Domestic Violence in New Mexico

Coordinated Responses
Despite another year of serious challenges, domestic violence service providers continued their work admirably. They never forgot their mission to provide needed help and resources for families in their communities. We are grateful to our funders, public and private, for your caring, your leadership and your flexibility during trying times.

The New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NMCADV) is comprised of domestic violence service providers and numerous other organizations and stakeholders. There are many people and organizations that have made the NMCADV what it is today. Although it is not possible for us to recognize you all individually, we know who you are. Please accept our gratitude.

What now? During the first year of the pandemic, of necessity, we focused on responding to rapidly changing circumstances. Now, in 2022, we are looking to the future and setting the table for a vastly more coordinated and inclusive response to DV.

During this time, we were shown that in order for our work to be maximally effective, the community must be involved. In the words of Scott Miller, an expert in coordinated community response (CCR), “Governments can’t solve this problem alone.” Advocacy agencies cannot solve this problem alone. And so, our future will be increasingly defined by inclusion and the building of coalitions. See Scott Miller’s article, Why CCRs Matter, on page 8.

As part of this focus on coordination, the NMCADV delivered a series of well attended trainings provided by and for law enforcement, prosecution, probation, judiciary, DV advocates and BIP staff. You can read about those efforts throughout this publication.

Last July, we were invited to meet with our Governor about DV provider funding, resulting in a substantial increase! We are thankful. We would also like to thank CYFD and our state legislature for supporting increased funding. New Mexico is known for its commitment to funding domestic violence and this increase is strong evidence of that support and leadership.

We are also grateful to Lieutenant Governor, Howie Morales, for his strong support of DV providers. We had a chance to interview him recently. Read what he has to say on page 2.

This summer we held an international conference attended by over 500 people from around the world, focusing on how to deliver battering intervention (BIP) services during a pandemic. The conference was primarily funded by CYFD. That conference, Beyond Covid: Challenges, Benefits and Wisdom of Videoconferencing with Abusive Partners, was the first of its kind. We heard presentations from numerous New Mexico providers, along with international experts—the conference cemented what was already emerging as New Mexico leadership in the area of domestic violence/battering intervention.

We are also spearheading efforts to form a national network to advance BIP. There is significant interest from around the country and the idea is progressing rapidly. We hired a 36 year, nationally recognized, veteran in BIP to help us. You can read about him and his work in New Mexico on page 9.

Our active participation continues in cooperation with the University of New Mexico Data Evaluation Lab to determine what is working in battering intervention. We know how important it is to be able to measure what matters in our work.

Our highly successful, Children’s Capacity Building Project (CCBP), launched in 2014 with help from Senator Nancy Rodriguez, (see her interview on page 6) has now become an integral part of CYFD, and a request to expand that program substantially is a part of the Governor’s budget. See page 4 for more.

We also more than doubled our training offerings (see pages 10-11) bringing valuable and needed information to programs and stakeholders across New Mexico.

The number of programs formally becoming a part of NMCADV rose this year as more people found value in the work being done by our providers. I want to especially mention the newest addition to our provider list, the New Mexico Asian Family Center. Welcome! For a list of our members, see page 12.

Finally, I want to recognize Kay Gomolak, from COPE in Alamogordo, who retired this year after many years of dedicated service to her community and to our state, valiantly serving as President of the NMCADV for two terms.

From Kay: “It’s been an honor to serve as president of the New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The Coalition represents service providers throughout our state who provide frontline, vital safety supports for victims of domestic violence and their children. Domestic violence is a significant problem in our state, and the pandemic has exacerbated the risks victims of domestic violence and their children face every day. We are grateful for the network of support in our local communities and statewide.” We know Kay will continue to be involved in the issue that has defined her life’s work. Thanks Kay!

Rod Kaskalla, Nambe Pueblo, long time DV professional and member of the NMCADV Board, is the new President of NMCADV and his remarks can be found herein, on page 13. Welcome Rod!

I hope you find this issue helpful. I also hope that if you have not yet gotten involved, you will! You can become a member, donate time or resources to your local provider, and advocate for additional funds for DV providers. To learn more about how you can help, visit our website, nmcadv.org, to find the domestic violence provider closest to you. We wish you a happy and healthy New Year.

Pam Wiseman

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Lieutenant Governor Howie Morales Reflects on Domestic Violence

As the Executive Director of the New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NMCADV), and on behalf of the domestic violence (DV) providers in New Mexico, I want to recognize and thank our Lieutenant Governor, Howie Morales, for his support of domestic violence survivors and the programs that serve them across New Mexico.

