2023 Statewide Conference

Collective Transformation
Building Power through Change

Honoring 45 Years of Serving Survivors & Advocates

November 27th - 29th 2023
Monona Terrace
Madison, WI
About the Conference

The Collective Transformation Conference:
Celebrating End Abuse’s 45 Years of Service

The primary goal of the Collective Transformation conference is to ignite an extensive, thoughtful, and brave conversation about domestic violence, with an emphasis on End Abuse’s four-and-a-half-decade record of service. The conference will delve into the fundamental reasons behind violence and the intersectionality of domestic abuse with other forms of oppression. As a statewide coalition, we recognize that transformation is an essential step towards creating a world where all victims are free from violence, and we can live in a peaceful and secure world. The event will serve as a celebration of our victories, an opportunity to re-energize as a united front, and a chance to contribute towards transformative change.
Event Program

*Room Names - Hall of Ideas (HOI), Meeting Rooms (MR), Theater
*All meals and keynotes will take place in the Madison Ballroom
*Breaks, Networking and Vendors will take place in the Grand Terrace

Monday, November 27

12-1:30pm | Registration
1:30-2am | Opening Remarks
2-3pm | Opening Keynote | Latoya Conners Gray
3-3:15 | Break
3:15 | Breakouts: Select one 60- or 90-minute session
3:15-4:15 | Breakout Session A (60 Minutes)
  ○ The Transformative Power of Forgiveness (HOI: E)
  ○ Trauma-Informed Courtrooms: A Review of the DAIS Court Watch Program (HOI: F)
  ○ Mindfulness (HOI: H)
3:15-4:45pm | Breakout Session B (90 Minutes)
  ○ A Journey to Emotional Healing: Introducing a Book Club for Young Survivors (MR: O)
  ○ Confidentiality in Crisis: Legal and Program Policy Considerations (HOI: I)
  ○ Beyond the Headlines: Examining the Root Causes of Anti-Trans Violence (MR: P)
5:00-7pm Hors D’oeuvres & Networking

Tuesday, November 28

7:00-7:30am | Yoga (Meeting Room Q)
7:30-9am | Breakfast
9:15-9:30am | Welcome/Logistics/Reflections
9:30-10am | Morning Keynote | Miller
10-10:15 | Break
10:15-12:15 | Plenary Panel of Experts | Moderator: Latoya Conners Gray
12:15-1:15 | Lunch & Keynote | Dr. Sagashus Levingston
1:15-2:45pm | Breakout Session A (All Sessions 90 Minutes)
  ● Embracing Wholeness: Exploring Identity, Culture and Healing from Domestic Abuse (HOI:E)
  ● Divorce Quest: An Interactive Adventure through the Legal Maze of Divorce (Part 1 of 2) (MR: K)
  ● Integrating Abuse in Later Life in your DV or SA CCR (HOI: F)
  ● The Last Drop (Theater)
  ● The Missing Piece: Emotional Health & Wellness (MR: O)
  ● From Childhood Trauma to Adult Survivor (HOI: H)
  ● From Blind Spots to Open Minds: Examining and Addressing Bias (MR: L)
2:45-3pm | Break
3pm | Breakout Sessions B & C (Select one 60- or 90-Minute Session)
3-4pm | Breakout Session B (60 Minutes)
  ● Domestic Violence in the Workplace (HOI: F)
  ● Healing Healers (MR:O)
  ● Pain to Purpose: Thriving After Abuse (HOI: H)
  ● Intimacy and Healing Post Sexual Violence and Abuse (MR: L)
3-4:30pm | Breakout Session C (90 Minutes)
  ● Divorce Quest: An Interactive Adventure through the Legal Maze of Divorce (Part 2 of 2) (MR: K)
  ● Unveiling the Layers: Intersectionality in Survivor Support (HOI: I)
  ● Adapting Your Outreach and Services for Older Survivors (MR: P)
  ● Emotional CPR & Prevention (HOI: E)
6-10:30pm Dinner and Dancing
Wednesday November 29

