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## AUGUST 2021 NEWS

MINNESOTA ALLIANCE ON CRIME

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from mac's executive director

Dear Members and Friends:

Greetings from the Minnesota Alliance on Crime staff!

I want to thank all the individuals who attended MAC's Fundamentals in Victim Services training in July. It was incredible to spend two-and-a-half days with all of you and it renewed my hope that the field of victim services will continue to be filled with knowledgeable and passionate advocates. Also, a BIG thank you to all of the programs that supported their staff in attending the training.



I have been spending much time reflecting on my own 25+ year career in the anti-violence field and have realized that there is still much for me to learn. Just like any field of work, there is constant change and evolution of understanding. I can now look back and see where we, the movement as a whole, advocated for responses and outcomes that at the time we believed to be best practice, but have proven now to be limiting and actually have negative impacts on those we strive to support.

All of life is about learning and being willing to recognize that the decisions we've made, using information available at the time and with good intent, may not be best practice when we apply current information and knowledge. This doesn't mean we made a mistake or failed, it means we are growing and are committed to ensuring we don't get stuck in old behavior because it is comfortable, but isn't impacting us or others in positive ways.

Advocacy is a not for the those who don't have passion for continued growth and the acquisition of knowledge. Crime victims deserve and need support and services that are shaped by their lived experiences, not our own experiences or what we have always believed was in their best interest. Being an advocate challenges us in so many ways, but the most important challenge we must face is to learn and grow from those we have committed ourselves to support.

Please know that MAC is here for you and your coworkers to provide training, technical assistance, or just an ear when you need to someone to listen as we all learn together.

*"You make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give." —Winston Churchill*

In Peace,

Bobbi Holtberg



**Save the date. Registration is coming SOON!**



## MAC MEMBER PROGRAMS:

### IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

All FY22 membership  
renewals due by  
**August 30, 2021.**

Member program leaders, check your email. You should have received a message about how to renew your membership for FY22. **If you haven't received this information, please [email Danielle](#).**

We thank you in advance for your continued support of MAC through renewing your membership for FY22. We at MAC hope we can continue to support you in FY22.

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To continue our work to achieve our mission, MAC needs the valuable feedback of all our member programs. **This year's member survey is quick and easy!** We will use your feedback to help us set strategic goals and better serve our member programs statewide.

If you're a member of MAC, your link to the survey should be in your email inbox. Completing the survey will take you just five minutes but the impact of your response will be lasting. Please take a moment now to complete it. **The deadline for sharing your feedback with MAC is Monday, August 9, 2021.**

Thank you so much for taking time out of your busy day to complete the survey. If you have any questions, feel free to contact [Danielle](#).

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**MAC members and friends, please share this with any prospective interns you know.**

The Minnesota Alliance on Crime (MAC) is currently seeking interns for the fall of 2021. This may be a remote internship.

MAC is a membership coalition of more than 90 crime victim service providers in Minnesota, including prosecution-based victim/witness programs, community programs, law enforcement agencies, and individuals committed to supporting crime victims. We support our membership through training, technical assistance, resources, public policy and legislative initiatives, and networking opportunities.

The general crime coalition intern will be responsible for researching legislative updates and policy change relevant to MAC's member programs with a special focus on state statutes related to victims' rights and the prospect of implementing a state constitutional amendment.

**For more info on interning with MAC, [click here](#).**



MAC is thrilled to announce that we will be holding our first ever ONLINE Silent Auction at our Annual Meeting and Capacity Building Training on September 9-10, 2021. Stay tuned for more information to come.

**Have a unique item or skill you would like to donate to the Silent Auction this year? Please reach out to [Amea Kroghus](#).**

Since our event will be held virtually this year, gift cards or easily mailed items would be preferred. We would love to hear from you!

