



VOICES

Spring Newsletter 2020

In this Issue:

A Letter from the Executive Director
Awareness: Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM)
Awareness: Child Abuse Prevention Month
Nevada's Leadership Voices: Lisa Lee
Education & Training
Events
Public Policy Update & COVID-19
Organizational Updates

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A LETTER FROM NCEDSV'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Child Abuse Awareness Month, Victim's Rights Week and on top of all of that - Coronavirus pandemic. Our ability to do our work, manage the crisis and stay healthy has never been so present in all of our minds. We want to salute all of the direct service providers who are, in many cases, risking their lives to help survivors navigate this difficult time.

At the NCEDSV office we know how privileged we are to be able to close our offices, have all of staff work from home (still on the payroll) and conduct most of our business virtually. Our unique situation requires us to focus on the importance of direct services in this time of unprecedented change and crisis.

To that end, we are doing what we have always done:

- Advocating for change – we are working closely with our partners and representatives at the Federal level to advocate for support for workers and their families, survivors and their unique needs and the health of our community generally. We are also reaching out to policy makers at the state and local level to make sure that the needs of survivors continue to be a priority.
- Educating communities – we are reordering our trainings to be available on-line instead of in-person; we are developing materials and posting on our website and social media updated information and resources; and, we are reaching out to all of our partners to understand the best ways to work together to get through this crisis.
- Supporting services – we are holding weekly meetings with local programs to understand the needs and the concerns as well as sharing information coming from state and national sources; we are working with our vendors such as hotels and motels to develop alternative shelter space; and, developing policies and procedures for direct service providers to insure that they have the resources they need to continue to do life-saving work.

As is so often said, this pandemic will end. Our job is to make sure that the path to that end is as safe and secure as possible. We want to thank all of our members, donors and supporters for their past support and encourage each of you to think about how you can help support us today and tomorrow.

Another coalition shared this story:

A local tattoo parlor was closing their doors as a result of the virus and in doing so they donated their masks, gloves and antiseptic wipes to their local shelter who were without such important items.

Please think about how you can make a difference in your community with whatever resources you might have at hand. They might not be immediately obvious so it is up to us to get creative and compassionate.

Be well and be safe,

Sue

AWARENESS

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). According to the NSVRC, the goal of SAAM is to raise public awareness about sexual harassment, assault and abuse and educate communities on how to prevent it. This year SAAM is celebrating its 19th anniversary and the theme is “I Ask”.

For more information about SAAM and the “I Ask” campaign, as well as downloadable and digital resources such as a consent guide, campaign guide, prevention handout and other materials, visit <https://www.nsvrc.org/saam/resources>

Amid the COVID-19 health crisis, [here are some ways to engage virtually during SAAM.](#)

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH



By Mayra Pacheco

Program Coordinator at Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy, Home of Prevent Child Abuse Nevada (PCANV)

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and Prevent Child Abuse Nevada wants you to join the national **Pinwheels for Prevention®** campaign. Pinwheels for Prevention is a nationwide campaign created to promote change in how our communities think about prevention and how we can deliver on our commitment to America's children, and the pinwheel represents the great childhoods all children deserve and the prevention efforts that help make them happen. Today, it inspires all of us to play a role in providing the best possible environment for every child to flourish and thrive.

Everyone can make great childhoods happen, especially you and especially now! There are ways to practice social distance and promote great childhoods. **Go BLUE** on Friday, April 3rd in support of every child's right to a happy, healthy, and safe childhood! Post your

photos on social media using the hashtag [#GoBlueNV](#). For more activities and ideas on how to promote great childhoods, visit our website:

https://nic.unlv.edu/pcan/pinwheels_for_prevention.html

LEADERSHIP VOICES

LISA LEE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, Advocates to End Domestic Violence



Lisa Lee became the Executive Director of Advocates to End Domestic Violence in 1986. She remembers it was on the point of bankruptcy when she took over and she said she worked for free for two years before they were able to stabilize financially.

Lee was intrigued by the shelter and wanted to join as a volunteer. Instead, she ended up being hired.

"I was a fan of this old house and it was full of possibilities. It was pretty raw," she said of the original shelter, built in 1932. After offering opinions on the shelter, she became the shelter manager and then later took over the directorship.

