



COALITION to STOP
VIOLENCE AGAINST
NATIVE WOMEN

JUNE 2022 ADVOCATE CORNER NEWSLETTER



Together, we do more!

JUNE 2022 ADVOCATE CORNER NEWSLETTER

Greetings Advocates,

Happy Pride! I hope everyone is doing well and staying cool. The month of May was very busy with so many MMIWR events taking place, it was nice to be in community with many of you. At the end of the month, Tiffany, Ryder, and our April Advocate of the Month Mrs. Reyes Abeita had the opportunity to attend the Conference on Crimes Against Women in Dallas, Texas. With over 8-10 workshops given during each session of 5 through-out the course of 3 and a half days was so hard to choose from, but we didn't miss any sessions and were eager to learn more and bring back information that can help move us forward in our mission and goals. We really worked hard to learn, take notes, and network with others. Tiffany will be happy to share all information and note taking with advocates during the June 2nd Advocate Meeting. We are thankful to Isleta Social Services for allowing Reyes Abeita to attend the CCAW with us. We want to share her experiences (below).



Reyes Abeita Isleta Social Services, Kea'wah Supervised Visitation & Safe Exchange Program, Project Coordinator

My sincerest gratitude and Thanks to the Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women staff and partners. I want to inform you of the knowledge gained while attending the Conference on Crimes Against Women, in Dallas, Texas from Monday, May 23, 2022, to Thursday, May 26, 2022. As Victim Advocate of the Month for the month of April, I am most grateful to have shared space with so many individuals who rally together to become a voice of justice in a world full of injustice, oppression, and social injustice.

- CONTINUE -

JUNE 2022 ADVOCATE CORNER NEWSLETTER

Upon preparation to select the various workshops and seminars, I felt a sense of overwhelming to gain knowledge and experiences and bring them back to my community. When I learned that I would be traveling with fellow tribal members, I was excited to know that there is strength in numbers and having three people who are able, ready, and willing to grow, learn and add insight to helping those who are in need is crucial to being a cycle breaker, an advocate, and a source of strength. With this, I was confident not only in myself but my colleagues whom I know and appreciate.

While at the Conference on Crimes Against Women, my experience with the Opening Ceremony, Plenary and Day 1 was just as expected. There was 2500+ attendees, with representation all over the world. My first selected session was “The Kavanaugh Effect: The Aftermath of High-Profile Sex Crime Allegations with Ric Hertel. This session was not a Case Study but rather a call for action. The rape culture, sexual assault and idea that delayed reporting is a “thing of the past” rather than an immediate epidemic in present times. The prosecutors and defense attorneys took turns speaking out openly about the issues with the “MeToo” movement. Prosecutors are now looking to ensure that the client is credible and are at a new crossroad when it comes to the victim being an actual victim. These questions are posed by the defense attorneys. The conversation was most helpful in a way that spreads light to the current high-profile cases and the outcomes that can possibly sway popular opinion when it comes to sexual assault. During the lunch-hour, I sat through a session titled “Surviving Dirty John” by Debra Newell. Debra spoke about her lived experiences of living a life based off lies, deception, scams, criticism, and fraud. The most important aspect being a victim of stalking. Debra told stories about how she met her husband through a dating website, they married, and she became a victim of stalking. Her husband knows all of her personal information, her passwords, information to her six personal bank accounts, and installed tracking devices on her vehicles and home. Her experiences and work led her story to be turned into a Bravo series.

Next, I went into a Case Study session titled “A Time of Terror: The Effects of Capriglione by Tara Edsall and Ryan Gardiner. The information provided was a timeline of horror, torture, and inhumane treatment at the hands of a male individual who had several victims who he courted, dated, and victims of torture. He raped, sodomized, and committed acts of strangulation, beating, attempted drowning, cutting, beating his “girlfriends.” The acts occurred in his home, he happened to record his actions and behaviors as well as his conversations. The effect these recordings had on me as they were played in the presentation were life-changing. To hear his voice, to listen to the brutal message and cruelty with which he spoke to the person he “loved” was beyond anything I could imagine.

