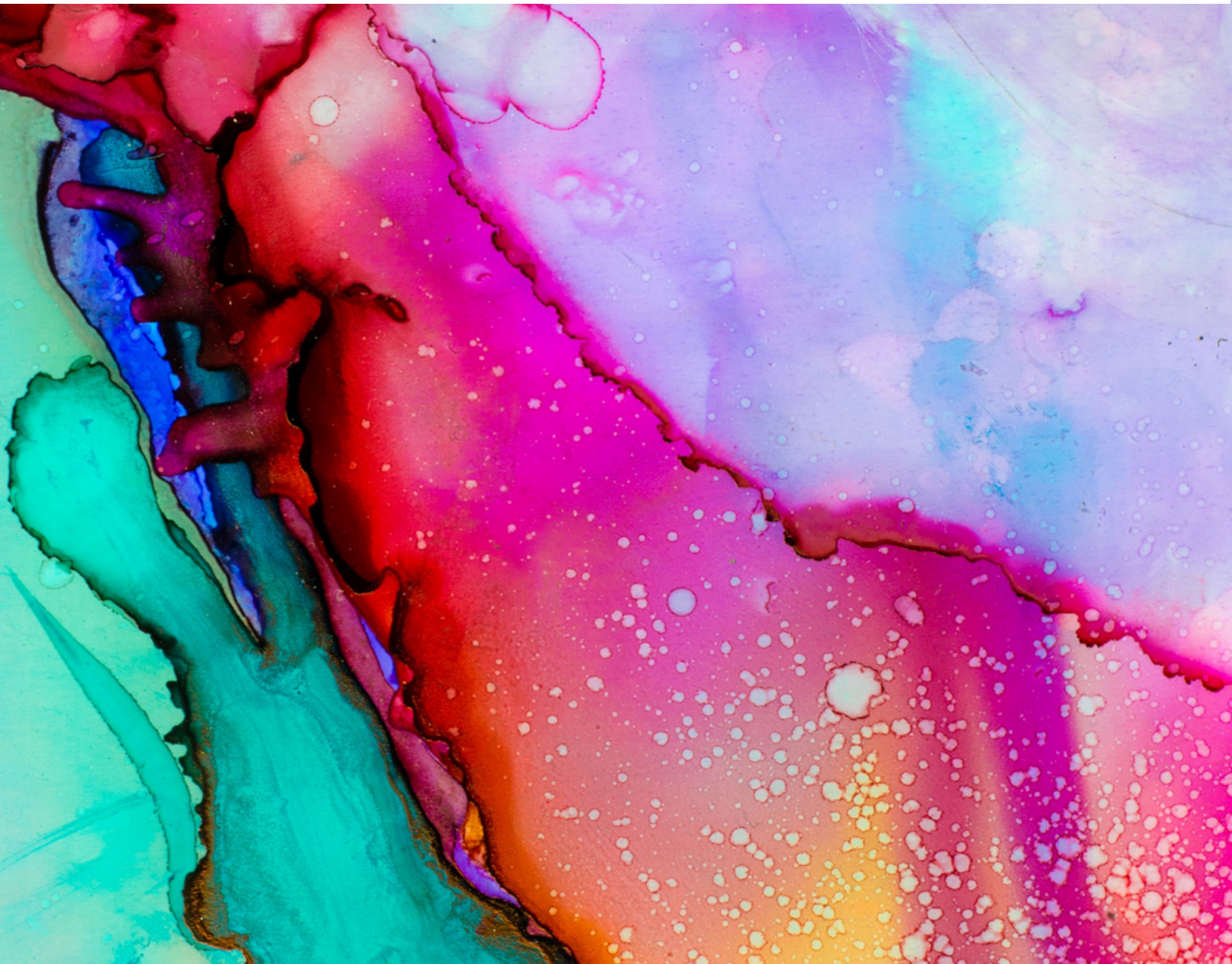




New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Working for a World Without Violence.

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Full of history-making circumstances, 2020 will remain a memorable year. Current events kept us more than busy in a movement that, even in its slowest times, is devoid of dull moments and overflowing with crises. The global coronavirus pandemic shut down many things, but violence and oppression in their many forms continued and often escalated. Stay-at-home orders meant some people were trapped with those who were causing them harm. Incidents of police violence against Black and Brown people frequented the headlines. People suffered every kind of loss imaginable. The collective grief and mourning was overwhelming.