The shelter has come a long way. But in the next few years, it's going through more changes. In the next year, they will open a new resource center and they are breaking ground in April. It will help them increase capacity with more training rooms, counselling rooms and later to have an on-staff legal employee and more community outreach.

Lee says 50 percent of their shelter's population are from surrounding rural counties and they take overflow. "We have a large shelter and we're fortunate that we can accommodate people," she says.

"Coming from Reno to Carson it can be challenging to leave your home. It was mid-century modern when I came in, and I thought, my mom wouldn't bring us here, and we've put a lot of effort into making it clean and homey so if you had to move out of your home we could make it

less traumatizing. And people treat a shelter better if it looks clean. When you move in, kids get a blanket, and the (survivor) gets a robe, new pillow and duvet. We cycle out mattresses every few years,” Lee says.

"Our focus now is heavily on the shelter; but we want to have nutritional and vaccination programs and Saturday morning yoga and we want to be a community resource. In a few years we're going to build shelters and transitional housing," she said. Currently they have 51 beds.

Lee says they have been working toward these expansions for 25 years.

Lee said AED didn't have much grant funding when they started out and they had to work with the Board to focus on fundraising. This of course included talking to the community about the importance and prevalence of domestic violence, which was difficult.

"You don't really care until it touches you," says Lee. "It's not necessarily touching you; it's kept private," she says of domestic violence. She points out the cause to end domestic violence is much harder to fundraise for than, say, helping pets. "A lot of people tell you they appreciate you, but they're not giving," she says. She goes on to say that high profile cases such as O.J. Simpson's helped raise awareness and that the marriage license fee has helped with funds. Twenty-three years ago, they also started the thrift store to assist in fund raising, started doing basic grants and built a couple strong fundraisers.

This has allowed them to develop strong programs, such as their sexual assault program, when the need became evident. "It was supposed to be one part-time person but has really grown," she says.

In a larger sense, Lee says the movement has done better than anticipated in awareness but that it still has legal hurdles.

"We have to get to the point where we're empowering people through education," she says. "People are in poverty and they can't get past a minimum wage job." She says they have budgeting classes and help work on credit history and encourage saving to help with a survivor's relocation and safety net. Currently they can help pay for school tuition or things like kits for beauty school, etc. Cars are sometimes donated to give to clients in the shelter. She says most clients don't have family support and Advocates to End Domestic Violence steps in to be a support system.

"We've helped two clients to go on to be social workers. It's a treat to see someone walk across the (graduation) stage," she says.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

[NNEDV's 14th Annual Domestic Violence Counts Census Report is available for download here.](#)

[The Nevada summary is available for download here.](#)

Note about our COVID-19 response:

NCEDSV is staying up-to-date on the Coronavirus (COVID-19), and plans to follow the best public health protocols for our Regional Trainings and Annual Conference. Trainings are still being scheduled and will become virtual trainings if needed. Registration is still required, should the trainings become virtual.

UPCOMING TRAININGS:

Visit our training and events [calendar here](#).

NCEDSV Regional Trainings

We are planning these trainings and more information is coming up. For timely information, [sign up for our training notification emails on our website here](#).

Sponsored by:



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**NCEDSV ANNUAL CONFERENCE:
Stronger Together: Collaborations for Social Change
September 14-16, 2020
Palace Station, Las Vegas, NV**

In order to end domestic and sexual violence we need to dismantle the systems of oppression and inequity that perpetuate and allow gender-based violence to thrive. We need to come together across the state, and across generations, to share ideas, support one another, and work toward a mutual worldview free of domestic and sexual violence. As the statewide coalition to end domestic and sexual violence, we are excited for the opportunity

to bring together advocates, community organizations, and survivors at our annual conference. It is critical that we form connections and work collaboratively in our efforts to prevent gender-based violence.

Celebrating 40 years of hard work, this year's conference looks at our successes; the important work that continues, and the intergenerational collaborations we need to build. Sharing the wisdom we have gained, exploring new ideas, and building a world where collectively we all can thrive.

Workshop Tracks:

ANTI-OPPRESSION

- This track will focus on anti-oppression work and involve workshops that aim to teach domestic and sexual violence advocates about intersectional work and how varying marginalized identities will impact how different groups of people are affected by domestic and sexual violence.

BEGINNER'S ADVOCACY

- This track will involve workshops that cater to advocates that are new to the movement, and will help them to build their skill-set and learn domestic and sexual violence basics.

