Domestic Violence in New Mexico
Coordination and Communication
Welcome to our 4th annual newsletter. Thank you to everyone for what you have done over the past very difficult year. We believe 2023 will mark an important turning point for domestic violence prevention and intervention.

First, the criminal justice system (CJS), like all entities, struggled during the pandemic. Now that we are returning to something more like normal, we must review what the pandemic left in its wake. What was revealed? What must we do now? How can we begin to repair and ultimately improve the system response to DV? Much of this newsletter seeks to answer those questions.

Right now, DV itself seems so normal. Common. Inevitable. Just the way things are. It seems like there is not much that can be done to change it. In New Mexico, we are ready for some positive news. A functioning Coordinated Community Response (CCR) could be a big step forward. To that end, a statewide CCR has been launched, thanks to our state legislators who made the funding possible.

Coordination and communication are our words of the year.

Every part of the CJS is critical to the effectiveness of every other part. Effectiveness requires that we communicate. Be on the same page. And do it respectfully.

It’s not about good guys and bad guys. It’s not about whose fault it is that things aren’t working as well as they should. It’s about how we keep families safe. That’s the goal. How do we best deal with this problem and how do we find solutions? That’s what our CCR project is all about. Coordinating our efforts. Talking to each other— all with the primary goal of safety for survivors and accountability for offenders. Read more on page 4.

A main question deserving of an answer is this one: How will we know whether what we are doing is making a difference? One part of that answer is that we listen to survivors. What has mattered to them? Worked for them? As we implement change through our CCR efforts, we must hear from survivors about what helps them stay safe.

NMCA DV staff and a provider, La Casa, Inc., in Las Cruces, visited the Duluth Abuse Intervention Project (DAIP) in very snowy Minnesota in December, to learn about a model for creating CCR; they came back more than ready to make positive change. Scott Miller, Executive Director of DAIP, known as the leading expert in CCR, has praised New Mexico for being unique in the country for how we structured and emphasized statewide CCR projects.

In this issue we also hear the prosecutor’s perspective on DV, from Henry Valdez, Director of the Administrative Office of District Attorneys (AODA). We appreciate his leadership.

NMCA DV has launched a national Battering Intervention Program (BIP) network—the first of its kind ever, continuing NM leadership in the field. You can read about it in this issue.


We continue our work with children, and we are delivering numerous, high-quality trainings on trauma informed services, as we have done for nearly a decade. Read about what we are doing for children and see a sample of training topics.

We hope that you find this publication useful. It is but a small fraction of our work. To find out more, please go to NMCA DV.org, which contains a wealth of information.

Finally, we recognize the tireless work of domestic violence programs across the state who have borne the brunt of the many crises visited upon us over the last few years. They just kept doing what needed to be done to keep people safe. Please, should the chance ever arise for you, thank them for what they do on behalf of us all. A list of programs and their locations and contact information can be found herein.

Thank you all for caring. May we have a happier new year.

Pam Wiseman
Executive Director

“I want a strong structure... We want more shelters. We want more opportunity. We want more interventions.”

GOVERNOR LUHAN GRISHAM
LETTER FROM ROD KASKALLA, NMCADV BOARD PRESIDENT

Healing Community Involvement

As President of the NMCADV board, I want to acknowledge and appreciate all service providers, agencies, organizations, first responders, law enforcement, judicial systems, funders, and others that participate in a coordinated community response. They are helping in keeping our victims, families, and communities safe to begin their healing process.

Though change is slow, we are moving forward. We are forming alliances, finding new partners, and involving the community. We connect by understanding the power of healing through education, information, trainings, resources, and referrals.

This work is hard, but our lives will become easier knowing we are all in this together.

Respectfully Yours, Rod Kaskalla
Nambe Pueblo Domestic Violence Program
Coordinated Community Response Expands Across New Mexico

After several years of research and planning the funding has been secured to launch CCR projects across New Mexico.