7:00-7:30am | Yoga (Meeting Room Q)
7:30-9am | Breakfast/Hotel Check Out
9-10:30am | Breakout session A
  • A Deep Dive into Child Abuse Restraining Orders (HOI: E)
  • From Victim to Advocate: A Story of Resilience Through the Eyes of a Survivor (HOI: F)
  • Preliminary Findings from WI’s DV Housing First Pilot Program (HOI: H)
  • Tips & Tools for Improving Collaborative Advocacy Between Child Welfare & Domestic Violence Systems (Ballroom)
  • Negotiating Child Custody with an Abusive Partner: Domestic Violence Survivors’ Experience in Family Court (HOI: I)
10:30-10:45 Break
10:45-12:15 | Breakout session B
  • Providing Transformative Services to Immigrant Survivors: The Intersection of Immigration and Family Law (HOI: E)
  • Empower, Heal, Transform: Nurturing the Provider Within - A Workshop for Survivor-Advocates (Ballroom)
  • Language Justice & Disability Justice (HOI: H)
  • Collaborating for Justice for Older African Americans: Key Strategies for Equitable Partnerships with Culturally-Specific Organizations (HOI: F)
12:15-1:15 Lunch

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Keynote Speakers
&
Workshop Descriptions
"THRIVING WHILE TRIGGERED: INTERSECTIONS OF GENDER IDENTITY, BLACK CULTURE, AND HEALING FROM DOMESTIC ABUSE"

Over the last 15 years, I focused on creating and implementing organizational and leadership development strategies within both nonprofit and corporate sectors. After experiencing identity-based harm, I walked away from a high-paying role to preserve my peace. Now, I am a social entrepreneur helping people show up in the fullness of their humanity at work (and in the world). TLDR: I am a full-time human and part-time consultant.
Latoya Conners Gray is a seasoned executive skilled in operations and technology. She excels at merging IT with business for optimal results. Recognized as a global leader, Latoya steers teams through intricate projects, promoting cross-platform collaboration. Her forte is creating high-performing teams, nurturing talent, and forging strong ties with top executives to exceed business goals. Outside work, Latoya champions diversity, inclusion, and women’s leadership, frequently speaking on these topics. She relishes cooking, traveling, and reading. Committed to her community, she aids the underserved and amplifies marginalized voices in her church and locality.
Dr. Sagashus T. Levingston, raised in Chicago's Bronzeville, earned her BA in English Literature from the University of Illinois and both her MA in Afro-American Studies and PhD in English from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her research, influenced by rhetoric, motherhood studies, and black feminism, led to her book and business, *Infamous Mothers*. Recognized by Demeter Press, BRAVA Magazine, Forbes, and others, she's a renowned speaker and consultant. Often known as Dr. Sagashus, she's part of the Doyenne Group in Madison, WI, and serves on the WWBIC South Central Advisory Committee. A mother of six, she resides in Madison.

Notes:
Plenary Session
Come join us for a panel discussion as we re-affirm the importance of your work! Your work, your efforts, your time – you are making an impact. It all matters.

Let's share our collective lived experiences to motivate each other and spur one another on for the work ahead. In this panel discussion you will talk with and hear from a diverse group of advocates delivering hope, healing, and services to survivors.

As a participant you will have the opportunity to engage directly with the speakers via a time of Q&A and with other participants during a time of reflection and processing.

Panel Members:
Virginia Gittens Escudero, Executive Director - UNIDOS
Janan Najeeb, Executive Director - Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition
Antonia Norton, Director - The Asha Project
Ann Laatsch, Justice System Coordinator - NCALL
Robin Dalton, Director of Legal Services - End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin

DAY 1, Monday November 27th Workshops (60 Min Session) 3:15-4:15 PM

The Transformative Power of Forgiveness
Dr. Buck Blodgett will share the Sentencing Statement he made at the conclusion of the trial of his daughter’s murderer. He will then lead a focused open discussion examining the deeper distinctions of Forgiveness. The course leader will ask questions, invite attendees to consider and react to the questions in a free dialogue style group discussion. A central theme of the open dialogue will be that there are no wrong or right answers or opinions, all views and opinions and feelings have personal meaning and validity to their holder, and what can we learn together to empower us as individuals and in our collective communities to presence Love and Peace?
Presenter: Dr. Buck Blodgett

