



JUNE 2022 NEWS

MINNESOTA ALLIANCE ON CRIME

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from mac's executive director



According to recent research, empathy and grace are the most important leadership skills. When I was reading this article, I found myself being reassured that MAC's current training priority to dig deep into occupational identity and discover how leaders create culture change within their organizations, is aligned with current research and best-practices.

As I thought about what leading with grace and empathy looks like, I was also struck with how most programs are organized around white-centric thinking and values that are represented in very strict policies. In a book I am currently reading that focuses on trauma responsive leadership, it states that "policies are the road map to compassion".

But what does that mean exactly and how could it look in practice?

If someone is late or delayed logging on to a meeting, prioritize connection over correction. You may choose to say, "I know we have asked a lot of you lately. How is your workload? What can I/we do for you?" or "I noticed that you struggled with XYZ, so I thought I would check in — is everything OK? What can I/we help with?"

Grace is showing kindness when someone is struggling.

When we share information freely and transparently, sharing our own challenges and things we are struggling with, or saying, "I don't know the answer to that, but it's a good question," or "Here is what I do know," we become an agent of comfort for our co-workers, creating confidence amid the chaos. When you are honest and vulnerable, you are choosing grace.

When we are flexible and deal with interruptions with understanding, and even laughter, we are conveying, "No apologies necessary," or "It's OK. Life happens. Let's roll with it." When you are accepting of unexpected circumstances, you are choosing grace.

Grace is the act of creating an opening where you can see a life that is different than yours, and where you have empathy and compassion — an opening where others reveal more of themselves to you and feel safe to do so. We all need grace, and we need more of it now, than ever before.

Leading with grace and empathy is a benefit to all of our organizations. When people feel physically, mentally, and emotionally safe, valued and cared for, both at work and in their lives, they will bring their best selves forward. But make no mistake, being centered around grace and empathy is an inside job — it's our role as leaders to model it, invest in it, and commit to it.

In Peace,
Bobbi

news from the field

National Center for School Safety, with support from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, presents [**Returning to School After a Crisis: A Guide to Addressing Traumatic Events at Schools**](#).

The Prosecutors Alliance of California surveyed over 700 survivors about how to improve access to and quality of services for victims; the Summary Report [**Survivor Voices**](#) is online.

Futures Without Violence are excited to promote its initiative, "**Team: Changing Minds**," which will be a groundbreaking national network of mental health responders dedicated to helping young people, and especially young men of color and male-identified youth, recognize signs of early mental health challenges and connect to support. [**Check out Futures' powerful new video**](#).

The National Institute of Justice: "Campaigns to curb human trafficking, whether labor or sex, cannot be successful without fully understanding the totality of the issue. NIJ-supported researchers surveyed 240 respondents, from three disparate geographic locations, to understand how U.S. citizens experience labor trafficking victimization; discover where labor trafficking experiences fall in a continuum of labor exploitation for U.S. citizens; examine the personal and structural vulnerabilities that put U.S. citizens at risk for labor trafficking; and explore how U.S. citizen labor trafficking victims seek help or exit exploitative labor situations." [**An article here details their work**](#).

The Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons movement has brought new attention to the rate of unresolved crime in Indian Country or involving American Indians and Alaska Natives. Tribal law enforcement agencies often face challenges finding the resources - in money, time, and expertise - to investigate these cases. [**Unresolved Cases: A Review of Protocols and Resources for Supporting Investigations Involving American Indians and Alaska Natives**](#) compiles best practices and resource guides to assist tribal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in reviewing and investigating unresolved (or "cold") cases. Protocols for communications, record-keeping, and trauma-informed victim services; databases of personal and ballistic information; and physical evidence including DNA, fingerprints, and forensic dentistry are all detailed."

Two new publications from **OJJDP**:

- [**Child Victims with Disabilities: A Guide for Prosecutors**](#) – "Prosecutors who handle cases involving children with disabilities must be prepared to serve and advocate for individual child victims' unique physical, cognitive, and/or emotional needs. This guide addresses each of these components of the prosecution and concludes with sample motions to implement recommendations."
- [**Interviewing Children with Disabilities: A Practical Guide for Forensic Interviewers**](#) – "This article offers factors to consider when forensic interviewers and child abuse multidisciplinary team (MDT) members are preparing the forensic interview and MDT process for children with disabilities. The article goes in depth on the CDC's Disability and Health sector's definitions of disabilities and risk factors for

abuse, in addition to best practices for conducting interviews.”

The **Minnesota Justice Research Center** seeks an experienced candidate to serve as their Community Education Director to lead the development of our community education program that builds MNJRC’s base and connects it to their research and policy work.

