There is **power** and **strength** in a **collective**

Annual Report 2020
In solidarity,

Emily Rewald
President, Board of Directors

By embracing its own voice and encouraging others to embrace theirs, OAESV held onto its voice, influence, programs, and initiatives to help end sexual violence. Our goal is not to go back to the way things were before, but to work together to build a new normal where everyone has an equal opportunity to live, work, breathe, and thrive.

There is so much that this FY2020 Annual Report can’t highlight, but I am grateful for our Board, our staff, and for your continued partnership with OAESV and our team. We value your support and collaboration, especially at a time that has stretched us all in unexpected ways.

My sincerest gratitude,

Rissa Belvin
Executive Director

We did all of this while working remotely. In a global pandemic. Under civil unrest. We did all of this while working in crisis. The year that demonstrated the importance of turning setbacks into opportunities, and recognizing that there is strength and power in the collective.

In the midst of a pandemic, in 2020, Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence (OAESV)’s staff worked nonstop to ensure programs had everything they needed to continue providing services to survivors in Ohio. We recognized that our greatest asset was modeling the importance of collaboration, transparency, innovation, and constant communication, while empowering our members to continue to show up for survivors.

OAESV created space for critical conversations for rape crisis centers at all levels, and led the way in advocating for funding and policies to allow centers to provide the best care possible while decreasing barriers for survivors to access services.

Even as I leave the Board of Directors, I look forward to remaining a friend to OAESV. In order to end sexual violence, we all must commit to building and sustaining lasting partnerships, to embracing change and new ideas, and digging in to do the difficult and necessary work that remains to be done. Each of us has something to contribute and I invite you to join us in this endeavor.

For me, this moment in time is full to the brim with contemplation – not only reflecting on OAESV’s achievements at the state and national level, but also reflecting as I conclude my service on the Board of Directors.

In the past five years, I have witnessed OAESV grow its staff, budget, and fundraising efforts. We formed a Task Force that has more than doubled. And, just recently, we were able to celebrate the Ohio Visionary Voice Award.

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Let that sit for a moment!! #WeAreOAESV
As Ohio’s statewide coalition, OAESV uses an anti-oppression lens to advocate for comprehensive responses and rape crisis services for survivors and to empower communities to prevent sexual violence.
OUR ONGOING COMMITMENT

In 2020, we embraced our ongoing commitment to confronting oppression and eliminating sexual violence, and we continue to lead by example both in Ohio and nationally. The OAESV staff shared their expertise at statewide and national conferences and training events, and were recognized for their achievements and contributions in empowering survivors and confronting oppression. Through collaborative projects at the national, statewide, regional, and local levels, we worked with partners to further our mission and improve the overall capacity to effectively respond to sexual violence. Some of the projects, groups, and events that OAESV staff convened and/or attended include the Ohio Attorney General’s Two Days in May conference, quarterly rape crisis program directors’ meetings, state and national coalition meetings, regional SART meetings, site visits to local programs, and many more.

As part of our commitment to anti-oppressive practices in 2020, we co-chaired several statewide committees, comprised of colleagues from various other anti-violence organizations. These committees focus on bettering the services provided in Ohio as well as decreasing harm caused to survivors and to those working in our organizations.

- Anti-Oppression Committee
- Aspiring White Allies (now known as Co-Conspirators in Ending Oppression)
- Ohio Men’s Action Network
- Women of Color Caucus

MEETINGS

281

focused on multidisciplinary projects, systems advocacy, and coordinated community response

Including: Convening/attending multidisciplinary working groups, convening/attending community, regional, statewide taskforce/caucus, project-specific interagency working groups, appointed State-level commissions, and additional types of systems advocacy meetings

RESOURCEs

50

(Factsheets, Infographics, Brochures, Videos, Online Content and more)

PROVIDING TIMELY INFORMATION

At OAESV we believe in the importance of providing timely information to the public as well as to our members, the press, and other stakeholders. We continue to update our website in order to be accessible and responsive to the needs of users. We also create and disseminate fact sheets and newsletters on relevant and timely topics and use social media to share current news, events, and information about sexual violence and services for survivors.

We continue to create resources that can be used by advocates and others who wish to support survivors as well as by prevention educators and members of the community who are working to end sexual violence. We created and published monthly newsletters in 2020 as well as a number of different resources including brochures, reports, manuals, technical assistance guides, regulatory responses, web pages, press statements and interviews, and more.