PREVENTION

- This track is geared towards educators whose work focuses on building a violence-free world, and could include folks that collaborate with youth, communities, or with other agencies to achieve this goal.

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

- This track will incorporate our overall conference theme, and discuss how to work collaboratively within our movements and organizations towards a violence-free future.

SELF-CARE

- This track will focus on the vital self-care that is needed for advocates and others doing anti-violence work in order to prevent burnout and fill our own cups so that we can continue the work of giving to others.

This conference is supported by the Administration for Children and Families, Family Violence Prevention and Services, Grant No. 1901NVSDVC. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the presenters and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act.

UPDATED RESOURCES FOR EDUCATORS:

National Organizations Offering Resources for Educators

This list of resources includes information about national organizations that produce educational materials and curricula and offer technical assistance to service providers. This list is not meant to be fully comprehensive and is not an endorsement of the materials offered. It is a starting point for educators and school administrators, community-based advocates, and other adults working with youth and other populations who are affected by child sexual abuse, adolescent and young adult relationship abuse, sexual assault and their prevention.

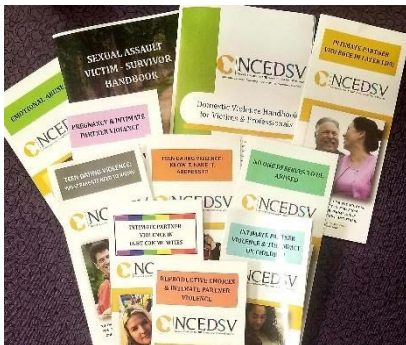
National Curricula Materials for Educators

This list of materials is a starting point for educators and community-based advocates who wish to learn more about child sexual abuse, teen and young adult relationship abuse, promoting healthy relationships and their prevention. Materials are organized by Grades/Ages/Audiences, if specified.

Download both here: <https://www.ncedsv.org/education-resources/>

BROCHURES

Check out our brochures [here](#).



EVENTS

GO BLUE

April 3, 2020 – Virtual Event!

Go BLUE on Friday, April 3rd in support of every child's right to a happy, healthy, and safe childhood! Post your photos on social media using the hashtag **#GoBlueNV**.

AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION OUT OF DARKNESS WALK

April 4, 2020 – Virtual Event!

The 2020 Out of Darkness walk will be hosted by the Nevada Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention on April 4th. This event is now virtual, so you can continue to raise awareness & funds while asking others to join you as a Virtual Walker.

[Join it here.](#)

Join the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Saturday, April 4th at 10:00 AM for a virtual walk via [ZOOM](#). Tune in to hear and see our speakers share their stories via video conferencing or phone. Immediately following the opening ceremony, we ask that you do your own walk and post pictures and video of your walk on our [Las Vegas Walk Facebook Page](#). You may also post photos of your loved ones and messages of hope to the event Facebook page. Please use the hashtag #stopsuicide

On June 13th from 9am to 11am pick up your walker shirts for those who earned them at Craig Ranch Regional Park.

For more information, contact: Karen Wall at 702-250-7453 or kwinlv@cox.net

DAY OF ACTION

April 7, 2020

NSVRC is asking everyone to wear teal, the color of sexual assault awareness and prevention, on the SAAM Day of Action. Wearing teal as a ribbon, shirt or accessory will serve as a conversation starter for important issues about consent, respect and supporting survivors. Share a selfie using the hashtags #SAAM, #IAsk and #Teal.

DAY OF SILENCE

April 24, 2020

The Day of Silence is a student-led event where people take a vow of silence to demonstrate the silencing effects and erasure faced by LGBTQ people in schools across the country. Find out more at GLSEN.org and use #DayofSilence to show your support.

DENIM DAY
April 29, 2020

Wear jeans with a purpose, support survivors, and educate yourself and others about all forms of sexual violence. For more information visit denimdayinfo.org.

INTERNATIONAL ANTI-STREET HARASSMENT WEEK
April 19-25

This year is the tenth anniversary of International Anti-Street Harassment Week, and it will be the last. Use the hashtag #StopStreetHarassment and visit stopstreetharassment.org for more details.

NCEDSV PUBLIC POLICY

COVID Response Packages

In response to the current COVID-19 crisis, the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives has passed three COVID response packages. The most comprehensive being the last two packages.