The **Office for Victims of Crime (OVC)** is soliciting applications for its **Project Beacon: Increasing Access to Services for Urban American Indian and Alaska Native Victims of Human Trafficking Program**. The goal of the Project Beacon program is to increase the quantity and quality of victim-centered services available to assist American Indian and Alaska Native victims of human trafficking in urban areas. **To view the Project Beacon solicitation and apply for the funding here.**

The Double Terror of Being Black in America. Structural racism killed Black people in east Buffalo, and then a gunman killed the survivors. An article about the Buffalo shooting in **The Atlantic by Ibram X. Kendi**

Oregon Live published a thoughtful opinion piece, “**Coverage of mass shootings evolves as newsrooms examine practices.**”

From the **National Institute of Justice**: “When school shootings occur, they tend to be highly publicized events. Even so, little is known about the overall circumstances that lead to these tragedies. To better understand the root causes of these events and identify possible intervention points, NIJ-supported researchers examined two theories of criminology in the context of various types of school shootings. **Read more.**”

upcoming MAC trainings and webinars



Fundamentals in Victim Services

An online training for newer
crime victim services professionals

June 22-24, 2022
8 am to 4:30 pm



MINNESOTA ALLIANCE ON CRIME

mnallianceoncrime.org

Register for Fundamentals in Victim Services Here.

**if you plan to attend the Fundamentals training and you are a part of the Southern Region of MAC members, please feel free to register for another regional meeting that doesn't conflict with this training.*

upcoming other trainings and webinars

The **National Victim Assistance Academy** is offering a **Program Evaluation Training** will give you the practical skills to conduct an evaluation and take some of the fear out of the process! This **training** will be delivered online, over the course of 5 weeks, beginning on **May 31, 2022**, and is intended for those who work in a victim service organization that is, or will be, conducting a program evaluation. **More information and registration.**

Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs presents: FY 2022 Postconviction Testing of DNA Evidence This webinar will provide details and guidance

for potential applicants to the FY 2022 Postconviction Testing of DNA Evidence solicitation. The presenter will discuss the purpose and goals of this funding opportunity; review its eligibility requirements; and address frequently asked questions. **Wednesday, June 1, 2022 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. ET. [More information and registration.](#)**

Managers & Advocates at DV/SA Programs and other community-based victim service providers. **June 2, 2022 11 am -12:30 pm PST The Safety Net Project at the National Network to End Domestic Violence** is excited to announce a webinar focusing on **Core Confidentiality concepts for victim service providers**. Confidentiality is an essential part of community-based, survivor-centered victim services. But sometimes, we can start to lose track of what we really mean by “confidentiality” and what its actual purpose really is. We might start to obsess over whether we are following the rule correctly or feel paralyzed by fear of doing it wrong. There is a simple remedy to this paralysis: focus on facilitating survivor choice. **Thursday, June 2, 2022 from 2-3:30 pm Eastern. [More information and registration.](#)**

The National Crime Victim Bar Association (NCVBA) will host a webinar, “**The Dark Side of Substance Abuse Treatment,**” focused on sexual assault and substance abuse treatment on **Thursday, June 2, 2022, from 12:00 pm to 1:00 PM EST.** “Survivors of childhood sexual abuse may turn to alcohol or other substances to relieve their emotional suffering or to “self-medicate.” People seeking help from substance abuse treatment centers may encounter poorly trained and supervised staff, failure of the facilities to take essential preventative measures, and the facility improperly responding to complaints.” **[More information and registration.](#)**

Could your nonprofit workplace be more inclusive? MCN is offering **Creating and Sustaining Inclusive Nonprofits**, a series of three two-hour workshops that will each center on a specific topic connected to increasing diversity and inclusion in the nonprofit sector: social class and socioeconomic status, LGBTQIA identities, and sizeism. Throughout each workshop, Kaitlin Desselle and Anne Phibbs of Strategic Diversity Initiatives will provide insights to immediately apply learning to your work situation and is help you develop a comprehensive and ongoing understanding of inclusive leadership, at any level, within your nonprofit. **Topics for this three-part workshop are:**

- **June 7:** Hierarchies all Around: Addressing Class, Socioeconomic Status (SES), and Rank
- **July 19:** Behind the Letters: Understanding LGBTQIA Identities
- **August 23:** Taking Up Space: The Roots and Implications of Sizeism

[Registration and more information.](#)

Talking Circle: Trauma and Human Trafficking in Tribal Communities.

Intergenerational and historical trauma have existed for hundreds of years within tribal communities. Understanding this history as well as the impact of complex trauma on survivors of human trafficking is critical to supporting their healing process. **[Register for a live, no cost Talking Circle webinar on Thursday, June 9, 2022, from 2:00p.m. to 3:30 p.m. CST.](#)**

Women's Advocates presents: ***Understanding Domestic Violence in the LGBTQ Community.*** **Jun 15, 2022 10:00 AM CST. [More information and registration.](#)**

National Crime Victim Law Institute's Crime Victim Law Conference is the only national conference on rights enforcement in the country. The 2022 Crime Victim Law Conference will be held over three days virtually on **June 16-18, 2022**, the theme being Ask For Rights! Professionals serving victims gather to learn, share best practices, and plan the future of victims' rights. **[More information and registration.](#)**

MN Elder Justice Center presents ***The 16th Annual Minnesota World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Conference*** to be held at the Earle Brown Heritage Center in Brooklyn Center, MN, June 15th, 2022. This year we will explore themes of innovation in the field of elder justice. **[Cost is free but registration is required, and space is limited.](#)**

