



**In this Issue:**

**A LETTER FROM NCEDSV’S BOARD PRESIDENT** ..... 1

**AWARENESS** ..... 2

**LEADERSHIP VOICES** ..... 4

**EDUCATION AND TRAINING** ..... 4

**NCEDSV PUBLIC POLICY** ..... 4

**ADVOCATES CORNER** ..... 6

**ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATE** ..... 7

**A LETTER FROM NCEDSV’S BOARD PRESIDENT**

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It is with personal regret but warm wishes that I announce the retirement of our Executive Director, Sue Meuschke, effective September 30, 2021. Sue's leaving marks the end of an era for the Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence (NCEDSV). Her 32-year career with NCEDSV has helped impact organizational development, legislative achievements and changes in the way that Nevada thinks and acts about domestic and sexual violence.

In informing the Board of her intent to retire, Sue talked about the growth of the Coalition: “from a one room office, above a beauty salon, behind a grocery store with 1.5 staff positions to a dual coalition with offices in Reno and Las Vegas, 10 staff and a variety of consultants reaching out to communities throughout the state.” She went on to say, “I have been privileged to work with amazing survivors and advocates throughout the state who have shown me what is important about this work. They have also taught me how to engage with individuals from diverse backgrounds and perspectives to achieve real change. I hope that I have helped to create a solid foundation from which NCEDSV can continue to lead and learn.”

We are indebted to her vision and commitment for propelling us to our present position. Her work has assured our success as we move forward. The NCEDSV Board will be releasing a job announcement in the very near future as we embark on our journey to find the next leader for our organization. We will keep you updated on our efforts and invite you to share this information widely.

Sincerely,

**Amanda Cuevas**  
NCEDSV Board President

## AWARENESS

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS DAY

#### #WearBlueDay - Human Trafficking Awareness Day - January 11, 2021



To raise awareness of human trafficking, we invite the public to take photos of themselves, friends, family, and colleagues wearing blue clothing and share them on social media – Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram – along with our #WearBlueDay hashtag. Anyone can participate, all you need is a piece of blue clothing!

### STALKING AWARENESS MONTH

*By Judy Henderson*

January is National Stalking Awareness Month, initiated by the National Center for Victims of Crime in 2004. This Month was declared through the efforts of Debbie Riddle, the sister of a survivor Peggy Klinke, whose experience with stalking ended tragically after a break-up with her boyfriend.

As service providers, we tend to focus our assessments on offender tactics identified in the traditional Power and Control Wheel. Stalking should be included in our protocols due to its high lethality risk as part of the relationship, and at the moment of leaving the relationship. In honor of Peggy, the survivor and her sister who continues promoting a stalking awareness campaign to this day, now is the time for all service providers to become more familiar with the terrifying aspects of these tactics used by offenders to maintain power and control in that relationship.



### PEGGY'S STORY

**NOTE:** The following recount of Peggy's experience was adapted from Debbie Riddle's testimony with hopes from Debbie that "no one should have to experience the pain of losing one the way we lost Peggy."



As Peggy began preparing for medical school by taking undergraduate classes in New Mexico, she met and began dating a man who was just a little too nice, a little overbearing, and wanted Peggy all to himself. This relationship lasted about three years, and then Peggy left him. On that same day, her ex-boyfriend began using stalking tactics to regain control over Peggy. To begin, he followed Peggy everywhere she went, called her cell phone constantly, and waited outside of her work and gym. When no response was received by Peggy, her ex-boyfriend intensified the stalking by posting vulgar flyers where she frequently visited, spray painting her mother's garage with "P.K. is a whore," and setting fire to her new boyfriend's house. Her ex-boyfriend's stalking behavior escalated, and Peggy was terrified by his constant harassment of herself and the people she loved. Voicing her frustration, Peggy asked the District Attorney, "Will it take a bullet to my head for you to do something about this?"

