There is power and strength in a collective

ANNUAL REPORT

2021
**from the president & ceo**

**dear stakeholders, community partners, colleagues, survivors, funders and friends,**

2021 didn't start nor end as we had planned! 2021 continued being a challenging year for all our agencies in the gender-based violence movement. For OAESV, as I am certain for many of you it was still a busy and unpredictable year. The pandemic continued to take a toll, but didn't reduce the needs and the work that needed to happen. In 2021, we experienced a second wave of VOCA funding reduction, staff burnout, high turnover rates, continuous budget adjustments, and solicitations.

OAESV remained hopeful and advocated for VOCA Fix, CARES ACT funding for SV, and increases to our State Rape-Crisis Fund. As an organization that truly believes in collaboration, transparency, empowerment, innovation and support, we believed that there has never been a more important time for us (community of practice) to come together, than in 2021, to collaborate, to embrace the voices of survivors and member base agencies in our state.

There was no better time than 2021 to re-adjust, realign and re-envision the way that we were going to continue to be survivor centered and meet everyone's needs. We never skipped a beat.

Giving up is not an option, was never an option; we needed to move forward, we needed to be innovative, inclusive, intersectional, anti-oppressive, anti-racist, loud, intentional and visible, and that we did! We tackled every hurdle, went back to the basics and continued being true to our mission. We were focused, grounded, paced, steady; while we amplified the voices of survivors in a transformative, genuine, just and restorative way.

There is power and strength in our collectives. There is power and strength in our collectives. And it truly would not have been possible without you! My sincerest gratitude.

There is power and strength in our collectives.

Thank you for not only being an external evaluator/observer, but a doer, a disruptor, a fierce advocate, a champion, catalyst of change, restorer of hope and educator. We are honored that you are part of our community of practice.

**Sincerely,**

Rosa Beltré
President & CEO

**from the board president**

**dear OAESV community,**

I am grateful for each of you and the ways in which you have continued to show up this past year during an ongoing global pandemic and the trauma of heightened racism and racial disparities. We know that it has been difficult, and we hope you take a moment to celebrate our collective work in Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence’s 2021 Annual Report.

Although we encountered many challenges, our incredible staff and volunteers continued to fearlessly advocate to ensure survivors had access to services, to provide rape crisis centers and partner agencies across the state with critical and meaningful support for prevention and advocacy work, and to champion more equitable policies at the state and national level.

Our board had several transitions this past year; bringing on new board members and saying goodbye to others. With dedication and care, we celebrated our most successful Shine the Light event featuring nationally-renowned speaker, Tony Porter. We developed better strategies for internal growth and support, and continued working through our strategic plan to ensure fiscal, legal, and ethical oversight of the organization.

To our many partners, volunteers, and donors - thank you. Thank you for your continued support for OAESV as we strive to use an anti-oppression lens to advocate for comprehensive responses and rape crisis services for survivors and to empower communities to prevent sexual violence.

As we reflect on 2021 and move into 2022 with the hope of what a new year brings, may you each take a moment to acknowledge the ways in which you too have contributed to this work. We could not do any of this without you.

Let us end the silence and be reminded that every day is a chance to generate a revolution for the future of our community to bring an end to sexual violence.

Sincerely,

Kathryn “Ryn” Farmer
President, Board of Directors
The Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence (OAESV) is a membership-based, statewide sexual assault coalition dedicated to supporting survivors and ending oppressive systems, practices, and beliefs that support sexual violence.

#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.
In 2021, we embraced our ongoing commitment to confronting oppression and eliminating sexual violence. 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, community forums for inadequately served communities, and many more.

We also continued to co-chair several statewide committees, comprised of colleagues from various anti-violence organizations.

- Anti-Oppression Committee
- Co-Conspirators in Ending Oppression
- Ohio Men’s Action Network
- Women of Color Caucus
- Men of Color Caucus
- SAABO (Sexual Assault Advisory Board)
- Family Violence Prevention Council
- SVAA Advisory Board
- Ohio Council on Victims of Justice
- DELTA Leadership Team of Human Trafficking Task Force
- Sexual Assault Kit Tracking
- Preventive Health and Health Service Block Grant Advisory Board
- ODHE Safer Campus Guidebook Revision Committee

281 MEETINGS

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.