For example, last year, upon hearing of the difficult conditions faced by DV providers across our state, the Lieutenant Governor personally wrote a note to each and every provider in the state, thanking them for work performed during such trying times. When asked what made him decide to write those letters, he answered that he wanted providers to know that he understood their challenges—he wanted to offer inspiration and hope and assure them of his ongoing, strong support. Numerous providers shared how meaningful it was to receive those words. Since then, Lieutenant Governor Morales has shown support by speaking at NMCADV provider meetings and at other venues focused on DV.

We recently had an opportunity to speak with our Lieutenant Governor about the problem of and solutions to domestic violence in New Mexico. Here is just a bit of what he told us.

According to the Lt. Governor, DV is at the root of many of our challenges in New Mexico. “Homelessness, crime, substance abuse, depression and physical illness are but a few of the consequences of domestic violence”. As an educator, he knows how hard it can be for children to succeed in school when there is violence in the home. Violence and abuse at home negatively affect educational outcomes, and the effects can sadly last a lifetime. He also pointed to the multiplicity of costs of DV, including law enforcement, the courts, medical intervention, and many more. He explained that those costs are both emotional and economic and highly disruptive to the health of our communities. We cannot deal with our many challenges so long as DV is so widespread.

“When in just society, we pledge to act together. In a just society we won’t tolerate abuse.”

LT Governor Howie Morales

When asked about the strengths New Mexico communities bring to the effort to reduce violence, he said, “I am proud to be born and raised in New Mexico, a symbol of community and unity”. He pointed to the way in which New Mexicans help each other and come together to confront challenges.

“That’s one of the reasons that I am such a big supporter of domestic violence providers”, he said. “They are themselves part of New Mexico’s strength. Research shows that survivors and their children are safer, and have more hope and increased sense of control over their lives through their involvement with domestic violence providers”.

He added that he is grateful for Governor Lujan Grisham’s strong leadership. He hopes that her leadership can be enhanced through more state funding. “Violence is worse than ever over the past few years”, he noted. “What DV providers do to help has gotten harder. They all play a major role in the health of our state and it’s more urgent now than ever that we provide them the necessary resources”.

When asked what else he wanted people to know, he offered the following:

“I want everyone to be physically and emotionally safe. Everyone. No one deserves to feel unsafe, especially at home. In just society, we pledge to act together. In a just society we won’t tolerate abuse. That’s my commitment to DV providers and to our state”.

On behalf of all of us, thank you Lieutenant Governor Morales.

Precocious House, Artesia

Grammy’s House is the domestic violence provider in Artesia. The agency provides shelter, counseling, advocacy, help through the legal system, children’s services and a battering intervention program. A dog kennel makes it possible for clients to safely bring their pets—important—given that so many survivors say that they stayed in abusive environments out of concern for what could happen to their animals if they left home.

According to Celina Bryant, Executive Director of Grammy’s House, the menu of services listed is only a part of what Grammy’s House does. “We really do everything,” she said, “that survivors need. Even if a service isn’t exactly listed in our flyer, we find a way to help. There are so many barriers for survivors that we must do what is needed, not according to a menu, but according to the needs of the families. Many survivors need housing or jobs, childcare or transportation, food, access to medical care and a lot more. To really make a difference, we need to help in all of those areas and that’s what we do,” she said.

But what Celina and the staff are most proud of are the people that they supported. “Although Grammy’s House has the tools, the clients are the ones that do the work. It takes courage to ask for help,” she said.

Grammy’s House is a study in community support. According to Celina, “when you are helped by the right people and supported by the community. good things can happen. People’s lives are improved—even saved.” Whether direct financial support or volunteer service, “the question everyone in the community has, is what can we do to help? We are basically a team.”

Celia came to Grammys in 2005, as an intern and approximately 6 years later she became the Executive Director. Celina received her PhD in 2020 by conducting research on survivors’ experiences in shelters.

Many things have changed over that time and especially in the last few years. “Although change is hard, its unavoidable, and Grammy’s House has been constantly evolving and adapting to change,” she said. Even though she has had other opportunities, in the end, “My heart is in this work. And that won’t change.”

Thanks to Celina, her staff and the community for all that they do together.

Grammys House is one out thirty-one (31) DV service providers in New Mexico. For a list of programs, see page 12.
Battering Intervention Programs Improve Survivors’ Lives

Research has consistently shown that a BIP, when paired with a coordinated systems response, can positively impact rates of recidivism. Measuring recidivism, while not a perfect indicator of any reduction in actual violence and abuse, is nonetheless of interest to lawmakers who must decide whether to invest in such programs. The news appears to be good.

National research consistently shows a reduction in recidivism from participation in a program.

The University of New Mexico has been collecting data for several years for the purposes of determining recidivism rates. We are awaiting initial New Mexico specific conclusions.

Arguably, an even more important measure is whether these programs make life better for survivors and their children.

Do BIPs improve survivors’ lives? YES.

