

Full Speaker Bios
Uintah Basin Domestic Violence Coalition Conference 2023

Gwen Kasero

Gwen Kasero is a Supervisory Victim Specialist with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Justice Services Victim Assistance Program. She currently supervises the Victims Specialists stationed in New Mexico, southern Colorado, Arizona, Nevada, and Utah. Gwen began her career with the Bureau of Indian Affairs as a Victim Specialist in 2015, where she provided victim assistance to the Crow and Northern Cheyenne tribes in Montana, the San Carlos Apache Tribe in Arizona, and the Laguna Agency and Southern Pueblo Agency in New Mexico.

She was previously employed with the Pueblo of Laguna as a Crime Victim Witness Advocate for five years and a Social Services Specialist for two years. Gwen has earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Briar Cliff University in Sioux City, Iowa, a Master of Arts in Counseling from the University of New Mexico, and a master's in legal studies from the University of Oklahoma.

Andrea Arnold

Andrea Arnold is a Victim Specialist with the United States Department of Interior, Office of Justice Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs with a primary duty station on the Uintah & Ouray Ute Indian Reservation in Fort Duchesne, Utah. She has 8 years of experience providing direct services to victims of crime. Prior to serving as a Federal Victim Specialist, she served as the first Victim Advocate for the Utah Department of Public Safety, State Bureau of Investigation and assisted in developing the Victim Advocate Program for the Utah Highway Patrol and was assigned to assist in community policing by providing direct services to the homeless community during Operation Rio Grande in downtown Salt Lake City. In addition to providing direct services for the Utah State Bureau of Investigation and the Utah Highway Patrol, Andrea was the VINE (Victim Information & Notification Everyday) Program Manager for the State of Utah. While serving as the VINE Program Manager, she wrote for a 2.5 million dollar grant that was received for the State of Utah to upgrade the user technology platform that VINE utilizes. She is a graduate from the University of Utah with a Bachelor of Science majoring in Sociology with an emphasis in Criminology and a minor in Family Studies; with certifications in Criminology and Victim Advocacy/Family Violence. She has extensive experience in providing support to victims of crime in vulnerable populations in both urban and rural communities by building networks of collaborating services and resources throughout multiple jurisdictions to better serve victims of crime.

Loretta Goldtooth

Loretta Goldtooth is a BIA Victim Specialist, stationed at the Hopi Agency in Keams Canyon, Arizona since 2017. VS Goldtooth also covers the Supai and Kaibab Agency. VS Goldtooth provides direct services to victims of crime, in all three agencies. VS Goldtooth is a graduate of Northern Arizona University with a Bachelors in Social Work and Arizona State University with a Masters in Social Work.

Robyn Simmons

Robyn Simmons has been a BIA Victim Specialist assigned to the Mescalero Agency in New Mexico since 2011. Simmons provides direct victim services from the outset of a crime occurring and continued support and comprehensive services throughout the criminal justice process. Simmons earned a Master of Social Work degree from New Mexico State University and a Master of Legal Studies focusing on Indigenous People's Law degree from Oklahoma University. She is a graduate of the New Mexico Leadership program. Throughout her tenure with BIA, she received the United States Attorney's Office District of New Mexico Continued Appreciation Awards and the award for Outstanding Service on Behalf of Victims of Crime. Simmons is an enrolled member of the Mescalero Apache Tribe.

Dr. Dheeshana Sugandhi Jayasundara

Dr. Dheeshana Sugandhi Jayasundara is a Professor at the California State University, Fresno. She is very committed to pursuing transdisciplinary, innovative, and collaborative research endeavors. Her primary specialization involves working with vulnerable populations, such as Muslim, Rural, and Native American communities. A major aspect of her research examines the effects of culturally and community responsive trauma informed service delivery for survivors of gender based violence, and the impact of intersectional, contextual, and structural factors on gender based violence. She has advanced training in evaluation and advanced research methods with over 20 years of experience utilizing both formative and summative data. In all these projects, she uses Culturally Responsive and Equitable Evaluation (CREE) concepts. A major focus of her evaluation has been on the assessment, process, and impact of service delivery for gender based violence. She has served as the Primary Investigator and/or the evaluator of multiple large-scale research and evaluation projects. Her funded evaluation projects focus heavily on community engagement and the gender impact of development. For a number of years, she studied the impact of oil development on interpersonal violence in Western North Dakota and Eastern Montana. This research specifically looked at IPV prevalence, the nature of IPV violence, the barriers to services, and the implications to policy and practice related to oil impacted areas. She uses innovative community-based participatory action research models to bring about maximum community empowerment and change with policy impact. To bring about significant change, she has advocated at the funder, legislative, and community levels, in addition to presenting and writing for practitioner and academic audiences.