We also learned a lot about our work, ourselves, and others. Our options were limited, so we had to figure out new ways to deliver services. We had to set aside preconceived notions and try different methods, which we sometimes discovered were far more effective than we imagined they could be. Events both nationwide and local brought inequality to the forefront and raised people's awareness, and this really buoyed the initiatives we've been engaged in for a decade now. We had to adapt our approaches for connecting with and supporting each other. This past year taught us about resilience, courage, and compassion.

—Joanne M. Zannoni



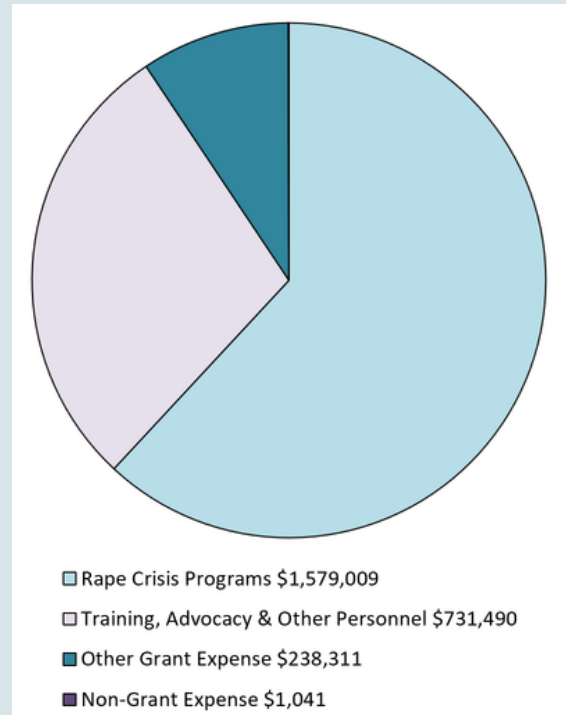
2020 EXPENSE SUMMARY

In 2020, NYSCASA awarded a total of **\$1,579,009** to rape crisis programs providing core services, direct intervention, and related assistance to victims and survivors of sexual assault throughout New York State.

Services include, but are not limited to, 24-hour sexual assault hotlines; crisis intervention services; accompaniment and advocacy during encounters with medical, criminal justice, civil justice, and other social support systems; information and referrals; short-term individual and group support counseling; and culturally specific services, including outreach activities to unserved and underserved populations.

NYSCASA's Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) awarded more than **\$640,000** to **45 rape crisis programs** to provide direct services to victims and survivors of sexual assault.

Through the New York State PREA Partnership, NYSCASA awarded **\$748,694** to **10 rape crisis programs** providing direct services to victims and survivors incarcerated in New York State.



TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

NYSCASA supports a network of more than 80 rape crisis service providers across New York State, offering in-depth and comprehensive training and technical assistance to help them best address the needs of sexual violence survivors.

2020 Technical Assistance Topics

- Continued outreach and access to services for survivors during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Training for new advocates
- Creating peer support spaces for advocates
- Culturally relevant services and outreach
- Understanding the effects of new state and federal legislation on survivors
- Referrals for survivors and advocates seeking supportive services, resources, and trainers that are trauma-informed

2020 Training Topics

- Community-based approaches to sexual violence prevention and response, including restorative justice, community accountability, and peace-making
- Centering the voices and experiences of survivors who are Black, Latinx, Indigenous, and People of Color
- Integrating anti-oppression values into sexual violence advocacy, outreach, and service provision
- Intersections of criminalization, incarceration, and sexual violence
- Medical care for survivors, including forensic rape exams
- Mitigating vicarious trauma and its effects on service providers
- Yoga as a trauma-informed practice that supports whole person wellness