Trauma-Informed Courtrooms: A Review of the DAIS Court Watch Program
The DAIS Court Watch program observes Dane County injunction hearings to establish a data-driven analysis of the Circuit Court system’s advancement of victim safety and perpetrator accountability. The goals of the program are to improve the experience of survivors of intimate partner violence who seek restraining orders, provide information to legal stakeholders regarding trends in the court’s handling of injunction cases, and identify recommendations for improved trauma-informed responses to Domestic Abuse and Harassment injunction cases. In this workshop, you will hear from members of the DAIS Legal Advocacy Program about how the DAIS Court Watch Program operates, the findings in the 2021-2022 DAIS Court Watch Report, and ways the court room can be more trauma informed.
Presenters: Kianna Hanson and Elsa Gumm

Mindfulness
Mindfulness meditation is a mental training practice that teaches you to let go of worries and negativity, slow down racing thought, and calm both your mind and body. Meditation can be combined with the practice of mindfulness which can be defined as a mental state that involves being fully focused on the “here and now” so you can acknowledge and accept your thoughts, feelings, and sensations without judgement. Techniques can vary; mindfulness meditation involves deep breathing and awareness of body and mind. Practicing mindfulness meditation doesn't require props or preparation – just yourself.
Presenter: Tiffany Kula LMFT
A Journey to Emotional Healing: Introducing a Book Club for Young Survivors
A Journey to Emotional Healing provides participants with an overview of an innovative book club dedicated to helping survivors of teen dating violence and sexual violence. Participants will learn how to create a safe space where feelings are uncovered, voices are strengthened, and healing begins.
Presenters: Eileen Cruz and Valencia Laws

Confidentiality in Crisis: Legal and Program Policy Considerations
This seminar will provide participants with the opportunity to learn about how confidentiality laws apply even in crisis situations, such as when a survivor has been murdered, a survivor has committed suicide, a survivor has made threats of self-harm or harm to others, a survivor has violated program policy, or a survivor has passed away after giving verbal directives for what should happen. We will discuss trends in these areas, what programs are doing today, and how to establish policies to reflect best practices. Participants will have the opportunity to review sample policies, exchange copies of their own policies, and make revisions with input from presenters and other participants to reflect what they learned.
Presenters: Kari Niesen-LaScala, Nicole Johnson and Hannah Ferry

Beyond the Headlines: Examining the Root Causes of Anti-Trans Violence
This workshop will examine the root causes of anti-Trans violence, its relationship to racism and gender-based violence, and our role in ending anti-Trans violence. Participants should enter this workshop with a basic understanding of gender, gender identity and basic LGBTQ+ terms. Presenters: Keira Kowal Jett and Reiko Ramos
Embracing Wholeness: Exploring Identity, Culture and Healing from Domestic Abuse
This interactive workshop delves into the complex and interconnected nature of identity, culture, and abuse, shedding light on their profound influence on experiences of violence and oppression. Through engaging activities, thought-provoking discussions, and real-life examples, participants will gain a deeper understanding of the nuanced dynamics at play and explore strategies for creating inclusive and culturally responsive interventions within the domestic abuse movement. Moreover, this transformative workshop focuses on embracing wholeness by exploring the intricate relationship between identity, culture, and the healing process from domestic abuse. Through interactive exercises, group discussions, and storytelling, participants will navigate the ways in which one's sense of self, cultural background, and experiences shape their healing journey. Together, attendees will uncover strategies for fostering resilience, restoring personal agency, and cultivating a holistic approach to healing within diverse communities. Presenter: Miller

Divorce Quest: An Interactive Adventure through the Legal Maze of Divorce (Part 1)
This divorce simulator aims to educate participants about the challenges faced by domestic violence survivors seeking a divorce in Wisconsin. Key elements include the interplay of reporting abuse, understanding the role of restraining orders, working with a guardian ad litem, finding legal representation, experiencing court proceedings, and accessing emotional support. Participants will learn about the impact of reporting abuse in divorce proceedings, the intersection of restraining orders and divorces, communication with guardians ad litem, and the complexities of varying understandings of abuse. They will also explore legal representation options, including the reality of legal deserts and available legal aid. Simulated court scenarios offer insights into divorce processes based on survivor resources and attorney presence. Emotional support resources are also highlighted. The simulator aims to raise awareness, promote empathy and understanding, and offer support to survivors while educating users about available resources in Wisconsin.

Part 1 of 2 - YOU MUST ATTEND BOTH SESSIONS!
Presenters: Amanda Mayer, Megan Lee, and Karlie Merkel

The Missing Piece: Emotional Health & Wellness
In this workshop, participants will learn how emotional expression and emotional wellness are the key components missing in suicide prevention, mental health and wellness programs. They will deepen their understanding on why all emotions are important to our human experience, and the many ways that we avoid being with our emotions. Participants will be introduced to The Change Triangle—a tool that helps move past our defenses and connect with the emotional body inside each of us.

