



**VOICES**

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**A LETTER FROM NCEDSV'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Friends, colleagues, and supporters,

I would like to start our Summer Newsletter by expressing my gratitude to each of you. It is only because of you that we are able to do our work. As you will see throughout this newsletter, there is much to celebrate here at the Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence (NCEDSV). From policy wins, including the reauthorization of VAWA and expanded compensation opportunities for sexual assault victims, to some exciting and enthusiastic plenary speakers for our upcoming annual conference. We have entitled the conference Prosperity in Partnership: Community Growth, Engagement, and Healing. We have also adapted some of our most popular trainings to expand them into a series for different audiences. Plus, we have added new staff and a new board member, too!

While we revel in all of this excitement, we are also painfully aware of the severe policies being enacted across the country, which harm victim-survivors daily. We are devastated and frustrated by the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade. Our staff is working with NCEDSV program members throughout the state to ensure they know of local resources to assist individuals and victim-survivors seeking abortion care in Nevada. Please see our contribution by Serena Evans for more on that.

In April, we celebrated a longtime friend and colleague, Traci Trenoweth, as she accepted her Visionary Voice Award! For two decades, Traci has grown within and helped grow

programs at her agency, Advocates to End Domestic Violence (AEDV). First working as a Child Care Coordinator just 10 hours a week, she now runs the Sexual Assault Response Advocates (SARA) Program full-time. Traci has been with AEDV for 20 years and masterfully runs her program which includes: facilitating staff and volunteer trainings, working with teens in the prevention program, coordinating one of their largest fundraisers, being back-up for her teams, and working with victim-survivors in addition to community members. Another thing about Traci that really stands out is that her retention rate among staff is nearly unheard of; staff stays an average of 12 years at her agency! Clearly, Traci has a devotion that she harnesses to inspire others. Thank you, Traci, for making Nevada a better place for victim-survivors.



As you enjoy our newsletter, please know that your time spent is greatly appreciated.

With gratitude,

*Amanda Bullard*

**Interim Executive Director**

## **AWARENESS**

### **JULY**

- **National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month** was launched to elevate society's collective consciousness about the unique challenges faced by those in often marginalized communities, racial and ethnic minorities. It is a chance to create safe spaces to talk about mental health needs, available interventions, and local resources, plus much more!
- **July 7 - [Dancing in the Streets Midtown District – Motown in Midtown Stage](#):** Beautiful Nails is hosting this 3rd annual event to benefit NCEDSV. The free event begins at 4 pm at the South Virginia Plaza, located at the southwest corner of Virginia Street and Mt. Rose Street in Midtown, Reno. The celebration includes free ice cream from CONVO Church, Henna, specials from local businesses, art, prizes of all types, and live music from Tha Exchange.
- **July 26 - Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Awareness Day:** This bill turns 32 this year! This amazing civil rights bill helped to ensure discrimination against those with a disability was no longer tolerated and had immensely positive impacts on all those who were (or would be) living with a disability, not to mention all those who love and care for them. However, more work needs to be done. The pandemic highlighted just how

limiting protections can actually be for some people with disabilities. According to the U.S. Department for Health and Human Services, those living in institutions were much more likely to become infected and/or die from Covid-19. Others living at home may have been more vulnerable due to decreased immune system responses and they may have suffered more from isolation.

## AUGUST

- **August 9 - International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples:** According to the United Nations, “Indigenous peoples have sought recognition of their identities, their way of life and their right to traditional lands, territories and natural resources for years. Yet, throughout history, their rights have been violated. Indigenous peoples today, are arguably among the most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups of people in the world. The international community now recognizes that special measures are required to protect their rights and maintain their distinct cultures and way of life. In order to raise awareness of the needs of these population groups, every 9 August commemorates the International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples, chosen in recognition of the first meeting of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations held in Geneva in 1982.”
- **August 26 - Women’s Equality Day:** This day celebrates women activists and all of their many achievements, even the right to vote has not always been guaranteed to women. Looking back in the United States, it is a cruel reminder of the oppression and brutality that White women participated in, in securing their own right to vote, with the assistance of Black women activists, while these very colleagues did not secure that right until 50 years later. As we look forward to Women’s Equality Day in 2022, let’s continue to educate ourselves about the amazing and unforgettable contributions of women from all racial and ethnic groups.

