Bridging the Gap
Creating a Community of Support for Deaf Survivors

Tuesday, November 5
Wednesday, November 6

Presented by the Vera Institute of Justice
Center on Victimization and Safety

In partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice
Office on Violence Against Women
About the Organizers

Vera Institute of Justice, Center on Victimization and Safety

The Center on Victimization and Safety (CVS) at the Vera Institute of Justice works to ensure that traditionally underserved victims of crime have equal access to victim services and supports, as well as criminal justice interventions. It does this by fostering collaboration and building organizational capacity among victim service organizations, population and/or culturally specific service providers, and the criminal justice system. CVS combines research, technical assistance, and training to assist policymakers and practitioners to close gaps in systems and ensure all survivors have access to services and supports.

Since 2005, CVS has served as an ally to the Deaf community and has been working with organizations and
communities around the country to improve responses to domestic and sexual violence against Deaf individuals. CVS provides training and technical assistance on creating safe, accessible and culturally and linguistically-specific services for Deaf survivors to victim service and Deaf organizations, criminal justice personnel, American Sign Language interpreters, and other allied professionals.

Vera is an independent, non-partisan, nonprofit center for justice policy and practice, with permanent offices in New York City and Washington, D.C. Our projects and reform initiatives, typically conducted in partnership with local, state, or national officials, are located across the United States and around the world.
Acknowledgements

This conference would not have been possible without the dedication of every person on this list, as well as their organizations. These amazing people gave generously of their time and talents to make this conference a reality. There are also many other people, not listed here, who pitched in to help along the way. Thanks to all of you for your hard work in making this conference come to life and for your commitment to ending violence against Deaf individuals.

Conference Planning Team
Charity Hope, Vera Institute of Justice
Jasha Sanford, Vera Institute of Justice
Nancy Smith, Vera Institute of Justice

Conference Planning Committee Members
Wendie Abramson, SafePlace
Lindsay Ryan Anthony, Advocacy Services for Abused Deaf Victims
Erin Esposito, Advocacy Services for Abused Deaf Victims
Jesalyn Frank, Communication Service for the Deaf
Tara Holcomb, DeafHope
Cathy Hoog, Advocate
Amy Judy, Disability Rights Wisconsin
Holly Thomas-Mowery, Holly Thomas-Mowery Interpreting
Sasha Ponappa, Deaf Abused Women’s Network
Julie Rems-Smario, DeafHope + California School for the Deaf

**Conference Sponsor**

This conference would not be possible without the generous support of the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office on Violence Against Women. We thank them for their support of this conference and their ongoing efforts to enhance safety for Deaf community members who experience sexual and/or domestic violence.
Access and Accommodations

We value access and strive to make our meetings accessible and welcoming to all participants. We have selected a hotel with a commitment to access; meeting room and areas are set to maximize line of sight and provide access; and all of the presenters have been provided with guidance on making their presentations accessible. We also provide auxiliary aids and services to meet the individual needs of those attending the conference during the conference sessions. If you have a question about an auxiliary aid or service you requested on your registration, please visit the Help Desk located in the Heritage Foyer. Referrals for assistance outside of the meeting can be made available.

Fragrance-Free Environment

There are many people who experience unpleasant physical effects from scented products, such as perfumes
and colognes. Sometimes, it might be a headache or nausea, while others experience more severe reactions to these and many other types of products and chemicals. Therefore, we request that attendees refrain from wearing perfume, cologne, and other fragrances during the conference. And, if possible, please use unscented personal care products to promote a fragrance-free environment.

Interpreting
A team of nine core American Sign Language interpreters will be providing interpreting services at the conference. Each keynote address and workshop session during the conference will be interpreted. Interpreters will also be available during registration, conference breaks, and scheduled events. Feel free to use the interpreters during these times as you need them; simply approach an interpreter who is not interpreting and request his or her interpreting services. Interpreters will be wearing blue colored nametags that say “INTERPRETER.” Leah Bartell, a nationally certified American Sign Language Interpreter,
is our on-site Interpreter Coordinator. If you have a specific need or a particular question about our interpreting services, please visit Leah at the Help Desk.

Service Dog Relief Area
Please ask hotel staff for directions to the service dog relief area located directly across from the Vancouver Hilton in Esther Short Park.

Safety and Support
Clothesline Project
The Clothesline Project is a vehicle for people affected by violence to express their emotions by decorating a shirt. Any person who is Deaf and hard of hearing and has experienced or been affected by violence, at any time in their life, is encouraged to design a shirt. Survivors, survivor’s families and friends are also invited to participate. We will have t-shirts, paints and other supplies on site for anyone who wants to create a shirt. These shirts will become part of a Vera Institute of Justice display that honors survivors who are Deaf and
hard of hearing. Stations for designing and creating a shirt are located in the Comfort Zone. Shirts created will be displayed in the Foyer area.

