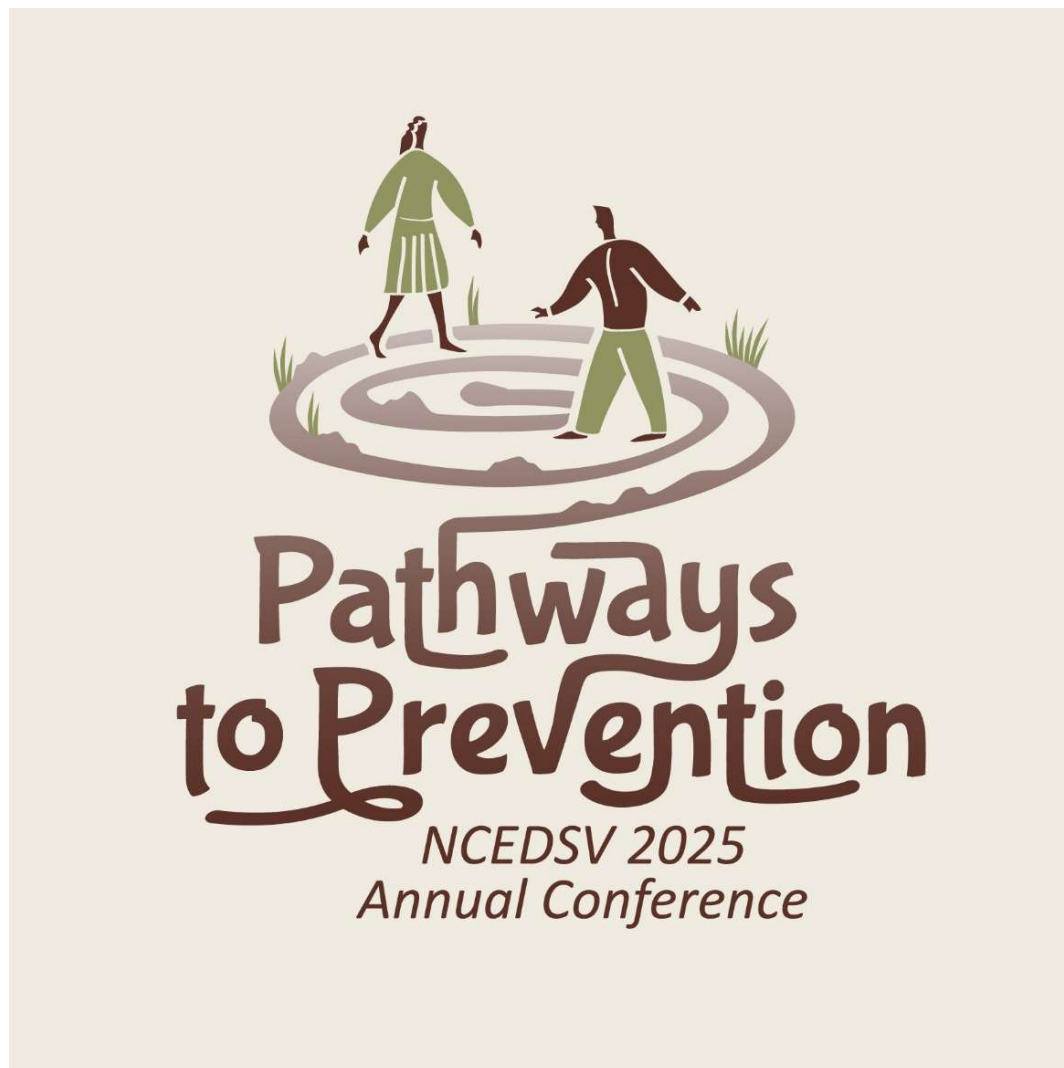




NCEDSV

Nevada Coalition to **END** Domestic and Sexual Violence

Presents:



September 9-11, 2025

Atlantis Resort and Casino
3800 S Virginia St. Reno, NV 89502

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Thank you to our conference sponsors!