In 2021, OAESV contracted with Sankofa Circle International to facilitate 20, 2-hour sessions with ten Rape Crisis Center leaders from across Ohio. As leaders of organizations dedicated to anti-oppression work, we are in a unique position to create and maintain anti-oppressive organizations. The purpose of this series was to create a community of practice with fellow leaders to build the skills and resources to assess and enact anti-racism and anti-oppression work within our agencies. Sankofa Circle International brought in amazing faculty members from across the nation to lead these efforts.

We took a deep dive into our current individual attitudes and beliefs, as well as agency policies and practices to critically assess our current alignment with anti-racist endeavors. We worked toward building a community of anti-oppressive practice with other Ohio leaders and are leaving with concrete goals and strategies to realize a more inclusive workplace and culturally humble services.

- Amy Bleser, Women Helping Women
- Noemi Carrizales Fouty, The Cocoon
- Ryn Farmer, Crime Victim Services
- Rebecca Jentes, SafeHaven
- Bethany Lewis, The Nord Center
- Lauren MacDade, HelpLine
- Molly MacMath, COMPASS
- Kathy Mull, The Cocoon
- Gina Patterson, OneEighty
- Jen Seifert, Survivor Advocacy Outreach Program

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Gina Patterson, OneEighty

“Participants included

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Jen Seifert, Survivor Advocacy Outreach Program

It was wonderful to learn alongside other rape crisis center directors in the state and have the space to visualize together the future of the anti-violence movement through an anti-oppressive lens.

- Bethany Lewis, The Nord Center

“This training is definitely worth the time commitment. I learned a lot to help me in my DEI journey to make workplaces more inviting and inclusive. I also learned about myself and my biases.”

Gina Patterson, OneEighty
COVID-19 response

Sexual violence and domestic violence centers reported needing additional resources to meet survivor needs under the unprecedented circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic.

OAESV distributed:

- **15,000** pads and tampons to all rape crisis centers in the state and 10 culturally-specific organizations thanks to an in-kind donation from Aunt Flow
- **12,000** masks and personal protective equipment (PPE)
- **240** care/health packages containing masks, Lysol, Clorox wipes, and hand sanitizers
- **5** new laptops to 5 rural programs for rape prevention education
- **$23,000** to 5 rural programs providing rape prevention education for capacity building, training & technical assistance, and sustainability, totaling $118,000.
- **41** tablets sent to rural hospitals and SANE programs*
- Monies for hotspots, phone/calling cards, transportation vouchers, and hotel vouchers to 17 rape crisis programs*
- A continuously updated webpage dedicated to COVID-19 with robust resources for providers and community members

*funded by a special COVID grant through OCJS for a total of $60,534 which was completely distributed to our programs.
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 2021 as well as a number of different resources including brochures, reports, manuals, technical assistance guides, regulatory responses, web pages, podcasts, toolkits, press statements and interviews, and more.

public awareness products & resources

Newsletters • Blogs • Whitepapers • Manuals • Webpages • Flyers • Brochures • Fact sheets • Toolkits • Infographics • Annual Report • Public statements/Press releases • Videos • Social media posts • Media interviews • Podcasts • Training curricula and materials • Educational materials • Graphic illustrations • and more

media mentions, interviews, & public awareness

PUBLIC NEWS SERVICE (PNS)

1. Ohio Bill Would End Spousal Exemptions for Sexual Violence

2. Sexual Violence Prevention: Patriarchal Ideas a Barrier for Men

3. OH Advocates Urge Eliminating Statute of Limitations; Spousal Exemption

4. Human Trafficking: Pandemic Increases Vulnerability, Diminishes Response

At the end of the day, our movement is about support and care and compassion being extended to everyone. That is what this movement requires for us to be successful.