COMMITMENT TO ENDING OPPRESSION

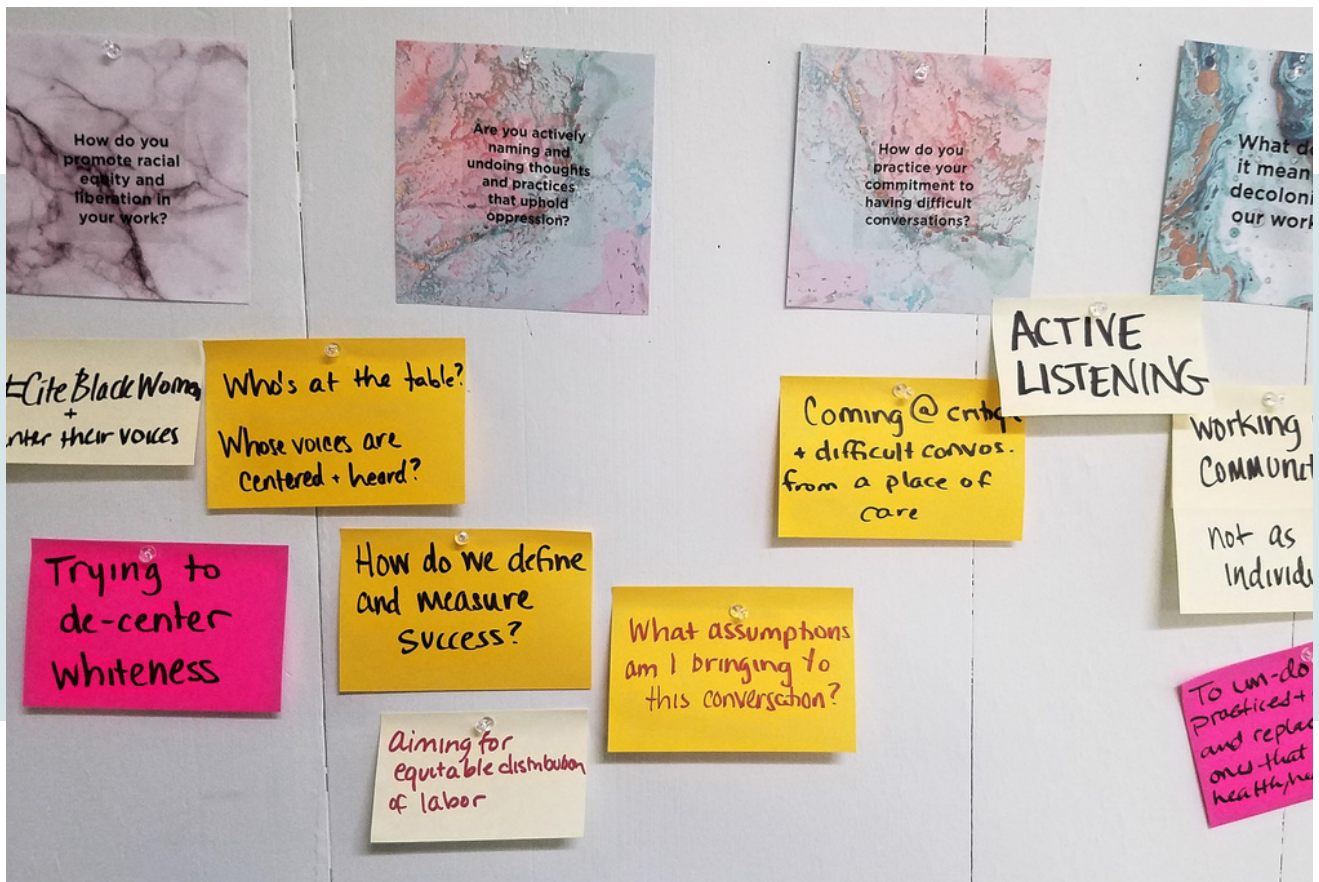
In 2020, we were reminded that anti-oppression work is anti-sexual violence work. Sexual violence is rooted in systemic oppressions that shape our society including—but not limited to—white supremacy, racism, ableism, sexism, and homophobia. Moreover, access to critical support, advocacy, and medical care in the aftermath of sexual violence is similarly impacted by systemic oppression.

As we witnessed the compounding effects of COVID-19 and anti-Black violence, NYSCASA staff recognized the need to integrate our anti-oppression work into our advocacy, programming, and legislative priorities more comprehensively and intentionally than we had in previous years.

We have joined calls for meaningful accountability for those who perpetuate white supremacist and racist violence and those who enable it. We have encouraged each other and our communities to reflect on the difficult truths of our own complicity, the ways that all violence is interconnected, and to begin to repair the legacies of white supremacy, colonization, and patriarchy.

Our ideas and practices are constantly evolving, but we remain steadfast in our commitment to the following principles: we cannot end sexual violence until we end all forms of oppression; we must ensure that the voices of those most impacted by oppression are heard; and we need to expand our ideas about healing, justice, and accountability.

We hope that the activities included in this report reflect this commitment.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH DURING COVID-19 AND BEYOND

In 2020, NYSCASA collaborated with the New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Rise, Inc. to design and implement a community outreach strategy to ensure that victims and survivors continue to have access to high quality, comprehensive support during the COVID-19 pandemic. This strategy was modeled after—and was intended to supplement—the ongoing outreach efforts of community-based rape crisis and domestic violence programs.