**Comfort Zone**
Between a busy conference schedule and presentations that may contain upsetting information, you may find that you need to take a moment for yourself during the conference. Feel free to visit the Comfort Zone in Grandstand. In addition to providing a quiet area to decompress, you can use this space to express yourself by creating a t-shirt for the Clothesline Project. As a courtesy to others using this space, we ask that you please do not use cell phones in the Comfort Zone.

**Name Tags**
Please be sure to wear your conference name tag to all sessions. Your name tag is your admission to all workshops and optional conference functions. If you lose or misplace your name tag, please request a new one at the Registration Desk.
Photography
Please refrain from taking pictures of conference participants without their express permission to do so. This will help protect the privacy of all participants at the conference.

Security
The Vera Institute of Justice and the Vancouver Hilton are committed to your safety. If you need to get in touch with hotel security, please dial the Front Desk, or speak with a Hotel Staff member.

Going Green
To limit the environmental impact of this conference, we are pleased to provide you a flash drive that includes the presentations and handouts from all the conference sessions instead of hard copies. With this change, we have saved more than four trees and reduced waste related to production and disposal.
Help Desk
Do you have a question or need assistance? Please visit the Help Desk located in the Registration Area. A Vera staff person will be able to answer your questions or assist you.

Lost and Found
Please inquire about lost items, or leave any found items, at the Help Desk.

Twitter
Do you want to tweet about the Bridging the Gap conference? Please use the hashtag #BTG2013 to tweet and connect with others! Tweet tweet.
Tips for Creating an Accessible and Inclusive Conference

Please help us create an environment where everyone can participate equally and comfortably by following these guidelines:

> Use inclusive language such as “D/deaf” and “hard of hearing” and avoid outdated and offensive terms such as “hearing impaired.”

> Do not walk or stand in front of interpreters.

> Do your best not to block line of sight during sessions so that all participants can see signing individuals.

> Use the microphone (or have your interpreter use the microphone) when available, and state your name at the beginning of your turn.

> Speak one at a time and pace yourself when you speak to the group to allow time for the interpreting process, which can lag a few seconds behind the spoken discussion.

> Explain any acronyms or jargon you may use.

> Ask permission before you take someone’s picture.
> Push your chair into the table when you leave to maintain ample space in the aisle ways.

> Turn your cell phone to the vibrate position.

Please note: during the conference, we will use flashing lights to indicate the start of a session or to get the audience’s attention.
GUIDELINE FOR CONFERENCE TO BECOME EQUAL ACCESSIBLE AND ALL INCLUDE

PLEASE FOLLOW GUIDELINE ALLOW THIS ENVIRONMENT ALL COMFORTABLE AND EQUAL PARTICIPATE

• OFFENSE LANGUAGE EXAMPLE WHAT “HEARING IMPAIRED” REPLACE RATHER “DEAF” O-R “HARD OF HEARING” PROPER
• DO NOT BLOCK INTERPRETER AND DEAF PERSON’S VIEW
• WHEN YOUR TURN MAKE SURE YOU OR YOUR INTERPRETER USE MICROPHONE AND PLEASE SAY YOUR NAME WHAT
• DON’T INTERRUPT INTERPRETER AND GIVE TIME FOR TRANSLATING
• ABBREVIATE WORD NEED TO EXPLAIN
• ASK PERMISSION BEFORE PICTURE SOMEONE
• PUSH CHAIR BACK WHEN FINISH
• PAGER/CELL VIBRATE ON

BE ADVISE LIGHT FLASH WILL BE USED TO START MEETING AND GET ATTENTION
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 am</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<td>Heritage Foyer, First Level</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>Opening Remarks</td>
<td>Nancy Smith</td>
<td>Vera Institute of Justice</td>
<td>Heritage Ballroom, First Level</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Creating a Safe Place for Deaf Survivors</td>
<td>Julie Rems-Smario</td>
<td>DeafHope</td>
<td>California School for the Deaf</td>
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10:00 am – 10:30 am  Break

10:30 am  Workshop Sessions

A. Domestic Violence in the Deaf Community
Tara Holcomb, Deaf Hope

Heritage E, First Level

B. Communicating with Deaf Victims: Supporting Safety, Increasing Our Responsiveness Through Technology
Keri Darling, Deaf Vermonters Advocacy Services

Oak, Second Level

C. Team Approach: Locating, Assessing and Working with Sign Language Interpreters
Kendra Keller
Amy Peterson, Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

Heritage F, First Level
### D. Building Deaf Allied Services: Vera House and the Syracuse Deaf Community – Part 1
Lindsay Ryan Anthony, Advocacy Services for Abused Deaf Victims
Jennifer Shaw, Vera House

*Hemlock, Second Level*

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<tr>
<td>12:00 pm – 1:30 pm</td>
<td>Lunch on Your Own</td>
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<td>Workshop Sessions</td>
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### A. Preliminary Results of a Study on Intimate Partner Violence Affecting the Deaf Community
Lori DeWindt, University of Rochester