ANNUAL CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

To eventually see an end to power-based violence, prevention is key. As advocates, day-to-day work is often focused on intervention. While this is a crucial piece to ending power-based violence, we do not often get a chance to reflect on how we can prevent this type of violence in the first place. This year's conference will focus on how we can work with communities to implement preventative practices, and how we can work with survivors to put an end to the cycle.

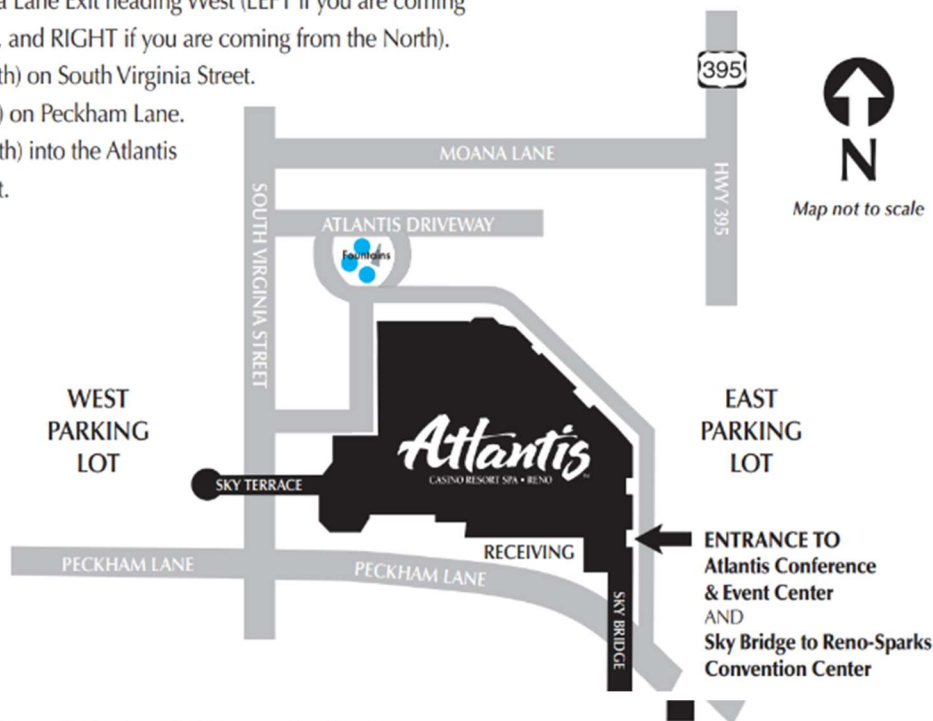
The conference takes place over a three-day period where you will have the opportunity to attend three plenary sessions and breakout workshops. Continuing Education Units are available for this conference.