## SEPTEMBER

- **September 4 - 10 - National Suicide Prevention Week**
- **September 10 - World Suicide Prevention Day:** Survivors of sexual assault are 10 times more likely to attempt suicide than those who haven’t experienced sexual assault. For more resources visit the National Alliance on Mental Illness [HERE](#).

## LEADERSHIP VOICES

### INTERVIEW WITH CHANCE RUSH

Hidatsa of Three Affiliated Tribes, of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation

Founder of [Tribal Unite](#)

**Q: What is your keynote topic, and why is it relevant to our conference theme, Prosperity in Partnership: Community Healing, Engagement, and Growth?**

The title of my Keynote is **“Most Will Judge Your Efforts and A Few Will Support and Witness Your Endeavors.”** The purpose behind this keynote is to not just have expectations when it comes to leadership but also to encourage others and their efforts.

**Q: What does it mean to have Prosperity in Partnerships?**

When I think of prosperity and partnerships, I think of providing Frontline service. It is a privilege to be on the front line and serving others. We are all privilege to make an impacted the lives of other people.



## LEADERSHIP VOICES

### INTERVIEW WITH MEGHNA BHAT

Independent Gender & Social Justice Consultant, Feminist Scholar, Educator

**Q: Please introduce yourself and take a moment to describe your organization and its vision.**

My name is Meghna Bhat (she/her/hers) and I am an independent gender and social justice consultant, feminist scholar, trained storyteller and educator based in California. I have 18 years of work experience in diverse settings, including sexual violence prevention and intervention, equity and justice, and culture change work. In addition to being a published writer and feminist scholar in academia, I found my calling in storytelling five years ago and it has been a fun, beautiful, vulnerable and validating learning process.

I envision creating and sustaining deep and long-term social, culture and narrative change in our communities and workplaces about social issues such as mental health, immigrant justice, sexual and domestic violence, street harassment, and social injustice. As a first generation South Asian immigrant, woman of color affected by gender violence, I strongly believe that by addressing these problems at its roots, we can collectively shift our culture to create accessible and culturally responsive communities and public spaces free from harassment, oppression, and violence.



**Q: What is your keynote topic, and why is it relevant to our conference theme, Prosperity in Partnership: Community Healing, Engagement, and Growth?**

My keynote titled ***Reclaiming Our Public Spaces: The Power of Storytelling in Culture Change and Ending Street and Sexual Harassment in Our Communities***, will highlight the cultural and social significance of using storytelling to address street and sexual harassment in public spaces, and its harmful consequences on the collective well-being of a community. We may often find the voices and stories of those affected by catcalling, sexism, street and sexual harassment missing and silenced in our mainstream narratives. This is where storytelling can play an instrumental role as an innovative, accessible, culturally responsive, and an inclusive tool to create awareness among our diverse communities.

As a South Asian immigrant woman who has found storytelling to be cathartic and empowering in my own healing process, I will share my journey and lived experiences, then discuss the types and process of storytelling, and explore how we can use storytelling in our communities through an anti-oppression lens. The power of storytelling can be best witnessed in fostering and sustaining community healing through community engagement and partnerships with allies and stakeholders.

***Q: What does it mean to have Prosperity in Partnerships?***

As we know in our work as advocates, leaders, prevention education, therapists, and survivors, collective change and healing especially within our marginalized communities is not linear and does not happen in a vacuum. Hence it would be the most impactful if our sister agencies, partner organizations, allies, and leaders can provide their time, active listening, solidarity, compassion and support of any form, to help shift our cultures.

Street and sexual harassment happens everywhere, in rural to urban spaces, in developing to developed countries, across all demographics and neighborhoods. Our social justice movement must pay attention to these true personal stories shared by those affected by these forms of sexual violence, and identify how can we as a community prevent and end this cycle. In order for our community partnerships to prosper, evolve, grow, sustain, and be timely, it is necessary we use an anti-oppression lens to shed light on the gendered and oppressive experiences on streets and in public spaces through storytelling.