In one comprehensive study, partners of offenders ordered to a BIP were asked how safe they felt before their partners began the BIP and then again after 15-48 months. (Gondolf, 2002), Nearly 70% indicated that they were better off and between 70% and 86% reported feeling very safe.

Survivor reports of feeling safer and better off are significant and meaningful and an important measure of the impact of BIP.

NMCADV Sponsors Worldwide Battering Intervention Program Conference

In June of 2021, the NMCADV put on a 3-day international conference attended by over 500 people from around the world.

Beyond COVID: Challenges, Benefits and Wisdom of Video Conferencing with Abusive Partners, focused on how to best deliver battering intervention programs during a pandemic. Throughout, the conference was organized around the question of what we would stop, start and continue both during the pandemic and after. New Mexico participants had an opportunity to hear from diverse groups and to engage in substantial discussions on both present and future.

The conference was the first of its kind to address the use of remote services in the field of battering intervention. New Mexico programs served as presenters and panelists. “We wanted to highlight our New Mexico programs,” said Wiseman, Executive Director of NMCADV. “I know it was validating for our BIP staff and for our state funders to hear from people all over the country that New Mexico is thought of as a leader in the provision of battering intervention services.”

An illustrator captured the conversations. Here are just a few of them.

Provided by Silent James

Increased Funding a Priority

We want to thank CYFD, the Governor, and the state legislature for the strong support of funding for domestic violence this year! Please let your legislator know that your community depends on having strong DV programs and thank them for their support!

Why funding for domestic violence services is needed

- Survivors have increasingly complex needs, requiring experienced staff.
- Programs do not have sufficient resources to hire and retain qualified staff to provide services.
- DV programs are the only service provider in some areas and communities rely on their help.
- The schedule for reimbursement to programs has mostly stayed the same for well over a decade, while costs rose dramatically during the period. Programs have difficulty keeping up under those conditions.
- Post pandemic, it is necessary to fully stabilize DV providers and ensure that they have the funding to provide all of the services that their communities need. The safety of families translates to better conditions overall in our state.

Why BIP funding is needed

- Current funding is not sufficient to cover programs costs to deliver services.
- A CYFD analysis shows that BIP program costs exceed available funding by approximately 1 million dollars.
- BIP services are important to domestic violence survivors. Not all survivors can or want to leave.
- Services are an important alternative to incarceration.
- When well-funded they provide valuable community education and are central to the coordination of law enforcement, courts, and corrections in violence reduction (CCR).
- The Legislative Finance Committee (LFC), BIP providers and CYFD staff have been working with the University of New Mexico Data Evaluation Lab to determine BIPs impact in our state. Initial results are expected within a year.

We hope that you will support the need for funding for DV and take action today. There is no better way to help New Mexicans than by supporting fully funded services to DV providers. Thank you!

Why funding for domestic violence is needed

- Survivors have increasingly complex needs, requiring experienced staff.
- Programs do not have sufficient resources to hire and retain qualified staff to provide services.
- DV programs are the only service provider in some areas and communities rely on their help.
- The schedule for reimbursement to programs has mostly stayed the same for well over a decade, while costs rose dramatically during the period. Programs have difficulty keeping up under those conditions.
- Post pandemic, it is necessary to fully stabilize DV providers and ensure that they have the funding to provide all of the services that their communities need. The safety of families translates to better conditions overall in our state.

Why BIP funding is needed

- Current funding is not sufficient to cover programs costs to deliver services.
- A CYFD analysis shows that BIP program costs exceed available funding by approximately 1 million dollars.
- BIP services are important to domestic violence survivors. Not all survivors can or want to leave.
- Services are an important alternative to incarceration.
- When well-funded they provide valuable community education and are central to the coordination of law enforcement, courts, and corrections in violence reduction (CCR).
- The Legislative Finance Committee (LFC), BIP providers and CYFD staff have been working with the University of New Mexico Data Evaluation Lab to determine BIPs impact in our state. Initial results are expected within a year.

We hope that you will support the need for funding for DV and take action today. There is no better way to help New Mexicans than by supporting fully funded services to DV providers. Thank you!
AN INTERVIEW WITH SENATOR RODRIGUEZ

Senator Nancy Rodriguez (D), A Champion for Domestic Violence

Senator Nancy Rodriguez, long-time member of the state Senate, (New Mexico, District 24) and champion for domestic violence, sat down for an interview with us recently. “We wanted to feature her,” said Pam Wiseman, Executive Director of NMCADV, “because she has done so much over the years to materially improve conditions for survivors of domestic violence and their families.”

For example, Senator Rodriguez provided initial funding, in 2014, for a domestic violence children’s project; she also provided funds to ensure that survivors and their children who entered emergency shelters would have a safe place for their animals to stay.

