing a Master of Social Work degree.

DAY 2

Tuesday, May 2, 2023

OPENING PLENARY: DECOLONIZING, REDEFINING, AND RECLAIMING INDIVIDUAL HEALING AND COLLECTIVE CARE

What is the meaning of self-care? What does healing look like for each of us? In this plenary talk, *Meghna Bhat (she/her), Ph.D* will explore these different concepts about self-care, collective care, and healing in today's fast-paced world, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. This interactive session will help unpack and envision what decolonized, non-capitalist, and anti-oppressive healing and care looks like in our communities, whether its survivorship from state violence, gender violence, or just navigating our identities to daily lived experiences. What does joy and peace look like when incorporating these elements in our personal and/or work experiences? How can storytelling play a role? Drawing from her own lived experiences with gender violence, trauma, health, and immigrant identities, Dr. Bhat will provide an overview about this multidisciplinary healing project grounded in oral and written storytelling. She will further share about how her new project *Gulabi Stories* was born, that centers the stories and voices of South Asian diaspora communities. Last, key resources about healing, health, etc. will be provided.

Monday, May 1, 2023 | 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

A Domestic Violence and COVID-19: Coalition Leaders' Perspectives on System Impacts

Lauren Camphausen, Dr. Ruth Fleury-Steiner, and Sarah Wells, University of Delaware

Rates of domestic violence (DV) increase during disasters and emergencies, as does demand for services. Disasters make it difficult to meet both preexisting service needs and disaster-associated increases in demand for services. To understand the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, a team at the University of Delaware launched a project to document DV system impacts through the lens of public health disaster preparedness and response. This workshop shares findings and perspectives from interviews with state and territory DV coalitions. Participants will discuss their experiences providing services during the pandemic and will identify ways to improve service provision through disaster preparedness.

B The Elephant in the Room: Addressing Implicit Bias

Shannon Fisch and Kiera McGillivray, Children & Families First

The expression “the elephant in the room” is a metaphor for a problem that everyone acknowledges is there, but no one is sure exactly what it is or what to do. Equity, diversity, and inclusion and trauma-informed care work is present in all that we do. The intersection of trauma and historical injustice impact how we work with individuals who have been victimized and how they work with us. The intersectionality of trauma-informed care and EDI mandates that we address implicit bias in our work to further victim advocacy and prevention. In this workshop participants will learn skills to address implicit bias in themselves and mitigate the role of implicit bias in working with victims.

C The Violence Against Women Act: 2022 Reauthorization Expansions for Survivors

D.Fox, National Network to End Domestic Violence

VAWA 2022 is a law that provides protections for survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking who are seeking to access or maintain federally-assisted housing. VAWA 2022 continues VAWA 2013’s housing safeguards (as well as the safeguards developed under VAWA 2005) and expands housing protections for survivors. This presentation will provide an overview of key VAWA 2022 changes and provide practical implementation guidance for domestic violence advocates as they implement these new protections and build on the previous ones.

A

Domestic Violence and Firearms

Traci Murphy, Delaware Coalition Against Gun Violence

Firearms contribute significantly to domestic violence in the U.S. — to threaten, to coerce, to control, and to kill. Around 4.5 million women in the United States have been threatened with a gun, and nearly 1 million women have been shot or shot at by an intimate partner. Over half of all intimate partner homicides are committed with guns. Indeed, a woman is five times more likely to be murdered when her abuser has access to a gun. To reduce the number of domestic violence homicides, we must ensure that people who abuse their intimate partners or family do not have access to firearms.

B

Mythbusters: Islamic Perspectives on Gender, Marriage, Divorce, and Domestic Violence

Dr. Denise Ziya Berte, Peaceful Families Project

For mainstream providers of Domestic Violence Services to offer effective inclusion programs for Muslim populations, they must first have a clear understanding of Islam, its related beliefs about gender, marriage and domestic violence, as well as the specific cultural communities represented in this of the most widely diverse faith traditions in the US. This workshop offers a base of information that covers Islamic writings, jurisprudence and traditions related to gender, marriage, divorce and domestic violence. The workshop includes information about the wide variation in racial, ethnic, cultural, and linguistic groups practicing Islam internationally and in the US. In addition the workshop covers basic information for service providers on issues related to best practices when serving Muslim survivors and working within Muslim communities.

C

Making Sense of Housing for DV Survivors

Dr. Nick Beard, Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Caitlin Del Collo, Delaware State Housing Authority

Tony Sierzega, Community Legal Aid Society, Inc.

This workshop is intended to support advocates who may be frustrated with the practical aspect of finding housing and understanding the specific protections available to survivors. We will also discuss some of the advocacy work being done to increase both housing supply and access to housing for survivors. Since this is the first in-person retreat in several years, it will focus on using the physical space and providing interaction and problem solving.

A

Using Storytelling to Destigmatize Sexual and Reproductive Health and Strengthen Supportive Factors

Dr. Meghna Bhat, Gender and Social Justice Consultant, Educator and Storyteller

Conversations around sexual and reproductive health or healing is often trivialized in our communities. Learning how to write and share our true personal stories can help us navigate our healing journey, while unpacking and normalizing conversations around sex, intimacy, reproductive and body autonomy. In this interactive session, participants will be led through individual reflective activities to discover their own unique stories and practice active compassionate listening. Participants will walk away feeling empowered to write their stories as agents of change and choice. Last, culturally inclusive tools and resources will be shared for facilitating ethical and anti-oppressive storytelling activities in communities.

