



Victim Rights Month 2021 Workshop Descriptions

April is Victim Rights Month. Throughout the month, MOVA will be hosting a virtual series of trainings to commemorate victim rights, build awareness, and highlight the services provided across the Commonwealth. If you have any questions or to request a reasonable accommodation, please contact MOVA at MOVA@mass.gov.

Victim Rights Month Kickoff: 'me too.' Movement

April 1, 2021, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Tarana Burke, Founder of the 'me too.' Movement

Moderated by Attorney General Maura Healey

Victim Rights Month 2021 will begin with an event featuring Tarana Burke, founder of the 'me too.' Movement. This event will be a Q&A with Tarana Burke, moderated by Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey.

Tarana will speak about the origins of the 'me too.' Movement and the premise - that the power of empathy is key to survivor's healing - that it is built on. She will talk candidly about why sexual violence is so rampant in our culture and talks about concrete ways that every day citizens can interrupt it. Her talk is a call to action that is meant to inspire and motivate all who are affected by sexual violence - which is everyone.

The Future of VOCA Funding in Massachusetts: A Conversation with MOVA

April 6, 2021, 10-11 a.m.

MOVA staff

The federal Crime Victims Fund was established by the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) in 1984. VOCA serves as a major funding source for victim services across the nation. MOVA serves as the VOCA administrator for Massachusetts and awards grants to support services to crime victims. Join us to discuss navigating the upcoming 35% VOCA reduction while continuing to meet the needs of victims and survivors. It is important to have these conversations now to work toward sustaining services for victims and survivors. We will talk about the impact of the most recent federal budget to Massachusetts' VOCA grant, opportunities for advocacy, and what this cut means for programs like yours. Questions are welcomed in the registration link. We will answer these questions during the Q&A segment of the workshop.

Statewide Needs Assessment: A conversation on how you can get involved

April 6, 2021, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

MOVA staff and **ICF staff**

Please join representatives from the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance and ICF Incorporated, L.L.C. in a discussion on April 6, 2021 about upcoming exciting new research! ICF is conducting a second statewide needs assessment to explore the current nature of victimization and needs of victims/survivors across the Commonwealth, identify current strengths and gaps in service delivery for victims of crime, and examine client outcomes. This needs assessment will help demonstrate our successes and challenges since the first needs assessment in 2014 as well as inform future programming and funding needs.

ICF will share about efforts that will occur over the next year and a half to gather recommendations from programs about how to get involved with each stage of the assessment. The feedback that victim service providers and victims of crime provide is invaluable for improving services, better meeting the needs of both victims and service providers throughout the Commonwealth, identifying opportunities for capacity-building, and identify emerging priorities in the victim service field.

Privacy at the Intersections of Title IX and Criminal Cases

April 7, 2021, 10-11:30 a.m.

Maggie Schmidt and **Ruth Vaughan**, *Victim Rights Law Center*

Massachusetts has a significant population of college students from community college through professional schools. Students who pursue both criminal and Title IX options after an assault are often unaware of how privacy and confidentiality between the two systems. This workshop will give an overview of Title IX and the impact of Title IX on the criminal process. It will look at how to advise a client going through a Title IX investigation when there is a pending criminal case, with a focus on how to discuss impact of the assault without disclosing information that could then be used in a Dwyer motion. This would include use of mental health, student health, and other academic records.

When Darkness Meets the Shining Light Of Hope: An MDT Investigation Through A Survivor's Perspective

April 8, 2021, 10-11:30 a.m.

Melanie Sachs

Melanie will present her own survivor story detailing the impact that the Child Advocacy Model and Forensic Interview process had on her finding her voice and breaking her silence for the very first time in the wake of her abuse. Melanie will share her deep and ongoing connection she holds with the MDT (Multi-Disciplinary Team) members who worked on her case, and elaborate on how their role within the team impacted her experiences as a survivor. This unique presentation from a survivor will shed light on the value of the MDT in child abuse cases. Speaking about the journey that unfolded through the past 15 years of healing, faith and determination to use her pain for purpose, Melanie will explain how the involvement of a MDT allowed her to heal from her abuse, and get involved with victim advocacy and services.

Empowerment, Engagement and Inclusion: A cultural, linguistic and trauma informed comprehensive approach to supporting marginalized youth in commercial sexual exploitation programming

April 13, 2021, 10-11:30 a.m.

Stephanie Badoo and **Adriana Castrillon Reyes**, *The Center for Hope and Healing, Inc.*

The Center for Hope & Healing has been working to end sexual violence and sexual exploitation of youth and children in Greater Lowell for over forty years and their mission aims to engage and uplift the voices of disenfranchised members of the community, including marginalized youth. The improvement of culturally specific and trauma informed services, guided by youth, is a key objective of this workshop, highlighted in their Lowell Ending trafficking of Youth (LET Youth) programming.