Jayvon Howard, Engaging Men Coordinator
Public News Service Interview

By the Numbers:

- Monthly newsletters: 11
- Women of Color Caucus newsletters: 2
- Legislative newsletters: 9
- Putting Conversations into Practice Resources: 5
- Resources for Organization Leadership and Staff: 1
- Webpages: 15
- Flyers: 50+
- 3 Teal Talk podcasts, 426 listens
- Annual Report: 1
- Fact sheets: 5
- Infographics: 2
- 9 Blogs, 600+ views
- Toolkits: 2
- Whitepaper: 1
- LAV Legal Manual: 1
- Public Statements: 3
- Training Materials: 2
- 2 Videos, 204 views
- Social media posts: 80+
- Center Spotlight Series: highlighted 11 local programs
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 topics:**
Program and Organizational Issues • Program Services • Hotline/Crisis Intervention • Hospital/Medical Advocacy • Transitional Housing • Immigration Services • Accessible Services • Anti-Oppression Work • 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 • Orders of Protection • Forensic Evidence Collection and Documentation • Court Response • Information and Referral • Funding/Grants • and more

OAESV is pleased to offer training opportunities throughout the year on a variety of topics related to the prevention of and response to sexual violence.

OAESV strives to provide timely, relevant trainings and events for victim service professionals, allied professionals, and the public. As Ohio’s federally recognized anti-sexual violence 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**

-Sexual Assault Programs - Forensic Examiners - Educators - Health Care Providers - Dual SA and DV programs - Law Enforcement - Legislators - Students K-12
-University Staff - College Students - Social Workers - State Coalitions - Secondary Survivors - Interpreters/Translators - Artist/Filmmakers - Journalists

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**OAESV topics:**
- Sexual Assault Overview - Sexual Assault Laws - Title IX Policies & Updates - Sexual Assault Dynamics - Anti-Racism - Evidence-Informed Practices - Working with Secondary Survivors - Primary Prevention - Strategic Planning - Education Systems - Safety Planning

**Communities of Color: Underserved Populations**
- Immigrants and Refugees - LGBTQIA communities - Community Outreach - Stalking Dynamics and Services - Protection Orders - Anti-Oppression Framework - Human Trafficking - Self-Care for Advocates - Prevention Programming - and more

**Housing: Confidentiality**
- Criminal Court Proceedings - Civil Court Proceedings - Legislation & Policy Advocacy - Campus SA Prevention - Identifying Legal Issues - Campus Sexual Assault

**226 INSTANCES OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED**
- 226 instances of assistance provided to rape crisis program advocates, prevention specialists, program administrators, and allied professionals throughout Ohio.

**68 TRAININGS & EVENTS**
- 68 trainings & events

**1,566 TOTAL PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE**
- 1,566 total people in attendance

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**training**

With the shift to fully virtual gatherings, we held our trainings via webinar and online meetings.
Our 2021 Conference sought to explore three foundations of sexual violence prevention and intervention – community, innovation, and relationships – as we considered ways to “Restore Our Roots”. It was a testament to the gradual, continual process of restoration. We did some digging, tested the soil, planted some seeds, and did some necessary pruning. We need these trees to be free of the weeds that have hindered their growth for years. As we reflected and honored the work done before us, we also acknowledged past traumas and shortcomings. We know we only can thrive if we are willing to examine our roots and challenge the barriers that have prevented our growth.

workshops:
- Innovating Prevention in the Digital Age
- Queer Language: Discovering the Roots of LGBTQ+ Language
- Cultivating Affirmation and Belonging for LGBTQ+ Youth
- Finding a Place for Faith in SV Advocacy
- Title IX Q&A with OAESV’s Legal Team and the Ohio Survivors Legal Assistance Clinic
- Bridging our Efforts: Update on Ohio’s Prevention State Action Plan
- Restorative Self-Care Practices: Addressing Secondary Trauma Exposure
- From Victim to Survivor: Music as a Tool for Healing and Empowerment
- Self-Care Yoga
- Child Sexual Abuse Response and Prevention in Organizational Settings
- Harnessing the Power of K-12 Policies for Outer-Level Prevention Work
- Providing Advocacy to Immigrant and Refugee Sexual Violence
- Zine: opening worlds of possibility with pen, paper, and staples
- Caring for Our Roots: A Providers Guide to Self-Care through the Root Chakra
- Young Love Matters
- Let’s Talk Oppression & Hold Each Other Accountable
- Cultural Considerations in Dimensional Self-Care
- Thinking beyond the system, Liberation through Transformative Justice
- Growing in Partnership, Nourishing the Roots of Campus Advocacy through Community Collaboration
- Impact of and Resolutions for Vicarious Trauma in Law Enforcement and Prosecution Systems
- Working with Military Sexual Assault Victims, A Community Approach