## **LEADERSHIP VOICES**

### **INTERVIEW WITH SHIRLEY PACELEY**

*Independent Consultant, Sexual Violence & People With Disabilities Intersection*

***Q: Please introduce yourself and take a moment to describe your organization and its vision.***

My name is Shirley Paceley, I am an independent consultant working at the intersection of sexual violence and people with disabilities. I am an international trainer, consultant, counselor, author, team facilitator, advocate, and visionary. I recently authored SHINING A LIGHT: Creating Pathways to Equity, Safety, Healing, and Justice With People with Disabilities, based on my 48 years of learning from and with people with disabilities. My experiences have taught me that we



each have a unique light to shine and that when we gather together, we can change systems, heal lives and transform the future.

***Q: What is your keynote topic, and why is it relevant to our conference theme, Prosperity in Partnership: Community Healing, Engagement and Growth?***

My keynote topic is ***“Shining a Light: Supporting Survivors with Disabilities.”*** Strategies for creating respectful partnerships and pathways to healing are at the heart of this keynote. Framed in stories of ableism as well as stories of hope and resilience, this session provides concrete tools for legal and medical advocates, educators, and counselors to support engagement and develop partnership with people with disabilities. Additional resources will also be shared for continued learning and collaborative community healing. The desired outcome is that people with disabilities in Nevada will know about your services and will know that your services are available and accessible to them and that they are welcome, if they choose, to access sexual assault services within their own communities.

***Q: What does it mean to have Prosperity in Partnerships?***

Prosperity in Partnerships means that when we come together with a common purpose, we become rich in growing together, grieving together, healing together, and together moving systems to be more responsive to all survivors of sexual violence. As sexual assault centers actively engage in partnership with people with disabilities and those who support them, the community of people with disabilities will experience affirming environments and community healing. We have discovered that when we create greater access to victim services for people with disabilities, all survivors benefit. Each step taken toward more inclusive support broadens the doorway to all people as it grows wide enough to support everyone who chooses to enter. This makes for a ripple effect of prosperity that includes ALL... now that is some pretty effective prosperity!

## **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

### **UPCOMING TRAININGS**

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

### **PAST TRAININGS**

Visit our training and events [webpage](#) to view recorded trainings.

## EVENTS



## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



## NCEDSV PUBLIC POLICY

### FEDERAL POLICY UPDATE

#### **SCOTUS Overturns Roe v. Wade**

On June 24, what many feared would happen became a reality when the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) struck down Roe v. Wade, thereby removing federal protections regarding the right to privacy to receive an abortion. The overturning of Roe v. Wade now gives state lawmakers the ability to severely limit or ban abortion. It is estimated that without federal protections for abortion, 26 states will likely move quickly to ban or harshly restrict access.<sup>1</sup> Before the final ruling, 13 states passed trigger laws on abortion that would go into effect automatically or with swift action following the overturning of Roe.<sup>2</sup>

Since the devastating ruling late last month, more than 10 states now ban or severely limit abortion, and at least 10 others have laws in place but not yet in effect to do the same (as of June 29).<sup>3</sup>

Nevada is fortunate to have abortion rights protected through our state constitution up to 24 weeks. We anticipate that as abortion bans expand further across the country, Nevada will be a hub for those seeking safe and legal procedures. We are working with our program members throughout Nevada to ensure they know of local resources to assist individuals and victim-survivors seeking abortion care in state.

NCEDSV is saddened, frightened, and alarmed by SCOTUS' ruling to overturn Roe v. Wade and the increasing abortion bans across the country. Still, we stay committed to advocating for the right to choose for all individuals. Limiting an individual's access to choice is not victim-centered and is opposite of the foundations of the anti-violence movement. NCEDSV is prepared to stand in opposition to injustices that threaten an individual's bodily autonomy.

You can read NCEDSV's initial response to the SCOTUS ruling [HERE](#).

### ***New Title IX Regulations Proposed by the Department of Education***

On June 23rd, celebrating the 50th anniversary of Title IX, the Department of Education (DOE) released newly proposed rules to govern schools' responses to sexual violence, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, and dating violence. The proposed regulations would undo the harmful rules put into place in 2020 by the previous Administration. The 2020 guidance undermined many of Title IX's historic guarantees by:

1. Encouraging schools to ignore reports of sexual harassment;
2. Holding sexual violence complaints to higher and more burdensome standards;
3. Discouraging students from reporting instances of sexual misconduct and limiting access to resources and supports.

The new guidance works to restore Title IX's purpose, strengthening protections for student victim-survivors and increasing students' access to resources.

