

DELAWARE COALITION AGAINST  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

24TH ADVOCATES' TRAINING &  
NETWORKING EVENT

# FORGING AHEAD

Our Map to a World  
Without Violence

May 5-6, 2025

Rehoboth Beach, DE

 [www.dcadv.org/retreat](http://www.dcadv.org/retreat)



# ABOUT THE ADVOCATES' TRAINING & NETWORKING EVENT

DCADV is excited to return to Rehoboth Beach for this year's Advocates' Training & Networking Event! This event brings together victims/survivors, advocates, and domestic violence service providers from across the state (and beyond!) to connect, share information, and explore 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 2024, DCADV issued a Call for Workshop Proposals to local and national partners in victim services, prevention, and related fields. DCADV's Training 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 suggestions received through training participant evaluations to pursue workshop topics and presenters that would be most relevant to our community.

We recognize that working in this field can feel like we're on the never-ending path to create change that we'll never see. It's work that can consist of equal parts hope, optimism, frustration, and exhaustion. Through this year's theme "**Forging Ahead: Our Map to a World Without Violence,**" we hope to bring opportunities for the advocacy community to connect, share information, and engage in efforts needed to address and prevent intimate partner violence, family violence, sexual violence, dating violence, and/or stalking. We also recognize the urgent need for opportunities to identify and explore how to sustain ourselves and our workforce in the movement

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!

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*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 & LODGING

## **Current DCADV Supporting Members, DCADV Member Organizations, and DE Certified Domestic Violence Specialists**

\$145.00 (through 4/4/25)

\$165.00 (4/5/25 - 4/25/25)

## **Nonmembers**

\$155.00 (through 4/4/24)

\$175.00 (4/5/25 - 4/25/25)

**Not a member yet? Visit [www.dcadv.org/membership](http://www.dcadv.org/membership) to learn more about the benefits! Membership rates start at \$15!**

## **Attending One Day Only**

\$85.00 (through 4/4/25)

\$90.00 (4/5/25 - 4/25/25)

A limited number of hotel rooms will be available at the Atlantic Sands Hotel and Conference Center at the group rate of \$145.00/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 #11261**. The group rate is in effect for stays from 5/3/25 - 5/7/25.

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

# AGENDA

**Monday, May 5, 2025**

**8:00AM - 9:00AM**

Registration and Breakfast

**9:00AM - 10:15AM**

Welcome Remarks  
Keynote Presentation

**BREAK**

**10:30AM - 12:00PM**

Workshop Session #1 (3-4 breakouts)

**LUNCH**

**1:15PM - 2:45PM**

Workshop Session #2 (3-4 breakouts)

**BREAK**

**3:00PM - 4:30PM**

Workshop Session #3 (3-4 breakouts)

**5:00PM - 6:00PM**

Women of Color Task Force “Fun at Five” Social

# **Tuesday, May 6, 2025**

## **8:00AM - 9:00AM**

Registration and Breakfast

## **9:00AM - 10:15AM**

Recognition of Domestic Violence Specialists  
Keynote Panel

## **BREAK**

## **10:30AM - 12:00PM**

Workshop Session #4 (3-4 breakouts)

## **LUNCH**

## **1:15PM - 2:45PM**

Workshop Session #5 (3-4 breakouts)

# KEYNOTE SESSIONS

**Monday, May 5 | 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM**

## **Building Thriving & Sustainable Anti-Violence Workplaces**

**Presenters: Tatiana Piper and Jackie Strohm, The SOAR Collective**

Advocates are doing everything they can to keep working in the anti-violence movement, but it's hard. If we want to support survivors, prevent violence, and create safe & equitable communities, we must model the same values and norms within our workplaces. This workshop will review emerging data about the challenges advocates face, as well as "what works" at thriving anti-violence organizations. Advocates and leaders will leave the session with tools and practices they can use to foster a healthy and safe workplace culture.

**Tuesday, May 6 | 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM**

## **Financial Empowerment: Mapping Out a Safer Future**

**Panel Moderator: Joe Myers, Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence**

**Panelists: Tisha Jackson, CHILD, Inc.; Donna Johnson, CHILD, Inc.;**

**Mark Olazagasti, Your Money 101; Kim Pentico, National Network to End Domestic Violence**

Financial abuse is one of the most common tactics of harm reported by survivors of domestic violence. In this panel, we will talk with experts from Delaware and beyond to discuss different ways that we can address financial abuse and prevent it in the future. We'll look at work being done at all levels, from national efforts to affect policy to community-based interventions for families to increase their access to resources. Participants will leave with a greater understanding of financial education resources and the direct interventions that help survivors overcome this harm.



# WORKSHOP SESSIONS

***There will be 3-4 concurrent workshops during each breakout session time.***

## **SESSION 1**

**Monday, May 5 | 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM**

### **1A) What I Have Learned from Abusive Men in 35 Years**

**Juan Rodriguez, DVS**, Turning Point at People's Place

This workshop offers an in-depth exploration of the beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors that contribute to men's abusive and controlling actions. Drawing from 35 years of experience working with men in mandated treatment programs, the facilitator will provide valuable insights into the thought processes and emotional struggles that often underpin abusive behavior. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of the challenges these men face, including the significant impact of abusive childhoods and emotional neglect on their current actions. Through open discussion, attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and engage in conversations about the complex dynamics at play in these men's lives. This session will offer a unique perspective for those seeking to understand the root causes of abusive behavior and the potential for change and healing.