NMCADV has three new staff that will assist existing projects statewide to further develop and evaluate their projects. Three additional staff will be dedicated primarily to developing newly selected sites; those staff will live in and therefore reflect the values of their communities.

“We are anxious to get started,” said Pam Wiseman, Executive Director of NMCADV. “Once we get the final go ahead to solicit applications from prospective participating sites, we will be ready to hit the ground running.”

The CCR project will be based on the model known as Duluth, considered the premier CCR project in the country.

This past December, two NMCADV staff, along with a provider, went to Duluth for a weeklong immersion in the model.

A few takeaways

- Try to identify root causes of what is not working
- Repair/preserve relationships. We all have grievances from the past. Pointing fingers doesn’t produce better outcomes
- Don’t go into spaces where you can’t be effective. Choose carefully
- Always ask whether this action will make the survivor safer

“An effective CCR places survivors at the center of the work.”

It can be easy to put our expertise in the center of our CCR work especially when it comes to changing the systems that we work in or alongside,” said NMCADV staff Melissa Silver. “In Duluth, however, the message was clear: survivors, their experience, and safety must be the driving force of all changes the team makes. Without hearing directly from survivors throughout the state of New Mexico we know that long lasting, meaningful, systemic change would not be possible or sustainable.

To that end, NMCADV is committed to conducting focus groups that will help us learn from those impacted by both the system and domestic violence. The information learned in these groups will help to inform the direction of our coordinated efforts and will ensure that survivor’s needs and safety are continuously centered in our decision-making processes.

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NMCADV Leads on CCR

“NMCADV is doing something here that is wholly unique,” said Pam Wiseman, ED of NMCADV. “We are focusing statewide and trying to improve the entire statewide response. And we are doing it by respecting each communities’ values and priorities. We want to help them do what is best for them. That’s how we will make progress.”

At a recent national training on CCR, Scott Miller, of DAIP, said the following about New Mexico leadership. To hear his full comment, visit nmcadv.org/our-projects/ccr.

“I would just like to note that the New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence is here at this training today and it is stunning to me, that in 2022, given how long this CCR work has been being done, that this is the first time a state has taken the topic on to this degree. The first time.

And New Mexico is doing something that no other state in the US is doing and putting money and time and effort into coordinating these responses. Rather than just giving out money to individual kinds of services here and there and that kind of puts a Band-Aid on it, this is pulling all of that together and trying to create a community-wide solution so that we can change the climate of tolerance of DV, which is really what we’re trying to do here.

So, kudos to the New Mexico Coalition for stepping out. Kudos to the state of New Mexico for finding the money to support it. This is a very, very exciting project and I am very happy to be a part of it.” - Scott Miller

NMCADV and La Casa receive training from the Duluth Intervention Project

For more information on CCR as described in our 2022 Newsletter, visit nmcadv.org/annual-newsletter.

“I think that this CCR is going to be how our communities will be made safer. I think this model will show incredible results.”
Governor Luhan Grisham

“When you bring the issue to the table people have the solutions. The solutions are already there. You just need to bring everyone together. That forges connections that last.”

Johnnie Trujillo,
Executive Director of El Puente de Socorro on their CCR work.

NMCADV and La Casa receive training from the Duluth Intervention Project
Dedicated to Children Affected by Domestic Violence

It has been almost nine years since the Children’s Capacity Building Project (CCBP) was first conceptualized and piloted. At that time, less than one-third of all CYFD contracted domestic violence programs statewide provided targeted services to children. Since then, the number of participating sites has more than doubled and now nearly half of domestic violence programs across the state have a dedicated position devoted to building capacity for family-centered children’s programming. National research and best practices reflect the critical role that attachment plays in the overall outcomes of children who have experienced trauma due to exposure to domestic violence and other forms of abuse. Through the CCBP model, advocates and counselors working in domestic violence programs are given the tools and knowledge needed to implement trauma-informed, family-centered programming. They are also part of a statewide peer support network and have real-time access to technical assistance, training, case consultation, peer mentorship, and other supportive activities.