*Oak, Second Level*

### B. Sexual Assault in the Deaf Community
Stephanie Smith Bowman, Choices for Victims of Domestic Violence + Ohio School for the Deaf

*Heritage F, First Level*
C. Deaf Community Accountability  
Erin Esposito and Amy Whyte, Advocacy Services for Abused Deaf Victims

*Heritage E, First Level*

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D. Building Deaf Allied Services: Vera House and the Syracuse Deaf Community – Part 2  
Lindsay Ryan Anthony, Advocacy Services for Abused Deaf Victims  
Jennifer Shaw, Vera House

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<td>3:30 pm –</td>
<td><strong>Audism and the Deaf Community:</strong></td>
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<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td>Deaf People’s Experiences and</td>
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<td>Deaf Community Cultural Wealth</td>
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<td>Dr. Flavia Fleischer</td>
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<td>California State University</td>
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<td><em>Heritage Ballroom, First Level</em></td>
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A. Domestic Violence in the Deaf Community
This workshop will focus on learning about how Domestic Violence is manifested in the Deaf community. General information on Deaf culture and Deaf communities will be given before delving into power dynamics. By the end of the workshop, participants will be knowledgeable about each aspect of the Deaf power and control wheel, power dynamics in the Deaf community, and how to better understand and work with Deaf survivors with intersecting identities.

B. Communicating with Deaf Victims: Supporting Safety, Increasing Our Responsiveness Through Technology
This interactive training will help participants identify new ways to meet the needs of victims who are Deaf, hard of hearing, late deafened or Deaf blind through technology such as video relay/phone, IP relay via AIM, integrated Braille devices, and so on. Participants will gain concrete skills to increase responsiveness to Deaf victims, and tools including checklists and steps an agency might implement to further strengthen their cultural competency, safety, and confidentiality practices in interpreter, relay, and other service provision.
C. Team Approach: Locating, Assessing and Working with Sign Language Interpreters
This workshop will present resources, strategies and the right questions to ask to work effectively with interpreters as a member of your team. The workshop will address how you know when there is the need to provide interpreters, how to find a qualified interpreter, whether or not it is enough to provide interpreters, and how to know whether or not if this is the right interpreter and communication process for the Deaf/deaf/hard of hearing/Deaf-Blind person.

D. Building Deaf Allied Services: Vera House and the Syracuse Deaf Community – Part 1
Project EMERGE is a collaborative project seeking to improve domestic and sexual violence services for survivors with disabilities and Deaf survivors in Syracuse, NY and has focused on cultivating a close relationship with their local Deaf community. This workshop will discuss Project Emerge’s journey and highlight the specific strategies they used to transform the services of Vera House as well as various community agencies.

Part 2 of this session is being held during the afternoon workshop sessions from 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm.
A. Preliminary Results of a Study on Intimate Partner Violence Affecting the Deaf Community
The United States’ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have funded a 3-year study examining intimate partner violence (IPV) affecting the Deaf community. This nation-wide study is focused on the perpetrators of sexual abuse rather than on the victims/survivors. It is gathering data regarding the characteristics of IPV perpetrators, their methods, etc., and comparing these data to what is known regarding IPV among hearing persons. Results from the study will be shared.

B. Sexual Assault in the Deaf Community
Deaf survivors of sexual assault face significant barriers on access to mainstream rape crisis centers who may not be knowledgeable about intersection of sexual violence and Deaf community. Culturally empowering trauma informed services is essential for Deaf survivors in exercising informed options for justice, safety, restoration, and restitution. This workshop provides an overview on root of sexual violence; impact of media on incidental learning; rape culture; intersection of sexual assault and Deaf community; provision of culturally empowering trauma informed advocacy services, and culturally affirming resources. Interactional opportunities will be encouraged to share best practices for workshop
participants to take back to their respective communities.

**C. Deaf Community Accountability**

Domestic violence survivors face complex needs for safety and support, which require confidential and skilled intervention/prevention efforts. This presentation focuses on the dynamics of DV involving Deaf people, the increased risk of abuse among Deaf people, and critical signs for service providers to be aware of. The concept of community accountability will be discussed as a way to acknowledge violence and its harms to individuals, families, and the Deaf community, and consequently as a strategy to stop violence.

**D. Building Deaf Allied Services: Vera House and the Syracuse Deaf Community – Part 2**

Project EMERGE is a collaborative project seeking to improve domestic and sexual violence services for survivors with disabilities and Deaf survivors in Syracuse, NY and has focused on cultivating a close relationship with their local Deaf community. This workshop will discuss Project Emerge’s journey and highlight the specific strategies they used to transform the services of Vera House as well as various community agencies.