Presenters: Lynn McLaughlin and Karen Iverson Riggers
Integrating Abuse in Later Life in your DV or SA CCR
Abuse in later life, which refers to the intersection of domestic and sexual violence and elder abuse, is a very complex and multi-layered issue; it is highly unlikely that one service provider alone can meet all the needs of older victims. Inter-agency communication and collaboration becomes increasingly important in order to create seamless delivery of support and services older adults need to begin healing from their trauma. Communities across Wisconsin have Coordinated Community Response (CCR) Teams to look at responses to domestic and sexual violence from a systemic viewpoint. To support CCRs in addressing abuse across the lifespan, this conference session will delve into how CCRs can account for the unique experiences of older survivors: generational differences, abuse in the context of a long-standing relationship, isolation, core values, health status considerations, accessible and equitable services to name a few. Videos will be used to bring the older survivor’s voice to the presentation. Group discussions will offer the opportunity for attendees to delve deeper into their current response to these cases. CCR Teams who have a shared understanding of the complexities of these cases can then move towards systemic change that both supports older victims’ safety and holds offenders accountable.

Presenters: Martie Washington and Ann Laatsch

The Last Drop
Most Hollywood movies imply that abuse doesn’t “count” unless it leaves a bruise – but the first signs of abuse are rarely violent. That’s why a team of survivors and abuse experts came together to create The Last Drop – a film that illustrates the less visible forms, like manipulation, isolation tactics, and technology abuse. By shedding light on the most overlooked forms of relationship abuse, The Last Drop aims to validate survivors, promote policies for holistic legal support, and teach people how to recognize the early signs.

Presenters: Adam Joel and Radhika Sharma-Gordon

From Childhood Trauma to Adult Survivor
Shonita’s presentation will be in storytelling format, a roadmap of her story, how she arrived in her position today, and how not everyone’s roads are carefree and easy. She will share her experience of domestic violence in her former marriage. Her key points will be about the power, control, and will that form the central forces behind domestic violence. She will cover how to define DV, how it shows up in relationships and marriages, and how it can continue in cycles. She will teach how to identify the point at which you need to make contact for help, and who to reach out to.

Presenter: Shonita Roach

From Blind Spots to Open Minds: Examining and Addressing Bias
“From Blind Spots to Open Minds: Examining and addressing Bias” is a presentation that explores the concept of personal and unconscious bias and provides strategies for individuals to examine and address their biases. We will begin by defining the different types of bias and highlighting the impact it has on how individuals engage with the world. This presentation emphasizes the magnitude of self-awareness and continual learning in identifying and challenging biases effectively. We will introduce techniques for revealing and addressing unconscious biases. This presentation will conclude by highlighting the benefits of embracing diversity and actively working to overcome biases for personal growth and creating a more inclusive society.

Presenter: Patrice McBeath
DAY 2, Tuesday November 28th Workshops 3:00-4:00pm

Domestic Violence in the Workplace
The goal of Golden House’s “Domestic Violence in the Workplace” program is to educate employers about the potential impact domestic abuse can have on individual employees, coworkers, and the organization as a whole. The program equips employers with resources such as policies, procedures, a manager's guide to responding to domestic violence, fliers, and more.

Presenter: Jennifer Tingle

Healing Healers
Through our workshop we hope to influence organizations and amplify the importance of emotional wellness and healing for advocates. The presentation will begin with a wellness check consisting of specific questions surrounding participants sense of well-being. Additionally, the workshop will include conversations, educational content, and intentional hands-on activities.

Presenters: Stephanie Fierro-Padilla, Ivana Guerrero-Garcia, and Morelia Blanco Rincon

Pain to Purpose: Thriving After Abuse
Whether you are at the early stages of healing or have made significant progress, this workshop offers a unique opportunity to gain new insights, develop practical skills, and find inspiration to move forward on your journey from pain to purpose. Together, we will create a nurturing space where you can embrace your resilience, reclaim your power, and chart a fulfilling path towards a thriving and purposeful life.

