

Miss the last DCCESV Meeting?

Minutes from every coalition meeting are available on our website under the "What We Do" section.

Visit DCCESV.ORG today!



Visit "What We Do" to see the latest meeting minutes, special projects, and newsletter archive.

Mark Your Calendars for Sexual Assault Awareness Month

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month! Stay tuned for a full calendar of events, as well as our annual Action Guide, which includes ready-to-use social media posts. To have your SAAM events featured on our website, SAAM calendar, and social media, share event details with mmccabe@mencanstoprape.org.



SAVRAA Survivor Feedback Form

In accordance with the Sexual Assault Victims' Rights Amendment Act of 2019 (SAVRAA), the Sexual Assault Response Team's Feedback Review Committee was formed to receive and investigate comments as well as complaints from sexual assault survivors regarding their experiences with the District's sexual assault response system. Feedback from survivors is a vital tool for identifying problems when they exist and improving outcomes for survivors. If you would like to provide feedback on your experience you can do so by accessing the Survivor Feedback Form [here](#).

DC's Address Confidentiality Program

Survivors of domestic violence, stalking, human trafficking, and sexual offenses can stay safe from further harm if their address is protected from the perpetrators. The Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) helps DC residents who fear for their safety by shielding their street address from public records. This program, administered by the Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants (OVSJG), provides a legal

substitute address for eligible DC residents to maintain the confidentiality of her or his actual address. In addition to survivors, the ACP accepts volunteers and employees working in victim services or reproductive health care who fear for the safety of their address being available to the public due to their profession.

Learn more about the ACP or submit an application [here](#).

DCCESV Welcomes New Senior Training and Technical Assistance Consultant



DCCESV is excited to announce Chandra Dawson as our Senior Training and Technical Assistance Consultant. Dawson is a Licensed Independent Social Worker who has served various marginalized communities throughout her 21 years of social work practice. A large portion of her career has been spent providing direct services, supervision, group facilitation, training, and program/project management within organizations serving domestic violence and sexual assault survivors in the District of Columbia. Dawson previously served as the Deputy Director of the DC Rape Crisis Center. She currently serves as Division Director at Friendship Place providing strategic leadership governing service delivery to families receiving Permanent Supportive Housing in the District of Columbia.

She is also the founder of The MACRO Project Inc., a social work consulting practice providing ethical trauma-informed services to groups, organizations, and agencies representing various systems. Dawson is a former 2020 Leadership Education and Advancement for Professionals (LEAP) fellow, a program funded by the Office of Violence Against Women. She also serves on the Diverse City Fund as a board member supporting the capacity building of organizations in the District of Columbia serving the intersectional needs of communities of color.

Dawson's first big initiative with DCCESV is an environmental scan to highlight the strengths and challenges of the survivor-centered practices, programs, and resources offered by our member organizations. This initiative will encourage collaboration across organizations and allow DCCESV to address the most pressing issues faced by our community of providers. Check out the latest [coalition meeting minutes](#) to learn more about the environmental scan.

Victim Service Providers' Toolkit for Transitioning to Teleservices

The Network for Victim Recovery of DC (NVRDC) participated in the creation of a toolkit to assist victim service providers in transitioning to teleservices. The goal of this project is to strengthen the capacity of victim service providers to effectively incorporate technology into their important, ongoing work with crime victims and survivors. The toolkit is especially important for increasing access to justice during the pandemic. This project was sponsored by the National Crime Victims Research & Treatment Center, with support from the Office for Victims of Crime.

Access the *VSP TeleAssist Toolkit* [here](#). Additional resources, studies, and reports for victim service providers can be found on the [coalition website](#).

Organization Spotlight: Amara Legal Center

DCCESV is proud to uplift Amara Legal Center, an organization that provides free trauma-informed legal representation, access to support services, and advocacy for a more equitable legal system for individuals impacted by sex trafficking or involved in sex work in the DC-metro area.



The Amara Legal Center was founded in September 2013 by a group of active D.C. citizens. This group included lawyers, social workers, business leaders, and community organizers who envision a society where their clients are free from stigma, violence, oppression, exploitation, and criminalization. Amara offers free legal representation to sex trafficking survivors and sex workers in courts throughout the DC metropolitan region, helping resolve some of the most commonly experienced legal issues for sex workers and sex trafficking survivors.

Many of Amara's clients have criminal records for prostitution or related charges, even if their involvement in the commercial sex industry was against their will. These records can restrict survivors from finding legal employment, receiving publicly funded housing, and from other social services. Amara assists clients in filing petitions of expungement. Some clients need a criminal defense attorney as a result of charges brought against them. Amara works with all clients to navigate the criminal justice system and prepare them for testifying in court.

Amara works to ensure their clients are able to live self-determined lives. The organization's greatest strength is their commitment to a client-centered approach, allowing them to offer excellent legal representation that is culturally humble and trauma-informed. Amara's service model takes into account a client's well-being, not just legal outcomes. Their attorneys are trained in providing trauma-informed legal services and are devoted to providing comprehensive support, making sure that clients know they are not navigating their cases alone.

To learn more about Amara Legal Center, how you can support their work, and available resources, visit <https://www.amaralegal.org>.

February is Black History Month!

In honor of Black History Month, the DC Public Library has recommended a variety of books that uplift Black creativity, celebrate Black joy, praise Black innovation, and salute Black activism for readers of all ages.

Check out a few of the recommendations below, or view the full list [here](#).

For Children:

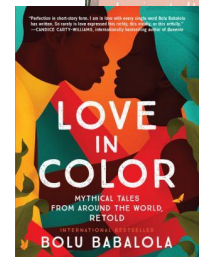
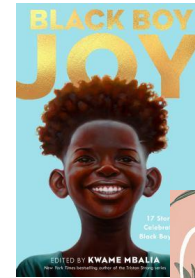
- [Josephine: The Dazzling Life of Josephine Baker](#) by Patricia Hruby Powell
- [Black Boy Joy](#) by Kwame Mbalia
- [The Secret Garden of George Washington Carver](#) by Gene Barretta
- [Born on the Water](#) by Nikole Hannah-Jones and Renée Watson

For Teens:

- [The Hill We Climb: An Inaugural Poem for the Country](#) by Amanda Gorman
- [You Should See Me in a Crown](#) by Leah Johnson
- [Carved in Ebony: Lessons From the Black Women Who Shape Us](#) by Jasmine L. Holmes
- [The Awakening of Malcolm X](#) by Ilyasah Shabazz and Tiffany D. Jackson

For Adults:

- [A Little Devil in America: Notes in Praise of Black Performance](#) by Hanif Abdurraqib
- [Love in Color: Mythical Tales From Around the World, Retold](#) by Bolu Babalola
- [Self Made: Inspired by the Life of Madam C.J. Walker](#) by A'Lelia Bundles
- [1919](#) by Eve L. Ewig



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