Venue Information

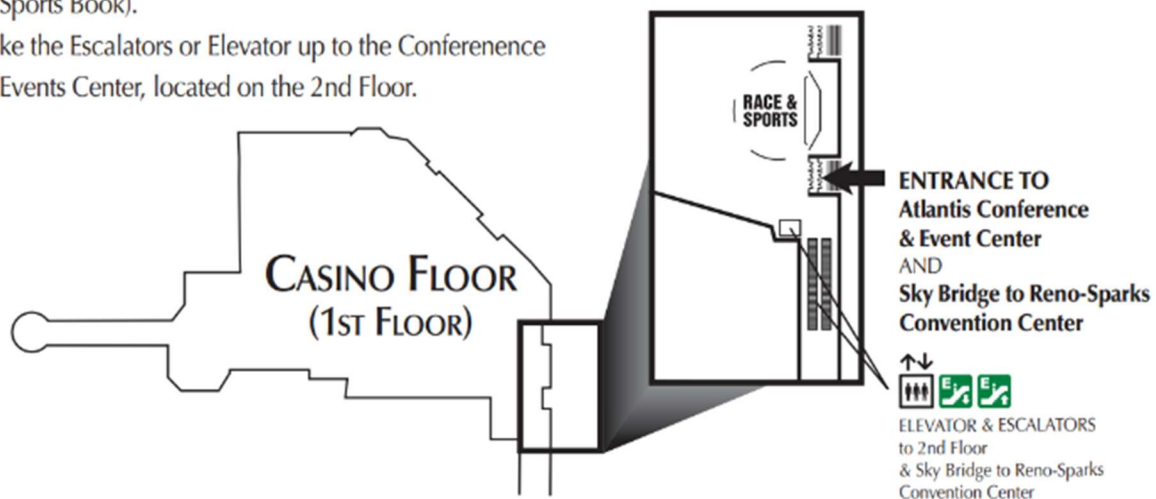
FROM HIGHWAY 395

1. Take the Moana Lane Exit heading West (LEFT if you are coming from the South, and RIGHT if you are coming from the North).
2. Turn LEFT (South) on South Virginia Street.
2. Turn LEFT (East) on Peckham Lane.
3. Turn LEFT (North) into the Atlantis East Parking Lot.

Conference & Events Center (2nd floor) map on back



4. Enter Atlantis through the South Entrance (by the Race & Sports Book).
5. Take the Escalators or Elevator up to the Conference & Events Center, located on the 2nd Floor.



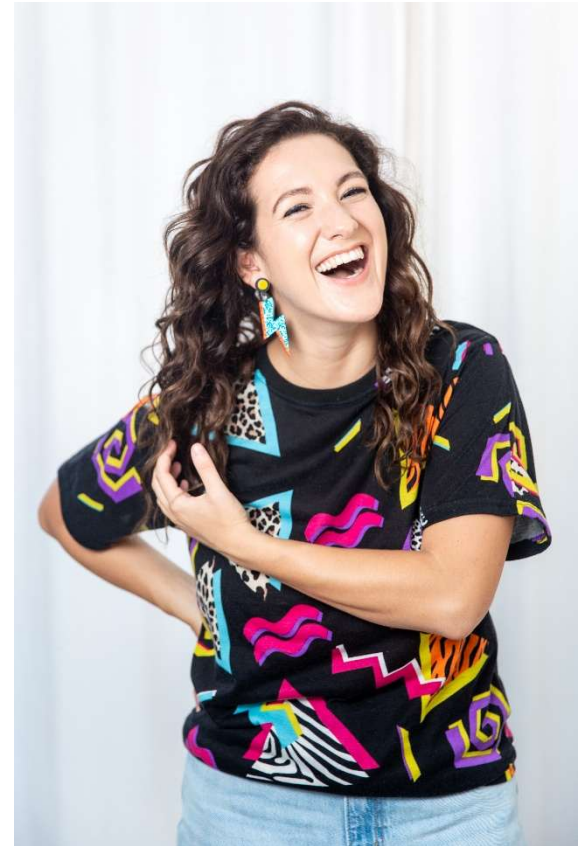
Food and Drink:

- Atlantis Steakhouse
- Bistro Napa
- Toucan Charlie's Gourmet Buffet and Grille
- Oyster & Sushi Bar
- Red Bloom
- Manhattan Deli
- Purple Parrot
- Chicago Dogs! Eatery
- Java, Etc.
- Gourmet Grind
- Atlantis Steakhouse Lounge
- Bistro Napa Lounge
- Atrium Lounge
- Sports Bar & Lounge



DAY 1 PLENARY – MARLEE LISS

Marlee Liss (she/her) is a somatic educator, author, and sparkle-loving lesbian Jewish feminist. She made history in the justice system when her sexual assault case became the 1st in North America to conclude with restorative justice through the courts. Since then, she has supported thousands in learning trauma-informed pleasure and inclusive consent education. Marlee's work has been featured in Forbes, Huff Post, BuzzFeed, the Mel Robbins Show and more. As an award-winning speaker, she's delivered talks for: National Sexual Assault Conference, Vanderbilt University, University of Toronto, Trauma & Recovery Conference, Women's Mental Health Conference at Yale and more. Marlee was 1 of 25 survivors on an elite panel for the National Action Plan to End Gender Based Violence informing federal policy and her story is currently being made into a documentary directed by Kelsey Darragh. Represented by Cooke McDermid Literary Agency, Marlee's book on re-imagining justice for sexual violence will be released in Fall of 2026 with Penguin Random House. Follow @marleeliss on social media for more.



