



March 2021 Victim Services Trainings

March 2021 will mark one year of a state of emergency in Massachusetts due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Join MOVA for a series of trainings on how the Massachusetts victim services field has responded to COVID-19 and continued providing services to victims. If you have any questions or to request a reasonable accommodation, please contact MOVA at MOVA@mass.gov.

Sustaining Ourselves and Our Movement

March 22, 2021, 10-11:30 a.m.

Jessica Teperow, *REACH Beyond Domestic Violence*

At REACH, they understand trauma as a “profound and meaningful loss of control over experience.” Since mid-March 2020, we have collectively and individually felt this profound loss of control on a collective level. Many of us are experiencing burnout and overwhelm. Every day, advocates bear witness to the suffering of others, and this work has a cumulative toll on us individually and collectively. As advocates, we also have our own stories and our own pain - both past and present. This workshop will create a space to acknowledge the cumulative toll of caring for others and of bearing witness to trauma, and to develop sustainable strategies to care for ourselves and support one another.

Elder Protective Services: Continuing to Function in a Pandemic

March 24, 2021, 10-11:30 a.m.

Jonathan Fielding and **Taryn Lee-Turgeon**, *Executive Office of Elder Affairs*

Beginning in February and March 2020, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, along with the rest of the United States and across the globe, faced a crisis of epic proportions. ‘Stay at Home’ orders were issued in some format everywhere to try and stop or slow the spread of COVID-19. There was a noticeable decline in the number of reports starting in March 2020. Concerns for elder safety continued and as such, the Elder Protective Services (PS) Program had to find a way to address the issues noted in the reports while also ensuring the safety of elders and PS staff.

The workshop will highlight: 1) the key components of the program’s interim plan; 2) other issues identified by PS through the course of the pandemic and how they were addressed (e.g. court process that changed or assessing cognitive capacity via a telephone call); 3) examples of creative tools and techniques implemented by PS staff to perform their job, including use of telephone technology and conducting safe interviews from their cars or using social distancing in an open area; and, 4) the plan and moving and adjusting the program to the ‘new normal.’

Trauma-Informed Response to Serve Drug-Endangered Children During COVID

March 30, 2021, 1-2:30 p.m.

Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy Cruz and **Melinda Kneeland**, *United Way of Greater Plymouth Family Center*

As depicted by ripples flowing from a stone dropped in water, the ripple effect after an overdose can spread wide, with those closest to the overdose victim — children and families — being the first and hardest hit. The effects of the opioid epidemic on children and families are just starting to be recognized as children lose parents, enter foster care, and experience the significant trauma of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) related to parental substance use. With more and more children experiencing the ripple effects of parental opioid addiction, household opioid use is becoming the fastest growing ACE in Plymouth County, Massachusetts. The Plymouth County District Attorney's Office, the United Way of Greater Plymouth County, and all 27 county police departments are partnering to respond to this ACE. Having to adjust in a time of COVID-19, the task force has adapted in innovative ways to strengthen partnerships, improve data collection, and respond to family needs, which has led to sustainable efforts that will survive beyond the era of social distancing.

This workshop will (1) identify children exposed to familial substance use disorders; (2) provide system navigation for children and families to access direct services; and (3) train community providers across the Sequential Intercept Model to more effectively respond in a trauma-informed manner to the needs of drug endangered children.