*Part 1 of this session is being held in the morning workshop sessions from 10:30 am – 12:00 pm.*

*Presenter biographies are available at the Help Desk and in your electronic materials on your USB Flash Drive.*
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td><strong>Become an Ally in the Deaf Community</strong></td>
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<td>Amber Hodson</td>
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<td>DeafHope</td>
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<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>Workshop Sessions</td>
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<td>A. Technology Safety in the Deaf World</td>
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<td>Kellie McComas Shapard, Abused Deaf Women’s Advocacy Services</td>
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B. Safety Planning with Deaf Survivors
Tara Holcomb, DeafHope

Oak, Second Level

C. Deaf Survivors: Mental Health Implications
Dov Willis, Abused Deaf Women’s Advocacy Services

Heritage F, First Level

D. Multi-Disciplinary Collaboration to Increase Access to Criminal Justice and Legal Services for Deaf Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence
Stephanie Smith Bowman, Choices for Victims of Domestic Violence + Ohio School for the Deaf
Michaela Deming, Esq.
Kimberly Kidd, Columbus Domestic Violence and Stalking Unit

Heritage E, First Level

12:00 pm
1:30 pm
Lunch on Your Own
A. Building Bridges with Deaf Male Survivors and Allies: Engaging Men in Sensitive Conversations on “Survivor Centered Advocacy”
Gabe Wright, The Guys Project
Stephanie Smith Bowman, Choices for Victims of Domestic Violence + Ohio School for the Deaf

Heritage E, First Level

B. Deaf Women Survivors Being Stalked: A Redefinition of Collective Minority Empowerment
Dr. Deirdre Schlehofer, National Technical Institute for the Deaf

Oak, Second Level

C. Sexuality Education, Sexual Communication, Sexual Assault Knowledge, Rape Myth Acceptance, and Sexual Assault Experience Among Deaf and Hard of Hearing College Students
Dr. Gwendolyn Francavillo, Marymount University

Heritage F, First Level
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<td>3:00 pm – 3:30 pm</td>
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| 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm | Where Do We Go From Here: A Deaf Survivor’s Perspective  
Erin Esposito  
Advocacy Services for Abused Deaf Victims  
*Heritage Ballroom, First Level* |
A. Technology Safety in the Deaf World
This workshop will be focused on understanding how abusers and perpetrators misuse technology, understanding assistive technology effective, and safety planning with survivors around technology available. Participants will be given the information and tools available to respond to technology misuse, to enhance services for deaf, hard of hearing and deaf/blind survivors.

B. Safety Planning with Deaf Survivors
Safety planning for Deaf survivors goes beyond the usual checklist that most advocates rely on. We will explore what safety means on a deeper level and how it differs for each person. Unique language, communication, and cultural considerations to safety planning will be discussed using personal experiences and stories from a Deaf advocate. Tools will be given for creating accessible spaces and effective safety plans for Deaf survivors.

C. Deaf Survivors: Mental Health Implications
This workshop will explore mental health implications for Deaf survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Trauma-informed care, posttraumatic stress disorder, communication barriers, and risk and protective factors will be discussed. The specific needs of Deaf survivors, including the need for culturally competent therapy, from
someone who is knowledgeable of Deaf culture, Deafhood, Audism, and the cultural diversity within the Deaf community, will be highlighted.

**D. Multi-Disciplinary Collaboration to Increase Access to Criminal Justice and Legal Services for Deaf Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence**

Deaf survivors of stalking, domestic, and sexual violence face daunting barriers in asserting civil rights to safety through the maze of navigating both domestic relations and criminal justice system. Lawyers, criminal justice, and advocacy professionals may struggle implementing culturally empowering legal advocacy and safety planning strategies. This workshop will explore challenges, such as: securing effective legal representation; inadequate knowledge of court processes; linguistically inaccessible court forms; and lack of certified and qualified sign language interpretation services place Deaf survivors at great risk. Demonstration in promising practices of systemic collaboration among lawyer with family law and stalking/domestic and sexual violence expertise, Deaf advocate, and chief advocate leading specialized team of investigators within prosecutor’s unit will be highlighted.
A. Building Bridges with Deaf Male Survivors and Allies: Engaging Men in Sensitive Conversations on “Survivor Centered Advocacy”
The presentation will highlight the personal story of Gabe Wright, a male survivor of a violent rape, by focusing on the fundamental differences of how rape trauma impacts male survivors of sexual violence and how they can obtain advocacy from a Survivor-Centered perspective. Narrative aspects of Gabe's story will highlight myths and misconceptions concerning male socialization and beliefs, victim blaming, oppression in the form of audism, rape trauma, coping mechanisms, access barriers to traditional rape crisis centers, and the journey to healing.

B. Deaf Women Survivors Being Stalked: A Redefinition of Collective Minority Empowerment
This workshop examines both legal and psychological aspects of stalking. Stalking has existed for centuries, although it has only recently received public attention through legislation and media coverage in the last fifteen years. Stalking is considered to be a type of domestic violence, and includes celebrity stalking and cyberstalking. Despite the first anti-stalking law passed in California in 1990, and the Federal Anti-Stalking Law of 1996, very few
deaf victims are aware of, and can exercise, their rights. This paper will discuss a case, from personal experience, where our local Deaf community coordinated to capture a Deaf stalker who had pursued his Deaf victim across state lines, while the FBI, local police and the hearing community remained perplexed.

