

NMCA DV Spotlight

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month!



We celebrate every individual and program that works in the domestic violence field in New Mexico.

Staff Spotlight

PAM WISEMAN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Pamela Wiseman, M.A., became the Executive Director the New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence in 2009. For 20 years prior, she served as Executive Director of Safe Passage, an Illinois domestic violence and sexual assault agency. There Ms. Wiseman led efforts to develop a statewide position on improving court response, and was principal author of the paper Achieving Accountability in Domestic Violence Cases: A Practical Guide for Reducing Domestic Violence.

Working with the Illinois Coalition, she helped develop court watch programs, which rely on volunteers to observe proceedings and recommend improvements, to make courts more responsive to citizens.

"So I think that's been my role – to sort of make sure that we do the best we can for a variety of stakeholders and that we focus mostly on the people that are on the ground, in the trenches, providing services to victims, to children and to the people that commit domestic violence crimes. That's where a lot of the real work is and that's really where we've focused."

Ms. Wiseman now provides assistance on the development of court watch efforts to New Mexico communities, and conducts trainings on organizational dynamics for domestic violence agencies throughout the state. She also developed a major national conference hosted by NMCADV, Message Matters, focused on effective messaging about violence and abuse. Author of the best-selling book Ditch That Jerk: Dealing with Men Who Control and Abuse Women, her work has been featured in local and national media, including Cosmopolitan magazine, the Domestic Violence Report, radio and television.

Listen to her podcast [here](#).



NMCADV Speaking Out Podcast

Episode 26



Staff Spotlight

THERESA ARMENDARIZ

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

"I would really love the conversations about domestic violence to focus of offender accountability – rather than victim accountability."

Theresa Armendariz, PHR, has earned her BA in Management with a specialization in Human Resource Management and has been a certified Professional in Human Resources since 2001. Theresa came to NMCADV with 15 years of experience in the field of domestic violence services including over 7 years as an Executive Director. She is currently managing the administrative operations of NMCADV and providing support to programs throughout the state in areas such as data collection, grant writing, and personnel management.

Listen to her podcast [here](#).

"The people that do this kind of work are so passionate about this kind of work... and it's not even just in the domestic violence field... It's just amazing once you get into this work, you never leave it. You may leave the job but you never leave the cause."



NMCADV Speaking Out Podcast

Episode 27



Staff Spotlight

MARYELLEN GARCIA

DIRECTOR OF POLICY

MaryEllen Garcia has worked in New Mexico's network of survivor services for over 20 years. Most recently she spent the past ten years as the Grants Bureau Chief for the New Mexico Crime Victims Reparation Commission, administering state funds to support survivor services, as well as federal funds from VOCA Victim Assistance, STOP VAWA, SASP, and other federal discretionary awards.

Prior to her work with the Commission, Ms. Garcia administered discretionary grants from the Office on Violence Against Women for the State of New Mexico including projects that developed best practices for access, issuance, and enforcement of orders of protection and a statewide domestic/dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, strangulation, and child victimization project.

She started her career in victim services as a volunteer with a non-profit law enforcement-based victim advocate program. She worked as a crisis negotiator for law enforcement and developed a law enforcement Crisis Outreach and Support Team, focused on providing access to families whose loved ones are experiencing mental illness.

Ms. Garcia has worked on several projects at the state, local and national levels to improve the provision of services for survivors of crime. She has worked

and collaborated with the VERA Institute, the Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence, Casa de Esperanza, the Women of Color Network, the Office on Violence Against Women, the Office for Victims of Crime, and numerous other state and national programs

She sat on the national board of Violence Against Women Administrators as the President and often mentors other states in the administration of their federal funding. She has worked with governmental and non-governmental victim service agencies around the state either in training, providing services, development of best practices in serving victims, program development, and leadership within New Mexico.

Listen to her podcast [here](#).



