

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

Annual Report 2020

## from the executive director



Dear survivors, rape crisis programs, community partners, and funders,

2020 was a tipping point year, a year of immense challenges, but we are still standing! In March, we were plunged into a global pandemic and then civil unrest every day since then. While 2020 wasn't the year any of us planned, it is the year that demonstrated the importance of turning setbacks into opportunities, and recognizing that **there is strength and power in the collective.**

While 2020 was probably the most challenging year we've experienced in our lifetime, there were also many things to be grateful for and to celebrate.

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 forums, wrote thought-provoking position statements and invitations to embrace our voices. We asked you to show up as a movement, and we stood strong in declaring racism as a public health issue. OAESV advocated for the VOCA Fix; we made sure that sexual violence programs were considered for CARES Act funding. We were among the first in the nation to do a virtual advocacy day, and the first to convene two separate virtual conferences- "Restoring Our Roots"- with more than 700 participants, and still meet all grant deliverables. We also enhanced our website with COVID response and support, so that survivors could have the services needed during a pandemic. The agency was able to quickly convert

our trainings to virtual platforms, became completely remote, and also grow in knowledge and capacity in 2020 - all on top of experiencing many personal and professional losses. **We did all of this while working remotely. In a global pandemic. Under civil unrest. Let that sit for a moment!!**

We don't have all the answers, and we know that these complex issues won't be "solved" in short order. But to make demonstrable progress on gaps in equity and access that have been compounded generation after generation, and highlighted by COVID, we have to be more inclusive in how we speak about them and how we do this work, and we have to actionably address their root causes. As we prepare for what comes next, we are committed to advancing racial justice, accountability and building a more equitable future for our state by using our 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,

**Rosa Beltré**  
Executive Director

## from the board president

Dear friends and colleagues,

It is with great pride, honor, and gratitude that we present you with the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence's 2020 Annual Report - a year in which our skillful team of staff, board members, and volunteers rose to the occasion to meet the needs of survivors in incredibly challenging times.

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 levels, but also reflecting as I conclude on 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 Transition Committee that resulted in promoting Rosa Beltré to Executive Director of OAESV, and she has led us fearlessly, gracefully, and fiercely over the past nearly four years. During my tenure on the board, I saw OAESV succeed in advocating for an increase in state funding for rape crisis centers, which has more than doubled. And, just recently, we were able to celebrate the OAESV staff receiving the National Sexual Violence Resource Center's Ohio Visionary Voice Award. Their creativity, persistence, passion, and thoughtfulness are unmatched.

I could not be prouder of OAESV's work in 2020 - a tumultuous year to say the least. Not once during did we lose sight of our vision to end sexual violence. Staff collaboration led to a pivot to being fully remote, as they provided increased support to rape crisis center staff, acted as a leading voice in the fight against all forms of oppression, and delivered top-notch support and services to survivors experiencing compounding stressors themselves.

The Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence is a membership-based, statewide sexual assault coalition dedicated to supporting survivors and ending oppressive systems, practices and beliefs that support sexual violence.

# #WeAreOAESV

By embracing its own voice and encouraging others to embrace theirs, OAESV held not one, but two incredible Advocacy Days, and was the first coalition in the nation to shift its annual conference to a virtual platform. They held 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.

In solidarity,

**Emily Resnik**  
President, Board of Directors



## 2020 OAESV *staff*



**Lana Baird**  
Director of Finance



**Keri Black**  
Training Specialist  
*(until July 2020)*



**Kelly Becker**  
Training & Technical  
Assistance Coordinator



**Olivia Montgomery**  
Training & Technical  
Assistance Coordinator for  
Inclusion & Equity



**Kandra Roberts**  
LAV Attorney



**Ann Brandon**  
Director of Prevention



**Caitlin Burke**  
Prevention Specialist



**April Carter**  
LAV Paralegal



**Camille Crary**  
Director of  
Legal Services & Policy



**Chelsea Daniel**  
Campus & Legal Advocate



**Taylr Ucker-Lauderman**  
Director of Communications



**Shandra Witherspoon**  
Director of Coordinated  
Community Responses



**Luisa Detres-Gomez**  
Membership & Resource  
Specialist



**Jenn Eidemille**  
Resource & Communications  
Coordinator



**Becca Getson**  
Legal Advocacy Coordinator



**Jayvon Howard**  
Engaging Men Coordinator



**Megan Jones-Williams**  
Director of Training & Advocacy  
*(until December 2020)*

## *board of directors*

**Emily Resnik**  
President

**Ryn Farmer**  
Vice President

**Carolyn Butler**

**Lee Ann Cochran**

**Ashley Nicole Cook**

**Tyffani Dent**

**Andrew Hulse**

**Amy LaGesse**

**Hannah Servedio**

**Jamie Small**

**Sharetta T. Smith**

**Tricia Sprankle**

**Danielle P. Tong**

## *our mission*

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.