C. Sexuality Education, Sexual Communication, Sexual Assault Knowledge, Rape Myth Acceptance, and Sexual Assault Experience Among Deaf and Hard of Hearing College Students

Previous studies demonstrate that although sexual assault rates among college students are high, among the Deaf community, these rates are nearly double. Data suggest that between 50% and 83% of Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals will experience sexual assault in their lifetime, with Deaf and Hard of Hearing women more likely to experience sexual assault than Deaf and Hard of Hearing men. Only a small amount of published research has been conducted among Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals regarding sexual assault. The purpose of this study was to examine a possible relationship between levels of sexuality education, sexual communication, sexual assault knowledge, rape myth acceptance, and sexual assault experience among Deaf and Hard of Hearing college students. Research findings will be shared.
D. Integrating a Deaf Services Model
What do you do if you live in a community that shows an urgent need for DV/SA services within the Deaf community and lack a Deaf agency to provide direct services? Join us as we explore and discuss the unique complexities and solutions of integrating direct services with Deaf staff in a hearing agency with the goal of implementing and providing culturally relevant and responsive DV/SA services to the Deaf community. Focal points include the evolution of a Deaf Services model, strategies used to improve equitable access for all and approaches to address challenges/barriers within the workplace. A brief history and detailed information of SafePlace will be included.

Presenter biographies are available at the Help Desk and in your electronic materials on your USB Flash Drive.
KEYNOTE PRESENTERS
(in order of appearance)

Julie Rems-Smario
Founding Executive Director, DeafHope
California School for the Deaf

Deaf since birth, Julie started her career in 1990 with Five Acres Deaf Program, working with at risk families on child abuse prevention. After graduating from California State University, Northridge with MA in Deaf Education, Julie worked at the California School for the Deaf in Fremont. After receiving her MS degree in Counseling, she was hired as a counselor at Ohlone College Deaf Center in Fremont. In 1998, Julie joined the first national training held by Abused Deaf Women Advocacy Services which inspired her to change her career. For eight years, Julie Rems-Smario worked as the founding executive director of DeafHope to passionately advocate with Deaf survivors of domestic and sexual violence. She brought a wealth of experience in domestic violence education to DeafHope, especially with her creative fundraising efforts and her development of community education films such as *Till DV Do Us Part* and *Rest In Peace*. Her work at DeafHope has been recognized with several awards such as CNN Heroes, E-Women
Network International Humanitarian Award, Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame, and NCOD's Bulwer Award for Innovative Leadership and Achievement. Recently, she was selected as one of the Pearls of 2014, which is a distinguished recognition of Deaf women who contributed to the society.

During "No to AB 2072" campaign in 2010, Julie volunteered as the Media Chair utilizing her newly found social media skills. At this time, Julie witnessed the direction the Listening and Spoken Language movement was going by not working with the Deaf community, which alarmed her enough to make a life alternating decision. During the Fall of 2011, Julie made a bold move to leave DeafHope and return to Deaf Education field to help preserve, protect and promote bilingual education, ASL and English, for all Deaf children. She now works as the educational consultant at California School for the Deaf in Fremont.

**Dr. Flavia Fleischer**  
**California State University**

Dr. Flavia S. Fleischer, a California native and a fourth generation Deaf member of her family, graduated from Gallaudet University in 1994 with a B.A. in History. She holds two M.A. degrees. Her first M.A. degree is in Interdisciplinary Studies in Deaf Education, Deaf Studies and Linguistics from California State University, Northridge. Her second M.A. degree is in Linguistics from Gallaudet University. Her Ph.D. is in Linguistics from Gallaudet University.
Prior to coming to California State University, Northridge as the Deaf Studies Department Chair, Flavia was employed as a full-time instructor in the Department of ASL and Deaf Studies at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C from 2003-2006 and as an Assistant Professor in the Department of ASL and Deaf Studies at Utah Valley University from 2007-2011. She has also taught American Sign Language and Deaf Culture at College of the Canyons and at Saddleback Community College, both in southern California.

Flavia was born to the field of Deaf Studies as her father was one of the pioneering academicians in the field. Deaf Studies has been a central theme in Flavia’s life, where Deaf education, Deaf Studies issues, and Deaf activism were constant areas of discussion. In her childhood, most of her focus was on understanding herself as a Deaf person and the role of Deaf people in our world.

Although her academic background centers on linguistics, Flavia is an activist and is very interested in fighting against oppression of all minorities, especially oppression of deaf people. Flavia has given numerous workshops and presentations relating to ASL, ASL Linguistics, Deaf Education, and Deaf Cultural Studies.