NMCADV Speaking Out Podcast

Episode 37

Staff Spotlight

ROCHELLE FETTERS

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION & MEMBERSHIP

"Our responsibility is to our membership and so I really take that philosophy into everything that I do. I really think about how does this serve our members better, is there something I can do to make it easier, make it better... how can I highlight them and really showcase the work that they're doing. So I really do think that is the most important aspect of the work that I do."



Rochelle Feters started working in the film industry in 2010 and has worked as an actress, writer, director and producer. Her production company, SeeChelle Productions, seeks to tell important women-centered stories and her debut film about domestic abuse, Breathe, is currently winning awards on the film festival circuit. In 2017, Rochelle created her own photography business and has enjoyed taking portraits of local actors. Then in 2019, Rochelle used her communication skills to start her own social media management business. Through her experience and training, she successfully ran social media presences for herself – successfully crowd-funded her film Breathe, attracted regular clients to her photography business, and built a solid fanbase as a model, actress and filmmaker – and other businesses and individuals.

Rochelle began working with NMCADV in September of 2020 as an Administrative Assistant and has loved the opportunity to grow into more of the work she loves. She now uses her skills and passion to showcase the amazing work that our member programs are doing around the state. As a survivor of domestic violence herself, Rochelle is dedicated to the cause of empowering survivors, spreading awareness, and creating change in our communities.

Listen to her podcast [here](#).

NMCADV Speaking Out Podcast

Episode 30



Staff Spotlight

DAVID GARVIN

DIRECTOR OF BATTERING INTERVENTION & SYSTEMS RESPONSE

David Garvin serves as the Director of Battering Intervention and Systems Response for the New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence. David has been directly involved in the anti-domestic violence movement since 1986 when he founded the Alternatives to Domestic Aggression (ADA) battering intervention program. David was named the 2009 National Association of Social Workers-Michigan (NASW-MI) Social Worker of the Year.

David's work in the movement to end domestic violence was featured in the book *Gender-Based Perspectives on Batterer Programs: Program Leaders on History, Approach, Research and Development*, by Edward W. Gondolf, 2015. In 2017 David was awarded the Glenn R. Winters Award (renamed the Nachtigal Award in 2018) from the American Judges Association. David is a co-founder and current Chair of the Battering Intervention Services Coalition of Michigan (BISC-MI: biscmi.org).

Listen to his podcast [here](#).

"It's the community's job to make the... one who causes harm be in the program – but it's our job at the program to make them want to be in the program... How to do we get people to engage and be curious about why am I doing this, what's going on with my thinking that I've made this be okay."



NMCADV Speaking Out Podcast

Episode 33

Staff Spotlight

MELISSA SILVER

COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE (CCR) TEAM LEADER

"New Mexico is really on the cutting edge... there are really not any other places throughout the country who are prioritizing coordinated community response in the way that New Mexico is, which makes it really special."

Melissa Silver is a leader, advocate, organizer, and trainer. Her passion lies in engaging with systems partners and advocates to create sustained institutionalized change to reflect the needs of survivors and the communities they serve. This drive has led Melissa to work on college campuses, in domestic violence and sexual assault community organizations, in state-wide coalitions, and in other community organizations as a peer advocate, crisis and support line specialist, first response/court advocate, coordinated community response team founder and co-chair, advocacy program director, board member, and trainer and coach on how to meaningfully address intimate partner violence and how to best utilize coordinated community response models.

Melissa is the Coordinated Community Response (CCR) Team Leader at the New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NMCADV). As the team leader, she coaches and provides technical assistance to community organizers, law enforcement, forensic nurses, court personnel, and others who seek to prevent intimate partner violence fatalities and improve outcomes in and outside the justice system.

Melissa strives to create spaces for authentic collaboration and communication in communities where partners can be honest about their challenges and experiences with intimate partner violence cases to develop sustainable survivor-centered solutions. Regardless of role or title, Melissa is a tenacious advocate who believes that collectively we can create communities where survivors and their children can feel safety, support, and belonging.