NMCADV continues to be committed to ensuring that domestic violence service providers across the state receive adequate training and the individualized technical support needed to provide these critical services for families. That is just one of the reasons we have once again dedicated a full-time position to this effort. With the right training and support, domestic violence service providers can play a pivotal role in building resilience in the family system while working to reduce both the short-term and long-term consequences of trauma.

New Mexico Leads the Country in Battering Intervention

In 2022, the NMCADV launched the creation of the National Battering Intervention Program (BIP) Network. Surprisingly, a network of this kind has never been established before now. The group is chaired by NMCADV staff, David Garvin, who has nearly 40 years of experience in the field.

This effort has brought together over 180 highly experienced key individuals from around the country with representation from all 50 states, 1 US Territory, and includes representation from 26 state domestic violence coalitions.

“We are grateful to lead this unique effort,” said Pam Wiseman, ED of the NMCADV. “New Mexico has been considered a leader since at least 2015 when we brought together people from around the world to assess the current effectiveness of BIPs. This continues New Mexico leadership in an even more important way.”

Network Purposes:

• Be of service to the movement/field to end domestic violence by sharing resources and best practices.
• Increase access to existing research as well as influence the future and enhance the capacity to communicate about battering intervention effectiveness.
• Be a credible voice of the movement to end domestic violence.

“Many who work in BIP have asked for a gathering like this for years. The attendance has been phenomenal showing how valuable the opportunity is to practitioners in the field.”

Beth Meeks
Capacity Technical Assistance Director
National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) Washington, D.C.

NMCADV Engages with Probation and Parole

NMCADV has been providing regular forums for probation and DV providers. Haven Scogin, Community Corrections Administrator, in the NM Department of Corrections provided the following thoughts on that work. Thanks to Haven and staff for this important collaboration.

According to Haven, “The New Mexico Corrections Department is always looking to expand partnerships within the community to better serve our population on probation and parole supervision. By working with the NM Coalition Against Domestic Violence in collaboration with therapeutic providers across the State, we hope to create consistency in treatment services provided to our population and work to assist in implementing best practices when addressing Domestic Violence issues. Through monthly meetings, we have been able to answer questions and participate in a larger discussion about how Domestic Violence Interventions can be improved and ultimately work together so that there are fewer victims of Domestic Violence in the future.”
The Prosecutor's Perspective

Conversation with Henry Valdez, Administrative Office of District Attorneys (AODA)

Henry Valdez has been working to bring DV awareness to prosecutors and to build relationships between DV advocates and DAs. Last year he invited NMCADV to partner with his group on a conference. That was followed by NMCADV staff, David Garvin presenting to DAs on battering intervention—a third conference is planned for this summer.

We met with Henry and asked him to reflect on DV from a prosecutor’s viewpoint.

Domestic violence remains a significant problem in New Mexico. Few offenders are ever held accountable, and as a result, DV often gets worse. What can prosecutors do to improve the situation?

Prosecutors can better understand the dynamics of DV, which is different than some other crimes. A victim isn’t the typical witness. We can also work more closely with law enforcement to gather evidence that is not just dependent on a victim’s testimony to prove a case. We need to catch cases early. Misdemeanor cases may not get priority, which is understandable, but if we can address the problem early on, we may be able to keep it from getting worse.

DV victims are often reluctant to participate in the criminal justice system process. Why might that be? What can prosecutors do to address that challenge? How can NMCADV help?

There are many reasons. One is the fear of future violence and coercion from the offender. Another is the financial reality. Fines and fees, loss of employment, and incarceration is all possible. Going to court and all that comes with it is time consuming and requires resources that many victims don’t have. We can help victims to become survivors and to move on to have a life free of violence. That is long term.

Henry added that he is grateful to all the prosecutors and law enforcement who work in DV. They don’t get the recognition they deserve. They don’t get the accolades like some who work big, higher profile cases. And he is likewise grateful for the dedication of DV advocates who are on the frontlines across NM trying to make life better for survivors and their families.