We identified pharmacies and drug stores as among the few readily accessible, essential service businesses open during New York's shelter-in-place restrictions. We developed Spanish and English-language materials about available services and resources for survivors to be distributed by pharmacists to all customers. Materials included phone numbers and website information for the 24/7 sexual assault and domestic violence hotline, parenting resources, mental health resources, food security, job security, and assistance with paid sick leave and unemployment benefits.

With the assistance of the New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists and the Pharmacists Society of New York State, we distributed these materials to pharmacies across New York State and encouraged pharmacies to reach out to their local victim services agencies for ongoing training and support.

Through this collaboration, we hoped to model best practices for coordinated community responses:

- Meeting basic needs in order to promote safe and healthy communities, including food security, job security, housing, etc.
- Moving beyond specific screening questions (e.g. "Are you safe at home?")
- Universal notification/universal education (because violence is a community problem, not an individual problem)
- Enabling warm referrals to victim services agencies
- Ongoing training, capacity building, and relationship building with community partners

HELP IS AVAILABLE DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS.

Our pharmacy cares about you, especially in these tough times.

Do you feel depressed, hopeless, or worried?

New York State Office of Mental Health
Emotional Support Helpline: 1-844-863-9314

Do you feel unsafe at home?

New York State Hotline for Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence: 1-800-942-6906

Prevent Child Abuse New York Parent Resource Helpline: 1-800-244-5373

Do you need help finding food?

Learn about SNAP and WIC programs:
www.hungersolutionsny.org

Find regional food bank information:
www.health.ny.gov (search "regional food banks")

Concerned about job security and unemployment?

Learn about your right to paid sick leave and unemployment benefits:
coronavirus.health.ny.gov/know-your-rights

PUBLIC POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

NYSCASA educates legislators and other policy- and decision-makers about the impact, including unintended effects, of existing and proposed policies that affect sexual violence survivors and victims. NYSCASA also responds to requests for feedback about policies and also recommends policies that would improve sexual violence intervention and prevention services.

This year, NYSCASA staff participated in the development of the Survivor's Agenda, a national policy agenda shaped by and for survivors, and *A Roadmap to Create Inclusive Gender Justice in New York*, published by PowHer NY, which outlines a vision for ending the continuing, historic injustices and systemic inequality that so many New Yorkers face.

In 2020, NYSCASA provided policy analysis and information on the impact of various policies on sexual violence survivors:

- Comprehensive sex education in K-12 curricula to empower youth
- Access to HIV PEP medications for minor victims of sexual assault
- Child Victims Act, which was signed into law in 2019 and created a "look back window" that enables child sexual abuse survivors to file claims
- Paid sick leave that can be used to address wellness and safety needs for survivors of violence
- "Protect Our Courts" legislation to ensure that New Yorkers can freely access the justice system without fear of targeting by federal immigration authorities
- Repealing the "Walking While Trans" law
- Ending solitary confinement in New York State (ongoing)
- Expanding parole eligibility for incarcerated New Yorkers (ongoing)
- New federal Title IX rules
- Restoring \$147,000 to support rape crisis centers that was proposed to be cut in the Governor's budget proposal



PREVENTION

In 2020, NYSCASA continued to administer pass-through funding to two rape crisis center prevention pilot projects. Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, these pilot projects still provided sexual assault prevention education to over 1,200 members of their communities and engaged in outreach to hundreds more in 2020.

NYSCASA hosted three virtual peer learning gatherings, with one in collaboration with the New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, focused on navigating prevention work during the COVID-19 pandemic for sexual and domestic violence prevention programs.

Finally, NYSCASA hosted free virtual trainings in collaboration with Stop It Now! for NYSCASA rape crisis program members and ally organization members. Participants became certified as trainers of the Circles of Safety sexual abuse prevention curriculum.