Peggy did everything she could to increase her safety and address her ex-boyfriend's stalking including obtaining a protective order. She recorded each incident when her ex-boyfriend violated the order, and she notified the authorities. She moved, got an unlisted phone number, a new cell phone, and shared her ex's photo and encouraged people to call the police if they saw him. Six days before her stalking trial was to begin, Peggy was found by a private investigator hired by her ex-boyfriend. Shortly afterward, her ex broke into her apartment and found her hiding in the bedroom. He strangled Peggy, beat her severely, and then shot her in the back of the neck. The possibility of further violence and stalking ended that day when her ex-boyfriend killed himself.

Peggy's frustration with the District Attorney, and despite all of the actions she took to increase her safety and her death, suggest her ex-boyfriend's stalking behaviors weren't identified as a crime early enough to give her the support she needed to save her life. In Nevada, a stalker is defined by NRS 200.575 as "a person who, without lawful authority, willfully or maliciously engages in a course of conduct directed towards a victim that would cause a reasonable person under similar circumstances to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated, harassed or fearful for his or her immediate safety or the immediate safety of a family or household member, and that actually causes the victim to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated, harassed or fearful for his or her immediate safety or the immediate safety of a family or household member, commits the crime of stalking."

It can be challenging for law enforcement to determine if stalking is being committed in its early stages because it may consist of actions that are not illegal at the onset. Calling someone on their cell phone is not illegal until it is documented with all the other behaviors Peggy was experiencing that caused her to "feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated, harassed, or fearful." If the victim wants to take action, there is a tool, ***Stalking Incident and Behavior Log***, that will help the survivor document all the behaviors they are experiencing. This completed tool will be invaluable as evidence is being documented. For example, not only are dates and times important, but the survivor can attach screen shots of text and email messages, acts of vandalism, and threats communicated through third parties.

If you are wondering how common stalking is, the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) states, "about 1 in 6 women and 1 in 17 men have experienced stalking in their lifetimes." The highest percentage of victims falls in the age range of 18-24 years of age. Remember, this data comes from victims who report stalking and not those who are struggling in silence. This demographics' knowledge of technology certainly increases their vulnerability to experiencing behaviors that potentially fall into the stalking category.

Since January is National Stalking Awareness Month, let's join together by sharing the following resources with survivors and the people who care about them. Work on ways to identify stalking behaviors by adding stalking as part of your protocols, view these behaviors as a crime, and as you continue to support them, also refer survivors to resources that may increase their safety.

- Victim Connect Resource Center [www.victimconnect.org](http://www.victimconnect.org); 855.4.VICTIM. This organization will refer callers to local services. This program is managed by the National Center for Victims of Crime.
- Stalking Prevention, Awareness, & Resource Center (SPARC) [www.stalkingawareness.org](http://www.stalkingawareness.org). Check out their resources to learn more about stalking, teach, share, and reflect on this issue. This organization developed the Stalking Incident and Behavior Log. In addition, they offer materials for your organization to promote National Stalking Awareness Month.
- ***Responding to Stalking: A Guide for Advocates Toolkit***. This 22-page guide will help an advocate to identify stalking behaviors, understand its impact on victims, learn how this crime intersects with other crimes beyond intimate partner violence and tips

outlining the advocate role in helping survivors. This is a “must read” for inclusion in your personal advocate toolkit.

If you are interested in a virtual presentation on this topic for your community, please contact NCEDSV at [info@ncedsv.org](mailto:info@ncedsv.org).

## LEADERSHIP VOICES

### INTERVIEW WITH ELYNNE GREENE

*Manager of Human Trafficking and Victim Services at the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department*



**Q: Please highlight the program that you are involved in with human trafficking and victim services at the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.**

I have been working in victim services since 1974. I currently manage the Victim Services and Human Trafficking sections. The victim advocates have played a significant role in hosting victim rights events, the main event being the DV Awareness Ceremony created to celebrate the lives of victims who did not survive.