“I see her as chiefly responsible for what is today a very successful statewide program to serve children from violent homes,” said Wiseman. She gave us seed money back in 2014, allowing us to create and develop this project. We got it started, providing funds to our domestic violence programs to establish these services. They did a fabulous job of it and because the program proved so successful, CYFD assumed oversight of the project last year. CYFD has now requested nearly $1 million in increased funding to expand it. That would never have happened without her”. She also helped get funding to Animal Protection New Mexico, so that we could provide for the animals of people going into shelter. Nancy reminded us that over 70% of survivors with animals would delay leaving an abusive environment if their pets were with them. She also said, “You can’t leave a beloved pet to go into a shelter, not knowing that the pet will be safe. It’s a preventable tragedy.”

We asked the Senator what her budget priorities this year will be. She responded that she wants to see increased funding for the CYFD’s Domestic Violence Children’s Project. The project was managed by NMCADV. The program’s high level of success resulted in its continual expansion and today CYFD manages the project with significantly increased funding.

At DV programs, CCBP staff support the child’s needs as well as the parent’s understanding of the impact of domestic violence for their child. “We provide on-going technical assistance, bi-weekly peer support calls and training, CCBP staff access the knowledge and skills needed to implement trauma-informed, developmentally appropriate services.

CCBP’s are designed to address the impact of the domestic violence, support the relationship between the caregiver and child, and provide access to healthy, safe family experiences where children and caregivers can heal together.

Established, nationally recognized, research-based outcomes have shown the effectiveness of the services to children offered by New Mexico, DV programs. “These services have had a major impact on New Mexico families,” said Rachel Cox, Chief Program Officer for the NMCADV. “I am really proud to be a part of this effort.”

Senator Rodriguez is Vice Chair of the Senate Finance Committee and has been dealing with state finance for many years. “Finance is not just about numbers. It’s about people. We need to take care of people—that’s the only way we will build a better place for everyone”, she told us. Nancy takes her concern for people and animals and pairs it with skill, knowledge and experience to bring her ideas to life. That combination allows Senator Rodriguez to uniquely accomplish the twin goals of helping people and making the numbers work for the benefit of New Mexicans.

“The problems are so big, we all have to do the very best we can to address it and so, how the entire system functions really matters. It is essential to have all of the system parts come together. That’s the only way to make a difference” she said. The Senator can point to various initiatives that are effective because she has systems engaged with one another. They became a team. “I’m just a small part of that team”, she suggested. “But if in my position I can do something big, I will.”

“Systems need good leadership to be effective,” she notes. We agree and want to acknowledge that she, herself has provided such leadership for domestic violence providers consistently. “I am always uplifted by my conversations with Nancy and grateful for them”, said Wiseman.

Children’s Project

Since 2014, NMCADV has developed and continued to significantly support the expansion of the Children’s Capacity Building Project (CCBP). Essential trauma-informed, evidence-based children’s services are now available at 18 of 30 regional DV programs. The program began with support of the NM legislature and the advocacy of Senator Nancy Rodriguez. The project was managed by NMCADV. The program’s high level of success resulted in its continual expansion and today CYFD manages the project with significantly increased funding.

At DV programs, CCBP staff support the child’s needs as well as the parent’s understanding of the impact of domestic violence for their child. “We provide on-going technical assistance, bi-weekly peer support calls and training, CCBP staff access the knowledge and skills needed to implement trauma-informed, developmentally appropriate services.

CCBP’s are designed to address the impact of the domestic violence, support the relationship between the caregiver and child, and provide access to healthy, safe family experiences where children and caregivers can heal together.

Established, nationally recognized, research-based outcomes have shown the effectiveness of the services to children offered by New Mexico, DV programs. “These services have had a major impact on New Mexico families,” said Rachel Cox, Chief Program Officer for the NMCADV. “I am really proud to be a part of this effort.”

NEW MEXICO COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
7

Outcome data for 2021 on the Children’s Capacity Building Project (CCBP)

The CCBP consistently demonstrated excellent outcomes through national research conducted on its efficacy. As part of an anonymous CYFD survey, conducted in 2021, survivors responded to the following statements. Percentages indicate the number who agreed.

Because of my participation in your program:

• I have more tools to plan for my children’s safety: .......... 96%
• I know more ways to support my children when feelings about abuse/violence come up:........ 94%

Animal Protection New Mexico (APNM)

In 2014, NMCADV helped secure funding to help domestic violence survivors find temporary safe haven for their companion animals while escaping abusive situations.

Since then, dozens of individuals have shared powerful stories about the benefit of CARE services. One survivor was reunited with her dog after nearly three months. She had found herself in a dangerous situation and had to flee her home, but the shelter could not let her bring her dog. Working with local veterinary and boarding providers, APNM’s CARE services cared for her dog while she worked to put her life back together.