**Amber Hodson**

**DeafHope**

As a CODA (Child of Deaf Adults) and certified sign language interpreter, Amber Hodson grew up in the Deaf community. After earning her BA in Women’s
Issues in the Middle East at UC Berkeley and her Masters in Social Work at the University of Michigan, Amber returned to her native California. For over 10 years she has worked as an advocate and trainer with domestic/sexual violence service providers. During this time, Amber supported Deaf women in the San Francisco Bay area to establish the first Deaf-run domestic violence organization in California. She continues to work with DeafHope in Oakland and interpret in various settings in the community

Erin Esposito
Advocacy Services for Abused Deaf Victims
Erin Esposito, Deaf, Survivor of childhood sexual abuse and domestic violence, is a lecturer with the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) and is also the Executive Director of Advocacy Services for Abused Deaf Victims (ASADV) in Rochester, NY. She received both her MS in secondary education of the Deaf and her BS in professional and technical communication from RIT/NTID. Erin has served as a consultant and presenter on various issues pertaining to leadership, education, domestic violence, and community accountability.
Erin enjoys sarcasm, people with a good sense of humor & reasonable amount of wit, reading endlessly on her Kindle, riding her bike and spending time with her family.
Lindsay Ryan Anthony, Advocacy Services for Abused Deaf Victims (ASADV)
Lindsay Ryan Anthony, BSW, is from Syracuse, New York where she works as an Empowerment Advocate with ASADV (Advocacy Services for Abused Deaf Victims), a Deaf run domestic and sexual violence agency based in Rochester, New York. She also continues to work as a Deaf Community/Systems Change Advocate with Project EMERGE, a collaboration between Vera House, a domestic and sexual violence non-profit organization, and ARISE, Inc., an independent living center. As an active leader in the Syracuse Deaf Community, Lindsay has been an advocate for change within local agencies providing services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals.

Stephanie Smith Bowman, Choices for Victims of Domestic Violence + Ohio School for the Deaf
Stephanie Smith Bowman has provided psychotherapy and advocacy services to Deaf and Hearing survivors of stalking, domestic and sexual violence over 15 years. She holds MSW from The Ohio State University with Licensed Independent Social Worker (LISW) certification. Stephanie published “The Guide”, first survivor centered resource book with 40 advocacy, law enforcement and criminal justice agencies. Since January of 2013, She co-chairs Justice for Deaf Victims National Coalition (JDVNC) Advisory Council with 11
members from Deaf advocacy centers nationwide committed to safety, empowerment, justice, and healing.

**Keri Darling, Deaf Vermonters Advocacy Services (DVAS)**
Keri Darling is the Director of Deaf Vermonters Advocacy Services (DVAS) providing services statewide to all victims of different crimes and abuse. Keri sits on several national organizations or groups such as, the Justice for Deaf Victims National Coalition (JDVNC) after serving many years as the chair, she now is on the advisory council, she is also Vice President of Deaf Women United (DWU) an organization for Deaf women by Deaf women. Locally in Vermont she belongs to several different groups, such as the Domestic Violence Council, Vermont Interpreter Referral Service (VIRS) committee, Deaf victims accessibility workgroup, and Deaf Professionals Network. Keri has been involved in developing national and statewide policies regarding accessibility for Deaf victims and also developing training curriculums for different topics and audiences.

**Micaela Deming Esq.**
Micaela Deming graduated summa cum laude from Bucknell University with B.A. in Latin American Studies. She attended The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law as a Moritz Merit Scholar and graduated in 2009. Micaela has been an advocate for survivors of violence since 2005 and continues that work as an attorney. She currently runs her own law firm focusing
on the special needs of survivors. Micaela was appointed as a member of the Supreme Court of Ohio Advisory Committee on Domestic Violence in 2013.

**Lori DeWindt, University of Rochester Medical Center**
Lori DeWindt graduated from Gallaudet University with a Masters degree in Mental Health Counseling and has an undergraduate degree in Social Work. Lori is currently on the staff with the Deaf Wellness Center (DWC) and the National Center for Deaf Health Research (NCDHR) at the University of Rochester Medical Center. Lori has over 17 years of clinical experience in mental health counseling, working with adults and children. Her interest lies in understanding issues related to Deaf health and mental health issues and she conducts research on these topics.

**Dr. Gwendolyn Francavillo, Marymount University**
Dr. Gwendolyn Francavillo is currently an Assistant Professor at Marymount University near Washington, DC. She has directed several health programs and conducted research regarding health behavior in university, community, and government agency settings. Additionally, she has been teaching college-level health courses for 15 years. Dr. Francavillo has a Master of Public Health degree from The George Washington University and a PhD in Public Health from the University of Maryland, as well as several health certifications, including Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES), to complement her educational degrees. Dr. Francavillo has had a number of
publications and funded projects, in addition to numerous national and local presentations on health-related educational and research topics.