Presenters: Laverne Badger and Natalie Hayden

Intimacy and Healing Post Sexual Violence and Abuse
Join us in a transformative journey tailored for survivors, allies, and providers touched by the ripple effects of sexual violence and abuse. This expert-led workshop delves into therapeutic techniques, group discussions, and holistic practices to help participants navigate the complexities of trust, emotional healing, and the reclamation of intimacy. Whether you are a survivor seeking personal growth, an ally aiming to better understand and support, or a provider refining your tools for care, this workshop offers a compassionate and safe space to foster growth, resilience, and renewed connections.

Presenter: Rashi Miller, Founder of the Messy Movement

DAY 2, Tuesday November 28th Workshops 3:00-4:30pm

Divorce Quest: An Interactive Adventure through the Legal Maze of Divorce (Continued)
This divorce simulator aims to educate participants about the challenges faced by domestic violence survivors seeking a divorce in Wisconsin. Key elements include the interplay of reporting abuse, understanding the role of restraining orders, working with a guardian ad litem, finding legal representation, experiencing court proceedings, and accessing emotional support. Participants will learn about the impact of reporting abuse in divorce proceedings, the intersection of restraining orders and divorces, communication with guardians ad litem, and the complexities of varying understandings of abuse. They will also explore legal representation options, including the reality of legal deserts and available legal aid. Simulated court scenarios offer insights into divorce processes based on survivor resources and attorney presence. Emotional support resources are also highlighted. The simulator aims to raise awareness, promote empathy and understanding, and offer support to survivors while educating users about available resources in Wisconsin.

Part 2 of 2 - YOU MUST SIGN UP FOR BOTH SESSIONS!
Presenters: Amanda Mayer, Megan Lee, and Karlie Merkel
Unveiling the Layers: Intersectionality in Survivor Support
This workshop explores the essential aspect of working with survivors though an intersectional lens. It emphasizes the importance of understanding intersectional identities to effectively address the unique needs and experiences of survivors with multiple intersecting characteristics. The presentation covers challenges faced by survivors, trauma-informed care with an intersectional lens, culturally competent approaches, collaboration and referrals among service providers, and self-care strategies for providers. By adopting an intersectional approach, providers can enhance their understanding, empathy, and support for survivors, promoting inclusive paths to healing and empowering individuals with diverse identities.

Presenter: Patrice McBeath

Adapting Your Outreach and Services for Older Survivors
As the population ages and becomes more diverse, service providers must be intentional about ensuring that their services and supports are appropriate and welcoming to survivors across the lifespan. Older survivors of abuse face unique barriers in seeking and accessing services to help them heal and recover from abuse. This session will identify those barriers and explore ways providers can adapt their services to best meet the needs of this growing population in a victim-centered, trauma-informed, inclusive manner.

Presenters: Victoria Ferguson-Young and Ann Laatsch

Emotional CPR & Prevention
Emotional CPR is a framework used to address emotional crisis within ourselves, and to assist others who may be experiencing it. It recognizes and integrates the concepts embodied in trauma-informed approaches, cultural empathy and humility, suicide prevention, and peer support concepts to provide a safe, inclusive experience for learning.

Presenters: Lynn McLaughlin and Karen Iverson Riggers

DAY 3, Wednesday November 29th Workshops 9:00-10:30am

A Deep Dive into Child Abuse Restraining Orders
Child abuse often intersects with domestic abuse. Seeking a restraining order can be a powerful tool to help protect victims of abuse. However, many times allegations of child abuse are ignored and/or child abuse restraining orders are not granted due to stereotypes that a petitioner parent (usually the mother) is trying to alienate the other party or seeking an unfair advantage in a divorce/custody proceeding. This session will do a deep dive into child abuse restraining orders to help attorneys, including guardians ad litem, who are often appointed in child abuse restraining order cases, social workers, advocates and others understand how these orders can be used to help keep children safe.

Presenters: Kari Niesen-LaScala, Samantha Guzman and Kianna Hanson

From Victim to Advocate: A Story of Resilience Through the Eyes of a Survivor
My name is Heather. I am a Victim Advocate, Prevention Educator, and Survivor of Domestic Violence, Child Abuse, Childhood Sexual Abuse, and Sexual Harassment. In this session I will be sharing my child abuse and domestic abuse survivor stories and the barriers that I faced having a lack of resources and living in a rural community. In this discussion I will share the significant impact that Violence Intervention Project and my advocate had on me, not only in the moment – but even where I am at today. Following the presentation, I will offer an “ask me anything” where you can ask me questions that you may not have the ability to ask other survivors.

