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CCADV Board Names Meghan Scanlon Next President & CEO

We are excited to announce that Meghan Scanlon will join CCADV on June 28, 2021 as our new President & CEO. Meghan brings with her a wealth of both government and nonprofit experience, coupled with a passion for ensuring that survivors of domestic violence have access to high quality services and supports that allow them to thrive. She succeeds Karen Jarmoc, who left CCADV after ten years serving as President & CEO.



“We are thrilled to have found in Meghan an incredible leader who embodies the values at the core of CCADV’s work,” said David Bogan, Chair, CCADV Board of Directors. “The last decade has seen tremendous growth as CCADV has steadily bolstered its capacity to ensure the availability of the services so critical to those in need. After interviewing several candidates with a variety of backgrounds, the search committee and board of directors unanimously endorsed Meghan’s selection. Her experience and ‘get-it-done’ attitude are just the right combination to lead CCADV into the future.”

As President & CEO, Meghan will serve as the chief administrator, creating and leading innovative programming that drives the systemic change needed to strengthen Connecticut’s response to domestic violence. With a keen strategic vision, she intends to build the operational strength of CCADV to ensure high quality services and broad public awareness that dismantle barriers to access for all survivors. Meghan’s passion, energy, and creativity will serve as the cornerstone of her solutions-focused approach to supporting CCADV’s 18 member organizations. Scanlon will lead a senior team at CCADV including Tonya Johnson, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, and Erica Tirado, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer.

Said Scanlon, “I am incredibly honored and excited to be joining CCADV as their next President & CEO. Domestic violence is a public health crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated that crisis. I am ready to get to work alongside our fantastic team and network of

member organizations to advocate for survivors, expand prevention and ensure that everyone in Connecticut has access to equitable services.”

Meghan currently serves as the Executive Director of Women & Family Life Center, a regional nonprofit serving women and families in crisis. In her time at the Center, she has spearheaded meaningful growth - transitioning the staff from part-time to full-time and building key relationships with donors and community leaders that have transformed the Center's impact in the community, all while strengthening the organization's short and long-term financial stability through strategic fundraising. Prior to her time at Women & Family Life Center, Meghan worked in the Connecticut nonprofit world and served as an aide to Senator Chris Murphy and Congresswoman Jahana Hayes. She is a graduate of the University of Connecticut and lives in Guilford with her husband Sean and son Jack.

Rapid Rehousing Program Continues to Grow

Access to safe, stable, affordable housing can be a true change agent for survivors trying to get to their next best place. CCADV and its 18 member organizations provide a substantial amount of housing-related advocacy with or on behalf of survivors. CCADV's Domestic Violence & Human Trafficking Rapid Rehousing Program has transformed and expanded CCADV's capacity to offer safety and stability to survivors in a whole new way. The program has housed 178 households since September 1, 2019 with a majority of those getting housed in less than 30 days of program entry. Both of those statistics are major accomplishments especially during an unprecedented and unexpected pandemic.

As the rapid rehousing program continues to take shape within our domestic violence service system, CCADV has spent time analyzing both the successes and identified barriers. Originally designed as a program for families only, CCADV worked with the CT Department of Housing and U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) to amend the contract so that individuals can now enroll in the program. Additionally, the program has been expanded to serve victims of sexual violence, dating violence, and stalking

A federal policy change that CCADV designed with HUD to allow for rapid rehousing “in-place” has been a game changer. When fleeing/ending an abusive relationship, survivors may feel that the safest option is to remain in their current location, keeping them close to their network of support. Staying in a current location can be a safe, trauma-informed, survivor-centered option if the abuse can be removed from the home. Rapid rehousing in-place provides stability and control to a survivor while keeping them in their own community.

As the program grows, efforts are continuously made to keep the program accessible, safe, and meeting the needs of the population it is designed to serve. Domestic violence and housing advocates across the state are credited with the many successes the program has seen as well as for providing critical feedback that guides CCADV's work to create equal access to homeless system resources for survivors.

Anyone with questions about the rapid rehousing program may contact CCADV Director of Housing Advocacy, Annie Stockton Sabrowski at asabrowski@ctcadv.org.