DAY 1: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

11:00AM-12:00PM	Registration	Level 2
12:00PM-12:15PM	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Paradise AB
12:15PM-1:45PM	Plenary	Paradise AB
2:00PM-3:30PM	Breakout Sessions	See Below
4:00PM-5:30PM	Annual Member Meeting	Paradise AB

Breakout Sessions

2:00PM-3:30PM

Pamela Payne, Elizabeth Ornelas, & Micah Stoor	Healing Together: Integrating Domestic Violence Advocacy into Recovery Programs	Paradise C
Debbie Harpster	Teaching Body Safety for Parents of Young Children	Emerald AB
Carrie Eutizi	Harm Reduction and Sexual Violence	Emerald CD
Samantha Hinchey	Healing Together: Strategies for Building Pet- Inclusive Services for Survivors and Their Pets	Treasures AB

DAY 2 PLENARY – RICHARD SMITH

Richard D. Smith (he/him) is a nationally recognized healing strategist, author, and practitioner with over two decades of experience advancing racial equity, trauma-informed care, and survivor-centered systems change. He is the Co-Founder and CEO of Aligned Global LLC, a social impact firm led by directly impacted individuals that supports leaders and organizations in building healing-centered, culturally grounded, and equity-driven practices across the country.

Richard brings a powerful combination of lived experience, academic training, and national leadership to his work. He is currently completing his doctoral degree in Social Welfare at the University at Albany, SUNY, where he also earned his M.A. in Africana Studies. He served as the National Director of United for Healing Equity at Common Justice and co-developed the Community’s Scale for Healing Possibilities—the first validated healing measure created by and for survivors of color.

He is a 2024 Canary Impact Fund awardee, a recipient of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Forward Promise Fellowship for Leaders, and a JustLeadershipUSA Leading with Conviction Fellow—recognitions that reflect his long-standing commitment to transforming systems and centering healing in movement spaces.

Richard is also the lead author of “The Restorative Integral Support (RIS) Model: Community-Based Integration of Trauma-Informed Approaches to Advance Equity and Resilience for Boys and Men of Color” published in *Behavioral Sciences* (2023). His work integrates trauma theory, racial justice, and cultural healing into accessible tools for practitioners, policymakers, and communities.

In 2023, he hosted the inaugural season of the Just Healing Podcast, a MenHealing project that centers the voices of Black and Latinx male survivors of sexual harm. The podcast amplifies healing narratives while addressing the intersectional impact of systems of oppression on male survivors.

Richard continues to train, consult, and collaborate nationally to build transformative practices that honor the dignity, agency, and healing of all survivors—particularly those most often left out of traditional systems of care.



DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2025

8:00AM – 9:00AM	Registration	Level 2
9:00AM-10:30AM	Plenary	Paradise AB
10:50AM-12:20PM	Breakout Sessions	See Below
12:20PM-2:30PM	Lunch – On Your Own	On Your Own
2:30PM-4:00PM	Breakout Sessions	See Below
4:00PM-6:00PM	Networking Event	Paradise AB

Breakout Sessions

10:50 AM – 12:20 PM

Jill Baker-Tingey	Heart & Hope: Preventing Domestic and Sexual Violence in the Next Generation	Paradise C
Suzanne Kramer-Brenna	Abuse, Violence, and Bulimia: The Complicated Common Thread of Complex Trauma	Emerald AB
Meghna Bhat	Reclaiming Our Bodies, Reclaiming Our Voice: Art, Prevention, and Reproductive Health	Emerald CD
Kim Pentico	Moving Ahead: Train the Trainer Part 1	Treasures AB

12:20 PM – 2:30 PM Lunch Break – On Your Own

Breakout Sessions

2:30 PM – 4:00 PM

Jill Baker-Tingey, Levanna Layton, & Deana Utt	Leading a Team to Prevent Intimate Partner Violence Fatalities	Paradise C
LaWanda Harris	The Tentacles of Trauma: A Survivor's Perspective for Professionals	Emerald AB
Michelle Saldivar	Training of Trainers: Choose Your Partner and Caregiver Carefully	Emerald CD
Kim Pentico	Moving Ahead: Train the Trainer Part 2	Treasures AB

DAY 3 PLENARY – VARSHA N.