**Kelsey Gilstrap, SafePlace**
As a wanderlust living in over five states while growing up, Kelsey Gilstrap found her anchor in Austin, TX where she works as a Deaf Services Advocate/Educator at SafePlace in Austin, TX. Kelsey graduated from Gallaudet University in 2011 with a BA degree in Psychology and a Minor in Family Studies. While she was a student at Gallaudet, she worked with the Peer Health Advocate team for two years, co-hosted Real Women, Real Beauty campaign, and performed in The Vagina Monologues. In 2012, Kelsey worked as a Blended Case Manager serving Deaf/HoH clients in Philadelphia area before moving to Austin in 2013 to work at SafePlace.

**Tara Holcomb, DeafHope**
Tara Holcomb has been with DeafHope for the past two years, currently serving as an Empowerment Director. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Gallaudet University. She is both an advocate and an activist in the Deaf Community, giving workshops and trainings on various topics around anti-oppression, anti-violence, and community accountability.

**Tara Huber, SafePlace**
Tara Owens Huber, a Pennsylvania native, graduated from Penn State University in 2001 with a B.S. in
Rehabilitation Services and a Minor in English. Tara began working for Children’s Paraclete specializing in individual work with children with Autism before returning to school for her Master’s degree. Tara graduated from Gallaudet University in 2004 with a M.A. in Mental Health Counseling and began working at the Lexington School for the Deaf in New York as a School Counselor for 4 years. In 2008, she was offered a position at the New York School for the Deaf (Fanwood) as a Guidance Counselor and remained there until 2010 before relocating to Austin, Texas. In Austin, Tara worked part-time for the Early Resource Center on Deafness while taking a class at UT to meet licensure requirements for Texas. Once she received her LPC, she began working at SafePlace as a domestic violence and sexual assault Counselor providing direct counseling services to Deaf clients.

Kendra Keller, Freelance Interpreter
Kendra Keller is a freelance interpreter from Santa Cruz, California. Certified CI/CT in 1994, and QMHI in 2011, she has served as adjunct faculty at Ohlone College’s Interpreter Preparation Program, the American Conservatory Theater’s Studio A.C.T., and colleges throughout the San Francisco bay area. She has presented at the Supporting Deaf People international online conference, February 2008, at Deaf Studies Today, April 2008 and at the Conference of Interpreter Trainers, October 2008. Kendra is an instructor, consultant and facilitator of interpreter supervision and case discussion groups.
Amy Peterson, Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

Amy Peterson, M.S., works as a CDI in a variety of settings, including legal, mental health and medical. She has taught ASL for more than 15 years at universities, community colleges and in the community. She has been intensively trained in legal and mental health interpreting. Currently, Amy is the statewide coordinator for Deaf Services Community for the state of Georgia in the office of Mental Health – Deaf Services. She previously worked as communication specialist at Greil Memorial Psychiatric Hospital – Bailey Deaf Unit in Montgomery, Alabama. In that position, Amy utilizes her CDI skills to do communication assessments. With the communication assessment, one gains a greater understanding of language dysfluency and identifies fund of knowledge deficits. Amy’s expertise in using visual cues and simplifying complex issues is essential in this endeavor. Amy has presented workshops on American Sign Language, interpreting, Deaf culture/history and many more. She also has passion to raise the bar on expectations of interpreters especially in the education setting.

Dr. Deirdre Schlehofer, Rochester Institute of Technology

Dr. Deirdre Schlehofer is an Assistant Professor in the Department of American Sign Language and Interpreting Education at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf/Rochester Institute of Technology.
For 3 years she was a health research coordinator at the National Center for Deaf Health Research for three years and before that was a lecturer at the ASL Program at University of Rochester for 15 years. Her current line of research is mental health science involving Deaf women who use American Sign Language (e.g., intimate partner violence, depression and Deaf culture). She gives presentations about stalking in NTID’s Deaf Women’s Studies classes and other organizations as requested.

Kellie McComas Shapard, Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services (ADWAS)
Kellie McComas Shapard, an advocate, graduated from Gallaudet University with a B.A. degree. She has worked in the IT field for over 20 years, including 17 years with the University of Washington, as well as, serving as System Administrator for State Senator Dianne Feinstein. Since 2011, she has worked for ADWAS, serving as Community Advocate and IT Support. With her strong background in IT, Kellie advocates for fellow survivors of abuse through technology, by serving as a consultant and presenter on various forms of technology being use/or available in the Deaf community.

Jennifer Shaw, Vera House
Jennifer Shaw, MSW, has been the Project EMERGE Director for the last four years. Project EMERGE is a collaboration involving several disability service providers, two law enforcement agencies, the Deaf
community and Vera House, a non-profit domestic and sexual violence agency in Syracuse, NY. As the Director, Jennifer has overseen the development of an Accessibility and Trauma-informed Review Tool, a training curriculum for Deaf/Signing Advocates and ASL Interpreters, a training curriculum for Law Enforcement on effectively responding to Survivors with Disabilities and Deaf survivors, as well as educational videos on domestic and sexual violence using Deaf actors, captioning and voiced narration.