CARE operates a helpline (505-533-CARE) that promptly responds to calls from victims, advocates, and law enforcement seeking direct services, referrals, and/or animal welfare resources. To serve these needs, CARE works in conjunction with public and private animal and human shelters, agencies, veterinary clinics, and boarding kennels. CARE can provide veterinary care and temporary safe havens for victims’ animals through voucher and mini-grant financial support, and provider referrals.

Animal Protection New Mexico’s Companion Animal Rescue Effort (CARE) is the only program in New Mexico devoted exclusively to serving domestic violence survivors with companion animals.

During a time of crisis, fear, and desperation, the dogs were housed and safe and I was able to get them back. Thank you for being there every step of the way and being so helpful.

~ CARE mini-grant recipient

Animal Protection New Mexico (APNM)

In 2014, NMCADV helped secure funding to help domestic violence survivors find temporary safe haven for their companion animals while escaping abusive situations.

Since then, dozens of individuals have shared powerful stories about the benefit of CARE services. One survivor was reunited with her dog after nearly three months. She had found herself in a dangerous situation and had to flee her home, but the shelter could not let her bring her dog. Working with local veterinary and boarding providers, APNM’s CARE services cared for her dog while she worked to put her life back together.

CARE operates a helpline (505-533-CARE) that promptly responds to calls from victims, advocates, and law enforcement seeking direct services, referrals, and/or animal welfare resources. To serve these needs, CARE works in conjunction with public and private animal and human shelters, agencies, veterinary clinics, and boarding kennels. CARE can provide veterinary care and temporary safe havens for victims’ animals through voucher and mini-grant financial support, and provider referrals.

Animal Protection New Mexico’s Companion Animal Rescue Effort (CARE) is the only program in New Mexico devoted exclusively to serving domestic violence survivors with companion animals.

Animal Protection New Mexico (APNM)

In 2014, NMCADV helped secure funding to help domestic violence survivors find temporary safe haven for their companion animals while escaping abusive situations.

Since then, dozens of individuals have shared powerful stories about the benefit of CARE services. One survivor was reunited with her dog after nearly three months. She had found herself in a dangerous situation and had to flee her home, but the shelter could not let her bring her dog. Working with local veterinary and boarding providers, APNM’s CARE services cared for her dog while she worked to put her life back together.

CARE operates a helpline (505-533-CARE) that promptly responds to calls from victims, advocates, and law enforcement seeking direct services, referrals, and/or animal welfare resources. To serve these needs, CARE works in conjunction with public and private animal and human shelters, agencies, veterinary clinics, and boarding kennels. CARE can provide veterinary care and temporary safe havens for victims’ animals through voucher and mini-grant financial support, and provider referrals.

Animal Protection New Mexico’s Companion Animal Rescue Effort (CARE) is the only program in New Mexico devoted exclusively to serving domestic violence survivors with companion animals.

Animal Protection New Mexico (APNM)

In 2014, NMCADV helped secure funding to help domestic violence survivors find temporary safe haven for their companion animals while escaping abusive situations.

Since then, dozens of individuals have shared powerful stories about the benefit of CARE services. One survivor was reunited with her dog after nearly three months. She had found herself in a dangerous situation and had to flee her home, but the shelter could not let her bring her dog. Working with local veterinary and boarding providers, APNM’s CARE services cared for her dog while she worked to put her life back together.

CARE operates a helpline (505-533-CARE) that promptly responds to calls from victims, advocates, and law enforcement seeking direct services, referrals, and/or animal welfare resources. To serve these needs, CARE works in conjunction with public and private animal and human shelters, agencies, veterinary clinics, and boarding kennels. CARE can provide veterinary care and temporary safe havens for victims’ animals through voucher and mini-grant financial support, and provider referrals.

Animal Protection New Mexico’s Companion Animal Rescue Effort (CARE) is the only program in New Mexico devoted exclusively to serving domestic violence survivors with companion animals.

Animal Protection New Mexico (APNM)

In 2014, NMCADV helped secure funding to help domestic violence survivors find temporary safe haven for their companion animals while escaping abusive situations.

Since then, dozens of individuals have shared powerful stories about the benefit of CARE services. One survivor was reunited with her dog after nearly three months. She had found herself in a dangerous situation and had to flee her home, but the shelter could not let her bring her dog. Working with local veterinary and boarding providers, APNM’s CARE services cared for her dog while she worked to put her life back together.

CARE operates a helpline (505-533-CARE) that promptly responds to calls from victims, advocates, and law enforcement seeking direct services, referrals, and/or animal welfare resources. To serve these needs, CARE works in conjunction with public and private animal and human shelters, agencies, veterinary clinics, and boarding kennels. CARE can provide veterinary care and temporary safe havens for victims’ animals through voucher and mini-grant financial support, and provider referrals.