Listen to her podcast [here](#).



NMCADV Speaking Out Podcast

Episode 34



Staff Spotlight

MICA REAGAN

COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE (CCR) STATEWIDE SPECIALIST

Mica Reagan's first opportunity to serve NM youth and families came as the program assistant for NMKids Matter Inc. There she learned from the incredible leadership just what kind of woman leader in community she wanted to be. Her next opportunity to serve came when she went on to serve Valencia County as the Multidisciplinary Team Coordinator for crimes against children with Valencia Shelter Services Children's Advocacy Center. There she was also privileged to serve as a Victim Service Advocate for survivors of domestic violence as well as sexual assault. She was offered a position with All Faiths Children's Advocacy center to facilitate and supervise High Fidelity Wraparound and working with a core service agency that takes a holistic approach to serving the most vulnerable populations in community was important to her. She is the proud parent of an incredible, intelligent, beautiful college student and a quirky covid puppy. She is also a proud veteran of the US Army.

Listen to her podcast [here](#).

"The most important aspect of this job would be perseverance – understanding that social change doesn't occur overnight and celebrating our existing CCR teams for the movements that they're making and the movements that we're going to make."



NMCADV Speaking Out Podcast

Episode 38

Staff Spotlight

FLOR GONZALEZ

COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE COMMUNITY ORGANIZER (DONA ANA COUNTY)

Before coming to NMCADV, Flor Gonzalez was the Director of Support Services at La Casa in Las Cruces, New Mexico where she worked to serve victims of domestic violence and their families. As the Director of Support Services, she oversaw the case management, children and youth program, transitional housing, battering intervention program, legal advocacy department, and the crisis advocacy and intake department at the main office in Las Cruces and the satellite office located in Anthony.



Flor is certified as a National Community Crisis Response Team Member through the National Organization of Victim Assistance (NOVA) and is specifically trained to provide trauma mitigation, education, and emotional first aid in the aftermath of a critical incident, either small-scale or mass-casualty. She is a Crisis Prevention Institute Certified Instructor (CPI) in non-violent crisis intervention and has completed the Coaching Boys Into Men advocate Certification and is prepared to facilitate Coaches Clinics in her community. She was selected to participate in the 2022 Leadership Education and Advancement for Professionals (LEAP) Cohort 8 Academy through ValorUS and the U.S Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women. The LEAP Project is designed to provide intensive, interactive, training and practicum for leaders of color in the anti-violence field.

Prior to La Casa, she was the Prevention Education Coordinator at La Pinon Sexual Assault Recovery Services of Southern New Mexico for 11 years. During her time at La Pinon, Flor was a leading voice in sexual violence prevention efforts throughout the State of New Mexico. She was involved in the development of the It Starts With Us Communications campaign from start to finish which stresses the importance of understanding that we all play a role in ending sexual violence. In 2014, Flor was selected to participate in the development of the Statewide Strategic Plan for Primary Prevention of Sexual Violence and it was published in December of 2015.

Her life mission has been to end disparity against marginalized communities by working with communities of color, immigrant populations, poverty, older adults, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+ and working with diverse women and youth. In the 28 years that Flor has worked with these marginalized communities, she has been able to develop and implement curriculum as a tool that focuses on the importance of consent, respect, and empathy, challenging rigid gender roles and promoting social norms that protect against violence. Along with her lifelong commitment to ending gender-based violence she has a passion for working with youth. She is in her 29th year as an assistant volleyball coach at Las Cruces High School. She uses the opportunity not only to teach the game but also to teach life skills that will forever be instilled in these youth.