## news from the field

### **Bureau of Justice Statistics: Federal Hate Crime Prosecutions, 2005-19**

This report uses data from BJS's Federal Justice Statistics Program to describe criminal prosecutions

over federal hate crimes from 2005 to 2019. It presents the number of hate crimes investigated by U.S. attorneys, percentages of suspects who were prosecuted, and reasons that U.S. attorneys declined to prosecute. It provides statistics on case disposition in federal court, including sentencing outcomes for defendants who were convicted of a hate crime, and an analysis of the federal response to hate crimes. [Read more.](#)

### **Humphrey School of Public Affairs: Report on Rural Immigrant Communities**

A new study from students at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs looks at [the most pressing issues facing Greater Minnesota immigrant and refugee populations](#), and how local government and communities can address them. Based on interviews with government officials and community leaders from Austin, Pelican Rapids, Willmar, and Worthington, Minnesota, the study "provides important insights into the needs and concerns of rural immigrant, refugee and BIPOC communities." Read the report: ["Building Community, Embracing Difference: Immigrants, Refugees, and Local Government Outreach in Rural Minnesota."](#)

### **Victims for Justice: Looking for Linda - Alaska and the Crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People**

Linda Sheldon Skeek went missing in Anchorage on New Year's Day 2016. She has never been found and is presumed to be a homicide victim. Linda is one of an unknown number of missing and murdered Indigenous people (MMIP) in Alaska. Victims for Justice (VFJ) assisted Linda's maternal family after she disappeared and during the trial of Linda's husband. This video tells Linda's story through interviews with her mother, aunt and stepfather and with VFJ lead advocate Michelle Evans. It explores the scope of the MMIP crisis in Alaska and steps being taken to address it. [Watch now.](#)

### **The Ethical Rainmaker: The Racist Roots of Nonprofits and Philanthropy Podcast**

Community-centric Fundraising co-chair Michelle Shireen Muri and Christina Shimizu dig into the origins of philanthropy and why it's built on deep injustices. "Remember, if we don't examine how these things came to be, we can never hope to reimagine them, improve them or do better, to benefit the communities we are trying to serve." [Listen now.](#)

**DANCO  
LISTENING  
SESSIONS**  
Register Now!

*Do you have praises, concerns, or questions regarding DANCOs in MN?  
If so, we want to hear from you!*

**PLEASE JOIN US AT ONE OF OUR TWO  
LISTENING SESSIONS:**

**AUG. 23, 2021, 10:00AM - 11:30AM**  
<https://bit.ly/DANCOListeningAM>

**OR**

**AUG. 30, 2021, 1:30PM - 3:00PM**  
<https://bit.ly/DANCOListeningPM>

  
**VIOLENCE FREE  
MINNESOTA**  
THE COALITION TO END RELATIONSHIP ABUSE

HOSTED BY  
**VIOLENCE FREE  
MINNESOTA AND  
STANDPOINT.**

  
**STANDPOINT**  
Attorneys & advocates against domestic & sexual violence

## **#StopVictimBlaming**

*Anne Seymour*

Last Wednesday, I began thinking and writing about the sheer horror of the disturbing victim blaming that emerged after the emotionally-shattering testimony before the House Select Committee on January 6, from U.S. Capitol Police officers Harry Dunn and Sgt. Aquilino Gonell, and DC Metropolitan Police Officers Michael Fanone and Daniel Hodges. These four men and hundreds of their fellow officers laid their lives on the line for democracy, and to defend the very lives of our Congress Members; yet were blamed and ridiculed by some truly misguided and misinformed idiots for testifying about their personal trauma and PTSD resulting from that horrific day.

THIS was followed by similar ridiculous online and opinion-rebukes when gymnast extraordinaire Simone Biles decided it was not possible for her to compete in the 2021 Olympics – a survivor of traumatic sexual abuse (along with countless other teenage athletes) by the U.S. Gymnastics Team doctor (who is now thankfully in prison).

To me, victim blaming adds another layer of abuse to what these heroic survivors have already endured.

## AND IT MUST STOP. NOW.

There is NO excuse for victim blaming, but I have always appreciated [this article published a year ago](#) that tries to understand this detrimental thinking.

And each of us has the power to respond to this type of offensive, uneducated and completely asinine commentary that is floating around the Internet, and promulgated by some truly moronic TV commentators.

Please join me via your social media platforms, public speaking and any other venue to address our national need to **#StopVictimBlaming**, in these specific instances and, unfortunately, with countless other survivors whom you all help on a daily basis. Offer examples of ridiculous victim blaming and why it is so harmful, and how it just compounds the trauma of victims and survivors.

For good measure, please tag **@CapitolPolice** and **@DCPoliceDept** and **@Simone\_Biles** to let them know the victim/survivor assistance field is thinking of them, AND we got their backs! And please tag ME at **@JusticeSister**; I will “like” and “share” and hopefully make **#StopVictimBlaming** trend.