Varsha serves as an international speaker/consultant and is founder of ROAR TC® (Training & Consulting), LLC and is a Mayo Clinic trained Wellness Coach. She passionately addresses a wide variety of topics including healing modalities, stress relief, bias, diversity, cross-cultural communication, resiliency, bystander intervention, domestic violence, and sexual assault and has worked with diverse immigrant, cultural populations, and interfaith communities. The mission of ROAR TC® is to engage professionals and community members to reflect and respond. When addressing complex social issues, such as sexual assault, bullying, diversity/inclusion, trauma informed care, barriers in communication and relationships we strive to successfully follow the prescribed steps outlined by ROAR T&C - Recognize, Observe, Analyze, and Respond®.



In addition to delivering trainings and wellness workshops nationally, she also facilitates sessions around the world, including in Rwanda, Greece, Italy, Australia, and Spain, to diverse professional groups including legal and medical professionals, among others. Recently, she provided trainings on domestic violence and sexual assault to groups of Judges in New Delhi Courts in India. Varsha has also received additional training through Harvard Medical School's Program in Global Refugee Trauma focusing on global mental health issues affecting refugees worldwide. Her work experiences include working with diverse populations from Somalia, India, Iraq, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Nepal, Russia, and many more. She has also assisted with guardian ad litem and political asylum cases.

She is highly experienced in working with survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence in a variety of settings and has both provided and directed the training of advocates and staff in the skills and knowledge necessary to support survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence. Varsha has developed programs to broaden services provided by rape crisis centers, to improve protocols for advocates and to address unique challenges.

Varsha received her BA from Columbia University in New York and later received her JD. She has also received additional training and enhanced her skills around wellness and stress reduction through the Mayo Clinic and the Yale School of Medicine's Stress Center. As a Mayo Clinic trained Wellness Coach, she addresses a variety of issues including stress reduction, communication, health, and wellness goals. Her diverse experience includes serving on national and local nonprofit boards and committees dedicated to addressing issues related to diversity, elder abuse, sexual assault, and domestic violence. Varsha serves on the Los Angeles Police Department DNA Taskforce, is a Director on the Board of End Violence Against Women International, and previously served on the Advisory Council to the UN Women U.S. Committee in Los Angeles. She also co-chairs the Los Angeles Domestic Violence Council's Committee on Domestic Violence & Religion. She is also part of a select group hosting radio shows through a collective that brings diverse voices to community radio by intentionally recruiting, training, and supporting production.

DAY 3: THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

8:00AM – 9:00AM	Registration	Level 2
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Plenary	Paradise AB

Breakout Sessions

10:45AM-12:15PM

B. Allen	In My Own Words: Using Poetry and Storytelling to Process Trauma	Paradise C
Linda Lysakowski	Funding from Individual Donors – Your Pathway to Success	Emerald AB
MaryAlice Short	Breaking the Cycle: The Critical Need to Address Financial Abuse	Emerald CD
Kim Pentico	Moving Ahead: Train the Trainer Part 3	Treasures AB

12:15-1:45 Lunch Break – On Your Own

Breakout Sessions

1:45PM-3:15PM

Saran Almond	Reframing the Narrative: Media’s Role in Shaping Public Perception of Domestic and Sexual Violence	Paradise C
Sarah Sloan	Creating Safe Spaces: Supporting & Responding to Children through Discussions and Disclosure of Violence	Emerald AB
Misty Stewart & Jodi Pudwill	Blanket Exercise	Emerald CD
Kim Pentico	Moving Ahead: Train the Trainer Part 4	Treasures AB