Thank you Henry!

NMCADV Welcomes New Policy Director

MaryEllen Garcia begins her new role with NMCADV after the 1st of the year. “We are so grateful to have her,” said Pam Wiseman, ED of the NMCADV. “We are certain that she will bring important contributions to our state.”

MaryEllen Garcia has worked in New Mexico’s network of survivor services for over 20 years. Most recently she spent the past ten years as the Grants Bureau Chief for the New Mexico Crime Victims Reparation Commission, administering state funds to support survivor services, as well as federal funds from VOCA Victim Assistance, STOP VAWA, SASP, and other federal discretionary awards.

Prior to her work with the Commission, Ms. Garcia administered discretionary grants from the Office on Violence Against Women for the State of New Mexico including projects that developed best practices for access, issuance, and enforcement of orders of protection and a statewide domestic/dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, strangulation, and child victimization project.

She started her career in victim services as a volunteer with a non-profit law enforcement-based victim advocate program. She worked as a crisis negotiator for law enforcement and developed a law enforcement Crisis Outreach and Support Team, focused on providing access to families whose loved ones are experiencing mental illness.

Ms. Garcia has worked on several projects at the state, local and national levels to improve the provision of services for survivors of crime. She has worked and collaborated with the Vera Institute, the Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence, Casa de Esperanza, the Women of Color Network, the Office on Violence Against Women, the Office for Victims of Crime, and numerous other state and national programs.

She sat on the national board of Violence Against Women Administrators as the President and often mentors other states in the administration of their federal funding. She has worked with governmental and non-governmental victim service agencies around the state either in training, providing services, development of best practices in serving victims, program development, and leadership within New Mexico.

Please welcome MaryEllen!

Want to Be Heard? Legislators Tell You How

Thank you to legislators Senator Michael Padilla, Senator Linda Lopez, House Representative Christine Trujillo, House Representative Elizabeth “Liz” Thompson, and our NMCADV Lobbyist Linda Seigle.

These legislators were asked to give advice to DV programs on how they can best communicate their needs during the legislative session and beyond. “I was astonished at how helpful this session was,” said Pam Wiseman, Executive Director of the NMCADV. “I have been through a number of legislative sessions but I learned so much from this one!”

Thank you to our legislators for their generosity in sharing.

To hear their excellent advice, visit nmadv.gov/prepare-for-legislative-session
Option, Inc.
Hobbs, New Mexico

Option is a comprehensive domestic violence agency serving Lea County, located in Hobbs. Incorporated in 1978, it is among the oldest DV programs in the country.

We sat down with Executive Director, Robert Guthrie. Robert has served in the role of ED for a year but worked full-time at Option for 10 years before assuming that role. We asked him to tell us more about Option.

He told us that Option serves survivors of domestic violence and their children, as well as people who commit domestic violence. “We are making a difference for several thousand people every year,” he said. And we provide a range of services to both survivors and offenders. It’s important to deal not just with the aftermath of violence, which is an extremely critical part of what we do but also to deal with the problem at its source by working with offenders. We do both. “We are not just a place to stay—not just a bed”, he adds. We are actually rebuilding lives. Survivors who had been struggling are able to launch a new life. And we can see the importance of what we do in the face of a child. We are grateful for those experiences”.

Robert wants people to know how much he appreciates Lea County and that the community recognizes that domestic violence is a problem. They understand that Option contributes to the quality of life in Lea County by providing safety for families and services for offenders. “They have always supported our work, consistently endorsed it. And they have never wavered. Lea County is good people”. He also wanted to thank his staff, many of whom have been at Option for years, and credit them with what they have been able to accomplish in their community.

When asked what he wished more people knew about Option, he pointed to their many successes. “There are so many of them”, he said. “It’s easy to be negative because DV is such a big problem. But we care about solutions”, he stressed. “And we are making a difference, person by person”.