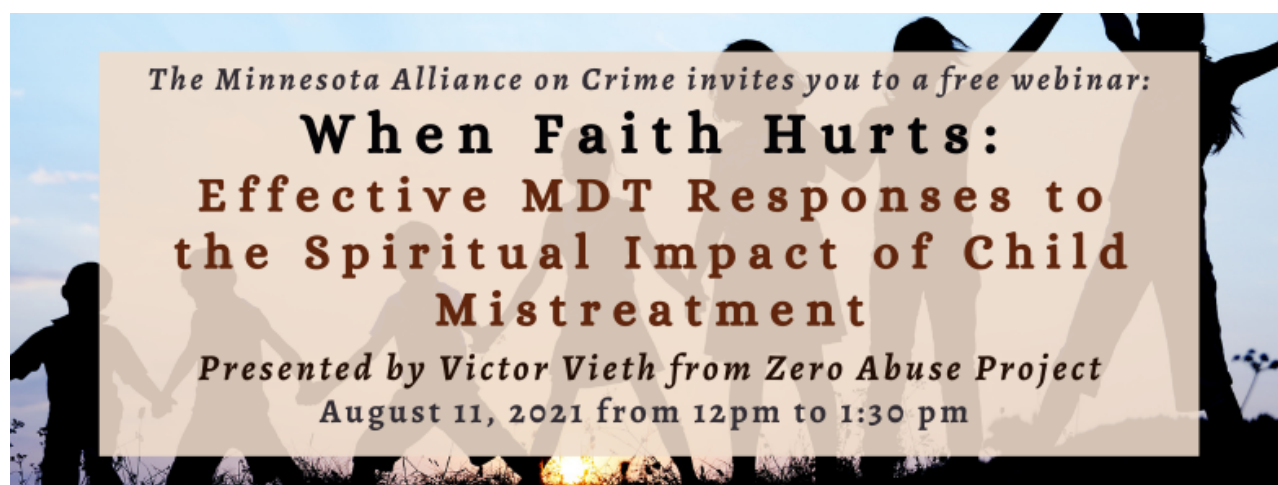
And SAY THEIR NAMES! Let’s recognize those who selflessly share their personal mental health challenges that result from the trauma of victimization – with NO shame or blame, as it should be!

Sheroes and heroes, ALL.

**Anne Seymour** has 30 years of experience as a national victim advocate. She is a cofounder of and senior advisor to the Washington, D.C.-based national non-profit Justice Solutions, and consultant to the Pew Charitable Trusts Public Safety Performance Project. She began her career in 1984 as the director of public affairs for the national office of Mothers Against Drunk Driving and, from 1985 to 1993, as co-founder and director of communications of the National Victim Center (now National Center for Victims of Crime).

To join Anne's list for her weekly email, Monday Missives, which is full of loads of resources and is highly recommended by MAC staff, send a blank email to **MMM+subscribe@groups.io**.

## upcoming trainings & webinars



### When Faith Hurts: Effective Multidisciplinary Responses to the Spiritual Impact of Child Maltreatment Description

Presented by Victor Vieth, Zero Abuse Project

**Hosted by the Minnesota Alliance on Crime**

**Aug 11, 2021 12:00 to 1:30 PM Central Time**

- This webinar will NOT be recorded.
- ASL interpreters available upon request.

Many maltreated children are spiritually impacted by abuse and require a coordination of medical, mental health, and spiritual care. This slightly shortened presentation suitable as a keynote examines this research and explores creative reforms for bringing faith and child protection communities together to protect children and address their needs. The workshop also explores how multidisciplinary teams can recognize and respond to spiritual injuries before, during and after the forensic interview.