Presenter: Heather Noel
Preliminary Findings from WI’s DV Housing First Pilot Program
Access to safe and affordable housing continues to be a major impediment for families attempting to leave situations involving domestic violence and abuse. While organizations and shelters can provide temporary assistance, requests for help often outstrip available beds and resources, and ultimately do not provide a long-term solution. In December 2021, the Department of Children and Families provided funding to nine sites around Wisconsin to implement the Domestic Violence Housing First Pilot Program (WI-DVHFPP), which prioritizes flexible financial assistance, trauma-informed practices, mobile advocacy, and cultural-specific programming. This workshop will present the preliminary findings from the evaluation of WI-DVHFPP. It will examine the impact on individual survivors including effects on housing and financial stability, physical and mental health, family cohesion, and wider social outcomes. The presentation will also provide information about the benefits and challenges of implementing DVHF at the organizational level, and how sites may avoid these pitfalls. Finally, it will outline why conducting evaluation of programs like DVHF is important for achieving policy and funding objectives.

Presenters: Mariel Barnes, Kate Walsh and Kaitlyn Sims

Tips & Tools for Improving Collaborative Advocacy Between Child Welfare & Domestic Violence Systems
During this training, you will learn about the intersections of domestic violence and child welfare systems involvement for survivors and their children. We will uncover gaps in our systems and how to build solutions across professions to improve outcomes. This training will provide you with a toolkit of skills to enhance collaboration between domestic violence advocates and child welfare professionals.

Presenters: Tegan Swanson & Jennifer Adler

Negotiating Child Custody with an Abusive Partner: Domestic Violence Survivors' Experience in Family Court
Hear preliminary results from a research study examining domestic violence survivors’ experience in family court when negotiating custody & placement of minor child(ren) shared with an abusive partner. This study includes participants who had a child custody & placement case in Milwaukee County in 2021/2022. You will hear about the decisions the courts make in terms of custody & placements, safety considerations that are included in court orders, and how adult survivors and their children are doing now, after the court order for custody & placement has been established. Discuss the implications of what we are learning and what you have heard from survivors who have family court experience for our work and public policy.

Presenter: Dr. Erin Schubert
Providing Transformative Services to Immigrant Survivors: The Intersection of Immigration and Family Law

For immigrants seeking remedies in family court, their immigration status or ability to obtain immigration relief often play a significant part in how judicial officers perceive them. Clients will be better served with a deeper understanding of the co-relation between immigration and family law and victimization. This workshop will explore how to provide services to immigrant victims by understanding all of the intersecting areas of marginalization they may experience, so that services are holistic.

Presenters: Robin Dalton and Gricel Santiago-Rivera

"Empower, Heal, Transform: Nurturing the Provider Within - A Workshop for Survivor-Advocates"

In this workshop for survivors of domestic violence who now serve as providers, we recognize the dual role we play as healers and advocates. While we strive to dismantle systems of oppression, we must also address the personal challenges we face within those systems. This workshop emphasizes the importance of finding balance amidst these pressures. Taking the time to heal our own inner wounds is paramount to our ability to create positive change in the world. By nurturing ourselves, we enhance our capacity to heal those around us. As we adapt to new rhythms and lifestyles, it becomes essential to reset and reconnect with our inner core. Through this workshop, participants will explore the areas within themselves that require nurturing, awakening, and renewal. By acknowledging these needs, survivors-turned-providers can better equip themselves to continue their healing journey while supporting others. Remember, investing in personal healing ultimately strengthens our ability to heal the world.

Presenters: Cyrena Martin and Patrice McBeath

Language Justice & Disability Justice

Language Justice and Disability Justice is a critical approach for our deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing and late deafness communities. ADA was set up in 1990 and it's not 100% effective as it has a lot of gaps with many kinds of factors. ADA didn't have any accommodations for individuals including race, gender identity, age, levels of disabilities, and religions/cultures. LJ and DJ helped to develop languages and accommodations, not just the access to languages but also understanding the cultures and accessibility needs. Language Justice and Disability Justice are not mutually exclusive - in fact, they are meant to be integrated. The focus is on the individual's self-identity, not their perceived identity and on their self-expressed needs. Integrating Language Justice and Disability Justice requires cross-movement organizing as well as cross-disability solidarity. Collective leadership fosters a culture of interdependence in order to create collective access and collective liberation.