NMCADV Speaking Out Podcast

Episode 54



Staff Spotlight

DIANA ARREOLA

COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE COMMUNITY ORGANIZER (TAOS COUNTY)

Diana Arreola (she/her) was born in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, MX but immigrated to Taos, New Mexico when she was just a toddler and has been a resident of the community ever since. Diana began social justice and anti-oppression work five years ago, when she became a community educator for Community Against Violence, a dual domestic and sexual violence agency. During her community educator role, Diana coordinated and facilitated multiple programs including their violence-prevention program, sex-ed program for adolescents, and their program that centered in providing anti-oppression training and technical assistance to youth and minority serving organizations. In addition to prevention, Diana also has experience doing outreach, social media, and volunteer coordination.

In her role at NMCADV, Diana will be serving as the Coordinated Community Response Community Organizer in Taos. This consists of improving partnership, policies, and procedures within intimate partner violence collaborating with partners to ensure a unified response that leads to safety for survivors and accountability for offenders.

In her free time, Diana loves to spend time out in nature, connecting with her family and pets, and being artistic whenever possible. In addition, Diana loves reading especially about health, psychology, and her faith.



NMCADV Speaking Out Podcast

Episode 53

Staff Spotlight

SHANA ALDAHL

PROGRAM SUPPORT SPECIALIST

"The good news is that children are super resilient and just a simple intervention like being connected to an advocate who is doing this type of work can really make a difference in their lives."



Shana Aldahl is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and recently returned to the New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence to serve as a Program Support Specialist. In her previous role at the Coalition, Shana managed various projects aimed at increasing accessibility and building capacity within domestic violence programs across New Mexico, including the Children's Capacity Building Project and the Companion Animal Rescue Effort.

Shana has worked in the field of domestic violence for over 15 years in various capacities to include managing a domestic violence shelter in Santa Fe, providing crisis intervention and counseling services to survivors of domestic violence, and providing trainings, supervision, and support to a variety of professionals. Shana has also served as an Adjunct Instructor for the Facundo Valdez School of Social Work at New Mexico Highlands University. Shana is dedicated to ending domestic violence and believes that all creatures, even the furry ones, deserve a life free from violence.

Listen to her podcast [here](#).

NMCADV Speaking Out Podcast

Episode 21



Staff Spotlight

IDA AGUIRRE

PROGRAM SUPPORT SPECIALIST

Ida Aguirre was born in El Paso, TX but raised in Sunland Park, NM. She moved to Las Cruces, NM as a teenager where she graduated from Las Cruces High...GO BULLDAWGS! After taking some time off of college, she returned in 2007, and graduated from NMSU in 2011 with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and 2 minors (Spanish and Security Technology).

She started working at La Casa in 2005. While at La Casa, she worked as a receptionist, intake worker for Batterers Intervention Program (BIP), BIP facilitator, Assistant Shelter Manager, and also some case management. She was also at DASO (Dona Ana Sheriff's Office) for close to 10 years and eventually was rehired back at La Casa part-time as a BIP Facilitator. She did BIP groups for 9 total years and in 2021, she was offered a job as Support Services Assistant Director, at La Casa, Inc. which led to her leaving DASO. She was asked to join the Family Peace Initiative Family out of Topeka, Kansas as a co-facilitator for their BIP groups in October of 2020 and still continues to do groups, one of which was the first Spanish group the organization offered.

She was also contracted with NMCADV as one of the Core Advocacy Trainers but as of May 16, 2022, she officially became a full-time staff member with NMCADV as Program Support Specialist!

She is a mother of 3 GREAT kids and have been in a relationship with her childhood sweetheart for over 9 years. She also loves to dance and play volleyball, draw, paint, photography, and spend time with friends.

Listen to her podcast [here](#).



NMCADV Speaking Out Podcast

Episode 28

Staff Spotlight

YASMIN AKIN

ADMINISTRATIVE TRAINING COORDINATOR

"It's always something that I wanted to do, working for a nonprofit organization.

I think that's really fulfilling for me because you're helping someone.

This is actually doing some good out there and helping people that really need it and letting them know that there's a lot of places, a lot of resources that are willing to, can, and will help them."