COVID 2: Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA)

On March 18th, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act was signed into law. The law is broad and addresses a variety of efforts including mandatory emergency paid leave, the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act, and creates certain tax credits for employers who must comply with new requirements of expanded FMLA.

For detailed information about the FFCRA, [please refer to the Question and Answers put out by the Department of Labor.](#)

COVID 3: The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act

On March 25th, the Senate released their negotiated stimulus package, S. 3548 The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act which contains significant improvements to address the needs of the most vulnerable among us. While there was some funds included for domestic violence programs, there was no specific sexual assault funding included.

Domestic violence specific resources included in the final package:

- \$45 million for the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, with a match waiver

- \$2 million for the National Domestic Violence hotline

The Good:

- Unemployment insurance provisions are expanded
- Serious investment in housing and homelessness including Emergency Solutions grants
- Direct payments to individuals - \$1,200 for adults and \$600 for children who filed taxes last year and meet the income requirements
- Small business loans that can help nonprofits in these challenging times with no exemption for non-profits under 500 employees who receive Medicaid
- Additional SNAP, Child Nutrition program, and Emergency food assistance program appropriations
- Funding for Legal Services Corporation
- Increase in Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and Childcare Development Block Grant
- Additional Appropriations for Runaway and Homeless Youth

The Gaps - Included in the House counterproposal H.R. 6379

- \$100 million for the Sexual Assault Services Program (VAWA DOJ)
- \$55 million additional for FVPSA
- \$100 million for the STOP Formula Grant Program (VAWA DOJ)
- \$25 million for transitional housing (VAWA DOJ)
- \$25 million for rural programs (VAWA DOJ)
- \$25 million for Legal Assistance to Victims (VAWA DOJ)
- \$25 million to support families in the justice system (VAWA DOJ)

POLICY GAPS

- Match waivers for VAWA (DOJ) and VOCA Crime Victims Fund (DOJ)
- Specific language to ensure DV programs have access to HUD funding
- Immigrant access to healthcare
- Paid sick leave

NCEDSV is working with our national partners at the National Network to End Domestic Violence and the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence to ensure that our state representatives keep the needs of domestic violence and sexual assault victim-survivors in their demands for COVID relief packages.

ADDITIONAL COVID-19 RESOURCES

U.S. Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.) unveiled a comprehensive Disaster Resource Guide for Nevadans impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The guide includes critical

information on medical care, mental health services, financial and housing assistance, aid for seniors, resources for small business owners, and more.

[The Disaster Resource Guide can be found here.](#)

For any questions regarding State or Federal policy, please contact NCEDSV Policy Specialist **Serena Evans**.

ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATE



NCEDSV CELEBRATES OUR 40th ANNIVERSARY

During our 40th anniversary year, we know we can be proud of a past filled with challenges and triumphs; confident in a present that offers opportunities and openings for real change; and excited about a future where violence is not a way of life for far too many families. The 40th

anniversary is celebrated with the ruby gemstone which symbolizes energy & passion. Turning 40 means to us that we will continue to have the energy and passion of our mission of being the statewide voice advocating for the elimination and prevention of violence by partnering with communities.

This year we will celebrate our birthday by highlighting communities all over Nevada with our Traveling Purple Purse, because we know that statewide efforts begin in local communities. Follow the travels of the Purple Purse here:

www.ncedsv.org/travelingpp



NEW STAFF MEMBER: NCEDSV WELCOMES MISTY STEWART



Misty Stewart is our new Program Specialist-Outreach at NCEDSV, where she provides community-based outreach and support services in rural communities throughout the state.

Misty moved to Northern Nevada in 2003 and fell in love with the supportive resources in the region. Misty decided she wanted to be part of the solution and has provided support to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse for a little over ten years. Misty also has prevention experience and background in substance abuse treatment. Misty feels her biggest strength is “meeting others where they are at.”

Apart from bringing over 10 years of experience working directly with survivors, she also brings a willingness to do whatever it takes to help NCEDSV support member programs. Misty is excited about her new position working with NCEDSV and is looking forward to supporting our community agencies.

BOARD RECRUITMENT

We strongly encourage individuals who have been active members of NCEDSV to consider board membership. NCEDSV is committed to representing all survivors of domestic and sexual violence and strives to have a broad range of representation. Please contact Executive Director Sue Meuschke at suem@ncedsv.org to obtain an application packet.