Welcome Home

Legislative Update

The 2021 session of the Connecticut General Assembly got underway in January. CCADV and our 18 member organizations worked with legislators to create a bill that will provide comprehensive protections for victims of domestic violence designed to address the real experiences of survivors with all forms of domestic violence, not just physical abuse. Our 18 member organizations met throughout the fall and winter develop a robust set of criminal, civil and economic justice policy changes that validate victim experiences and empower them to seek help.



One of the primary policy changes in our priority bill, Senate Bill 1091, is the expansion of Connecticut's restraining order to address coercive control. Domestic violence is not just physical. By expanding the definition of family violence in Connecticut's restraining order statute to address coercive control, we'll be able to ensure court-ordered relief for the many non-physical tactics abusers use to gain and maintain control over their victims.

Coercive control entails power and control over the victim through actions such as isolation, humiliation, intimidation, and domination. It does not relate to a single incident but is a purposeful pattern of behavior that takes place over a period of time in order to make the victim dependent on the abuser. California and Hawaii both added coercive control to their civil restraining orders in 2020, while 15 other states have modernized their restraining orders to cover non-physical abuse.

Senate Bill 1091 also establishes a grant program to provide legal representation to low income survivors when applying for a restraining order in five of the state's larger courts. Having the support of a lawyer to assist the victim with clearly stating the facts when applying can have a meaningful impact on the success of their application. One study found that legal representation increased the possibility of a victim obtaining a restraining from 32% to 83%. Lawyers play an integral role in achieving the best possible outcome to protect the victim's safety.

Another key component of Senate Bill 1091, which CCADV has worked on in partnership with the CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence, is the requirement for landlords to change locks on individual dwelling units when requested to do so by a tenant with a court order of protection. Landlords would have forty-eight hours to comply with the request and are permitted to charge

the actual reasonable cost of the lock change back to the tenant. This commonsense policy, which already exists in 16 other states, provides meaningful peace of mind to survivors while not being overly burdensome on landlords. The concept originally started in Senate Bill 48 where it passed the Housing Committee unanimously.

Senate Bill 1091 passed the Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support in a 35-1 vote and now awaits action by the House of Representatives. [Call your State Representative](#) today and urge them to pass Senate Bill 1091. Session ends on June 9th.

New Safe Connect Advocacy Coordinators Join CCADV

Safe Connect, CT's domestic violence resource hub, has been busy building its ranks to ensure continued access to 24/7 trauma-informed, victim-centered advocacy. We continue to build upon a strong network of bilingual, multi-cultural advocates who understand the lived experiences of all survivors who reach out for assistance. Meet our newest advocates below!

Diarietou Diop

Before joining CCADV I was working as a paralegal at the Law Office of Maurice Maitland. My job was to help the lead attorney representing clients in social security and immigration cases. I also have some experience interning with different organizations in Connecticut like CIRI (Connecticut Institute of Refugees and Immigrants) and have received my Masters of Laws (LLM) degree in US legal studies, specializing in human rights.



I am so excited to work at CCADV because its mission aligns with my passion about human rights. I think my legal background will help me succeed in this new role as I work to the best of my ability to help survivors of domestic violence.

Outside of work I love spending time with family and friends, cooking, and trying new foods from different cultures.



Marelis Gonzalez

I am a Marine Corps veteran and worked as a jet engine mechanic and plane captain for the AV-8B Harrier aircraft. Upon returning to Connecticut, I worked as a sexual assault crisis counselor and victim advocate for 5 years. I have also enjoyed being a lifeguard for the City of Hartford since 2007.

I was interested in working as a Safe Connect Advocacy Coordinator because I have seen firsthand the meaningful work CCADV and all its member centers do in their communities. After seeing the effects of COVID-19 on my own community, I was looking for a job where I knew I would be supported while supporting others.

I love being a mother to my 2-year-old daughter. We take daily walks around the park and I truly enjoy getting to experience being youthful again alongside my favorite person in the world.