Animal Protection New Mexico’s Companion Animal Rescue Effort (CARE) is the only program in New Mexico devoted exclusively to serving domestic violence survivors with companion animals.

Animal Protection New Mexico (APNM)
Why Coordinated Community Responses Matter

Scott Miller is the Executive Director of the Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs in Duluth, MN. The DAIP has been a leader in the work to coordinate community-based responses to domestic violence around the world for over four decades and was recently given an international award from the World Futures Council for the best approach to protecting women and girls worldwide.

Scott writes the following:

Domestic violence is a constructed problem that is epidemic around the world. After over 40 years of work developing responses to this problem, we don’t have all the answers but we do have many.

We know that we need to move away from the notion that intimate partner violence is a result of “fights” between individual couples. The problem is too widespread, and the dynamics are too similar around the world to understand this as a problem with a few individuals. Instead of responding to each incident, we need to approach this as a public health crisis that affects women, children and men. If widespread domestic violence is a public health crisis, there needs to be a layered approach to responding and hopefully solving the problem.

With a problem like intimate partner domestic violence, we have learned how essential it is for the community to intentionally coordinate across government and nongovernmental entities to make it safer for victims and easier to hold those who commit the violence accountable.

Governments can’t solve this problem alone. Advocacy agencies cannot solve this problem alone. Communities need government agencies, community-based agencies, the health and social support sectors, religious leaders and involvement from diverse agencies to work together in such a way as to complement the work of all agencies involved.

What we need then is a coordinated response that brings together the community in such a way that it shifts the tolerance for this behavior. Survivors need to believe that if they call, they are not just calling 911 but a community who is willing and ready to respond to what they need. Offenders need to understand that if they want to live in this community, beating and abusing their family into submission will not happen with impunity. If violence is being used to subjugate their partner and children, consequences will follow with opportunities to rehabilitate.

To develop this coordinated community response, government and nongovernmental agencies much develop specialized responses to this problem. To develop specialized responses, an understanding of how survivors experience this violence in each community is essential. Those who experience the violence should have a hand in changes that impact their lives.

Coordination will also require transparency between agencies that includes sharing information, building policies and protocols and reviewing past, current and proposed responses through the lens of an intentional community partnership.

If we as a society find a way to solve the problem of intimate partner domestic violence, it won’t be because one agency did great work. Instead, history will tell us how communities understood the social, generational nature of the problem and developed widespread, community-based interventions that gave survivors the space to live free of violence and the perpetrators the opportunity to change.

We know what we are doing in most communities isn’t working. If we continue to stay in our agency-defined silos and don’t coordinate our work, we know what the future holds. We also know that if we work together, coordinate each agency’s work with the next and partner on addressing this crisis, we can make our communities safer and save the lives of our relatives, co-workers and neighbors. If there is a purpose to building community, this is what it should be.

“Governments can’t solve this problem alone. Advocacy agencies cannot solve this problem alone. What we need then is a coordinated response…”

Real Progress is Possible

David J. H. Garvin, MSW, is the Battering Intervention Program and Systems Response Specialist for NMCADV. He began his work in the anti-domestic violence movement by developing a battering intervention program in the mid 1980’s in Northern Ohio and shortly thereafter brought that program to his hometown, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

“Now that I am in New Mexico, I am thrilled to be in this beautiful place and am excited about the wonderful people I am getting to know,” said Garvin. According to Pam Wiseman, Executive Director of NMCADV, “We are so fortunate to have been able to bring in a person of David’s caliber to partner with us on improving our DV responses. It is already making a difference.”

The following is a discussion with David about the need for a community that is informed, responsive and coordinated.

According to David, despite decades of real progress, the world in which we live still promotes, tolerates and even celebrates all kinds of violence. Fortunately, many people who have dedicated their whole lives to changing that sad fact and they do it by working with others: Our mutual, community-wide efforts are therefore to promote survivor safety, promote community intolerance of domestic violence and hold those who cause harm and perpetrate violence accountable. “It takes a village to change a village”, he said. “That’s the only way”.

According to Garvin, domestic violence is mostly a set of purposeful behaviors, designed to bring about an outcome. It is a method to control someone and may or may not include actual violence. There are many co-existing problems in the lives of people who cause harm, such as alcohol and drug addiction, mental health, trauma, employment issues, etc. and we are working to further develop services to take those conditions into account. However, most importantly, we know that while those issues are often a part of domestic violence, and people need help dealing with them, they are not the sole cause of domestic violence. We must address them but that alone is not enough. So what to do beyond services and programming? What else do we have in our tool box?

Garvin explains that swift and consistent accountability for violence, which does not necessarily mean jail, there are numerous other alternatives, including battering intervention programs, is a proven way to reduce further violence. When a community, including the criminal justice system sends the message that domestic violence is not tolerable and people who commit violence DO listen. They hear that message and often change their behaviors to be in accordance with what the community believes about it.