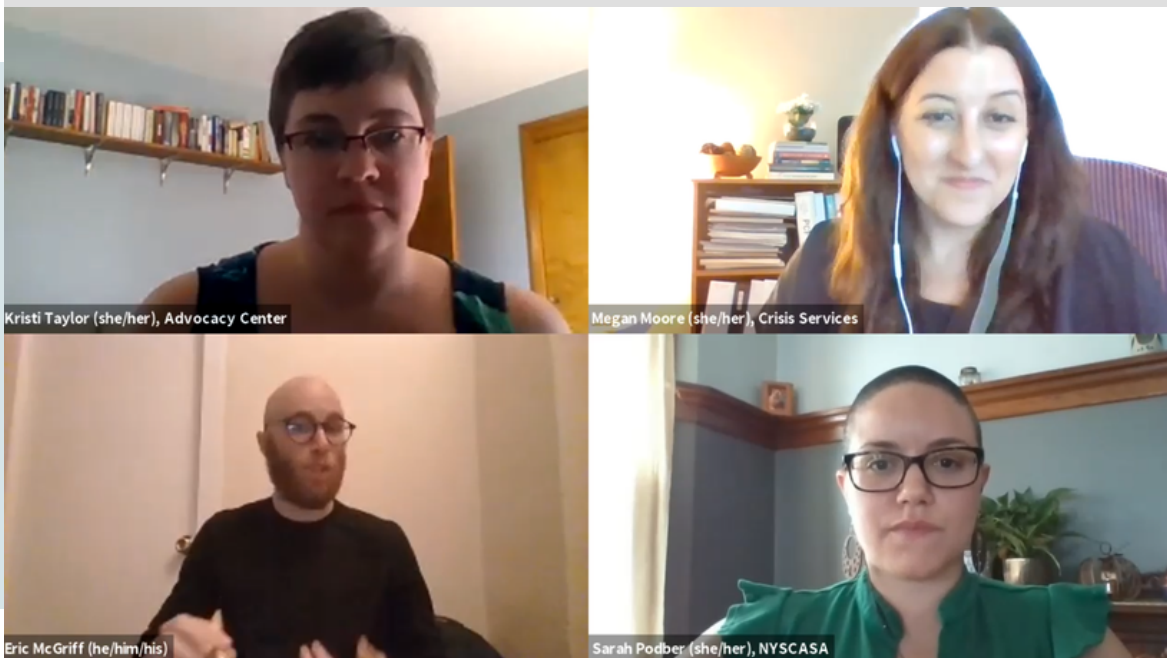
Become a Circles of Safety Community Presenter

Free virtual trainings for NYSCASA
rape crisis and ally organization
members begin Jan 25 and Jan 28!

Sign up: bit.ly/circlesofsafety



Peer Learning Opportunity: Navigating Sexual Violence Prevention Amid COVID-19



ADDRESSING CAMPUS SEXUAL VIOLENCE

NYSCASA continues to provide technical assistance and training to rape crisis programs and college campuses to implement New York State's "Enough Is Enough" legislation through the New York State Training and Technical Assistance Center.

The New York State Training and Technical Assistance Center is a joint partnership between NYSCASA and the New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault. The Center aims to create equitable and accessible training opportunities and provide multiple levels of support to rape crisis programs and colleges across New York State.

The initiative supports the work of rape crisis and sexual violence programs who work with victims and survivors of sexual violence in New York State, with a focus on assistance and services provided to college campuses through the "Enough Is Enough" program. The initiative is funded by the New York State Department of Health through the Federal Preventative Health and Health Service Block Grant.

2020 Training and Technical Assistance Topics

- Navigating new federal Title IX rules
- Serving college students with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- Addressing the role of alcohol in sexual violence
- Developing inclusive and equitable spaces for student survivors



ADDRESSING PRISON/JAIL SEXUAL VIOLENCE

NYSCASA continues to collaborate with rape crisis programs, criminal justice professionals, and allied organizations to support survivors who are incarcerated in New York's prisons, jails, and detention centers through the New York State PREA Partnership.

Rape crisis centers that participate in the NYS PREA Partnership are designated as PREA Centers. Each PREA Center has multiple facilities from which they take calls and for which they provide a variety of counseling and advocacy services.

PREA Centers

- Center for Victim Safety and Support at Family Services, Inc.
- Crisis Services, Inc.
- Crime Victims Treatment Center
- RESTORE Sexual Assault Services of Planned Parenthood
- Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes
- St. Peter's Crime Victim Services
- Vera House, Inc.
- Victim Advocacy Services of Planned Parenthood of Greater New York
- Victims Assistance Center of Jefferson County
- Victims Assistance Services at Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc.



**New York State
PREA
Partnership**

TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

NYSCASA strives to conduct all of our work through a trauma-informed lens. We continue to increase accessibility for our webinars and trainings and to seek partnerships to center the voices of unserved, underserved, and mis-served survivors. We continue to support trauma-informed trainings and resources, including books and films available to our membership and their partners.

Through the Building Connections: Sexual Assault and Mental Health Project, we continually advocate for statewide trauma networks and coalitions to prioritize racial justice and anti-oppression action and to center voices of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) survivors and advocates.