**This webinar is FREE for all.**

**For more information on this training, [click here](#).**

**To learn more about Victor Vieth, [click here](#).**

**If you have any questions or concerns, [email Jaylynn](#), MAC intern.**

**Register today!**

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# STANDPOINT PRESENTS



# NEW LAWS

20  
21

AUGUST 12-13 - VIRTUAL  
VIA ZOOM

AUGUST 19-20 - WINONA, MN  
ADVOCACY CENTER OF WINONA

AUGUST 26-27 - MARSHALL, MN  
NEW HORIZONS CRISIS CENTER

SEPTEMBER 13-14 - MILLE LACS, MN  
FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION  
PROGRAM

SEPTEMBER 23-24 - ALEXANDRIA, MN  
SOMEPLACE SAFE

SEPT 30- OCT 1 - NORTH BRANCH, MN  
FAMILY PATHWAYS

OCTOBER 7-8 - MAPLEWOOD, MN  
TUBMAN



VISIT [STANDPOINTMN.ORG/NEW-LAWS](https://standpointmn.org/new-laws) FOR MORE INFORMATION

## Other Trainings and Webinars

*All event times are listed as Central Time.*

### What Could American Rescue Plan Act Funds Mean for Minnesota Nonprofits and Communities?

Sponsored by the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits

Webinar | August 5, 2021 | 1:00 to 1:45 pm

As funds from the American Rescue Plan Act find their way to states, conversations and decisions regarding how those funds are distributed are front-and-center for communities and organizations hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic. Join [Federal Funds Coming to Minnesota](#), a free virtual information session, to learn how much money is coming to Minnesota, the three categories of funds, and how nonprofits may be able to access these funds. You will gain information to inform your advocacy work to influence these decisions and development work to potentially access these funds.

### Extended Forensic Interviews: Practical Skills for Multiple Sessions

Sponsored by the Minnesota Children's Alliance



**Online training | August 12, 2021 | 9:00 am to 4:00 pm**  
**\$30.00**

Based on the nationally recognized ChildFirst® Forensic Interview and CornerHouse Forensic Interview Protocol™ models, this one-day training will give an overview of conducting multiple-session forensic interviews when a child may not succeed in a standard, single-session interview due to trauma, development, special needs, or other complicating factors, including poly-victimization. [Learn more.](#)

## **Expert Q&A: U.S. Department of Justice International Terrorism Victim Expense Reimbursement Program**

**Sponsored by the Office for Victims of Crime**

**Webinar | August 25, 2021 | 1:00 to 2:15 pm**

The International Terrorism Victim Expense Reimbursement Program (ITVERP) is a unique federal program that provides financial reimbursement to victims of international terrorism and their families for expenses related to medical and mental health care, funeral and burial, repatriation of the victim's remains, property loss, and miscellaneous expenses such as emergency travel. Eligible victims include U.S. citizens and foreign nationals working for the U.S. Government at the time of the terrorist act who suffer direct physical or emotional injury from an act of terrorism while outside the United States.

[Learn more.](#)

## **AARP Fraud Watch Network VOA|ReST: Addressing the Emotional Impact of Scam Victimization**

**Sponsored by the Minnesota Elder Justice Center**

**Webinar | July 29, 2021 | 1:00 pm**

Fraud has a devastating financial impact, especially on older adults. Join Amy Nofziger and Liz Buser of the AARP Fraud Watch Network as they discuss how the free AARP Fraud Watch Network VOA|ReST online peer support program helps victims and their family members re-establish trust and build back their resilience. [Learn more.](#)

contact us

As always, if you have any suggestions for MAC, we welcome your input!

**Bobbi Holtberg, Executive Director**  
[bobbi@mnallianceoncrime.org](mailto:bobbi@mnallianceoncrime.org)

**Danielle Kluz, Program Director - Communications and Engagement**  
[danielle@mnallianceoncrime.org](mailto:danielle@mnallianceoncrime.org)

**Amee Krogfus, Program Director - Operations**  
[amee@mnallianceoncrime.org](mailto:amee@mnallianceoncrime.org)

**Julia Tindell, Program Director - Training and Special Projects**  
[julia@mnallianceoncrime.org](mailto:julia@mnallianceoncrime.org)

[www.mnallianceoncrime.org](http://www.mnallianceoncrime.org)

about the minnesota alliance on crime

The Minnesota Alliance on Crime connects systems, service providers, and victims to advance the response for victims of all crime. MAC is a membership coalition of more than 90 crime victim service providers in Minnesota, including prosecution-based victim/witness programs, community programs, law enforcement agencies, and individuals committed to supporting crime victims. We support our membership through training, technical assistance, resources, public policy and legislative initiatives, and networking opportunities.

**For more information about MAC, go to [www.mnallianceoncrime.org](http://www.mnallianceoncrime.org).**

To join our coalition of crime victim service programs, [click here](#).