In fact, the most compassionate and effective intervention a community can provide to people who have committed domestic violence, is to hold them accountable. The shorter the duration between arrest, conviction and engagement into a battering intervention program will provide the best opportunity for change. Long delays between the commission of violence and a consequence make future violence more likely.

All of the above are the reasons the NMCADV undertook a series of trainings on developing coordinated community responses. Beginning this fall, and ending in late 2021, hundreds of people attended the training series, representing disciplines such as prosecution, probation, the judiciary, law enforcement, battering intervention program staff and domestic violence advocates.

The attendees universally ranked the training very highly and expressed excitement about the prospect of becoming a more unified and coordinated group for the benefit of New Mexicans.

Here is an outline of the series:

1. Domestic Violence a Public Health Crisis (1.5 hours)
2. Domestic Violence and Public Health (2 hours)
3. Understanding Domestic Violence Euros and the Criminal Justice System (2 hours)
4. Understanding Domestic Violence in New Mexico (2 hours)
5. Domestic Violence: A Community Response (2 hours)
6. Domestic Violence: Understanding and Utilizing Resources (2 hours)
7. Domestic Violence: Comprehensive Strategies and System Changes (2 hours)
8. Domestic Violence: Interventions and Advocacy (2 hours)
9. Domestic Violence: Developing a Coordinated Community Response (2 hours)
10. Domestic Violence: Advancing a Community Response (2 hours)
11. Domestic Violence: The Future (2 hours)

“Beyond the Training” [5 hours]

The Battering Intervention Program (2 hours)

The Systems Response (2 hours)

The Work of the NMCADV (1 hour)

The Work of the New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence (1 hour)
NMCADV Expands Training Across the State

- AllState “Moving Ahead Curriculum”
  A 5-module financial empowerment training for advocates to support survivors understanding of financial abuse
- Core Advocacy Training for New Advocates
  A 40-hr training for DV program staff
- “Beyond COVID: The Challenges, Benefits and Wisdom of Videoconferencing with Abusive Partners”
  NMCADV hosted a 2.5 day international conference addressing battering intervention programming and innovations during COVID-19
- “Experiential Leadership and Supervisory Practice”
  Speaker: Cathy Cave
  Supervision training to promote Trauma-Informed, survivor centered practices
- Coordinated Community Response Series
  A 6-part series for DV system partners promoting a comprehensive community-based plan for intervention in domestic abuse cases
  - Part 1- Center For Court Innovation: Understanding the Coordinated Community Response in 2021 and Beyond
  - Part 2- Community Partnering with: Law Enforcement
  - Part 3- Community Partnering with: Prosecutors
  - Part 4 - Community Partnering with: the Judiciary
  - Part 5- Community Partnering with: Probation and Compliance Officers
  - Part 6- Community Partnering with: Researchers
- “An In-Depth Understanding of the Coordinated Community Response to Ending Domestic Violence”
  Speaker: Scott Miller
  A three-day training for statewide system partners to improve domestic violence responses.
- “Supporting Parents and Caregivers Affected by Domestic Violence”
  Speaker: Susan Blumenfeld, The National Center on DV, Trauma and Mental Health
  A 2-day foundational training for Children’s Capacity Building Projects
- Pandemic response trainings for DV programs and the community
  Speaker: Dr. Nestor Sosa, an infectious disease specialist at UNM
  Trainings and discussions on vaccination information, Delta variant, relevant research and safe practices.
- “More than Bath Bombs”
  Speaker: Ebony Isis Booth
  Self-care support for advocates to address stressors and impact of the pandemic and trauma work
- Technology and on-line platform trainings for programs to stay engaged during the pandemic and promote program services:
  - Eventbrite
  - Facebook
  - Zoom
- Extreme Risk Orders of Protection (EROP)
  Speaker: Sheila Lewis
  Training on the differences between ERPOs and DV Orders of Protection
- Defined Safety Planning
  Speaker: Jill Davies
  Training for advocates in trauma-informed, survivor defined services and safety planning

NMCADV Training Continued

- Family Peace Initiative, “Art of Facilitation” Level 1, 2 and 3
  - A fundamentals training for battering intervention program facilitators
  - On-going monthly Family Peace Initiative technical assistance calls to support implementation and fidelity.
- HEAL Conceptual Clarity
  Speaker: Jeffrie Cape
  - Battering Intervention Program facilitator skill building
  - On-going monthly HEAL technical assistance calls to support implementation and fidelity.
- Legal Advocacy Training
  Speaker: Jessica Mmindin Esq., Victim Rights Law Center
  Training to support Legal Advocates understanding of their role, court systems, and trauma-informed legal approaches.
- “Trauma Informed Advocacy for Survivors Who Use Substances”
  Speaker: Gabriela Zarate, LCSW, CADC
  National Center on DV, Trauma and Mental Health, Training to support advocates to effectively work with survivors using substances.
- “Nurtured Heart Approach Training”
  Speaker: Jessica Pinera
  Training for advocates to enhance their interactions with children impacted by DV as well as support the relationship between parents, caregivers and their children.