I also oversee the Southern Nevada Human Trafficking Task Force. It is a collaboration of local, state, and federal law enforcement and prosecutors, medical communities, victim services providers, and legal advocates to bring together all of the different lenses that victims are impacted by from a wider view.

Our advocates are always out in the community. COVID has made things difficult this year, but is giving people opportunities to learn and understand the new ways of meeting victim needs. Our program offers safe spaces for victim-survivors with no questions asked through our Southern Nevada Family Justice Center. We go to them, sometimes with police on the scene, or we go directly to the hospitals, coffee shops, or wherever the victim is to provide help. **Q: Since next month is National Stalking Awareness Month, where do you see this movement going in the future years? Any future goals for this movement?**

Nevada laws, like many other states, have not kept up with technology and the virtual tactics used to stalk and terrorize victims. It is also one of the only crimes where victims have to do their own investigation, in a sense. Victims have to maintain logs and bring the evidence in before it can be investigated. We need to be looking at how to adapt laws to better reflect the impact of technology.

A future goal for this movement is to continue doing research and educating the community to provide resources for advocates and victim-survivors, so they can make their own choices with the tools available to them. At the Family Justice Center, we have a computer lab for victims to come in and use computers that are not connected to a server, just WiFi. This allows them to do research on anything they want, such as crimes like stalking, places to live, job opportunities and more resources for safety.

Another goal is to raise awareness about stalking, since over the years this topic seems to have gotten losing momentum with other awareness efforts. We would like to see coordinated local/statewide awareness, and with more training around spyware, privacy settings, etc. to help to address safety

planning around abuse through stalking.

**Q: What are some challenges you face working as a manager within the program?**

There are two major challenges I face; primarily I see a lack of collaboration among the many available resources for victims. Systems-based and community-based advocates should be working together, hand-in-hand, sharing ideas and connecting to reach the mutual end goal of helping victim-survivors. This partnership helps to mitigate the gaps where victims often fall through the cracks. It also helps to bridge the distrust that victims often feel directed at law enforcement and courts. This is particularly evident among undocumented immigrants who fear reporting crimes.

**Q: Please discuss some highlights about the program that your community may not be aware of?**

The most important part of our program is how we respond during the initial crisis, and work together with community partners to ensure an individualized response to victims. We are also able to help to support the emotional, physical and financial impact of crime by connecting victims with resources. We don't document personal information, and we maintain confidentiality in our interactions with victims. Because of that relationship, we can help bring things into focus, looking at situations through a wider view.

Our program pulls all strings together, while law enforcement may only be focusing on a certain crime or piece of the situation. As advocates, we are helping victims to weave a tapestry from their story to bring the big picture into focus.

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

### UPCOMING TRAININGS:

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

**Legislative Advocacy 101 Webinar, two dates provided**

- Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 9-10:30 AM [Register Here](#)
- Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 1-2:30 PM [Register Here](#)

**Economic Justice Forum**

- January 7, 2021, 2:00 PM – Economic Justice Access to Healthcare Forum: [Register Here](#)

**Quarterly Policy Forum**

- January 13, 2021, 2:00 PM –with State Innovative Exchange: [Register Here](#)

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



## NCEDSV PUBLIC POLICY

### 2021 NEVADA LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence Policy Team is working diligently on preparing for the upcoming 2021 Legislative Session. While we are still finalizing our agenda, we are following any news relating to the legislature very closely. Senate and Assembly committees have been announced. You can find in depth information about committee chairs, vice chairs and staff list here:

<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/81st2021/Committees/List>

To prepare for the upcoming 2021 Legislative Session, the NCEDSV Policy Team will be hosting two Advocacy 101 Webinars. These webinars are intended to teach you about the Nevada legislative process, hear updates about the 2021 Assembly and Senate, and discuss NCEDSV legislative priorities. This is a great opportunity for those looking to gain basic knowledge about navigating the state legislature and how to get involved with NCEDSV's legislative advocacy. Register below:

- Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 9-10:30 AM [Register Here](#)
- Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 1-2:30 PM [Register Here](#)

### FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS

The Senate Appropriations Committee finally released all 12 of the Fiscal Year 2021 funding measures at the beginning of November. Their release of the funding measures allowed the House and the Senate to enter into negotiations as the house finalized their spending bills over summer. Congress now must work to finalize an omnibus measure or enter into another continuing resolution (CR) to keep the government funded.