NNEDV's Safety Net project will host their 10th annual Tech Summit. The virtual Tech Summit will bring together people working with survivors to expand their knowledge. Learn more and register for this year's **[Virtual Tech Summit.](#)**

Considering a Facility Dog for Your Victim Service Program? On **June 29, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. ET**, the **Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center (OVC TTAC)** will present an online Expert Q&A discussion with Florida Alarcón, Yesica Cioli, and Marcie Davis on "Considering a Facility Dog for Your Victim Service Program?" **[More information and registration.](#)**

The Safety Net Project at the National Network to End Domestic Violence is going virtual again for our annual Technology Summit. **Tuesday, July 19 – Thursday, July 21**
The agenda will mostly consist of 2-3 one-hour sessions each. **[More information and registration.](#)**

Social Justice: Uncorked. You're invited to Social Justice: Uncorked, **[Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services](#)** annual wine tasting fundraising gala! This year's event will be held on **Thursday, August 4th from 5:30pm to 8:30pm** at The Depot in downtown Minneapolis. **[More information and ticket purchase available.](#)**

EVVA burglary bot pilot testing

EVVA



Enhanced Virtual Victim Assistant A Pilot Program for Minnesota Law Enforcement

mnallianceoncrime.org

[RTI International](#) and the **[Minnesota Alliance on Crime \(MAC\)](#)**, with support from the **[Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association](#)** and the **[Minnesota Sheriffs' Association](#)**, are offering law enforcement agencies in Minnesota the opportunity to be part of a pilot test of a new technology focused on providing greater support to burglary victims while simultaneously reducing the resource burden on law enforcement agencies.

RTI's Enhanced Virtual Victim Assistant (EVVA) chatbot ***improves the ability of law enforcement to respond to the needs of victims of burglary and refer them to community-based support and services without an additional drain on limited resources.*** EVVA was developed and rigorously tested by a team of data scientists to ensure it will deliver high quality service to burglary victims.

We know that chatbots have limitations in terms of their ability to deal with complex problems or read emotions and can create frustrations when they are not able to fully address users' needs or questions. RTI and MAC developed EVVA with mindfulness towards these potential limitations, as well as the need to be trauma-informed in the approach to assisting victims.

For more information about this pilot test or if your law enforcement agency is interested in participating in this pilot test (RTI will be launching a video demonstration of EVVA and hosting a webinar June 16 at 10 am CST) please email **kim@mnallianceoncrime.org** for more information on how to register.

online regional meetings, june 2022



Online Regional Meetings for MAC Members in June

Northern Region: June 14, 9 am to 11 am*

Central Region: June 16, 1 pm to 3 pm*

Metro Region: June 21, 1 pm to 3 pm*

Southern Region: June 23, 9 am to 11 am*

*If you cannot make your region's date/time -- Please consider registering for another region!

These meetings will take place **ONLINE** to ensure accessibility for all of our member programs. ALL members welcome!

Register here: mnallianceoncrime.org/regionalmeetings2022

Register Now for Your Summer Online Regional Meeting:

Northern Minnesota Regional Meeting

Tuesday, June 14: 9 am to 11 am

Central Minnesota Regional Meeting

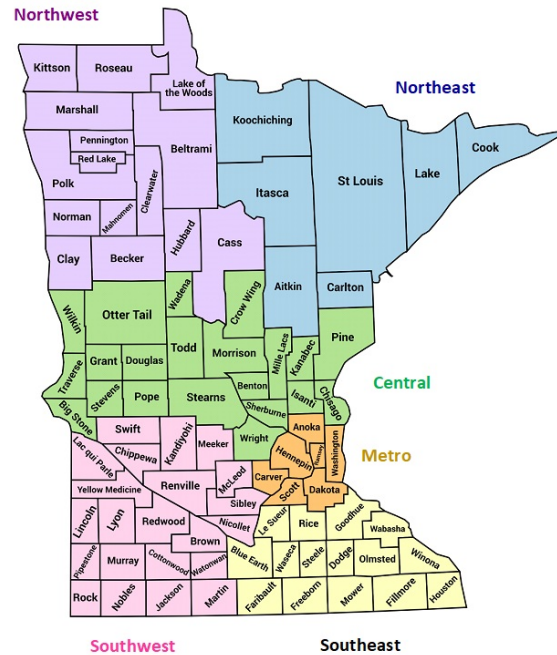
Thursday, June 16: 1 pm to 3 pm

Metro Regional Meeting

Tuesday, June 21: 1:00 to 4:00 pm

Southern Minnesota Regional Meeting*

Thursday June 23: 9 am to 11 pm



MAC is committed to making these meetings accessible to all members. If you cannot attend your region's date/time, please feel free to register for one that works for you!

If you have any questions, go to mnallianceoncrime.org/regionalmeetings2022/ or contact Kim.

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 Minnesota crime victim service programs, [click here](#).

To donate: <https://www.givemn.org/organization/Mnalliance>

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