NMCADV hosts monthly Advocacy Café webinars

Topics Including:
- “The Crown Act”
- “Women Leading the Way!”
- “Sexual Assault Awareness Month: A conversation with NM Rape Crisis Center”
- “Returning to a “New Normal”: Concerns and Strategies for Working Together”
- “New Mexico Legal Aid: An Overview”
- “DV Survivors Facing Eviction in NM”
- “Mental Health Awareness: The New Mexico Crisis and Access Line”

Teresa (Terry) Garcia
Director of Communications & Training

Terry came to the NMCADV in December of 2019. Since that time, she has made enormous contributions to the NMCADV and to our state. “Terry always brings people together on our staff and around the state. She exemplifies our values of commitment, engagement with a focus on building our collective strengths,” said Pam Wiseman, Executive Director of NMCADV. “She has been successful at including lots of people in our work.”

Terry’s responsibilities include the delivery of training; training has tripled over the last few years under her management. For a list of training, see page 10-11.

In addition to her work at NMCADV, Terry is involved in the community. She sits on several outside committees.

For example, she serves on the New Mexico Hispanic Heritage Committee, as well as the IPV Prevention Collective for Southwest Albuquerque.

Terry’s passion is in advocating for survivors within her community; in 2018, during the legislative session, she was named an NMCADV Community Hero for her volunteer work at S.A.F.E. House in Albuquerque. “I wanted to help survivors any way that I could,” she said.

When asked what she would want people to know about domestic violence, she replied that it involved increasing awareness. “We need people to know about DV and to really understand it. It’s okay to talk about what happened,” she said, “your story is important and people care.”

On behalf of NMCADV, thank you to Terry!
Our Community is Growing

NMCADV provides support for domestic violence providers across the state and also offers opportunity for organizations of all kinds to get involved. Become part of a growing movement to make safer communities for families throughout New Mexico.

Interested? Fill out an initial application at nmcadv.org/join-now or email rochelle@nmcadv.org.

Statewide DV Services

“...we are all survivors, interconnected and interrelated. Now is the time for strength and for unity. Our collective hopes and dreams for a vision of wellness, happiness and joy is possible and can be achieved.”

NMCDAV Board President Rod Kaskalla

Purple Postcard

It takes only minutes to contact your legislator with the NMCADV electronic Purple Post Card Program. Use this link https://www.nmcadv.org/purple-post-card/#/ to send a pre-written email and tell your legislator that funding domestic violence service programs in our state is important to you! Please thank them for their support.

Please sign the purple postcard today!

Our beautifully redesigned website is full of valuable information. Please visit soon! nmcadv.org

From the President of NMCADV Board

Rod Kaskalla

January 2022

As the President and longtime member of the Board of Directors of NMCADV, I would like to recognize and honor all those organizations and programs who diligently provide safety, comfort, and trust in supporting victims and their children.

The battering intervention programs (BIP) provide the opportunity for offenders to take accountability by addressing beliefs and values and by accepting responsibility for their abusive behaviors and actions.

The systems we have in place, first responders, law enforcement, SANE nurses, trauma units, hospitals, shelters, courts and more, help fulfill basic survival needs.

In this time of change, forced upon us by Covid-19, we continue to adapt and using all of our capacity to stay present and available. The NMCADV strives at all times to be inclusive of all member’s needs in New Mexico; we work with and learn from our national and state leadership, native agencies, legislators and many more to educate about the diverse humanity in our state. Everyone is affected by these unhealthy behaviors and actions, for we are all survivors who are interconnected and interrelated.

Now is the time for strength and unity to implement creative, innovative, systematic approaches to problems we already know and to begin this healing process.

Our collective efforts, hopes, dreams, support for this vision of wellness and happiness is possible and can be achieved!

Our deepest gratitude and appreciation and acknowledgement to all those who are part of this collective, conscious awareness of action to better our families, villages, and communities in this great state of New Mexico. “Thank You” I am humbled and honored to serve as Board President for the NMCADV.

Thank You To Our Supporters

Thank you to all of our funders and contributors. Your flexibility helped our domestic violence programs to meet the daunting challenges before them.

Thank you to all of our funders and contributors. Your flexibility helped our domestic violence programs to meet the daunting challenges before them.

Thank you to all of our funders and contributors. Your flexibility helped our domestic violence programs to meet the daunting challenges before them.

Thank you to all of our funders and contributors. Your flexibility helped our domestic violence programs to meet the daunting challenges before them.
Every Home
A Safe Home