Conference Concluded

DESCRIPTION OF WORKSHOPS

Abuse, Violence, and Bulimia: The Complicated Common Thread of Complex Trauma

The eating disorder bulimia nervosa is a condition impacting numerous women. Many experts agree that bulimia symptomology is often associated with the complex traumatic effects of child abuse and intimate partner and sexual violence victimization. The examination of this multi-faceted relationship needs to be a significant focus for all professionals working with bulimic victim-survivors. This presentation will share valuable information regarding the associations between interpersonal abuse and violence-related complex trauma and bulimic disordered eating. And it will offer trauma-focused advocacy, assessment, and treatment best practices centering on connective healing support.

Blanket Exercise

Understanding Indigenous history is crucial for advocates aiming to grasp the historical trauma affecting communities. The Blanket Exercise serves as a powerful educational tool that illustrates the relationship between First Nations and early settlers.

Presented from an Indigenous perspective, the exercise fosters empathy while addressing uncomfortable truths. Participants walk on blankets representing the land and embody roles of First Nations, engaging with scrolls and cards that guide their outcomes through key historical phases.

The experience includes a debriefing in a “talking circle,” allowing participants to share insights and deepen their understanding. It's vital for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous advocates to learn from an Indigenous viewpoint, recognizing the rich culture of Indigenous nations while acknowledging the impact of policies on their communities.

The Blanket Exercise encourages advocates of all backgrounds to engage in a meaningful exploration of Indigenous history, promoting understanding and appreciation.

Breaking the Cycle: The Critical Need to Address Financial Abuse

Addressing financial abuse is crucial because controlling money and economic resources is a key tactic of coercive control. Many victims of abuse feel trapped in their situations due to a lack of financial independence, believing they have no choice but to remain with their abuser. Economic barriers can prolong the relationship, putting the victim in greater danger over time. What's more, financial abuse doesn't end with separation, as it can continue even after leaving. Survivors often face lingering financial hardships, such as debt or a lack of resources, which make it harder to rebuild their lives and move forward.

Consent Education as Prevention

We know that gendered violence persists when consent education is deemed taboo. In this survivor-led session, participants will challenge stigma and build an understanding of consent as an embodied, daily practice that opposes rape culture. First, from a somatic lens, we will explore strategies for trauma informed service provision to affirm client boundaries, empower ‘choice and voice’, catalyze healing and prevent further harm.

Creating Safe Spaces: Supporting & Responding to Children through Discussions & Disclosures of Violence

This workshop will offer insights and practical strategies for advocates working with children impacted by violence. Participants will learn how to foster environments where children feel secure enough to discuss and disclose experiences of domestic and sexual violence, how to respond, and when and where to direct for appropriate services. This session will cover trauma-informed communication techniques and activities, recognizing signs of stress, and developmentally appropriate approaches to sensitive conversations. Attendees will gain actionable skills for responding effectively and empathetically to disclosures, ensuring children receive support and resources necessary for healing, safety, and prevention. We will explore the importance of multidisciplinary collaboration and ethical considerations in creating a protective and empowering framework for young survivors.

Culturally Specific Approaches for Engaging and Supporting Male Survivors of Sexual Harm

In this plenary session, healing strategist Richard Smith will offer insights on culturally specific approaches to engage, build relationships, and support the healing journeys of male survivors of sexual harm. As a newer yet essential focus for many domestic and sexual violence coalitions, services for male survivors require strategies that address barriers created by toxic patriarchal norms and other systemic issues that can discourage men from seeking help. Drawing from his own journey as a male survivor of color, Richard will explore ways to

dismantle these barriers, providing actionable steps to help service providers, advocates, and administrators feel empowered to begin or deepen this work.

Richard will also share valuable lessons from the national listening tour he co-led for the National Resource Center for Reaching Underserved Victims, where he gathered insights from underserved communities across the country. These lessons will underscore the importance of culturally responsive, trauma-informed approaches to meet the diverse needs of male survivors. Additionally, the talk will cover how integrating anti-racism and anti-oppressive frameworks can enhance service delivery and support male survivors' healing journeys.