2020 Training and Technical Assistance Topics

- Mitigating vicarious trauma and its effects on service providers
- Yoga as trauma-informed practice that supports whole person wellness
- Referrals for survivors and advocates seeking supportive services, resources, and trainers that are trauma-informed



***Inspired Yoga as Trauma Informed Care:
Yoga practice as a tool for healing,
empowerment and self-care:***

***an introduction
by Chrys Ballerano,***

***Sr. Director of Collaboration and Training
NYSCASA,
NYS Coalition Against Sexual Assault***

ENDING VIOLENCE WITHOUT VIOLENCE

"Ending Violence Without Violence" was originally conceived by NYSCASA and our community partners, Seven Dancers Coalition, and Interrupting Criminalization: Research in Action Project, to be a statewide conference focusing on sexual violence prevention, intervention, and response.

This conference was intended to provide a space for survivors, advocates, victim assistance programs, allied organizations, and community members across New York State and Haudenosaunee Country to develop the knowledge, skills, and courage to implement community-centered practices to prevent and respond to harm and sexual violence.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the in-person conference was cancelled. Instead, NYSCASA and partners developed a virtual training series of the same name, with events beginning in September 2020. Our intention was to provide participants with information and tools that they can use to help build communities that can prevent sexual violence, respond to harm, and heal trauma.

Topics covered in 2020 events included:

- Introduction to "community-based" approaches to sexual violence and response, including peace-making, restorative justice, and community accountability
- Restorative justice principles and practices
- Transformative justice principles and practices
- Centering the experiences of Black Latinx survivors of sexual abuse

Topics to be covered in 2021 events include:

- Intersections of criminalization, incarceration, and sexual violence victimization
- Creating healing opportunities for survivors through storytelling, ritual, and retreat spaces
- Supporting advocates who are also survivors of trauma and violence



GRATITUDE AND THANKS

Our work would not be possible without you, a network of supporters, survivors, advocates, organizers, and professionals. Your support helps NYSCASA advocate for survivors, improve responses to sexual violence, and strengthen prevention efforts across New York State.

2020 Staff

- Joanne Zannoni • Executive Director
- Chrys Ballerano • Sr. Director of Collaboration and Training
- Josie McPherson • Sr. Director of Systems Advocacy
- Sandra Siciliano • Sr. Director of Finance and Human Resources
- Selena Bennett-Chambers • Director of Public Policy
- E Bjorkman • PREA Outreach Director
- Sarah Podber • Prevention Director
- Sana Abdelkarim • University Fellow, Consultant
- Sujathi ("Sam") Mitchell • Human Resources Director
- Chelsea ("Chel") Miller • Communications Director
- Articia Hill • Grants Compliance Director
- Angelina ("Angie") Ritorto • Technical Assistance and Training Director
- Alissa Abbott • Campus Projects Director

2020 Donors

NYSCASA wishes to express deep gratitude to the following donors:

CDPHP • Seasons Skate Shop • Michael Mignano • Raashed Raziuddin • Joshua Williams • Karol Dean • Janice Brown • Spencer Harrison • Dion Rabouin • Chantalle Jean-Philippe • Maya Shaw-Faber • Sarah Tubbs Fitzsimmons • John Scanlon • Grace Silver

2020 Members

In addition to our 81 member rape crisis programs throughout New York State, as well as the NYSCASA Board of Directors, the following individuals and organizations became NYSCASA members in 2020:

Rising Ground • Chances & Changes, Inc. • Diaspora Community Services • Seven Dancers Coalition • University of St. Francis • Colin Rankin • Ilyssa Guerra • Kris McDaniel-Miccio • Lisa Feldman • Bonny Gardner • Nathaly Cabrera • Cynthia Conde • Brian Leonard • Nicole Wong • Trent Ramsey • Nirvannie Goberdan • Roheeni Saxena • Jennifer Powell • Richard Darling • Valerie Wasilewski • Jessica Westervelt • Asia Bell • Olivia McCaa • Sean Yantz • Karl Reeves • Lisa Mirakaj • Sarah Butler • Jessica Johnson • April Patterson • Dharmic Essence • Kimberly Schiller • Carla Reid • Fangning Dong • Laurissa Wredberg • Lindsay Woodall

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Tamika Payne, Vice President
Karol Dean, Treasurer
Deb Faust, Secretary
Sarah Tubbs Fitzsimmons
Kathleen Hanlon O'Connell

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Lexa DeJesus-Petrone
Elisha Wolfer
JoLynn Backes

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