Option recently brought people together from several nearby programs, including Artessa and Roswell, to learn more about how to help people recover from the trauma associated with violence. The information was critical and needed, he noted, and “so was the fellowship with other DV programs. We are definitely in this together”.

To learn more about Option, Inc. and their program’s services visit optioninc.org or call (575) 397-1576.

"We are changing lives.”
Robert Guthrie
Executive Director

NMCADV Training

NMCADV delivers extensive training to providers across the state. We offer basic, foundational training for advocates, battering intervention program staff, and children’s program staff. We also offer regular training for supervisors. In addition, we provide numerous other training opportunities based on need.

Here is a sample of the training offered in 2022.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT FOR ADVOCATES
NMCADV partnered with Enlace Comunitario to provide several trainings to DV advocates in ways to support survivors of domestic violence to recognize and recover from economic abuse. This effort was funded by The Alisate Foundation.

CRIMINAL OR CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEMS
Survivors in New Mexico face a lack of legal resources to help with their efforts to stay safe when leaving an abusive situation. NMCADV hosted a series of topics ranging from Advocacy vs. Legal Advice to Lease Protection Rights.

BATTERING INTERVENTION
Battering intervention is a big part of the work that is supported by NMCADV. We now host 3 monthly calls for providers to offer TA and support using different curriculums and approaches for Battering Intervention services. We also hosted three multi-day intensive training on multiple approaches to battering intervention services.

SOLUTIONS CONFERENCE
NMCADV hosted a large successful virtual Solutions Conference this year. This conference focused on system solutions including how to create an effective coordinated community response; examples of battering intervention programs that promote offender and system accountability; enhancing the response of the child welfare system, and exploring court watch and restorative justice approaches. This conference attracted a national audience of over 180 attendees.

CHILDREN’S PROGRAMMING
NMCADV has several years of experience offering a high level of support and technical assistance to growing children’s services in New Mexico. In addition to bi-weekly support calls with providers, NMCADV hosted 2 Nurtured Heart Trainings and one multi-day Intensive Trauma Training for working with children who have witnessed or experienced violence in their homes.

SERVING TRANSGENDER SURVIVORS
We partnered with the Transgender Resource Center (TGRC) to host a Transgender Cultural Fluency Training to help DV advocates understand the unique barriers faced by this group when seeking services and support. In addition to this focused training, we have incorporated this topic into the Core Advocacy Training that is required for all new DV advocates in the state of NM.

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE
In recognition of National Suicide Prevention Month, NMCADV hosted a training on the new 988 hotline number and training on working with survivors who also struggle with mental health and drug abuse issues. Over 350 advocates were reached with these efforts.

ADVOCACY CAFÉ
NMCADV hosts a monthly Advocacy Café Zoom call inviting all of our NM partners to learn about multiple issues that intersect with domestic violence. This call is open to the public and we average 30-40 participants each month. In 2022 we hosted topics such as Teen Dating Violence, Language Line Access, Serving People with Disabilities, Services for Animals, Lease Protections, and an introduction to services offered by some of our community partners.

TRAUMA-INFORMED SERVICES
NMCADV supports advocates to provide trauma-informed services through all of our training and technical assistance provided. One of the most intensive trainings we offer is the Core Advocacy Training that is required for all new advocates who provide services in the state of NM. This is a 3-day training that is offered 6 times per year and covers topics including the history of DV, confidentiality; working with children; providing services that are trauma-informed; self-care for advocates; working with different populations including immigrants, LGBTQ, Native Americans, individuals with disabilities, and sexual assault survivors; and motivational interviewing. NMCADV also hosts several other trainings throughout the year to expand on some of these same topics including several trainings on the dynamics of working in a shelter, in both English and Spanish.

LEADERSHIP
NMCADV recognizes that running a non-profit is a very complicated role. We offered trainings to support current leadership and up-and-coming leaders in this field with topics such as New Executive Director Training, Effective Supervision Practices, How to Write a Proclamation, and Navigating the Legislative Process. We also hosted panel discussions with current leaders of color to provide insight into how we can support the growth of future leaders of color in our field.