Yasmin Akin has three beautiful and messy boys that keep her on my toes daily. She grew up in Los Angeles, CA and moved to Roswell when she was 15. She graduated from Roswell High School in 2007 and then went on to complete her Associates Degree from ENMU-R for Media Arts in 2011.

She started working for the Courts in Roswell in 2016 where she was lucky enough to gain valuable experience within the Domestic Violence field and learned how to better serve the members of her community. She is super excited to join the team here at the NMCADV!

Listen to her podcast [here](#).



NMCADV Speaking Out Podcast

Episode 43



Staff Spotlight

IRIS WOHRER

FINANCE MANAGER

Iris Wohrer (she/her) graduated magna cum laude from the University of New Mexico with a B.A. in Political Science and International Studies, as well as a Certificate in Peace and Social Justice. Iris became involved in the field of domestic violence many years ago as a volunteer for one of our member programs, Enlace Comunitario. Since then, Ms. Wohrer has combined her passions for public policy and social justice, taking on various roles including positions in the Office of Senator Martin Heinrich in Washington, D.C. and the New Mexico Immigrant Law Center here in Albuquerque.

Listen to her podcast [here](#).

"I just got a really good feeling and it's a cause that I, you know, feel really passionate about and that I'm happy to be involved in... it's nice to start on the administrative end because I get to learn a lot and observe what other people are doing."



NMCADV Speaking Out Podcast

Episode 32



Staff Spotlight

MELISSA ENDEAN

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

"But professionally, I typically gravitate towards the nonprofit sector. It's just where I fit in best and where I like to feel like I'm working towards a greater purpose or I'm doing what I can to improve community strength and just the standing of others."

Melissa Endean has been working with underserved segments of the population for over ten years. She began as an administrator and case manager in a substance abuse counseling office. She then served as Operations Director for the Endorphin Power Company; a transitional living program located in Albuquerque. Melissa has also worked as an independent contractor for The Life Link on projects serving consumers of behavioral health services and their family members.

In 2021 she was awarded the NM Behavioral Health Star award for her work with an Albuquerque based non-profit whose mission is veteran suicide prevention. Melissa studied Social Work at NM Highlands University, has earned a certificate in emotional intelligence and has been trained as a trainer for QPR Gatekeeper Suicide Prevention, Supportive Housing and Veteran Endorsement trainings. She is excited to be a member of the NMCADV team.

Outside of the office, Melissa enjoys spending time hiking, exploring the bosque and spending time with her partner, an Army veteran of OIF and his teenage son. Together, they are slowly growing an urban farm. Currently home to their three beloved dogs, four hens and very robust rooster.

Listen to her podcast [here](#).



NMCADV Speaking Out Podcast

Episode 44





PRINCIPAL MEMBERS

Please support your local domestic violence service providers by attending their events and making a donation this month.

- [Battered Family Services](#)
- [Carlsbad Battered Family Shelter](#)
- [Community Against Violence](#)
- [COPE](#)
- [Crisis Center of Northern NM](#)
- [Domestic Abuse Intervention Center](#)
- [DVRC](#)
- El Puente de Socorro
- [El Refugio, Inc.](#)
- ENIPC Peacekeepers DV Program
- [Enlace Comunitario](#)
- [Esperanza Shelter for Battered Families, Inc.](#)
- [Family Crisis Center](#)
- [Grammy's House](#)
- [Haven House](#)
- [Help End Abuse for Life, Inc. \(H.E.A.L.\)](#)
- Jicarilla Behavioral Health
- [La Casa, Inc.](#)
- Nambe' Pueblo DV Program
- [NUMC/New Beginnings](#)
- [New Mexico Asian Family Center](#)
- [Option Inc.](#)
- Pueblo of Pojoaque
- [Pueblo of Zuni](#)
- [Roberta's Place](#)
- [Roswell Refuge](#)
- [S.A.F.E. House](#)
- [The Hartley House](#)
- Torrance County Project DV Program
- [Tri-County Family Justice Center of NE NM](#)
- [Valencia Shelter Services](#)