- CONTINUE -

JUNE 2022 ADVOCATE CORNER NEWSLETTER

The last session for the day I attended was “The Outside Looking In: How the Army Revolutionizes Sexual Assault & Harassment Prevention & Response Systems” by Jill Londagin. This presentation was a personal choice for me. In this presentation, Londagin made a statement that was profound. She states, “you are more likely to be sexually assaulted or raped by your fellow comrades or a superior, than you by being shot by the enemy.” This made me sad and disgusted because it brings to light that rape culture is real. The United States Army has a plan to effectively eradicate such behaviors, however, it is up to the many levels of the chain of command to ensure the training is completed. The statements from attendees were that training may occur, but it is something to the effect of a check mark off a “to-do list.”

Day Two-I went into a Case Study: “House of Horrors: The Case of Immanuel Humes” by Melissa Hoppmeyer & Thea Zumwalt. This case study was a turning point to which I made it a point to investigate self-care and mindfulness. The information provided was that abuse, power, and control, and ultimately resulted in the death of a 5-year-old girl. The extreme maltreatment that I remember from this case study was when the first responders entered the home, the four children were crouched down in a corner of a room with their heads down as paramedics attempted to revive and remove the child. Because the father was a master manipulator and recorded his conversations with his partner, we heard conversations like “white girls are much more attractive than black women.” He also states, “All black women need to just die, including my mom.” I was shocked to find out that his girlfriend was not white-she was black, a person of color, but not only that, she was—a person. This made his five young children also black. The amount of disregard he had for each person living in his household was just that—a house of horrors. We saw video, which he recorded himself, hitting and slapping his young mute child. He would hit and slap her over and over repeatedly. She was mute, she did not cry, she was silent, silent in her world of torment at the hands of her father.

The next session I went to was “Military Sexual Violence: How Did We Get Here & How Do We Fix It? By Lindsey Knapp. During this session, she repeated the same statistics that I learned about previously, “you are more likely to be raped or sexually harassed or assaulted by a person in your career than by being shot by the enemy.” She states that the reason for this is because the military has their own judicial system, their own penal codes, and sexual violence has become more talked about. She points out that even if a person is convicted of criminal sexual charges, the worst-case scenario is a dishonorable discharge. She compares this to a person getting fired from their job in civilian terms. This was eye-opening and disturbing. The Army is working on a solution to a problem that it has yet to hold individuals who commit acts of violence accountable.

JUNE 2022 ADVOCATE CORNER NEWSLETTER

Next, I went to a Case Study “US vs. Alston Williams: Using a Multi-Disciplinary Approach to Address Sex Trafficking” by Pete Angell, Jennifer Howard, Carlos Lisboa and Gregory Schiller. This case study displayed the inter-workings, communication, cooperation and understanding of jurisdictional approaches to ensure that one individual would be apprehended and convicted of human sex trafficking. The presentation followed a timeline of the crimes as they occurred until the ultimate conviction of Alston Williams with a term of five life sentences for sex trafficking. The amount of man hours it took to create the case was immense.

The last session I attended was “Indigenous Solutions: Centering Native Advocacy for our Relatives” by Hope Wenke and Victoria Ybanez. This session I focused on the conversation of creating a cultural approach when it comes to traditional healing for victims and survivors of IPV, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking. I learned to focus on the strengths of everyone by learning where they are at in their healing journey and their pace and ability to move forward with healing. This was a great presentation and I hope to ask for a session on TA with Red Wind.

On the third day, the first session I attended was “Intimate Partner Homicide: Solving Cold Cases with an Evidence-Based Interview Strategy” by Jon Turbett. This session provided me with an opportunity to sit among prosecutors, defense attorneys, law enforcement, and victim advocates along with a single judge as we were walked through a case of violent crimes. The real-life case example is used to display how many key players act on ensuring justice is served.

The next session I attended was “Implicit Bias & Intersectionality: It’s a Human Condition” by Myra Strand. This session made the most impact on me while in Dallas. This session will be used in my professional and personal life moving forward because the information is a never-ending cycle of exploring, working on the growth and expansion of social injustices that have been deeply rooted in the history of America.