For a list of our upcoming trainings, visit nmadv.org/upcomingtrainings.

NMCADV
**Principal Members**

Battered Families Services
Gallup

Carlsbad Battered Family Shelter
Carlsbad

Community Against Violence
Taos

COPE
Ruidoso & Alamogordo

Crisis Center of Northern New Mexico
Española

Domestic Abuse Intervention Center
Truth or Consequences

Domestic Violence Resource Center
Albuquerque

El Puente de Socorro
Socorro

El Refugio, Inc.
Silver City

ENIPC Peacekeepers
Domestic Violence Program
Oñati Owingeh

El Enlace Comunitario
Albuquerque

Esperanza Shelter for Battered Families, Inc.
Santa Fe

Family Crisis Center
Farmington

Grammy's House
Arañas

The Hartley House
Clovis

Haven House
Rio Rancho

Help End Abuse for Life, Inc.
(H.E.A.L.)

Ruidoso Downs

Jicarilla Behavioral Health
Dulce

La Casa, Inc.
Las Cruces, Deming, Anthony

Nambe Pueblo
Domestic Violence Program
Santa Fe

Navajo United Methodist Center/ New Beginnings
Farmington

New Mexico Asian Family Center
Albuquerque

Option, Inc.
Hobbs

Pueblo of Pojoaque
Santa Fe

Pueblo of Zuni (New Beginnings)
Zuni

Robert’s Place
Grants

Roswell Refuge
Roswell

S.A.F.E. House
Albuquerque

Torrance County Project
Domestic Violence Program
Estancia

Tri-County Family Justice Center of Northeast New Mexico
Las Vegas

Valencia Shelter Services
Los Lunas

**Organizational Members**

Amistad y Resolana

A New Awakening
(ANA Behavioral Health)

ARC New Mexico

Cavern City Child Advocacy Center

Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women

The Enhancement Center

Eve’s Place, Inc.

GD Psych Services

Highland University CARES: Center for Advocacy Resources Education & Services

Homeland

Hope Harbor

Kirtland Air Force Base Family Advocacy Program

My Little Horse Listener, Inc.

New Mexico Legal Aid

Phoenix House SA and DV Resource Center

Resolve

Rio Rancho Police Department

Santa Fe Safe

Sanctuary Zone, Inc.

Sandoval County Domestic Violence Prevention Program

Solace Crisis Treatment Center

Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico

UNM Women’s Resource Center

**Become a Member!**

NMCADV provides support for domestic violence providers across the state and also offers opportunity for organizations of all kinds to get involved.

We are a membership coalition with three types of membership. Benefits range depending on your level of membership.

Interested in becoming a part of NMCADV?

Learn more about membership on our website or submit a form to meet with our Membership Coordinator. Visit [nmcadv.org/join-now](http://nmcadv.org/join-now).

**Statewide DV Services**

To find your closest domestic violence program, use the map on our website at [nmcadv.org/find-nm-resources](http://nmcadv.org/find-nm-resources).

**NMCADV Speaking Out Podcast**

NMCADV has a podcast! The goal of this podcast is to highlight our programs and the amazing work that they’re doing around the state, provide discussion around the topics of domestic violence, and create an environment of education and empowerment for anyone that may be experiencing domestic violence.

Find us anywhere you listen to podcasts—make sure to subscribe, review, and share our podcast to help expand our audience!

[anchor.fm/nmcadv](http://anchor.fm/nmcadv)
We are a membership coalition with 3 types of membership:

**Principal**
This membership is reserved for New Mexico domestic violence programs that primarily serve domestic violence survivors and have a history of providing quality services.

**Organizational**
This level of membership is for organizations that support the mission of NMCADV and provide a service that is related to domestic violence survivor services or battering intervention.

**Supporter**
This NEW category is for individuals and organizations that do not serve in the domestic violence field but would like to support our cause.

Members are part of a growing movement to make safer communities for families throughout New Mexico.