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A LETTER FROM NCEDSV'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings all!

With October already here, we are celebrating another Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM). I wanted to take this moment to reflect on the meaning of the month and the work. DVAM was established as a time to mourn those who have died, to celebrate those that survive and to rededicate ourselves to the work to end violence. Each is an important action which in concert will move us forward and in this time of COVID-19 these actions have a renewed meaning.

Mourn those who have died... it is important to remember that too many individuals have died as a result of domestic violence - they live in rural and urban Nevada; they are young and they are old; in some cases, their partners have been charged with their murder in others their partner took their own life as well. In this time when those numbers are dwarfed by the number of individuals dying as a result of the pandemic, it may seem inconsequential. Yet we must remember and recommit ourselves to ending the 'other' epidemic.

*Celebrate those who survive...*and survival can mean many things. It may mean day- to-day survival; an existence that we don't always choose to acknowledge and rarely celebrate. Yet this is survival in its most elemental form. Our celebration can be about the strength and courage of women who survive for themselves and for their children. We can celebrate by creating strategies that end the violence.

Survival can mean leaving. This is the kind of survival we most often celebrate, believing that in the act of leaving good things will follow. Leaving takes great courage, great determination and requires a great deal of luck. We know that leaving is the most dangerous time. It can often place the individual into new and dangerous situations that may have everything or nothing to do with the abuser. We also know that leaving can be the first step toward a new life and we can celebrate this survival by ensuring that real options are available when the choice is made to leave.

Finally, survival can mean that process of healing – physically and emotionally- that moves a person from surviving to thriving. This kind of survival is often done quietly and privately. Again, we don't always acknowledge the time and energy that goes into healing from the visible and invisible wounds of domestic violence. We can celebrate this survival by supporting each person in finding their own path to healing.

*Rededicate ourselves to the work to end violence...*and to do that, we need to remind ourselves to breathe deeply and laugh often; this is hard work but full of joy as well as sadness. This year has pushed all of us to the edge. We are struggling with diminishing resources and increasing demand. Faced with requests for more documentation and accountability in the face of a shrinking workforce, both paid and volunteer, we feel overwhelmed and under-loved – the barriers feel insurmountable. And always there is that invisible virus. And then that phone call comes in...maybe from a mother who wants us to know that the bus ticket we gave her daughter saved her life. Or maybe it was the case we 'lost' but the victim wants us to know how supported they felt and that they are doing well. Or maybe it's the new program that just finished their first volunteer training and wants to thank us for all the materials and support that we provided insuring their success. As the late Congressman John Lewis reminded us in his final message to all of us working to end violence and oppression in this world, *walk with the wind, brothers and sisters, and let the spirit of peace and the power of everlasting love be your guide.*

As we celebrate Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2020 here is hoping that our mourning brings us to a brighter morning, our celebration brings us to a new beginning and our reaffirmation helps us find the wind we need to continue our journey.

Be Well,

Sue

AWARENESS



I SPEAK UP AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CAMPAIGN

October 2020

Through the month of October, the Nevada Coalition to End Domestic & Sexual Violence aims to raise awareness and advocate for the elimination of domestic violence in Nevada and worldwide.

Now is the time to break the silence and #SpeakUp for survivors of domestic violence. When we work together, we break the cycle of abuse. Learn how you can help by visiting www.ncedsv.org/dvam #ISpeakUp

WHY ENDING THE RELATIONSHIP DOESN'T END THE VIOLENCE

By Amber Batchelor

Many people believe the simplest solution to ending relationship violence is for the victim to separate from their violent partner. Advocates are routinely frustrated when people continue to ask ‘why don’t they leave?’ when talking about intimate partner violence (IPV). The question persists because the violence that takes place after a separation is rarely talked about outside of advocate and victim conversations. So much of the violence can be a continuation of what was already happening. Even then, there are some who may think that the victim should be used to it. In fact, most victims do eventually leave violent relationships. And most of the time, it’s the most complicated, uncertain, and sometimes the most dangerous solution a survivor has to consider. This is because leaving the relationship frequently doesn’t stop the violence. For IPV survivors, there is no “simple” solution.



Advocates are very familiar with what is commonly called separation violence, or separation assault. Separation violence is more inclusive of the various behaviors or actions an abusive partner will take when the victim has ended the relationship.

Because advocates are acutely aware of the likelihood of separation violence occurring, it is always addressed when creating a safety plan with a victim. It is critical for both the advocate and the survivor to understand that leaving most likely doesn’t equate to the end of violence.