Jayne Walters

Dr. Jayme Walters is an Assistant Professor, BSW Program Director, and Director of Transforming Communities Institute (TCI) in the Department of Social Work at Utah State University. She was awarded her PhD from the University of Tennessee, College of Social Work in 2020. She earned her MSW and a certificate in Non-profit Organizations: Development and Management from the University of Georgia and BSW from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. Dr. Walters also received a certificate in Fundraising Management from Indiana University, Lilly Family School of Philanthropy. Dr. Walters' main research regards quality of life in rural communities. She engages in community-level and organization-level research in the areas of poverty, social service provision, nonprofit capacity and management;

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fundraising and philanthropy; macro social work education; and well-being of social workers. Her research has been published in Journal of Rural Studies and International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, among others. In the past two years of leadership, Dr. Walters led TCI from an initiative to institute status, as well as led the collaborative development and implementation of a new five-year strategic plan. Professionally, Dr. Walters was in the field as a social worker for nearly ten years prior to shifting into social work academia. Her roles included non-profit management, program development and evaluation, fundraising, and grant writing. Today, Dr. Walters works closely with communities and nonprofits to build capacity and provide research support. At the community level, Dr. Walters is currently involved in the development and implementation of a warming center in Cache County for individuals and families who are unhoused, as no homeless shelters exists within one hour of the community. Further, she serves as the new organization's vice chairperson of the Board of Directors and co-chair of the fundraising committee. Walters also engages significantly in professional service in the university, department, and discipline levels. At the university, Dr. Walters will serve as a representative for her college on the Institutional Review Board for the next few years, as well as a faculty mentor for Aggie First Scholars, a program for first-generation college students at USU. At the department level, Dr. Walters serves or leads several department committees, including scholarships, admissions, and communications. At the discipline level, Dr. Walters reviews for multiple social sciences and public health journals. Finally, she mentors undergraduate and graduate students in research regularly; in two years, she has mentored 13 individual students in gaining experience in developing and implementing scholarly projects. Personally, Dr. Walters grew up in poverty in the rural Illinois where she eventually became a first-generation college graduate, which fueled her passion for helping rural, persistently poor communities and economic and social justice. She is married to her husband, Jonathon, and they have one daughter, Kate.”

Teresa Larsen

Teresa Larsen has completed her Bachelor's (2018) and Master's (2019) degree in Social work from Utah State University. After completing those degrees, she worked at the Center for Persons with Disabilities at Utah State as a project coordinator on multiple disability related projects, until she began pursuing her doctorate degree in Sociology in 2020. Teresa is currently a researcher for the Transforming Communities Institute and is engaged with multiple community-engaged projects and coordinates professional education for the institute. Outside of school and work, Teresa enjoys spending time with her husband and pets.”

Vickie Bushman

State Victim Advocate Liaison, UOVC

Vickie Bushman has been in the victim services field for the last 17 years. She received her bachelor's degree in Family Consumer Human Development at Utah State University. She has worked in a variety areas of victim services. She worked at CAPSA, a domestic violence shelter, for about 3 years. She went on to work at the Sandy City Police Department as a Victim Advocate for about 9.5 years. She has been the co-chair, treasurer, and secretary at the Salt Lake Valley Domestic Violence Coalition and a co-chair of the Sexual Assault Response Team

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in Salt Lake County. She has been at the Utah Office for Victims of Crime for the last 4.5 years as first a grant analyst and now as the State Victim Advocate Liaison. Vickie is passionate about victim's rights and ensuring victims have a voice in the criminal justice process. When not working, Vickie enjoys being outdoors, camping, hiking, and any type of crafting. She loves spending time with her family of four kids, husband, and two pups!

Learning Objectives:

1. To better understand domestic violence, the cycle of violence, the power and control wheel, and the laws related to domestic violence
2. To define and identify the different types of domestic violence
3. To increase the knowledge of the physical and psychological impact of domestic violence
4. To discuss the barriers victims of domestic violence face to leave the abusive relationship

Kylynn Beatty

Kylyn worked at DCFS caseworker for about 3 years after completing her bachelor's degree in Psychology. She worked as an on going worker where she helped families navigate various allegations of abuse, including domestic violence in the home. While working there, she completed the majority of her Masters degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from Capella University. Through her education she learned the important dynamics of relationships and families. Kylyn started working in private practice, where she specializes in couples, families, adult and teenage individuals. She continues to see private practice clients currently, but mostly focuses on her day job as the Director of the Uintah/Daggett County Children's Justice Center.

Jessica has been trained in child forensic interviewing for over seven years, and conducted over 2,000 child interviews. Her interview training is with the Utah CJC Program Child Interview Guidelines, based on the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development ("NICHD") interview guidelines.

Jessica Shelburg

Jessica graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and started her career in child welfare shortly after. Jessica first started in this field with the Division Child and Family Services as a Child Protective Services caseworker. As a CPS caseworker, she helped children and families maintain a safe home and family environment in cases where reported abuse/neglect occurred. The investigation of child abuse reports often involved domestic violence. This process frequently involved interviewing children using the forensic interview guidelines.