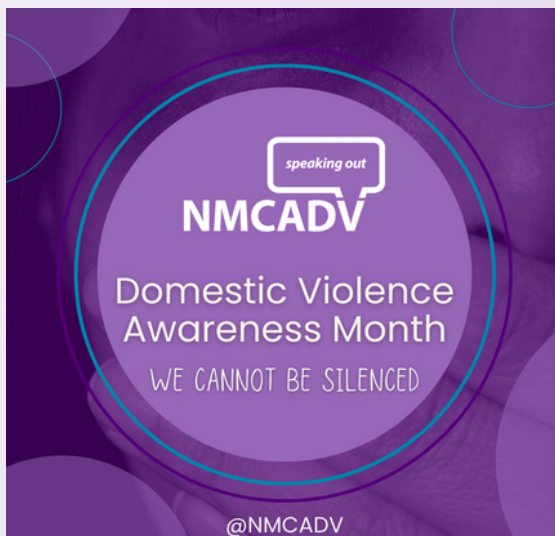
ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS

- [Amistad y Resolana](#)
- [A New Awakening – Albuquerque](#)
- [ARC New Mexico](#)
- [Cavern City Child Advocacy Center](#)
- [Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women](#)
- [The Enhancement Center](#)
- [Eve's Place, Inc.](#)
- [GD Psych Services](#)
- [Highland University CARES : Center for Advocacy Resources Education & Services](#)
- [Homeland](#)
- [Hope Harbor](#)
- [KAFB Family Advocacy Program](#)
- [My Little Horse Listener, Inc.](#)
- [New Mexico Legal Aid](#)
- [Phoenix House SA and DV Resource Center](#)
- [Resolve](#)
- [Rio Rancho Police Department](#)
- [Santa Fe Safe](#)
- [Sanctuary Zone, Inc](#)
- [Sandoval County DV Prevention Program](#)
- [Solace Crisis Treatment Center](#)
- [Transgender Resource Center of NM](#)
- [UNM Women's Resource Center](#)

This Month's Toolkit

OCTOBER 2023

- **Domestic Violence Awareness Month**
 - WE CANNOT BE SILENCED
- **Indigenous People's Day (10/9)**
- **International Day of the Girl (10/11)**
- **Wear Purple Day (10/19)**



Take Care

GET TALKING

Talk Your Way to Better Health: The Surprising Benefits of Conversation

This month we are all trying our best to bring awareness to our cause — hence our slogan [#WeCannotBeSilenced](#). In our fast-paced lives, the simple act of conversation often takes a back seat. However, the impact of meaningful dialogue on our health is nothing short of remarkable. Here's why engaging with others is a potent tonic for your well-being:

1. **Stress Buster:** Conversations act as a natural stress-reliever, releasing tension and promoting mental clarity.
2. **Emotional Resilience:** Sharing experiences fosters emotional strength, creating a sense of connection and validation.
3. **Brain Boost:** Engaging in conversations stimulates the brain, preventing cognitive decline and enhancing mental functions.

4. **Relationship Building:** Communication is key to healthy relationships, providing support and a sense of belonging.
5. **Immune System Support:** Positive social interactions boost immune function, contributing to overall well-being.
6. **Mood Enhancement:** Meaningful conversations trigger the release of feel-good hormones, elevating your mood.
7. **Longevity Bonus:** Robust social connections are linked to a longer, healthier life.

In essence, talking to others isn't just a social nicety; it's a prescription for a healthier, happier you. So, let's embrace the power of conversation and reap the numerous health benefits it offers. So speak up and speak out. We cannot be silenced.

Stay Connected



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"The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any."

ALICE WALKER

Feedback? Email Rochelle@nmcadv.org