Various research studies have shown that the end of the relationship can often bring an escalation of violence beyond what the victim has already endured. Leaving the relationship is a sign to their partner that the control they sought to maintain for so long is gone. To that violent partner, the victims' leaving is the ultimate betrayal. It is a common belief that this loss of power and control is frequently the catalyst for increased violence. This assumption is the result of numerous studies that consistently reflect that most female victims of homicides were killed by a current or ex-partner. In 2019, based on data collected in 2017, Nevada ranked 4th in the nation for homicides of women by men. For homicides in which the victim-to-offender relationship could be identified, 100 percent of female victims (27 out of 27) were murdered by someone they knew. Of the victims who knew their offenders, 56 percent (15 victims) were wives, common-law wives, ex-wives, or girlfriends of the offenders.

Increased physical and sexual violence are not the only dangers posed by the violent partner. It is usually after separation that stalking and harassment increase and the violent partner engages in additional crimes such as damaging or destroying property or engaging in other behaviors toward the victim in retaliation for their having left. Breaking into the victims' home (or where they're staying), physically restraining their partner when circumstances require them to be together without others, and failing to return the children after visitation are all behaviors that can either begin or intensify after the victim has left their partner. At this time, weapons may be introduced or threats with weapons may escalate.

These incidents, along with threats to withhold support, interference with the victims' employment, trying to turn the children against them, and/or threatening to kill them, their families, or commit suicide individually, are sound reasons for a survivor to return to the relationship. Combined, they are almost impossible to withstand. Whether all or any of these actions by the violent partner are coercive in hopes of reconciling or retaliation for leaving, all are contributing factors to the victims' complex experience of leaving their partner. No simple solution to try.

In addition to the lethality factors related to leaving, survivors leaving their partner are also at high risk for additional stress, financial pressures, mental health or health problems, and have additional concerns for their children's safety. All of these factors may significantly affect a survivors' adjustment to their separation and their ability to maintain that separation. Considering the current increase in IPV due to the pandemic, with the availability (or lack) of resources and increased strain on the emotions, it is easy to understand why anyone would remain with a violent partner.

Separation violence, whether physical or otherwise, clearly is not uncommon. However, survivors have taught us that leaving is a process, with steps frequently being repeated due to a variety of reasons. Leave, struggle, go back, leave, resist, go back, with the cycle sometimes continuing much to the dismay of the victim and those who care about them.

Given the barriers created by the partner, their violence, and the social elements surrounding the survivor, it's critical that separation violence is specifically acknowledged by all of the organizations providing services for survivors. It's incumbent upon advocates that our advocacy

and outreach efforts reflect this as well. But ultimately, victims and survivors are in the best place to know at any given time whether staying or leaving is the best course of action for them. Therefore, we as a community must do what's necessary to ensure that the means and the support are available when they make that difficult decision.

NOTES: *The following were accessed for information*

Separation as a Risk Factor for Victims of Intimate Partner Violence: Beyond Lethality and Injury A Response to Campbell. TK Logan Robert Walker. Journal of Interpersonal Violence, Vol. 19, No.12 December 2004 1478-1486.

The Violence Policy Center: Resource, Investigation, Analysis and Information for a Safer America;
<https://vpc.org/studies/wmmw2019.pdf>.

Practical Implications of Current Intimate Partner Violence Research for Victim Advocates and Service Providers. Author(s): Barbara J. Hart, J.D., Andrew R. Klein, Ph.D. December 2013.

Full Report of the Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey. Patricia Tjaden, Nancy Thoennes. November 2000 Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey NCJ 183781.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), Mission: To collect, analyze, publish, and disseminate information on crime, criminal offenders, victims of crime, and the operation of justice systems at all levels of government. These data are critical to federal, state, and local policymakers in combating crime and ensuring that justice is both efficient and evenhanded. The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) is a component of the Office of Justice Programs in the U.S. Department of Justice.

LEADERSHIP VOICES

For each NCEDSV newsletter, it is our pleasure to highlight a leader in the movement against domestic and sexual violence. This edition includes an interview with:



ANNETTE SCOTT, Director of Advocacy and Program Services, S.A.F.E. House

Q: Please highlight the program/services you are involved in at S.A.F.E. House.

I oversee the emergency department, education outreach, and advocacy program for S.A.F.E. House. Our shelter serves everyone except for unaccompanied youth. At S.A.F.E. House, our goal is to assist, rebuild, and find resources to help survivors. I also help support and maintain NCEDSV to make sure it continues to thrive.

Q: Where do you see the domestic violence movement going in the future years? What are future goals for this movement?