learning sessions:
- Serving Queer & Transgender Survivors
- Serving Survivors with Disabilities Sensing
- Immigrant Survivors

affinity groups:
- People of Color
- Aspiring White Allies
- People with Disabilities
- LGBTQ+ People of Color
- LGBTQ+ White People
- Men in the Field
OAESV provides support, advocacy, policy information, and funding to organizations working to advocate for the rights and needs of survivors and co-survivors of sexual violence. In 2021, 51 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)
- Emotional Support or Safety Services Crisis
- Crisis Intervention (in-person, includes safety planning, etc.)
- Hotline/crisis line counseling
- Shelter/Housing Services
- Health and Child Care
- Relocation Assistance
- Civil legal assistance in obtaining protection or restraining order
- Civil legal assistance with family law issues
- Other legal advice and/or counsel
- Title IX
- Notification of criminal justice event
- Legal Advice and/or counsel
- and more

**Legal Services**

Our Legal Services cover not only our LAV attorney team (Ohio Survivor Legal Assistance Clinic - OSLAC) but also our Legal Access Works (LAW) Legal Assistance Program program where we match survivors with panel attorneys.

- **450 hours of direct service**
- **21 attorneys worked on cases**
- **51 legal representation provided for survivors**
Amid the tribulations of 2020 and the first half of 2021, we worked tirelessly and advocated heavily and were rewarded with increased rape crisis funding. In April, the Ohio House of Representatives approved an increased budget for the Ohio Rape Crisis Centers line item, taking it from $4.75 million per fiscal year in 2019 to $10 million per fiscal year in 2020 and $7.3 million per fiscal year in 2021.

This sizeable increase was necessary in order to respond to increased demand for services as well as to position Ohio’s rape crisis programs to expand services to cover all 88 counties of the state. Under the Line Item, programs that meet the Core Standards are eligible for unrestricted funds. The Line Item’s positive impact has been swift and powerful. For instance, many programs were able to extend their services to cover additional counties, increase employment, and create prevention programming.

However, it’s important to note that due to VOCA cuts in 2020 and 2021, many programs were still barely able to sustain staff and programming, if at all. The rape crisis funding helped stabilize the effects of VOCA cuts, but in many cases this kept the funding from having its intended purpose of expansion.

- Fiscal Year One: $10 Million
- Fiscal Year Two: $7.3 Million
- Biennium Total: $17.3 Million

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. In 2021, we held our second virtual advocacy day with 12 guest speakers and 72 legislative meetings. 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:
- Violence against Women Act • Virtual Testimony • Erin’s Law • Sustaining RCC Funding • The Crown Act • Organizational community response • Anti-oppression/Anti-racism • Advocacy for survivors within the criminal justice system • SA statues • and more
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.

trainings & presentations provided:

- Two-part Social Justice and Equity in Prevention with Tonjie Reese
- Strategic Planning through an Anti-Oppressive Lens with Groundsheet
- Annual Conference
- Photovoice Facilitation Basics with Photovoice WorldWide
- Force of Awesome Institute with Catharsis Productions
- Ready, Set, Go Prevention 101
- Critical Conversations Call for Preventionists
- National Sexual Assault Conference presentation
- Testimony on prevention priorities for the U.S. National Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence
- Creating Safe and Supportive Learning Environments for Girls with Ruling our Experiences (ROX)
- Oh the “Policy-bilities”: Navigating Policy in Your Work with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Regional Meetings

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.

income: $2,287,292

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<th>Source</th>
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<tr>
<td>Government grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
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<td>Contracts</td>
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<td>In Kind</td>
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<td>Registrations</td>
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expenses: $2,144,468

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90¢ of each dollar goes to survivor services.