While there is much to digest in the June 2022 Proposed Title IX Rule, some of the key highlights include:

- Schools are no longer required to dismiss Title IX complaints that do not meet extremely severe, widespread, or harmful definitions;
- Schools are no longer required to dismiss Title IX sexual harassment complaints based on where the incident of harassment/assault occurred;
- Ensures that victim-survivors are not forced into a potentially traumatic grievance or investigation procedures that favors the alleged harasser;



- Ensures students have access to the resources they need to feel safe and supported at school;
- Guarantees respect for students' constitutional equality and due process rights by ensuring fairness in school investigations and hearings for sex-based complaints;
- Ensures discrimination against LGBTQIA+ students is against the law and will not be tolerated or ignored;
- Provides greater support for pregnant and parenting students to complete their education.

The DOE will now solicit public comments for 60 days to receive input on the proposed rule. NCEDSV and our program members plan to submit public comments supporting the newly proposed regulations. Additionally, NCEDSV intends to work with our national partners to encourage the Biden Administration and DOE to adopt these rules as quickly as possible. We know that the 2020 rules are actively harming victim-survivors and students, and we must take swift action to implement the aforementioned regulations to increase the safety and success of our students.

For more information on the new Title IX rules, please visit the resources below:

National Women's Law Center: Topline Messaging on the June 2022 Proposed Title IX Rule ([Talking Points: Title IX NPRM \(google.com\)](#))

United States Department of Education: FACT SHEET: U.S. Department of Education's 2022 Proposed Amendments to its Title IX Regulations. [FACT SHEET: U.S. Department of Education's 2022 Proposed Amendments to its Title IX Regulations](#)

United States Department of Education: Full Rule: Federal Register Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 ([Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 \(PDF\)](#))

### **President Biden Signs Gun Safety Bill**

On June 25, President Biden signed into law the bipartisan Safer Communities Act, which passes some common-sense gun safety measures. This bill is the first time in 30 years that Congress has taken action on gun safety.

The Safer Communities Act will expand background checks for prospective gun buyers between 18- 21 years old, incentivizing states to provide access to previously sealed juvenile records, which could add several days to a waiting period before purchasing a firearm. States are also being incentivized to pass red flag laws. However, Nevada [passed red flag gun legislation](#) in the 2019 Legislative Session. The Safer Communities Act will also expand funding programs for mental health programs, money for school safety and training, telehealth and community-based mental health programs.

The bill also includes a long awaited win for domestic violence victim-survivors and advocates by partially closing the federal “boyfriend loophole.” The law as it was restricted firearm access for current or former spouses, current and former cohabitants, and people who share a child in common who have been convicted of domestic violence or have extended/final domestic violence protection orders filed against them. This definition, however, long excluded dating partners. Advocates have tried to close this loophole for years and recently tried to include this language in the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (VAWA) of 2022, but the measure was a hotly debated sticking point and ultimately failed.

The Safer Communities Act at long last includes and recognizes the definition of a dating relationship to include “individuals who have or have recently had a continuing serious relationship of a romantic or intimate nature.”<sup>1</sup> While this is a step in the right direction, it does fall short. This bill will only close the boyfriend loophole for dating partners *convicted* of dating violence and excludes restricting firearms for dating partners with a domestic violence protection order *issued* against them. In other words, without a conviction, the loophole remains in effect.

Nevada consistently ranks in the top 10 states for women murdered by men per capita. In 2019, Nevada ranked third in the nation with 35 murdered females. Of those who lost their lives, 94% were murdered by someone they knew, 55% being a dating partner. Additionally, of those who were murdered by their current or previous dating partner, 78% were killed by a firearm.<sup>2</sup> NCEDSV is especially proud of Congress for passing this important legislation because of the severity of gun violence by a dating partner in Nevada. The more guns that we can remove from abusers, the safer victim-survivors are across the state. Nevertheless, NCEDSV recognizes that this must be the first step and we are committed to advocating for further gun safety measures and closing the boyfriend loophole entirely.

## STATE POLICY UPDATE

### Advocacy Days Meetings with Nevada Congressional Delegation

Every year, the NCEDSV Policy Team participates in Advocacy Days hosted by our national partners, the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV). As part of Advocacy Days, we attend a one-day policy forum with Coalitions across the country to learn about emerging policies and urgent priorities.