Funding from Individual Donors – Your Pathway to Success

Research shows that 80 percent of all giving in the USA comes from individuals, and most of that comes from major donors. But how do you get started? Where do you find these donors? How do you approach them? This session will teach you about the four steps of successful fundraising: 1. Identifying Donors, 2 Cultivating Donor Relationships, 3. Soliciting Donors, and 4. Stewarding Donors.

Harm Reduction and Sexual Violence

Substance use and sexual violence are often intertwined, yet traditional advocacy models frequently stigmatize survivors who use substances, creating barriers to support and safety. This workshop explores the intersection of harm reduction and sexual violence, challenging punitive and abstinence-based approaches that can alienate survivors. Participants will gain an understanding of various substances, their effects, and the systemic challenges survivors face when seeking services. Through a harm reduction lens, this training provides advocates with practical, trauma-informed strategies to support survivors without reinforcing stigma or criminalization. By shifting from judgment to compassion, we can foster safer pathways to healing and violence prevention.

Healing Together: Integrating Domestic Violence Advocacy into Recovery Programs

This presentation explores the critical intersection of domestic violence and substance use recovery, highlighting the need for integrated educational support systems that address both trauma and addiction. By combining education, advocacy, trauma-informed care, and recovery-focused strategies, we can create safer, more effective pathways to healing for survivors navigating both challenges.

Healing Together: Strategies for Building Pet-Inclusive Services for Survivors and Their Pets

Pets are beloved members of many families as they can provide companionship and support to survivors of domestic and sexual violence. However, many domestic violence (DV) survivors are forced to leave their pets behind when they flee from their abusers. This decision is largely due to the fact that many DV programs haven't allowed pets into shelter. The Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence (ACESDV) is working to change that. In 2018, ACESDV applied for and received its first pet-related grant through PetSmart Charities. This began the Coalition's work on pet-inclusive trauma-informed technical assistance and curriculum development which led ACESDV to receive various pet-related grants over the last seven (7) years. The funding allowed ACESDV to facilitate important conversations about the creation or expansion of pet inclusivity in the state's many DV programs.

Heart & Hope: Preventing Domestic and Sexual Violence in the Next Generation

This interactive workshop will focus on stress management, mindfulness, relaxation, emotional awareness, and other self-care strategies that are used with young children, youth, teens and their parents in an intimate partner violence prevention program, Heart & Hope Family Violence Intervention Program. Participants will engage in hands-on activities that they can model and teach their clientele.

In My Own Words: Using Poetry and Storytelling to Process Trauma

This workshop will offer participants a chance to channel their pain and trauma into creative writing, which has been proven to have therapeutic benefits. Participants will learn these benefits of creative writing for those dealing with trauma, and have allotted writing time to hone that skill through poetry and prose.

Leading a Team to Prevent Intimate Partner Violence Fatalities

Identifying domestic violence victims at highest risk of homicide by their intimate partner is a top priority for Elko County advocates, law enforcement, district attorney, child welfare and the University of Nevada, Reno Extension. Learn how Elko County has teamed up to become the first in the state to implement the Danger Assessment-Law Enforcement instrument to identify individuals at high risk for domestic violence homicide. The presenters will share how the Elko County Domestic Violence High-Risk Team has collaborated with local organizations and agencies to interrupt the cycle of violence, enhance information sharing, and provide differential-response to survivors.

Moving Ahead: Train the Trainer

99% of all IPV survivors report experiencing financial abuse. As a result, survivors' ability to access short-term safety and long-term security is severely impacted.

The Allstate Foundation Moving Ahead Workbook Train-The-Trainer is a 4-part series. Participants will learn:

- Financial Safety Planning
- Creating realistic budgets
- Demystify credit
- Better understand loans and long-term planning.

