



APRIL 2020 NEWS

MINNESOTA ALLIANCE ON CRIME

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from mac's executive director

Happy Spring!

I hope this finds each of you well and adjusting to the challenging times we are currently living in due to COVID-19.

Because the past few weeks MAC staff have been focused on moving to remote working, supporting our member programs and stakeholders as they do the same, and trying to catch a breath, we are publishing an abbreviated version of the newsletter. We thank you for your understanding.



The future is uncertain, but this uncertainty is at the very heart of human creativity. In the strange and unpredictable times we are currently living in, a reasonable person might give in to despair. But hope in times like these is unreasonable and I am so grateful to be surrounded by so many unreasonable people who are also extremely creative.

While we are experiencing the need to physically distance ourselves from one another, daily I am brought to tears witnessing the creative ways people are socially and emotionally connecting to one another, such as grandchildren dancing with grandparents on FaceTime, family and friends sitting outside the window of a loved one so they be physically close in a safe way; and the thousands of doctors, nurses, police, first responders, supermarket employees, daycare workers, and many more who risk personal safety to help win the battle for rest of us.

I know that if each of us heeds the warnings, listens to the scientific experts, and makes the right individual choices, we all will come out on the other side of this. I hope and choose to believe we have the capacity to become much better people than we went in, and that this crisis will have taught us that if we are to survive as a collective society, then we need to understand that survival is dependent on all of us choosing *we over me*.

As Brené Brown writes, this pandemic tests our collective vulnerability. The noted sociologist, researcher, and speaker challenges us to bring our best selves to this situation, despite the uncertainty and fear. "We don't have to be scary when we're scared," she shared. "Let's choose awkward, brave, and kind. And let's choose each other."

Please know that MAC is always here for you and you are not alone, even though it may feel that way sometimes. You are part of a community that cares about you and together we will not just survive, but

find ways to thrive through these uncertain and scary times. Stay safe and well, and let's choose to support one another.

In Peace,

Bobbi Holtberg



All of us in the victim service field are living and working in a challenging time as news and policies change almost daily due to COVID-19. MAC is emailing our members and allies a weekly update with resources for you. If you are not receiving this weekly resource, let us know!

MAC has also created a [web page](#) collecting those same national and Minnesota resources in one place. We hope you'll find helpful on a professional and personal basis.

If you have any resources to share with your fellow victim service professionals, email [Danielle](#).



Are you feeling isolated working from home? Is your office a whirlwind of change at the moment? Are you overwhelmed by news of COVID-19? Are you having a lot of feelings right now? Do you just need to talk and laugh with others in the Minnesota victim service field?

If any of the above resonate with you, **all members** of the Minnesota Alliance on Crime are invited to a weekly free gathering on [Zoom](#) to share, network, vent, laugh, and **connect** with your fellow members and MAC staff.

Comments from participants in previous MemberConnects:

- "The ability to connect, learn, and hear healthy personal and work options was wonderful."
- "This was the breath of fresh air that I needed!"
- "I think it is more important than ever for advocates to connect with each other - this is a good way to decrease the isolation many are feeling."

Wednesday, April 8, 2020 from Noon to 1:00 pm.

Questions? Contact [Danielle](#).

Register today!



Join the Minnesota Alliance on Crime and the Crime Victims Justice Unit at the Office of Justice Programs for the Business Victims Roundtable, a free online discussion specifically for prosecutors and prosecution-based victim/witness advocates.

Friday, April 10, 2020 from 9:00 to 11:00 am

What is a "business victim" and what rights do they have in the prosecution process? How should prosecutors' offices treat them compared to victims of person crimes? Given that their "loss or harm related to the crime" is financial, are they and should they be treated like other property crime victims?

Approaches vary across the state, with some confusion as to the responsibilities of prosecutors' offices. This roundtable invites victim service professionals to discuss the practices in their office, the challenges in managing these types of victims and ensuring their rights are upheld, and promising practices that are emerging. Staff from the Crime Victim Justice Unit at the Office of Justice Programs will provide an overview of the crime victim rights statutes that apply to business victims and share their perspective and experiences with business victim practices and cases. **Prosecutors' offices that have grappled with this issue are strongly encouraged to attend and share their experiences and practices.**

[Click here to register](#)

We Want to Hear from YOU!

We would very much like to hear from you before the event to help the Business Victims Roundtable to best meet your needs.

Please email the following to Bobbi Holberg at bobbi@mnallianceoncrime.org any questions you might have and/or the following by Monday, April 6th:

- What challenges do you face in working with business victims?
- What are your goals for the discussion?
- Do you offer business victims an "opt-in" option for notification?
- How do the needs of business victims differ from individual victims?
- What else do you want to know about the statutory obligations when working with business victims?

Thank you!

employment opportunities

Resources for job seekers:

[Association of Minnesota Counties Jobs](#)

[Indeed](#)

[Legal Services State Support Positions Available](#)

[Minnesota Council of Nonprofits Job Board](#)

[Minnesota County Attorney's Association Job Bank](#)

contact us

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

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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.

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