This workshop presents an approach of youth engagement that uplifts the voices and lived experiences of marginalized youth and will:

1. Identify barriers to working with marginalized youth (i.e., youth of color, LGBTQ youth, refugee and immigrant youth, youth with disability, and economically impoverished youth) vulnerable to sexual violence and commercial sexual exploitation.
2. Advance knowledge and expertise on youth inclusion, engagement, outreach, work with marginalized young people using a cultural, linguistic and survivor centered approach for comprehensive services.
3. Strengthen the awareness and skills on overarching practices and effective engagement of marginalized youth in violence prevention (i.e., commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC), child sexual abuse (CSA)) programming through statewide and national resources.

The Legacy He Left Me

April 15, 2021, 10-11:30 a.m.

Lovern Gordon

Using pieces of personal experience as a child witness to domestic violence and subsequent adult abusive relationship as a backdrop, Lovern Gordon, Founder and President of Love Life Now Foundation, Inc., will show:

- How easy it can be to fall into an abusive relationship.
- Effects of being a child witness to violence.
- What constitutes a healthy relationship vs an abusive one.
- How to safely end an unhealthy relationship.
- How to help someone in need and become active bystander.

This workshop will raise awareness around the issue of abuse, empower the audience to become bystanders in and around their communities, and show there is life after abuse.

Creating an Organizational Culture of Inclusion

April 20, 2021, 10-11:30 a.m.

Dr. Gary Lyon and **Kim Hopkins**, *Centerboard, Inc.*

This workshop will discuss how diversity is at the center of most of our clients' daily experience and inclusion, for some, is a source of great hope. It is imperative for victim service providers to truly respect the diversity of all people with whom we connect, and to actively incorporate a policy of inclusion into our plans, activities, and organization.

Dr. Gary Lyon and Kim Hopkins from Centerboard, Inc. will begin to help participants to build awareness of unconscious beliefs, assumptions, and behaviors in their interactions with survivor colleagues and in their work with victims. Participants will be assisted to set the stage for conscious and lasting change without shame or blame and build the internal capacity to continue inclusion work in their organizations. It will look at addressing disparities so that staff feel valued and respected, as well as ensuring that organizational practices truly support survivors accessing their own resilience and strength.

This workshop will provide insight to embracing a pluralistic view within the workplace and service provision by helping attendees to think through ways in which they can truly acknowledge, accept, understand, and utilize differences. It will examine how current organization systems may have been unknowingly built to exclude people. Introducing participants to:

- Cross-cultural dialogue guidelines, such as "try on" and "intent vs impact"
- Historically included and historically excluded social identities
- The Multicultural Process of Change
- Feelings as Messengers

Centering Survivors' Voices in Policy Making

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

Sophie Hansen and **Caitlin LeMay**

This workshop will provide key concepts and best practices on engaging communities in policy change and leveraging the lived experience of victims/survivors. Sophie Hansen, Emergency Services Social Worker at Boston Children's Hospital, and Caitlin LeMay will share examples and make connections of how policy advocacy is necessary for supporting survivors. Utilizing discussions and group activities, the facilitators will guide discussions related to centering the voices of survivors in the policymaking process without exploiting their time and story. Considerations will be shared around cultural competency in engaging survivor communities in policymaking.

Stories and Best Practices for Supporting Survivors with Disabilities

April 27, 2021, 10-11:30 a.m.

Allie Talarico, *IMPACT Boston* and **Leigh-Ann Barry**, *Disabled Persons Protection Commission*

In this workshop, participants will hear stories about survivors with intellectual and developmental disabilities and the unique challenges that face them when trying to find support and healing. Participants will also learn some best practices for working with survivors with intellectual and developmental disabilities specifically around support services and safety and relationship education.

Understanding and Implementing Best Practices for Trans, Non-Binary, and Gender Diverse Survivors 102

April 28, 2021, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Fari Shakur and **Nicole Warner**, *Fenway Health*

Due to the high prevalence of violence against transgender, non-binary, and gender diverse (T/NB/GD) individuals, it is vital for community service providers to be able to implement best practices when serving this population. Join us in Understanding and Implementing Best Practices for T/NB/G Survivors 102 to learn specific skills to support this population and discuss ways to bring this conversation back to your organization through educational components and case studies.

VRM Closing Keynote Speaker: Audrey Morrissey

April 30, 2021, 10-11:30 a.m.

Audrey Morrissey, *My Life My Choice*

Victim Rights Month 2021 will conclude with a closing keynote address from 2020 Special Recognition Award recipient Audrey Morrissey. Audrey Morrissey is the Associate Director of My Life My Choice, a program of Justice Resource Institute. She is known on a local and national level for her work in the field of exploitation. Audrey will join us to discuss the importance of allies in the movement to end exploitation and human trafficking. Audrey will share her personal journey that led her to become an advocate for vulnerable young women who are at risk of being recruited into the commercial sex industry, and for those women who wish to leave exploitation behind them. She will touch on the importance of allies who advocate for survivor-led and survivor-informed services in the field. Audrey will close her presentation with a discussion on decriminalization vs. the equality model as it pertains to human trafficking and exploitation today.