### **1B) How to Ask for Help**

**Nicole Crespi and Joy Ingram**, RAFT (Resilience for Advocates through Foundational Training)

Although advocates constantly offer help and assistance, many of us are averse to asking for assistance for ourselves. This can be problematic, personally and professionally, as none of us exists on an island and at times we all need help. Not asking for help can also hinder our ability to care for our clients, as many of the services we provide are connected to other services, people, and agencies, therefore requiring us to seek the assistance of others. This workshop explores the sources of the aversion to asking for help, the benefits of asking for help, and examines best practices for asking and getting positive results.

### **1C) Brainstorming Prevention: Conceptualizing Gender-Based Violence as Hate Violence for Prevention Efforts**

**Jennifer Kutney-Soper**, Delaware Department of Justice

Is Gender-Based Violence hate violence? This workshop intends to help participants understand what hate violence is generally as well as explore the similarities between gender-based violence and hate violence. At the end, there will be a group discussion on whether viewing gender-based violence as hate violence changes how we engage in prevention efforts.

### **1D) Minding Our Own Emotional Business**

**Yolanda Pourciau, Yolanda Speaks, LLC**

Many of us find it difficult to accurately identify and manage our stressful emotions. Emotional stress can negatively impact the body, mind, and productivity. Those of use with careers in domestic and sexual violence must be aware of the impacts and learn ways to minimize them. Minding Our Own Emotional Business is designed to help participants manage emotional stress and take full responsibility for their emotional responses. In this training, participants will learn the ABCs of emotional intelligence, the importance of the fight, flight, freeze, fawn response, the role of the brain's amygdala and our emotions, and practice the relaxation response.

## **SESSION 2**

**Monday, May 5 | 1:15 PM - 2:45 PM**

### **2A) Closing the Gap: How Doulas Can Help Support DV Advocacy**

**Zakiya Machado and Amber Twyne**, Black Mothers in Power

Programs integrating doula support have been shown to improve birth outcomes and help to reduce the frequency of repeat intimate partner violence incidents by offering tailored support and connecting victims and survivors with relevant resources. With specialized training in pregnancy and postpartum non-medical support, doulas can provide a bridge between community education, prevention and professional collaboration. During this workshop we'll address some of the ways doulas support DV clients, highlighting the DV Doula Support Program in Delaware, and brainstorm how we can build relationships and work with other professionals to continue to close the gap and forge ahead.



## **2B) Therapeutic Writing: Giving Voice & Healing Trauma**

**Robbin Loonan**, The College of New Jersey/Private Practice  
**Samantha Dooley**, Morris County Sexual Assault Center

Therapeutic writing/journaling can be a safe way to express and process traumatic memories, particularly for survivors who often find it difficult or impossible to speak about their abuse. Telling one's story has long been recognized as a tool for healing. This engaging, interactive workshop will introduce participants to the psychological benefits of therapeutic writing, including reducing shame and self-blame, decreasing anxiety and isolation, enhancing coping and resilience, and fostering post-traumatic growth. Through instructive and experiential learning activities, participants will learn specific writing activities that can be effectively incorporated into individual and group therapy.

## **2C) From Surviving to Thriving: Building Resilient Anti-Violence Workplaces**

**Tatiana Piper and Jackie Strohm**, The SOAR Collective

This interactive workshop builds on the plenary session by acknowledging the realities and challenges of the anti-violence movement while shifting the focus toward cultivating thriving and sustainable workplaces. Participants will have the opportunity to reflect on their personal experiences, collaborate and brainstorm changes they would like to see, and develop actionable strategies for creating thriving organizations and supportive environments within their communities.

## **SESSION 3**

**Monday, May 5 | 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM**

## **3A) Cultivating Resilience: Trauma-Informed Supervision in Action**

**Shannon Fisch and Kiera McGillivray**, Children and Families First

Brain science reveals that life experiences shape how we navigate stress and challenges. For advocates and providers, supporting survivors' healing often comes at the cost of personal well-being, leading to compassion fatigue and high turnover in the sector. This workshop equips supervisors with actionable trauma-informed practices to foster resilience, trust, and growth within their teams. Participants will explore the connection between personal and professional experiences, learn to address vicarious trauma, and integrate strategies into daily supervision.

### **3B) Students as Teachers: Lessons Learned from Youth through School-Based Prevention Programming**

**Katie Miller and Sierra Webb**, Turning Point at People's Place

With one in three teens in the US experiencing dating violence, societal norms continue limiting beliefs around the severity of this issue. Primary prevention works to stop this violence before it happens through education, awareness, and advocacy. This involves meeting students where they're at—particularly in their classrooms—and helping the adults in their lives feel comfortable having candid conversations about healthy relationships. In this workshop, presenters will discuss their strategies for providing youth-centered primary prevention programming, explore qualitative data from DE students about their attitudes toward teen dating violence, and identify barriers to develop solutions to provide prevention education in schools.