One of our goals for the future is to see the laws updated. It takes legislative action and a lot of people on board to make a change. But people are shy. The first problem is that, in our society, violence is totally acceptable, especially against women. Right now, females are oftentimes wrongly arrested and laws are written where some potentially cannot defend themselves. We need to see the pendulum swing more towards the center. Protective orders need to have a longer

period than two years and we need better guidelines for our judges to follow. I would also like to see the people that commit violence to be more educated and take responsibility so that we can stop “victim blaming”. As a movement, we have a long way to go.

Q: What are some challenges you see within the program working with female survivors and their experience?

Sometimes, I wonder if we’ve gone too far and we are too dependent on grants. In some ways, it feels like we’ve regressed, but we have a lot of good people committed to this work and we always need more allies. Some challenges we face within the program itself is the frustration with systems such as the court, police, CPS, and the like. Additionally, the systems our clients have to work through is disturbing to watch, and we can only help guide them and lay out all of their choices. We, as advocates, are given the chance to present survivors with healthy choices, but they have to ultimately make their own decisions.

Additionally, most batterers don’t have mental health issues. The majority have power and control issues due to watching or experiencing domestic violence through their upbringing. We can’t change their thinking, but there is hope for them, and that is a challenge within itself. However, batterer’s treatment is a 26-week course that actively makes a huge impact and gives abusers the opportunity to learn and come out with a different attitude.

Q: Please discuss some highlights about S.A.F.E House that the community may not be aware of.

S.A.F.E. House is a small organization founded in 1994 by a group of people who thought they could make a difference on survivors’ lives. While we only have 25 employees, our small group is better able to control the services we offer. Our team always has to be trauma-informed, because our clients have multiple layers of trauma of that we have to be respectful. Because of this, all of our programs and education outreach is built around our clients. Services are everything to us. Not necessarily the amount but the quality.

Our relationship with NCEDSV is vital because they legislate on behalf of our programs. S.A.F.E. House depends on the Coalition. I hope people understand the value of these programs.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

UPCOMING TRAININGS:

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

EVENTS

40TH ANNIVERSARY RECAP

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who planned, worked, and attended our annual conference and 40th-anniversary celebration this year! We are so grateful to be

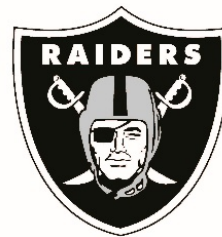
surrounded by inspiring, talented, and dedicated advocates that help us work toward a [#ViolenceFree](#) future. We will see you all next year!

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH (DVAM) EVENTS

Visit our DVAM 2020 page [here](#) for more information.

- October 1 – Paint the Town Purple, Carson City
- October 10 – [Fun Run, Lander Co Domestic Violence, Battle Mountain](#)
- October 17 – [Virtual Light After Dark Walk Run](#)
- October 21 – [Virtual Community Forum on Domestic Violence, Hosted by Domestic Violence Resource Center, Reno](#)

THANK YOU TO OUR 40TH ANNIVERSARY SPONSORS



NCEDSV PUBLIC POLICY POLICY FORUM

The NCEDSV Policy Team is launching a new series of quarterly policy forums. The forums are designed to update participants on the most recent state and federal policy updates and host a guest speaker to talk about their policy priorities.

The first policy forum was hosted on September 29th and had a guest presentation by the Everyvoice Coalition to talk about their campus victim-survivor protection bill.

To stay up-to-date on NCEDSV policy priorities, updates, and upcoming policy forums, sign up for the NCEDSV Public Policy list serve by visiting <https://www.ncedsv.org/>.

PUBLIC POLICY TASK FORCE

The Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence (NCEDSV) is still working diligently with our Public Policy Task Force to prioritize and set our agenda for the upcoming

2021 Legislative Session. The policy team will share our full agenda with policy priorities prior to the new year.

NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION BOARD OF REGENTS VOTES TO APPROVE AND ADOPT NEW TITLE IX REGULATIONS

With the risk of losing \$420 million in federal funding, the NSHE Board of Regents voted in August to adopt to implement the new Title IX rules governing the procedures and investigation of sexual assault and harassment on all Nevada NSHE campuses. While they voted to adopt the new rules, the Board also suggested and encouraged Nevada Attorney General Ford to sign onto a multi-state lawsuit challenging the new rules. The Nevada Attorney General has not yet signed onto the lawsuit but NCEDSV is following the progress closely.

An article highlighting the August 7th NSHE meeting can be viewed [here](#) and an article summarizing the August 21st NSHE meeting can be viewed [here](#).

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT TOOLKIT

The Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence (NCEDSV) has put together a toolkit to provide a comprehensive guide to voting in Nevada. NCEDSV recognizes the importance of diversity, equity and inclusion, and so wants voting and legislative information to be easily accessible for everyone in our community.

Please access and share the toolkits widely with your staff, colleagues and clients.