This year's priorities included the urgent need for the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) Reauthorization in the Senate and advocating for increased Fiscal

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<sup>1</sup> Nash, Elizabeth. June 2022. The Guttmacher Institute. 13 States Have Abortion Trigger Bans – Here’s What Happens When Roe is Overturned. Retrieved from [here](#).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> Sullivan Becky. June 2022. NPR. Here’s where abortions are now banned or strictly limited, and where they may be soon. Retrieve from [here](#).

Year 23 funding for essential programs such as the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and FVPSA.

Using these policy priorities to develop meeting agendas, NCEDSV then meets with our entire Congressional Delegation to discuss the impacts in Nevada and share stories about the changing needs of our programs and victim-survivors. As the event was COVID conscious, we conducted our meetings with Nevada Senators and Representatives virtually, allowing us to invite two program members from Nevada to participate and meet directly with our delegation.



This year, NCEDSV was joined by Traci Trenoweth, Sexual Assault Response Advocates (SARA) and Volunteer Coordinator for Advocates to End Domestic Violence in Carson City, and Kathie McKenna, Executive Director of Nevada Outreach Training Organization – No to Abuse in Pahrump. While advocating for increased funding levels for essential programs like VOCA, VAWA, and FVPSA, McKenna and Trenoweth were able to talk about how these funding programs directly impact client services in Nevada and their growing needs as an organization.

McKenna shared, "This was my first experience in Advocacy Days, and I was ecstatic to see the overwhelming support from our Senators and Representatives. All were resoundingly supportive of our efforts and in their support of budget enhancements. I was glad I participated."

Highlighting the work of two local programs, we were able to show our Senators and Representatives just how essential these federal funding programs are and the direct impact they play on the capacity of our service providers. NCEDSV appreciates Nevada's Representatives and Senator's continued support of victim-survivors and service providers.

## ADVOCATES CORNER

### TOPICAL TRAININGS ANALYSIS

*By Judy Henderson, NCEDSV Training Coordinator*

As I look back over my 15 plus years serving NCEDSV as its training coordinator, I wanted to reflect on a basic training that has grown in popularity over the past 10 years. This basic training addresses adolescent relationship abuse and is titled, "Hanging Out or Hooking Up (HOHU)." Because of national organizations research (Futures Without Violence,) this

presentation has adopted an empowerment model that illustrates using trauma-informed and evidence-based materials that surround the victim-survivor with confidential support, universal education, and appropriate referrals and resources available in their own community.

As a former public high school teacher and administrator of a peer counseling program, developing a presentation that would be adaptable to several audiences including adolescents has now become a reality. Hanging Out or Hooking Up is now a series of presentations offering up-to-date statistics on this serious issue, definitions, warning signs, risk and protective factors, as well as strategies for intervention that prioritize safety and promote healing, and information relevant to the audience that is taking the workshop.



Here is a list of specific topical trainings that are now a part of the Hanging Out or Hooking Up series: A Basic Overview of Teen Dating Violence suited for the general public; HOHU: Next Steps for Prevention with a focus on teachers, school administrators who wish to examine new options for preventing violence in their student population and need resources; HOHU: A Public Health Priority for healthcare professionals; HOHU: In Their Shoes which is a highly interactive session; HOHU for parents & adolescents from their perspective; Opening the Door: Believe Our Truth which supports young adult survivors with developmental disabilities, their parents, support people and guardians. View our NCEDSV training calendar [here](#).

In summary, NCEDSV seriously listens to our participants who guide us in our offerings and training formats. As one participant comments, “These materials you shared are so relevant and specific to what I am doing. I am now using several of the handouts with my clients.”

Please join us now for any of our training options: online ‘work at your own pace’ modules, ‘live’ webinars, and in-person training coming back soon. Check out our virtual conference, Prosperity in Partnership: Community Growth, Engagement, Healing, coming this September 13-15, [register here!](#)

## ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATE

### STAFF UPDATES

NCEDSV welcomes **Dru Garcia** as our Administrative Coordinator

NCEDSV welcomes back **Misty Stewart** as our Administrative Coordinator

NCEDSV welcomes **Natalie Pacheco** as our Outreach Coordinator

### NEW BOARD MEMBERS

NCEDSV welcomes **Jason Pepper** to the Board

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