*anti-oppression work, systems advocacy,  
and coordinated responses to survivors*

**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



**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

**With:** Multi-disciplinary groups, Taskforces, Advocacy Organizations, Sexual Assault Programs, Elected Officials, Legislators, National Coalitions, Funders, State Coalition Staff and more

*public awareness products and training resources*

**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.

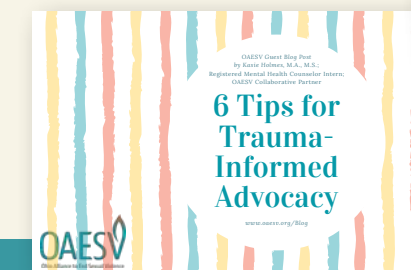
We continue to create resources that can be used by advocates and others who wish to support survivors as well as by prevention educators and members of the community who are working to end sexual violence. We created and published monthly newsletters in 2020 as well as a number of different resources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



*18* NEWSLETTERS

*13* BLOGS

*50* RESOURCES  
(Factsheets, Infographics, Brochures, Videos, Online Content and more)



## technical assistance

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.

229  
Instances of  
ASSISTANCE  
were provided

### 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 • Statutes and Codes • Information and Referral • Court response • and more

### 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

## training

### ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF SURVIVORS

OAESV strives to provide timely, relevant trainings and events for victim service professionals, allied professionals, and the public. As Ohio's federally recognized statewide coalition, this is a responsibility we take pride in fulfilling.

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

TOTAL  
ATTENDANCE:  
8,552  
people

### 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



# annual conference

## 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.

## our first VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

### 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  
**30**  
SPEAKERS

**24**  
PRESENTATIONS

over  
**700**  
ATTENDEES

### 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.

**4**  
SPEAKERS

**1**  
PANEL DISCUSSION

**5**  
AWARDS PRESENTED

**286**  
IN ATTENDANCE



**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
Camilla Gilbert

### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Aishah Shahidah Simmons



Dr. Shemariah Arki



**3**  
DAYS

**418**  
IN ATTENDANCE

**6**  
AFFINITY GROUPS

**1**  
FILM SCREENING

# legal advocacy

## WORKING FOR SURVIVORS

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 service 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**

LEGAL SERVICES  
provided for

**105**  
SURVIVORS



## 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

# public policy and systems advocacy

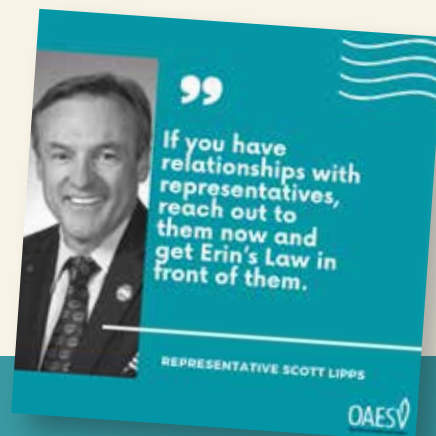


## ADVOCACY DAY(S)

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, Brigid 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.





# COVID-19 *response*

## CULTIVATING CONVERSATIONS IN CRISIS

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.

## SELF-CARE WEBINARS

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

## VIRTUAL SAAM TOOLKIT

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!

over  
**2,000**  
PAGE VIEWS

## COVID EMERGING RESPONSE WEBPAGE

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.

## 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 people being turned away from shelters due to COVID-19 concerns
- 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

38

calls held for RCC and other member program staff

average number of people attending each call

36

# prevention

## SHIFT IN CULTURE

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".

**SOCIAL MEDIA posts seen over 1 million times**

## 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 at the 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.

# 2020 financial report

## BUILDING TOWARD THE FUTURE

Each year, we carefully track our income and spending. This helps us to continuously improve the effectiveness of our financial decisions, which ensures that we continue to increase the amount of funds going directly to improving survivor services in Ohio and beyond. We find that it's important to share this information with all of our supporters and stakeholders.

**94¢**  
of each dollar goes to SURVIVOR SERVICES

## INCOME \$2,051,411

Government Grants	\$1,782,745
Contracts	\$76,088
In-Kind	\$74,564
Foundations	\$50,000
Donations	\$42,138
Membership	\$20,975
Miscellaneous	\$4,901

## EXPENSES \$1,984,306

Program Services	\$1,797,750
Management & General	\$135,250
Development	\$51,306

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