In 2019, Jessica became the Child Forensic Interview Specialist for the Uintah/Daggett Children's Justice Center. She is responsible for conducting most of the child forensic interviews and disabled adult interviews at the CJC for the Uintah/Daggett area, and occasionally courtesy interviews for other jurisdictions as well. She also participates in training colleagues from all over Utah to become certified child forensic interviewers, and helps her local team with staying up to date on their child forensic interviewing skills.

Hildegard Koenig.

She/Her/Hers

Hilde emigrated from Venezuela to Utah with her family as a teenager and is now a U.S. citizen. She is the proud mother of two amazing individuals and a survivor. She obtained her Paralegal Certificate from Weber State University, after which she began her career at Legal Aid Society of Salt Lake City working closely with victims of domestic violence. This helped stoke an already burning passion for giving voice to those who have been silenced and allowed her to stand for human rights issues. She has worked for the YWCA of Salt Lake City, at the Salt Lake City Prosecutor's Office as the Diversity Witness Coordinator, the Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office, Utah Domestic Violence Coalition and as the Community Liaison with the Salt Lake City Mayor's Office. She is currently employed by the Utah Office for Victims of Crime as the Outreach, Language Access & Civil Rights Coordinator.

Doni Arnold and Maggie McQuivey

An Introduction to Within My Reach

Learning Objectives:

Within My Reach focuses on four Safey's needed for a relationship to be considered healthy... Physical, Emotional, Commitment, Community. The classes help participants begin to develop those skills by teaching processes for making smart decisions, discovering their strengths and weaknesses, identifying communication patterns that are dangerous, skillfully speaking, active listening, understanding forgiveness & when it's safe to reconcile a relationship or wise to move on, becoming aware of healthy commitment, recognizing the differences between how first families & complex families are formed, and finally how to reach their goals.

Doni Arnold

Doni Arnold has been a part of the world of advocacy since 2010. She joined the Friends Against Family Violence team two years ago as their Prevention & Education Coordinator. She began by developing the platform to raise awareness surrounding healthy relationships, and today she has 6 successful classes going in the tri-county area. Doni facilitates the Within My Reach classes which focus on all of the Safety's, that according to research, are needed to be present to consider a relationship healthy and she begins the process of teaching those skills to participants.

Maggie McQuivey

She/Her/Hers

Maggie found her calling August of 2020 when she joined Friends Against Family Violence as a Shelter Advocate. With the desire to support survivors, she had dedicated herself to making a meaningful impact in her community. While serving in her role as shelter advocate, she attended numerous trainings, earning many certificates including Mental Health First Aid, Bystander Intervention, Strangulation Training and many more. She worked in the shelter setting for 3 years, when in May of 2023 she accepted the role of Community Outreach Specialist. Maggie is pursuing her bachelor's degree in social work at Utah State University. Beyond her professional pursuits, Maggie is a devoted mother to four remarkable and spirited children. Her personal

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journey as a survivor has fueled her determination to break the cycle of generational trauma. Maggie's ultimate passion lies in empowering survivors to reclaim their lives and regain their independence.

Lindsey Garlick

In 2019, Lindsey began her career in human services as the Day Treatment Coordinator for Northeastern Counseling. She became a certified crisis worker while serving on the Mobile Crisis Outreach Team. In 2021, she began working for the Duchesne County Sheriff's Office as the Victim Services Coordinator, where she built the program for the department. In this new role, Lindsey quickly became active in the community to better serve the victims of Duchesne County. She currently serves on the Local Homeless Committee, the Children's Justice Center Multi-Disciplinary Team, and on the Uintah Basin Association of Governments' Community Services Board as a representative of Duchesne County's low-income population. She helped organize the Duchesne County Domestic Violence High-Risk Team in 2022 and continues to serve there. She is an executive board member for Friends Against Family Violence, the Coordinator for Duchesne County's Sexual Assault Response Team, the President of the Uintah Basin Domestic Violence Coalition, and the 8th District Judicial Victims' Rights Chair. Lindsey is passionate about helping survivors gain safety, independence, and self-confidence.

Haylee Toland

Haylee is a certified teacher through the state of Utah and has worked in Duchesne, San Juan, and Uintah Counties as well as West Valley City Utah, and LA and Orange Counties in California. She received her bachelor's degree in Archaeology and Anthropology from Utah State University and is currently working on a Master's Degree in Education Specializing in Trauma-Informed Practices through National University and a facilitator's certificate in Trauma-Transforming Art. She is currently the Sexual Assault Advocate Coordinator for Friends Against Family Violence, is a nationally credentialed advocate, and serves on multidisciplinary teams throughout the Uintah Basin supporting survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

Eliza LeBeau

Learning Objective:

The Aftermath of Domestic Violence: what happens next?

Mother to NINE and a School Counselor at a middle school, Eliza LeBeau's three favorite topics are relationships, empowerment and consequences. Eliza has a master's degree in psychology, school counseling. She has worked in schools, daycares, jail cells and youth service organizations her whole life.

Eliza is a survivor of domestic violence and a proud co-parent in a functioning blended family. She is currently wrapping up her first book about her experience with domestic violence and the aftermath for her children and her family.