PRODUCTS & RESOURCES

over 80

over 50

RESOURCES

18 NEWSLETTERS

13 BLOGS

public awareness products and training resources

www.oaesv.org/Blog
As Ohio's only anti-sexual violence coalition, OAESV is in a unique position to provide many services, including training for advocates and preventionists, technical assistance for local programs, systems advocacy, public policy work, resources for community member, providers, and campuses, and prevention work. This includes, and is not limited to, best practices and program standards; grant writing and reporting; administrative policies and sample MOUs; research; public policy advocacy; self-care.

Technical Assistance
- Sexual Assault Programs
- Forensic Examiner
- Government Agencies
- Health Care Providers
- Dual sexual Assault and domestic violence program
- Private Law Firms
- Mental Health Providers
- Legal Services Organizations
- Law Enforcement, Prosecutor’s Office
- Advocacy Organization, University/ School
- State Coalition
- Family Planning Organization
- Campus Violence Prevention Program
- Hospital, Faith-based organization
- Youth Programs
- Sexual Assault Response Teams

Technical Assistance Topics:
- Program and Organizational Issues
- Program Services
- Systems Change
- Advocacy
- Legal Issues
- Statistics
- Grant Reporting
- Equitable Outreach
- Coordinated Community Response
- Media
- Legislation
- Training Curriculum
- Technology and Confidentiality
- Victims’ Rights
- Statues and Codes
- Information and Referral
- Court response
- and more

Instances of ASSISTANCE were provided: 229

With the shift to fully virtual gatherings, we held our trainings via webinar and online meetings.

Training Topics:
- Prevention Programming, Sexual Assault
- Organizational community response
- collaboration
- Coordinated Community Response
- Evidence Informed Practice
- Outreach to Diverse/Underserved Populations
- SART
- Evaluation
- Primary Prevention
- Civil Court Procedures
- Criminal Court Procedures
- SA Forensic Examinations
- Confidentiality
- Forensic Evidence Collection and documentation
- Mandatory Reporting
- Sexual Assault Dynamics and Services
- Safety Planning
- Legislative Processes
- Criminal Court Procedures
- Communities of Color
- Underserved Populations
- Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault
- Black Communities
- Immigrant and Refugee Communities
- LGBTQIA communities
- Stalking Dynamics and Services
- Protection orders
- Anti-Oppression framework
- Human Trafficking
- Self-Care for Advocates
- COVID-19
- Peer Support Models
- and more

TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 8,552 people
TWO PARTS
For the health and safety of our members and staff, we altered our annual conference to a two-part virtual conference, rather than the typical in-person event. Part one featured keynotes from Aishah Shahidah Simmons and Dr. Shemariah Arki; a film screening of "No! The Rape Documentary"; affinity group sessions; interactive self-care sessions with Replenish, and calls-to-action from statewide leaders CeCe Norwood and Dr. Tyffani Dent.

Part 1 | June 16-18
Our 2020 Annual Conference sought to explore three foundations of sexual violence prevention and intervention – accountability, bravery, and community – as we considered ways to "Restore Our Roots". As we reflect and honor the work done before us, we must also acknowledge past traumas and shortcomings. We can thrive if we are willing to examine our roots and challenge the barriers that have prevented our growth.

Part 2 | August 10-13
Part two of our annual conference was a continuation on our theme, Restoring Our Roots...Accountability. Bravery. Community, and it featured keynote speaker Camilla Gilbert; highlighted presenter Sirajah Raheem; a land acknowledgement from OVWA Executive Director Liz Poprocki; calls to action from partners around Ohio including Ohio Representative Erica Crawley and Dr. Jen Seifert, Program Director of the Survivor Advocacy Outreach Program, an engaging panel focused on anti-oppressive coordinated community responses, and 11 workshops from a range of multidisciplinary experts.

Conference Topics:
- Strategies and outcomes • intersection of racism, ableism, and sexism • engaging men in the movement • prevention • Black women and sexual violence • sexual assault kits • sexual violence in the service industry • substance abuse and sexual violence • the faith community and survivor recovery • and more

over 700 ATTENDEES
over 30 SPEAKERS
over 24 PRESENTATIONS
418 IN ATTENDANCE
4 FILM SCREENING
6 AFFINITY GROUPS
3 DAYS

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS
Aishah Shahidah Simmons
Dr. Shemariah Arki

Camilla Gilbert
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

30 PRESENTATIONS
286 IN ATTENDANCE
5 AWARDS PRESENTED
4 SPEAKERS
1 PANEL DISCUSSION
OAESV provides support, advocacy, policy information, and funding to organizations working to advocate for the rights and need of survivors and co-survivors of sexual violence. In 2020, 105 survivors were served in ways including but not limited to: information about the criminal justice process; information about victim rights; referral to other victim services programs, supports, and resources; individual advocacy; law enforcement interview advocacy or accompaniment; interpreter services; immigration assistance; crisis intervention; safety planning; hotline counseling; on-scene crisis response; individual counseling; support groups; emergency financial assistance; victim impact statement assistance; assistance in obtaining protection or restraining order.