Currently, our national partners at the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) and the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence (NAESV) are working on two critical issues relating to VOCA. The first being the urgently needed legislative fix, which addresses the declining deposits into the VOCA fund by amending the statute to deposit penalties and fines from non-prosecution and deferred prosecution agreements into the Crime Victims Fund (CVF), which currently funds VOCA. This fix was originally included in the HEROES Act, which was passed by the House but not the Senate. The second

critical issue is advocating for the FY21 funding. The Senate appropriations level is currently only funding VOCA at \$1.5 billion, which would be a significant cut from the FY20 allocation of \$2.64 billion. This is a direct response to the declining response in the Crime Victims Funds.

Also included in the funding measures is proposed funding for VAWA, OVW, FVPSA, RPE and DELTA. The Senate Commerce, Justice and Science (CJS) bills provide for \$513.5 million for VAWA programs and OVW grants, which is \$11 million above the FY20 enacted level and increases funding for SASP, and Transitional Housing. Within this proposed funding SASP would receive a \$2 million increase. Senate Health and Human Services bill funds priority programs including FVPSA, RPE and DELTA. The house proposed bill increases FVPSA to \$185 million. The proposed Senate bill flat funded RPE at \$50.75 million and DELTA at \$5.5 million. The house funded RPE at \$58 million and DELTA at \$7.5 million. The HUD bill funds the DV bonus set-aside in the CoC at \$50 million, the house provided for \$75 million for this program.

NCEDSV will be sure to update you when negotiations are met and when we have final funding numbers.

## **NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT ENVISIONS NEW MILITARY POLICIES ON SEXUAL ASSAULTS**

On December 8<sup>th</sup> the defense authorization conference report that Congress produced contained a handful of new protections for victims of sexual assault in the military. The list of provisions includes a proposal to make it more difficult to overturn convictions in military courts. Currently military appellate courts must review lower court rulings which historically makes it more likely for cases to be overturned. Also included is a requirement that the Pentagon write 'Safe to Report' regulations which would allow individuals to report without fear of punishment for misconduct such as underage drinking or violating curfew, would require the Pentagon to include in reports information about the training personnel in awareness and checking backgrounds of recruits. Another provision also requires that service academies ensure they take the necessary steps to keep alleged victims and alleged perpetrators away from each other. What the bill is lacking though is that it does not remove the provisions of moving prosecution of sex crimes outside of the military chain of command which is a provision strongly supported by victims' advocates. The conferees killed a handful of House-passed provisions aimed at reducing the commanders' authority to handle discipline in their ranks. The bill was passed out of the House and is now waiting to be heard in the Senate.

You can read more about the FY2021 NDAA here: <https://www.rollcall.com/2020/12/08/nda-envisions-new-military-policies-on-sexual-assaults/>

## **ADVOCATES CORNER**

### **ECONOMIC SECURITY**

*By Lisa Lynn Chapman*

For many survivors, economic security may be a dream or seem out of reach. It isn't. You don't have to be wealthy to be economically secure, but you do need a plan for how to get there. As advocates, we are in a place to give the survivors we work with the necessary foundation to help them move out of their current situation and on to a place of economic security. It might be rare for your clients to all reach economic security while you are working with them, but helping them to develop long-range plans can

encourage them to both hope and to see a real way forward out of their abusive relationship. Without those, returning to their abusive partner may seem like their only recourse.