The third session of the day, I attended “Innovations for Empowering Young People with Relationship Health Education” by Katie Hood & Melanie Sperling. This session was based on educating the youth on what healthy relationships are, how relationships can either hurt you or help you. The other key information and take-away was that the youth want to know ‘How do I help my friend?’ This was important because not many youth speak to their truths and most tend to listen but keep the information as if they are the sole responsible party of their friend(s).

JUNE 2022 ADVOCATE CORNER NEWSLETTER

The last session for the day was “Jennifer 42: Coercive Control: Worst Case Scenario” by Elle Kamihira, Laura Richards, Jessica Rosenbeck. This case was a bit more realistic approach to presenting the information because the child who lost her mother to a violent act of crime at the hands of her father, was present. She gave her account of that horrific and tragic day of witnessing her father shoot and murder her mother. The tremendous amount of healing and resiliency the Magnano children possess is out of this world.

On the last day, I attended “Suffer from Burn Out, Give them the F.I.N.G.E.R.” by Mark Yarbrough. This session was very much emotional as it was light-hearted and healing. The take-away was to care for yourself before you care for others. The impacts of the helping professions are affected by vicarious trauma-no matter which helping profession one chooses.

The last session I attended was “Understanding the Experiences & Needs of Older Survivors of Domestic Violence & Sexual Violence” by Bethany Backes, Julie Olomi, & Leila Wood. This session focuses on the understanding and needs of women over the age of 50. The components of services are needed to be tailored to individuals who have not been able to break the cycle but are still a victim and are trying to break that continuum of violence.

To say thank you to the members of Coalition to Stop Violence Against Women would be an understatement as I feel I have been provided an opportunity not only to help others, but myself. The amount of violence that is very much alive and thriving in this land that we call home, is no match with individuals and communities once united-the work continues long after.

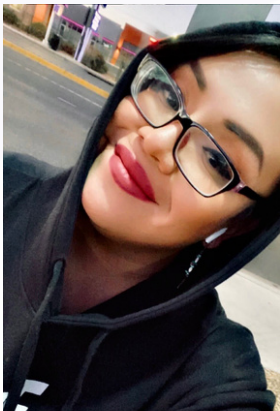
Khud’Khem/Dah Wah Eeh/Thank you,

Reyes Abeita
Project Coordinator
Isleta Social Services

- CONTINUE -

JUNE 2022 ADVOCATE CORNER NEWSLETTER

Congratulations to our June Advocate of the Month for June 2022, Honey Sunday, Diné



Honey is living evidence that any person who grows up being from a broken home and disdained for being different, can create having a mind-set of overcoming any barriers to become triumphant, and being admired for the work they carry out. Having no barriers to get in her way, and with the support of other CSVANW employees, Honey plans to become an advocate or a case manager to help bring awareness to the needs of the Indigenous Transgender community.

As the Project and Media Assistant, Honey is responsible for helping the Coordinators at CSVANW with the trainings and workshops CSVANW organizes. She is always down to offer fresh ideas in ways to increase awareness in understanding the issues with domestic and sexual violence happening to our elders and youths in our Native communities to the public. Currently, she is working on a project with the National Center for Transgender Equality to get the indigenous transgender community to commit to participate in the 2022 U.S Transgender Survey this summer. She is also working with Albuquerque's Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico's (TGRCNM) Spa Day to empower the sheltered and especially the unsheltered transgender community in Albuquerque.

Upcoming Advocate Meetings Dates:

1. June 2, 2022: 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
2. June 16, 2022: Presentation/Training from Animal Protection of New Mexico
3. RAFT Advocate Summer Training Series starts June 30, 2022 and will be every Thursday until August 2022. See dates below:

JUNE 2022 ADVOCATE CORNER NEWSLETTER

- Thursday, June 30th
- Thursday, July 7th
- Thursday, July 14th
- Thursday, July 21st
- Thursday, July 28th
- Thursday, August 11th
- Thursday, August 18th