### **3C) Equity in Action: The Power of Inclusive Advocacy**

**Neisha C. Himes**, Consultant

Survivors from marginalized communities often face barriers that silence their voices and limit access to support. This workshop dives into the heart of inclusive advocacy, exploring how we can break down these barriers and create meaningful change. Through open dialogue and practical strategies, participants will learn how to uplift survivors and build equity into every step of the advocacy process. Attendees will leave with actionable tools to build a more inclusive and equitable system—one that ensures every survivor, no matter their background, receives the justice and support they deserve.

## **SESSION 4**

**Tuesday, May 6 | 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM**

### **4A) Healing from Urgency Culture: Creating a Sustainable Organizational Environment**

**Joy Ingram and Jeremie Miller, RAFT**

RAFT's Healing from Urgency Culture workshop is a transformative experience designed for leaders and teams looking to break free from the pressures of constant hustle and reactive work environments. This interactive session explores the roots of urgency culture, its impact on individuals and organizations, and provides actionable strategies to foster a more sustainable, human-centered workplace. Participants will leave equipped with tools to prioritize effectively, set realistic goals, and create space for innovation and well-being. Let's shift the focus from "doing it all now" to "doing it right."

### **4B) The Real Deal: Context from listening sessions with Black women living with HIV**

**Diane Granberry and Robin Pereira, National Network to End Domestic Violence**

Black women living with HIV who are survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV) face unique challenges when navigating healthcare. Stigma and trauma exacerbate these barriers and can put their health and safety at risk. It is critical that advocates implement trauma-informed care to avoid re-traumatization and foster healing. This workshop addresses the intersection of HIV and IPV, trauma's impact, and how to implement culturally-sensitive supportive practices. Insights from listening sessions with Black women living with HIV who have experienced IPV will be shared, highlighting their experiences interacting with HIV and IPV community organizations.

### **4C) Building Bridges: Mapping Pathways to a World Without Violence**

**Rev. Dr. Pamela Adams and Ms. Rona Harris, Faithful and Favored**

This workshop aims to bring together diverse perspectives and strategies to explore and map the pathways towards creating a world free from violence. Participants will engage in collaborative discussions and activities designed to identify root causes of violence, examine existing systems of conflict resolution, and develop actionable solutions. Through a combination of storytelling, group exercises, and expert insights, the workshop fosters a deeper understanding of the social, political, and psychological factors that contribute to violence. Attendees will leave with a strengthened commitment to peacebuilding, a toolkit for fostering nonviolent communication, and a network of like-minded individuals working towards a shared goal of creating safer, more just communities.

## **SESSION 5**

**Tuesday, May 6 | 1:15 PM - 2:45 PM**

### **5A) “The Aftermath”: Recovering from Trauma**

**Kiera Pritchett, LMSW**, Before & Afterthought Life Coaching

This workshop will give a quick review on psychoeducation on trauma and how it affects the brain and body. The focus is on keys to recover from trauma through awareness, effective communication and coping skills that meet the individual’s needs. Individuals having a fresh perspective on what it is to regain control and heal in life can spend more time coping than remaining in a hurtful state when they are coached on the road to recovery.

### **5B) Housing Innovations for Survivors in Delaware**

**Elena Hampton-Stover**, National Network to End Domestic Violence

This session will explore the intersection of domestic violence with homelessness and housing affordability. Innovative and promising practices to building permanent housing stability for survivors applied in varying local contexts will be highlighted, and participants will develop ideas for applicable next steps in their communities to increase meaningful access to housing resources for survivors.

### **5C) Deepening Our Economic Justice Work**

**Kim Pentico**, National Network to End Domestic Violence

This interactive workshop offers participants a valuable opportunity to explore the historical roots of economic justice policies and reflect on their own roles in fostering equity. Through guided discussions and self-reflection, participants will gain insight into how their daily work intersects with both individual and systemic advocacy efforts, as well as the broader impact of public policy on economic justice. The session will invite attendees to examine their personal life experiences and how these connect to patterns of historical oppression. Participants will leave with a deeper understanding of how their work relates to intimate partner violence and economic justice advocacy while gaining actionable tools to enhance their own financial wellness. Join us for a transformative session designed to empower individuals to take meaningful steps toward economic justice and equity.

# 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](http://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?** We will not have pre-approved credits available. However, we are happy to provide all the necessary information, along with a certificate of attendance/completion. 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](mailto:training@dcadv.org)) no later than six business days (April 25, 2025 at 11:59 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](http://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?** Wear what makes you comfortable and confident! 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 if you know you normally get hot or cold, be prepared! We strive to ensure the comfort and safety of conference participants by encouraging a smoke-free and fragrance-free environment.

**I have a question that's not answered here. Who do I contact?** Our Training Team is happy to help! Contact us at [training@dcadv.org](mailto:training@dcadv.org) or 302-658-2958 ext. 115.



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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.**