Presenters: Greta Surprenant and Andrea Schneider
Collaborating for Justice for Older African Americans: Key Strategies for Equitable Partnerships with Culturally-Specific Organizations

All older adults deserve to be treated with respect and dignity. Yet, abuse in later life, which focuses on the intersection of domestic and sexual violence and elder abuse, remains a pervasive issue. Older African American survivors face unique barriers to accessing culturally responsive support and justice. Services and collaborations for older African American survivors must acknowledge the distinct cultural, social, and historical factors that shape the experiences of the African American community. While Coordinated Community Response (CCR) teams recognize the importance of engaging the whole community, for various reasons, they often fall short of building effective partnership with culturally-specific organizations. Yet, engagement with culturally-specific programs is a critical way for community responses to be informed by the community itself. A newly released guide from The National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life, geared toward multidisciplinary teams such as CCRs, presents insights from stakeholders across the country about collaboration strategies. This session will cover the importance of culturally-specific programs, discuss partnership barriers, and outline practical strategies mainstream organizations and CCRs can use to advance equitable collaborations. Through improving the effectiveness of these collaborations, we can create communities where older African Americans age with the safety, dignity, and justice they deserve.

Presenters: Kristin Burki, Victoria Ferguson-Young, and LaTrice Buck

Day 1 Notes
This guide is to support advocates in strategically implementing change and advancing best practices after the conference.
WHATS NEXT FOR MY ORGANIZATION?

Which sessions or speakers from the conference had the most profound impact on your perspective, and how do you plan to integrate their insights into your daily work or advocacy efforts?

In considering the various topics addressed during the conference, what are the top three actionable initiatives or strategies you feel inspired to prioritize in your community or organization?

How will you foster and maintain the connections and collaborations initiated at the conference to ensure a collective and sustainable effort against domestic abuse?
How do you ensure that you build and maintain trust with clients throughout your interactions, especially when discussing sensitive topics or issues?

What are some engagement strategies that you will improve when it comes to your clients?

What strategies or techniques do you employ to continuously engage clients in the decision-making process, ensuring their voices and preferences are central to the solutions or interventions proposed?
UNDERSTANDING CLIENT NEEDS

INSTRUCTIONS: Taking a holistic view, use the space below to document the needs of your clients.

WHAT ARE THE BEST WAYS TO ADDRESS CLIENT NEEDS?
WHAT DOES STAFF IN MY ORGANIZATION NEED

INSTRUCTIONS: Taking a holistic view, use the space below to document the needs of staff in your organization.

WHAT ARE THE BEST WAYS TO ADDRESS STAFF NEEDS?
INSTRUCTIONS: Imagine the perfect state of your organization

HOW DO YOU PLAN TO SHARE AND DISSEMINATE THE KNOWLEDGE AND BEST PRACTICES YOU GAINED FROM THE CONFERENCE WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES, STAKEHOLDERS, OR COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO CREATE A RIPPLE EFFECT OF POSITIVE CHANGE?

REFLECTING ON THE BROADER THEME OF THE CONFERENCE, "COLLECTIVE TRANSFORMATION: BUILDING POWER THROUGH CHANGE," WHAT PERSONAL OR PROFESSIONAL TRANSFORMATIONS DO YOU FEEL COMPELLED TO UNDERTAKE IN ORDER TO FURTHER THE MISSION OF ENDING DOMESTIC ABUSE?

IN REFLECTING ON THE SUCCESSES CELEBRATED AT THE CONFERENCE, HOW CAN YOU INCORPORATE LESSONS FROM THESE VICTORIES INTO YOUR APPROACH TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES IN YOUR COMMUNITY OR ORGANIZATION?
BUILDING A CIRCLE OF SUPPORT

INSTRUCTIONS: Intentional Engagement cannot be done in silos. Using the circle of support, who are the community and industry partners that can support your efforts?
We see it every day. The more women open up about their money, the more confident they become. Because when you stop second guessing and start getting real about your financial goals, the knowledge you earn can really pay off. So, do you want to buy a new home? Make your side hustle full-time? Retire early? Let’s talk! Then let’s make it happen.

Plus, when you save and borrow with Summit, you’re choosing a credit union that helps women and our entire community build financial security.

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