Essentially, economic security is a long-term goal that most everyone is working toward. It is being in a financial place where you can meet your living obligations, manage a crisis, and save for future goals, which may include a home, a car, or retirement.<sup>iii</sup>All too often, the financial goal we set with our clients is “income adequacy”; earning enough money monthly to meet the daily costs of living, including housing, food, utilities, clothing, and childcare.<sup>iii</sup>

But I would like to challenge us advocates to think bolder. Yes, getting our clients to have adequate income is essential. However, what if our conversation changes to: “how do you see your future and how do we help to get you there?”. Then, “income adequacy” is just a step towards a larger, maybe more encompassing or desirable future and not just their end goal.

So, how do we have a conversation about economic security with someone who may, for the most part, be totally starting over? We begin by introducing financial goals when we first access our clients; when they start services, whether in shelter or as community-based clients. First and foremost, we need to understand what they want and what they determine they need, beyond merely getting away from the violence they’ve been experiencing. Apart from that, why are they sitting in front of us and where do they possibly ultimately want to go? If their answer is self-sufficiency, we work with them to develop the plan and skills.

The first step, because of need, is helping survivors achieve income adequacy; making sure our clients can meet their daily living costs, including housing, food, transportation, child care, and clothing. So what is or will be their daily costs of living? It is essential we be able to access information regarding the cost of living in our community. [www.huduser.gov](http://www.huduser.gov) is an excellent resource that gives the fair market rent in our county. We should also look at childcare costs and the cost of various forms of transportation (buses, taxis, ride-share, cars, car insurance, etc.). Having this information readily available will help our clients be able to figure out what they’ll need to be on their own or what their income goal should be.

All too often, we jump directly to finding income sources, employment, TANF, SNAP, etc. After that critical need is acknowledged, the next step should be to discuss what will get the client to their financial goal. Once there is an idea of where a client wants to be financially, we can help them to start making a plan. The plan should include a series of smaller goals leading to their next larger goal.

As a next step we want to explore with the survivor their educational and employment history. What is their knowledge, and what are their skills and abilities? Even without a strong work history, they have developed skills in their life. Helping someone develop a **skills-based resume** can be useful to identify their different abilities. Do their education and training lead to the income needed? Is job training an option? Going back to school? Do they want to change or begin new careers? Do they have a particular skill that they can use to make money? Once we know where someone wants to go and their inherent and unique resources, we can help them to start making their plan. A plan that is achievable, with clearly set steps to move forward.

Depending on that survivor’s starting place, now may be when we can start talking about employment or applying for public assistance as a temporary means to make ends meet. This should be the first goal. Then, what job can they get? After someone gets to their point of income adequacy, a deeper discussion around financial literacy is essential.<sup>iiii</sup>However, this can begin with us. And it can continue by making sure that we’ve helped to connect survivors with real sources of support for the next steps toward their financial goals.

After offering paths to safety, advocates should help survivors understand financial matters and to gain the knowledge to make well-informed decisions about personal finance issues. These are what can eventually prevent survivors from remaining in, or returning to, violent relationships, as it puts them squarely on the path of economic self-sufficiency to meet their basic needs.

It also means personal freedom and a form of self-care that opens the door to new ways of living. Getting to economic security will take time, sometimes years. But with informed advocates and good financial habits, survivors can get there.

<sup>iii</sup> *Getting Started: A Handbook to Address Economic Security for Survivors, Wider Opportunities for Women*, [www.wowonline.org](http://www.wowonline.org)

<sup>iiii</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>v</sup> *NCEDSV provides training and resources on financial literacy. Additionally, for online modules see the National Network to End Domestic Violence at [www.nnedv.org](http://www.nnedv.org)*

## ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATE

NCEDSV welcomes Elizabeth Flory and Holly Reese to the Board.

## 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\*\*](mailto:suem@ncedsv.org) to obtain an application packet.