**Services Provided:**
- Information about the criminal justice process
- Information about victim rights, how to obtain notifications, etc.
- Referral to other victim service programs
- Referral to other services, supports, and resources (includes legal, medical, faith-based organizations, address confidentiality programs, etc.)
- Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment
- Individual advocacy (e.g., assistance in applying for public benefits, return of personal property or effects)
- Crisis Intervention (in-person, includes safety planning, etc.)
- Hotline/crisis line counseling
- Civil legal assistance in obtaining protection or restraining order
- Civil legal assistance with family law issues
- Other legal advice and/or counsel
- Title IX

**Legal Issues Addressed:**
- Protection Orders: 20
- Educational Issues: 16
- Housing: 1

**By the Numbers:**
- Total Number of Survivors Served by the Legal Assistance for Victims (LAV) Grant Program: 33
- Safety Planning Provided by Lawyers: 32
- Safety Planning Provided by other staff: 7
- Survivors Served by the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant Program: 72

Our objectives:
- End isolation of survivors and agencies working on their behalf
- Improve services and responses to survivors and all those impacted by sexual violence
- Increase public awareness about sexual violence
- Inform and shape public policy
- End sexual violence
Since 2013, OAESV’s Annual Advocacy Day to End Sexual Violence has provided advocates, survivors, and interested members of the public with the opportunity to express the importance of sexual violence advocacy and prevention to members of the Ohio Legislature. The one-on-one meetings with lawmakers provide invaluable opportunities for rape crisis professionals to share insight on pending legislation and make informed requests for funding increases.

Dozens of public policy testimonies, covering topics such as:

- Erin’s Law
- Senate Advocate Privilege
- House Advocate Privilege
- Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis
- HB 350 • Opponent to SB 352 • HB 162 (Ending the Statute of Limitations for Rape)
- HB 369 (LGBTQ+ Discrimination) • and more

Spring Advocacy Day
- Our first virtual advocacy day
- 7 guest speakers, including 5 legislators: Senator Nickie Antonio; Representatives Emilia Strong Sykes, Laura Lanese, Bridget Kelly and Scott Lipps; Ryn Farmer; and Lynn Rosenthal
- 40 legislative meetings, held virtually to honor CDC and state mandates

Special Fall Legislative Advocacy Day
- 12 speakers
- 1,200 viewers joined us on Facebook Live

Critical Conversations – Facebook Live Legislative Discussions

We held 10 Facebook Live discussions in the Fall of 2020, all focused on the needs of Ohio’s rape crisis programs. We invited regional directors, legislators, community partners, and survivors from around the state of Ohio. Two main areas of focus were the devastating impacts of the cuts to Ohio’s Victims of Crime Act funding as well as survivor and program needs during COVID-19.

15 Annual Report 2020
We have been bringing folks together to discuss the ways the current COVID-19 pandemic is affecting their work. We’ve invited attendees to bring questions, frustrations, struggles and ideas to these online conversations for resource-sharing and support. Virtual meetings were held separately for Advocates & Preventionists, Campus Advocates & Preventionists, RCC Directors, SART members, and People of Color in the SV Field.

People who are or have experienced sexual violence may be experiencing increased isolation and danger caused by social distancing measures during the Coronavirus pandemic. Survivors often have specific needs around safety, health, and confidentiality. We also realize that communities most-impacted by sexual violence are facing additional challenges during this unprecedented time. On our COVID Emerging Response webpage, we continue to compile resources and tools for sexual violence service providers, who are working tirelessly to respond in ways that are safe and supportive for all.