[CIVIC ENGAGEMENT TOOLKIT](#) - English

[HERRAMIENTAS PARA LA PARTICIPACION CIVICA](#) - Spanish

For the November 3rd Election, all registered voters in Nevada are allowed to vote by mail. Every registered voter should receive an absentee ballot through the mail. All ballots must be in the mail and postmarked by November 3rd in order to be counted. However, the United States Postal Service is encouraging all voters to mail their ballots in two weeks ahead of election day to ensure that they are counted.

FEDERAL UPDATE

ADDITIONAL FEDERAL COVID-19 RELIEF PACKAGES STALLED OVER DISPUTES

Negotiations in the Senate have been stalled over disagreements amongst leaders from both parties. In May, the House passed the HEROES Act which included another stimulus package to assist victim-survivors, service providers, and immigrants among many others. The Senate has taken no action to pass a similar relief package which has left many individuals, including domestic and sexual violence service providers struggling during these unprecedented economic times. NCEDSV, along with our national partners, is staying active in encouraging the Senate to reach agreements soon.

ADVOCATES CORNER

RURAL FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

The Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence received a \$50,000 grant from the Allstate Foundation fund to pilot the NCEDSV Rural Financial Empowerment Project (RFEP) and support the Lives Improving through Financial Empowerment (LIFE) microloan project. This project focuses on developing financial empowerment in rural communities. Research has found that women living in rural communities are some of the least financially literate.¹¹¹ For the RFEP pilot, NCEDSV is partnering with Nevada Outreach Training Organization/No To Abuse and Sierra Community House.

As part of the RFEP, NCEDSV held a “train-the-trainer” for the Allstate Moving Ahead Financial Empowerment curriculum on September 22 and 24, which was open to all NCEDSV program members. Additionally, the training reviewed how to access the LIFE microloan and the Jan Evans Direct Assistance Fund (JEDAF). Most importantly, the training provided guidance for advocates to have difficult conversations regarding finances with clients. If you missed this, please reach out to Lisa Lynn Chapman at lisalc@ncedsv.org, and she will be happy to train you! It is vital that when advocates work with clients, we are comfortable talking about money.

For those of you who don’t know, the LIFE microloan project originally started in 2016 with a grant from the Allstate Foundation. NCEDSV offers interest-free loans up to \$500 for victim-survivors who qualify. To clarify, this is a loan, and it needs to be paid back. Repayment on this loan is around \$44 dollars a month. Additionally, because it is a loan, there is a lengthy application process. However, LIFE microloans are an opportunity to improve credit as NCEDSV is a credit reporting lender. So, it is important that clients understand this before applying.

We also understand that advocates have emergencies and sometimes need financial help. It is important to us that while you are assisting victim-survivors with loans, you don’t feel financially vulnerable. This means that you are eligible for a loan as well. Feel free to reach out to Lisa Lynn Chapman, Toni Beauchamp, or Avery Contreras, and we will be happy to help facilitate the loan.

In addition to the microloans, we also offer JEDAF, which is a scholarship/grant up to \$500. The JEDAF is a last resort fund, so the advocate and victim-survivor need to know what other resources were accessed prior to applying. This does include the LIFE microloan. However, we don’t want victim-survivors to be frustrated by filling out a lengthy application and be denied. So, contact Lisa Lynn before starting the process, and we can figure out what will work best.

We are excited about this new project! We want to thank No To Abuse and Sierra Community House for partnering with us. Keep reading VOICES for more information on financial empowerment.

¹¹¹Lusardi A, Mitchell OS. *The Economic Importance of Financial Literacy: Theory and Evidence*. *J Econ Lit*. 2014;52(1):5–44. doi:10.1257/jel.52.1.5.

ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATE

NEW HIRES

Welcome Ellie Huh and Avery Contreras!

Ellie Huh – Temporary File Clerk – ppintern@ncedsv.org

Ellie has been assisting NCEDSV with closing out our fiscal year files, sending out brochure orders, and general administrative tasks. Ellie will be with NCEDSV through the Fall.

Avery Contreras – Administrative Specialist – adminreno@ncedsv.org

Avery will be focused on administering our L.I.F.E. Microloan Program by processing applications and managing the loans. She will also be assisting with general administrative work and fundraising.

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 the Executive Director, Sue Meuschke at suem@ncedsv.org to obtain an application packet.



MIND THE GAP RECRUITMENT

Mind the Gap, NCEDSV's work group seeking to improve services for LGBTQIA+ survivors, is recruiting! If you identify as a part of the LGBTQIA+ community, and are looking to make your voice heard in how to help improve services for folks in our community, please contact Administrative Specialist, Lindsay Yates at adminlv@ncedsv.org.