Reclaiming Our Bodies, Reclaiming Our Voice: Art, Prevention, and Reproductive Health

Art and storytelling have the transformative ability to reshape our narratives around sexual and reproductive health, particularly in communities where these conversations are often stigmatized or ignored. Grounded in an anti-oppressive, trauma-informed, and ethical lens, this interactive session will invite participants to harness the power of creative expression to explore their unique lived experiences, envision intergenerational healing, and reclaim their bodies and narratives. Through guided prompts and art-making activities, participants can break the stigma and silence often associated with these topics, reclaiming their narratives in the process. Art and culture especially storytelling can be contextualized and utilized as both a prevention education tool for community engagement and a healing strategy for those who have experienced harm.

Reframing the Narrative: Media's Role in Shaping Public Perception of Domestic and Sexual Violence

The media plays a powerful role in shaping public understanding of domestic and sexual violence. News outlets, television, social media, and entertainment often perpetuate harmful stereotypes, misinformation, and victim-blaming narratives. This interactive workshop will explore how we can shift the narrative toward survivor-centered, trauma-informed storytelling.

Participants will gain tools to engage with media responsibly, advocate for accurate representation, and leverage storytelling for prevention and awareness efforts. The session will include hands-on activities, case studies, and practical takeaways that empower attendees to become effective media advocates.

Teaching Body Safety for Parents of Young Children

A practical and informative session that equips parents with the knowledge and tools to help their children understand personal boundaries, enhance body autonomy and develop confidence in speaking up. Through small group, it will include a supportive discussion that helps parents navigate this sensitive but crucial topic with confidence and compassion.

This presentation could cover topics such as:

- The importance of body safety—why it matters for a child's well-being and development.
- Teaching age-appropriate language—how parents can introduce terms like "private parts" and "safe vs. unsafe touch."
- Encouraging open communication—strategies for fostering trust so children feel comfortable sharing concerns.
- Empowering children with refusal skills—teaching them how to say “no” and seek help.
- Providing parents with resources – including list of developmentally appropriate books for children

The Tentacles of Trauma: A Survivor's Perspective for Professionals

What if prevention started long before the trauma? In this eye-opening and empowering session, author and advocate LaWanda Will B LaWanda leads attendees through Pathway to Prevention, a workshop built on the real-world insights of her groundbreaking book *Silent Setups: Inside the Predator's Playbook*. Using vivid scenarios, interactive tools, and her signature “Tentacles of Trauma” visual framework, this session unpacks the hidden tactics predators use to groom children and silence bystanders. Participants will leave equipped to recognize early red flags, disrupt grooming patterns, and foster protective environments where children can thrive. Whether you're a parent, educator, professional, or survivor, this session offers both clarity and courage, because knowing the signs is the first step toward stopping the cycle.

The Year 2025 Celebrating Our Journey of Healing – The Power of US

In this dynamic & interactive keynote, Varsha, Mayo Clinic trained and Nationally board-certified (NBHWC) wellness coach, leads discussions on the impact of stress/burnout and addresses barriers to change. Varsha guides the audience in an exploration of healing modalities (mindfulness, meditation) and touches upon life experiences traveling to countries, including Rwanda/India. Individuals are invited to use techniques discussed during the opening session throughout the conference and Varsha later highlights reflections provided by attendees in the closing session. Attendees partake in powerful group exercises to experience a unique meditation exercise and the session concludes with a highly interactive group exercise emphasizing the impact of positivity on advocates and allies. Caution: may emit spontaneous laughter.

Training of Trainers: Choose Your Partner and Caregiver Carefully

This session highlights the importance of choosing safe, trusted caregivers and shares the history and development of Nevada's statewide campaign aimed at preventing harm to children. Participants will learn how to raise awareness about this issue, including state statistics on infant injuries and deaths connected to unsafe caregivers. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of the campaign's roots and the urgency driving its message. Attendees will also learn practical ways to integrate campaign messages and materials into a variety of settings to increase community awareness of this issue and prevent harm to children. By the end of the workshop, trainers will be equipped to spread awareness and promote safer caregiving choices within their communities.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