Thankfully, early in 2020 we began planning virtual aspects of our Sexual Assault Awareness Month Toolkit. What started as an option for local programs quickly became a necessary way of interacting during the month of April, as all of our communities went through the changes to implement social distancing. The SAAM toolkit we sent our members contained:

- Model SAAM Resolution Language to Build a Request to Your Local Government
- Ohio-Specific Social Media Content Package Including Captions & Image Files
- Instructions on Creating Facebook Profile and Story Frames
- #SAAM Affirmation Coloring Cards
- Fundraiser Reminders
- SAAM Online Engagement Tips, and more!

We invited facilitators from a range of specialties to lead webinars during the Spring months. Topics included:

- Healing for Activists
- Life Writing: Exploring the Art of Journaling
- Mindfulness
- Reclaiming & Reframing Self-Care, and
- Virtual Yoga Session

RESOURCES & SUPPORT FOR ADVOCATES, SURVIVORS, AND CO-SURVIVORS

- Production and distribution of advocacy video for remote hospital survivor advocacy
- Actively and publicly supporting impactful and necessary legislation, such as Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis in various areas of the state
- Hospital advocacy training and resource production (videos, written resources)
- Housing support for survivors who are isolated at home with their abusers
- Housing support for survivors who are isolated at home with their abusers
- Phones and prepaid cell phone minutes for survivors in marginalized communities
- Technology to provide e-signature and e-filing options
- Building and recommending anti-racist policies for rape crisis centers and other organizations, including implementing those policies internally at OAESV
- Securing staffing for programs serving communities of color
- Gift of Diversity toolkit
- Securing additional interpreting services
- Advocate work phones, service, tablets, and wifi
- Coalition to provide law enforcement training
- Publications on trauma-informed interviewing in social distancing
- Personal protective equipment for survivors, court advocates, and attorneys
- Culturally specific, free mental health access for advocates/preventionists and survivors
- Research for culturally specific, long-term responses and prevention, due to COVID further exacerbating wealth and health disparities
- Graphic designs for local rape crisis program marketing
- Sustaining legal advocate positions
- Establishing a system of free transit to closest hospitals for forensic exams and specified care

SELF-CARE WEBINARS

Virtual SELF-CARE Webinars

- Healing for Activists
- Life Writing: Exploring the Art of Journaling
- Mindfulness
- Reclaiming & Reframing Self-Care, and
- Virtual Yoga Session

COVID-19 response

CULTIVATING CONVERSATIONS IN CRISIS
Primary prevention strategies are imperative in order to shift toward a culture that no longer tolerates any form of sexual violence. OAESV is dedicated to providing trainings and technical assistance that shift from awareness efforts towards outer-level (critical mass) strategies in order to help local programs better serve their schools, communities, institutions, businesses, and allied partners.

The national and localized responses to the COVID-19 outbreak have led to considerable implications for violence prevention. Public health measures to contain the COVID-19 outbreak such as extended social isolation may have unintended effects on the potential for interpersonal violence, including sexual and intimate partner violence in the home.

MONTHLY PREVENTIONIST CALLS

OAESV began hosting monthly calls for preventionists throughout COVID in order to support the huge shift in their work, and we continued to provide trainings for new preventionists. We also held regional meetings during the summer so that local programs could discuss their needs at that level. One major topic in these prevention discussions was transformative justice, and we welcomed Anooj Bhandari to deliver "Tools for Transformative Justice and Abolition".

STATEWIDE WORKGROUPS

We were also able to facilitate six workgroups: School Policy, Social Marketing/Messaging, Youth Leadership, Community/Environmental Prevention, Curriculum Adaptation, and Evaluation. These groups are made up of local sexual and intimate partner violence (S&IPV) preventionists. The workgroups have supported sexual violence prevention activities during the COVID-19 pandemic to identify issues, challenges, and innovative methods and practices for sexual violence prevention in Ohio, and to implement those where possible. OAESV has provided these groups with training, facilitation, and technical support. We also recognized the need for laptops across local prevention programs and were able to supply laptops to six programs with special Rape Prevention Act COVID funding.

OHIO MEN’S ACTION NETWORK

One of our 2020 prevention projects was the Ohio Men’s Action Network, in partnership with the Ohio Domestic Violence Network. This group focuses on engaging men in anti-violence work as allies and survivors.

BE THE ONE OHIO

Our statewide messaging campaign, Be the One Ohio, boasted some impressive numbers in 2020 in terms of reach and impact, with our social media posts being seen over 1 million times over the course of the year. This year the campaign was focused on youth leadership, dating and healthy relationship skills, and more, and we particularly focused on areas of the state without low (or no) prevention programming as well as areas that have been identified as having a high rate of infant mortality.

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