Jose Miranda

My most relatable work experience comes from my time at the Whittingham Cancer Center. I was the new patient coordinator, taking every call for newly diagnosed cancer patients. Scheduling, directing, consoling, and advising every patient with their questions or concerns was part of my daily schedule. I loved being that first point of contact and I strived to make every patient feel cared for

and heard.

Helping people at the Center is what kept me going, despite the difficult conversations I had daily. I felt like I was making a difference every single time I picked up the phone. At the Coalition, I can see the impact that can be made in people's lives by just being there for them - listening to every individual, and offering services that can help accommodate their situation. I am looking forward to being in a role again that allows me to provide support to those in need.



On my days off, I like to spend time with my friends, family, and dog. Going out to eat is my favorite pastime. I also love to work out and stay active (preferably outdoors) and I try to recruit everyone I know to join me. Exercise is a wonderful way to relieve stress and unwind, and is key to being healthy.



Ibraltino Tavares

I am originally from Portugal and Cape Verde Islands, moving to the USA in 2000. When I moved to the USA, I didn't speak any English at all. I went to adult education classes to learn English, after which I attended Goodwin College to further my education. I earned my Associates Degree in Business and Science and decided to continue to pursue my dreams by attending Albertus Magnus College to earn a bachelor's degree in business administration as well as an MBA in Management and

Organization Leadership.

I am interested in working at CCADV as a Safe Connect Advocacy Coordinator is because I believe what we do here is rewarding and important for survivors of domestic violence. I believe that my passion to help others coupled with my leadership and communication skills make this a perfect fit for me.

When not at work, I like exercising, dancing, cooking, and traveling.

Second Wellness Conference Helps Attendees "Fill Their Cups"



Virtual Wellness & Resiliency Workshops *"Space to take a break and refill your cup"*

In April, CCADV hosted its 2nd Wellness and Resiliency Conference. The Wellness and Resiliency Conference was developed in response to the collective trauma people were experiencing due to the pandemic, social unrest, and the many other life stressors we've all experienced over the past eighteen months. The fear of getting COVID-19, being isolated from

loved ones, losing people you care about, and experiencing financial stressors can have a very negative impact on one's mental health. As well as the impact of challenging racial and social injustice to create equitable systems that meet the needs of everyone. Many of these issues have been felt even more acutely by survivors of domestic violence who already typically face limited options as a result of the abuse they are or have experienced. CCADV sought to create a space for survivors and those who serve them to connect with mental and emotional health experts.

This event was an opportunity for survivors, providers, families, essential workers, and anyone who needed to enhance their wellbeing to take a break and fill their cup. Attendees were able to participate in any or all of the eight different virtual workshops offered by local providers and practitioners during the two hour event. Workshops ran for 15-20 minutes each covering a wide range of topics including self-care, benefits of connecting with nature, mindfulness, journaling, and resiliency strategies for dealing with vicarious trauma. With nearly 150 attendees, it is clear that there is a need for opportunities like this to support our collective wellness.

CCADV Training Institute Sees Strong Year



CCADV's Training Institute continues to thrive with training for both the membership as well as community providers, state agencies and other stakeholders. We also host a small catalog of recorded webinars designed specifically for the membership to support ongoing education and technical assistance. While the Institute continues to provide training virtually, it certainly hasn't slowed down requests for training or participant engagement. During the first three quarters of the fiscal year we have facilitated 137 trainings for 3,972 participants. It is anticipated that by the close of the fiscal year (June 30th), we will surpass 150 trainings for 5,000 participants. Moreover, when reviewing data from previous years, we found that during the past five years we saw a 51% increase in the number of trainings facilitated and a 39% increase in the number of participants.

This year we have several training contracts with key partners in both government and community-based settings. Through the CT Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services and the CT Balance of State, we provide comprehensive domestic violence education to housing and homeless providers. We also train Ryan White HIV caseworkers through our work with the Community Health Centers Association of Connecticut and the state's Maternal Mortality Review Committee through the CT Department of Public Health. As we move into the next fiscal year we will continue our training partnerships with both Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division where we provide quality education to various court personnel, including Family Relations Counselors, and the Safe Campus Project where we promote essential prevention measures on college campuses.

Anyone who is interested in receiving training from CCADV can contact us at training@ctcadv.org.

THANK
you

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