

NO MORE Crimes of Power and Control

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS | 2019

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

Morning Keynote | 8:45am – 10:15am

Building Multidisciplinary Collaborations that Promote Access to Justice & Enhance Safety for Immigrant Survivors of Family Violence and Sexual Assault | NIWAP

This plenary will provide attendees with an overview of the dynamics of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse experienced by immigrant victims and children. The barriers immigrant victims encounter seeking justice, legal, and social services system help will be identified. Faculty will provide illustrations and lead participants in activities that demonstrate the important role each profession can play as part of an effective coordinated community response that helps immigrant and limited English proficient victims. The plenary will include an overview of legal protections designed by Congress to build and support community policing, victim safety, and offender accountability as well as highlight the important role of VAWA confidentiality protections for coordinated community responses for family and sexual violence victims.

Morning Breakout Sessions | 10:30am – 12:00pm

1. Legal Rights of Domestic & Sexual Violence Survivors: Public benefits, Housing, & Victim Services | NIWAP

This session will discuss the range of publicly funded victim and social services programs, legal assistance, and the wide range of services and assistance that are legally available to all victims of domestic violence, child abuse, and sexual assault without regard to immigration status, including legal services and assistance from police and prosecutors. In addition, as immigrant and LEP victims begin the process of applying for crime victim based immigration relief, their access to federal and state public benefits grows. Which federal and state funded public benefits an immigrant survivor or her children are eligible to receive, vary based on the form of immigration relief the survivor has or is pursuing, the type of benefit they need and the state in which the survivor resides. The workshop will discuss how having legally correct information about which immigrant crime victims qualify for which benefits and services helps law enforcement and prosecutors in their work with immigrant victims and the benefits to criminal investigations and prosecutions when victims are able to access the help they need. Participants will work on interactive activities that to build skills to identify the benefits for which immigrant victims qualify and best practices for accompanying immigrant survivors applying for benefits they or their children qualify to receive.

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2. Moving from Trauma Informed to Trauma Capable Care | Cheryl Turner

This presentation will build on information from Trauma Informed Care to provide basic skills that attendees can be cognizant of and utilize when interacting with individuals impacted by unresolved trauma. Discussion and focus will center on approaching and working with an individual who is demonstrating that they are feeling unsafe or vulnerable through their actions and behaviors.

Learning Objectives:

- Review the types of trauma that can occur in individual's lives
- Understand the Social Discipline Window and recognize biases and judgements that impact decision making
- Identify specific ways for authority figures to approach an individual in need to increase safety and security
- Identify alternatives to processing and reasoning when an individual is dysregulated
- Identify alternative ways to implement structure and expectations while maintaining a collaborative and supportive relationship

3. Restorative Justice – A Victim Centered Approach to Crime | Jim Jones, Community Justice Center

The Community Justice Center (CJC) is the leading Restorative Justice educator and practitioner in the State of Nebraska. CJC has pioneered the use of “Surrogate Crime Victim Impact Statements” and “Forensic Peer Support.”

Presentation Objectives:

- Attendees will experience an interactive Restorative Justice (RJ) presentation briefly covering the origins of RJ and the forms it takes in the US and Nebraska.
- The presenter will review the definition of Restorative Justice, its principles and values, and practices while examining the key findings from his evidence-based Restorative Justice Intervention (RJI) programming “Crime Victims Impact/Emotional Hygiene Life Skills Class” conducted at all Nebraska Department of Correctional Services adult facilities and Probation Reporting offices across state. Jim’s work was recently published in the International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology “Long-Term Effectiveness of a Brief Restorative Justice Intervention.”
- Attendees will discuss how combining a victim centered approach to crime (RJ) while addressing the needs of justice involved individuals achieves positive results, healing, and a more cost effective criminal justice system - reducing recidivism rates and crime.

4. Honor Violence | Gina Khoudeida, Friendship Home

In many parts of the world, including the communities we live in, women are experiencing Honor Violence at the hands of their families and relatives. Honor Violence is the murder or severe violence against a woman who has been deemed to have brought shame or dishonor upon their family, or has violated major values within their culture and/or religion. Some of the ways women can be deemed as bringing dishonor or shame is by leaving an abusive relationship, being a victim of rape, or even refusing an arranged marriage. Understanding Honor Violence is so very important to victims within these communities so we can provide the best advocacy services.

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Afternoon Breakout Sessions | 1:00pm – 2:30pm

1. Violence Against Women Act Protections Provided to Immigrant Survivors of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Human Trafficking, Stalking & Child/Elder Abuse Under U.S. Immigration Law | NIWAP

This workshop will provide an overview of the forms of immigration relief designed to help immigrant survivors of domestic and sexual violence and their children and will cover protections for child abuse victims. The focus will be to gain familiarity with the forms of relief using scenarios to identify which victims will qualify for which forms of relief. The major forms of immigration relief available to protect victims will be discussed including: VAWA self-petitions, battered spouse waivers, U visas, T visas, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status. The workshop will focus on how law enforcement, prosecutor, victim advocate, and attorney collaboration to identify victims who qualify for immigration relief and assist them in filing soon after identification improves victim safety, helpfulness in investigations and prosecutions, and access to help from both the civil and criminal justice system for immigrant and LEP victims. Best practices for building community collaborations that result in U and T visa certifications will also be discussed. Through interactive activities, participants will work with the eligibility requirements and learn to understand the differences between the immigration options in terms of timing of access to lawful permanent residency, work authorization and public benefits access in Nebraska.

2. Moving from Trauma Informed to Trauma Capable Care | Cheryl Turner (Repeated from Morning Session)
3. Restorative Justice – A Victim Centered Approach to Crime | Jim Jones (Repeated from Morning Session)
4. Honor Violence | Gina Khoudeida (Repeated from Morning Session)

Afternoon Case Study | 2:45pm – 4:15pm

The Case of Maria Luis: The Importance of Language Access in Child Welfare & Domestic Violence Cases | NIWAP

This plenary is designed to provide attendees with a deeper understanding about why language access is necessary when working with immigrant victims of child abuse and domestic violence. It will also cover the obligations that justice system officials and service providers have regarding the provision of language access for those who are Limited English Proficient (LEP). The numerous ways failure to provide language access can impact the lives of immigrant victims and their children will be illustrated through a case study. Participants will work on interactive exercises where they will learn from each other about the roles the courts, law enforcement, health care providers, child welfare case workers, victim advocates, and attorneys can play to language access. This language access is key to the work each profession can do to ensure immigrant and LEP victims gain access to the justice, health care, and the social, legal, and victim services they need to hold perpetrators accountable, heal, and rebuild their lives following abuse. Best practices for advocacy with partner agencies for LEP victims will be highlighted.