B

Dream Studies: How to Deal with Trauma Dreams

Lea Sevey and Vanessa Timmons, Oregon Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence

Trauma dreams are complex, requiring insight and understanding to unravel their unique meanings. In this workshop we will guide you through the process of how to analyze your dreams, address universal and cultural symbols, and explore what gifts dreams hold. We will also share ideas around how to interrupt recurring dreams and false awakenings. These skills can be used when working with survivors who are suffering from trauma dreams as well as helping to address vicarious trauma you may be experiencing. Participants will have an opportunity to ask questions and get ideas around what meaning their dreams may hold.

C

After Dobbs: Supporting Survivors Through Access to Abortion Services within Delaware

Dr. Nick Beard, Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence

After the recent Dobbs decision, advocates across the country were placed in a limbo as to how to support victims of crime who may be dealing with a crisis pregnancy. This workshop is intended to provide Delaware advocates with both information on nonjudgmental resources for survivors, as well as empower them to feel comfortable applying their skills as advocates to support victims navigating a crisis pregnancy.

A

Putting Advocacy & Prevention Into Action Through Economic Justice

Brooke Ophardt and Shelby Statham, Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence

This interactive workshop will explore the intersection between economic justice and intimate partner violence. We will examine risk and protective factors, policies that promote financial equity, and how these practices fit into violence prevention work. Importantly, this workshop utilizes an intersectional lens to understand how structural inequality shapes individual survivor's lived experiences. Participants will come away with practical strategies for how to incorporate economic justice into their advocacy work and with a better understanding of violence prevention strategies.

B

Understanding the GEMS (Get Experience in Mindfulness)

Dr. Pamela Adams and Rona Harris, Faithful and Favored, Inc.

The National Council Magazine reports that in the U.S. 70% of adults suffer from some traumatic and stressful experiences at some point in their lives at least once. This totals out to be 223.4 million people throughout America. During this workshop we will place an emphasis on stress management taught through practical and interactive mindfulness based activities to facilitate experiential learning. Mindfulness practices have shown to be positive creating space for themselves —space to think, space to breathe, space between themselves and individual reactions.

C

Navigating a Domestic Violence Case through the Criminal Justice System

Jenn Kutney-Soper, Delaware Department of Justice

Melissa Pennachi, Newark Police Department

Erin Young, Delaware Department of Correction

During this session you will learn the roles of criminal justice system-based victim services available to victims in Delaware. This session will have a panel with representatives from Newark Police Department Victim Services, Attorney General's Office Domestic Violence Unit Victim Services, and Department of Correction Victim Services. The panel will discuss how cases move through the system and services that are available, from an initial report to law enforcement through corrections. This session will highlight victim services professionals working together to meet the individual needs of a survivor.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Am I eligible for the member rate? Individuals who are affiliated with one of DCADV's Member Organizations (CHILD, Inc.; Community Legal Aid Society, Inc.; Delaware Center for Justice; People's Place; and YWCA Delaware); individual supporting members; and Delaware Certified Domestic Violence Specialists are all eligible for the member rate. Visit www.dcadv.org/membership to become a member or check your eligibility.

Do I have to attend both days? No, a one-day registration is available to attend either day of the conference.

Will there be continuing education credits available? This course is pending approval by the National Association of Social Workers, Delaware Chapter for 9.5 contact hours of continuing education credit. All training hours also apply to those seeking initial certification or recertification as a Delaware Domestic Violence Specialist.

What is DCADV's Training Cancellation/Refund Policy? Please note that in order to receive refunds or credits, registered participants must notify the DCADV Training and Prevention staff by phone (302-658-2958) or email (training@dcadv.org) no later than six business days (April 21, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.) before the scheduled training. Otherwise, all registrants, including no-shows, will not be eligible for a refund, and any registrants who have not prepaid will receive an invoice. Registrants receiving DCADV Training Scholarships are subject to the same policy and are not eligible for cancellation refunds or credits for the scholarship portion of their registration costs.

Are there opportunities to share information about my agency/organization? A limited number of exhibitor tables will be available. Please fill out the Exhibitor Request Form at www.dcadv.org/retreat to request space. Spaces will be confirmed in early April.

Will there be food? Continental breakfast, buffet lunch, and light refreshments during break times will be available to all registered participants.

What should I wear? Dress is comfortable. Many of the workshops include experiential activities, and we want you to feel at ease to move and participate freely. In addition, the temperatures in the conference session rooms may fluctuate, so please dress accordingly. We strive to ensure the comfort and safety of conference participants by encouraging a smoke-free and fragrance-free environment.

ABOUT DCADV



Founded in 1994, the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCADV) is Delaware's federally recognized state domestic violence coalition. The staff, board, members, and volunteers of DCADV work with our member organizations and allies to support the empowerment of victims of domestic violence and their children through access to services and legal remedies. DCADV also seeks to change the societal conditions that support sexism, racism, homophobia, and other oppressions and which contribute to the continued presence of domestic and sexual violence in intimate relationships.

The Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence envisions a First State where safe, healthy, equitable relationships, families and communities thrive.