**Dov Wills, Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services (ADWAS)**
Dov Wills is a hearing ally in the Deaf community who was born and raised in North Carolina. She received her BA in Deaf Education at Lenoir-Rhyne University and taught at N.C. School for the Deaf before resuming her education at Gallaudet University, where she earned two Masters: Mental Health and Community Counseling. In the beginning, her specialization was mental health treatment with children and youth, but, over the years, her expertise has expanded to include adults. She managed the Deaf program at Sound Mental Health before accepting a position at Abused Deaf Women’s Advocacy Service as a mental health therapist working specifically with primary and secondary victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.
Aimee Whyte, Advocacy Services for Abused Deaf Victims (ASADV)
Aimee K. Whyte, MA, NCC, LMHC, ACS, is a PhD candidate in the counseling and counselor education program at University of Rochester Warner School. She received her MA in mental health counseling from Gallaudet University and her BS in professional and technical communication from RIT/NTID. Aimee is currently the Director of Community Education and Counseling at Advocacy Services for Abused Deaf Victims in Rochester, NY. She has a wide range of counseling, teaching, advocacy, consultation and mediation experiences with Deaf and hearing people.

Gabe Wright, The Guys Project
At the age of 22, Gabe became a rape victim. This left him confused, hurt, ashamed and angry until he finally found the courage to speak out as a survivor. His story was first shared publicly through The Voices and Faces Project and that led to a cover story “Male Rape Victim Speaks Out” in the Red Eye, a local Chicago Paper. Gabe holds a master’s degree in higher education administration with a concentration in student affairs and wrote his thesis on “Engaging College Men on Sexual Violence” As a graduate student and working for the university, he assisted in the establishment of a student organization called MASI “Men Against Sexual Interpersonal Violence.” Gabe’s overall focus has always been on bridging the gap in empowering male survivors, creating alliances as well as engaging men to end violence. His focus led to establishing a grassroots
movement, The Guys Project focusing on breaking down the social stigma of victimization by creating space for male survivors and their allies by working together to overcome perceived threats to masculinity.
Nancy Smith • Director
Nancy Smith has more than 10 years experience working to end violence against people with disabilities. Currently, she directs the Center on Victimization and Safety at the Vera Institute of Justice, which works to ensure that underserved crime victims have equal access to victim services and criminal justice interventions. She has developed a diverse and robust portfolio of initiatives within the Center that address violence against people with disabilities, generally, and domestic and sexual violence, specifically. This portfolio includes a project that fosters collaborations between disability and victim service organizations and provides technical assistance to help these organizations close gaps in services faced by survivors with disabilities in their community; a national training initiative that offers conferences, institutes, and webinars to victim service providers, first responders, and other allied professionals to their capacity to effectively support victims with disabilities and Deaf victims; a project developing and testing performance indicators for disability and victim services’ agencies to help them collect data, track progress in serving survivors over time, and identify
areas that need further attention; and a National Institute of Justice-funded study in partnership with a large northeastern District Attorney’s office and a community-based, non-residential program providing services to people with disabilities to examine criminal justice outcomes and help-seeking experiences of sexual assault survivors with disabilities. She has worked closely with more than 30 collaborations designed to improve services for survivors with disabilities; provided more than 40 trainings on a wide-range of issues related to disability, Deaf culture, and victimization, including make services accessible to this population; facilitated numerous national roundtables on topics ranging from preventing sexual abuse of children with disabilities to enhancing law enforcement responses to Deaf victims; and authored numerous blog postings and reports on the topic, including Forging New Collaborations: A Guide for Rape Crisis, Domestic Violence, and Disability Organizations and Sexual Abuse of Children with Disabilities: A National Snapshot. Prior to coming to Vera, Nancy directed a collaboration of more than 40 agencies working together to prevent family violence across the life spectrum, including abuse of people with disabilities. Nancy has a bachelor’s degree in criminology and women’s studies and a master’s degree in women’s studies with a concentration in feminist policy studies from the Ohio State University.
Charity Hope • Project Director
Charity Hope joined the Vera Institute of Justice in 2008. Currently, she oversees the Center on Victimization and Safety’s special initiatives and event planning. During her tenure at Vera, she designed and delivered technical assistance to improve services for people with disabilities and Deaf individuals who have experienced sexual and domestic violence. Currently she is working on several projects including an initiative to increase the evaluation capacity of programs that address sexual and domestic violence. Prior to joining Vera, Charity worked at the Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault (MOCSA) in Kansas City, MO. While at MOCSA, Charity served as the Project Director for the Safety First Initiative, a multi-disciplinary collaboration focused on enhancing the capacity of service providers and improving the coordination of supports and services for women with disabilities who are survivors of violence. Before her work at MOCSA, Charity spent ten years as a Program Manager at SAVE Inc., Kansas City’s housing provider for people with HIV/AIDS. Charity has a Master’s degree in Public Administration with an emphasis in Organizational Behavior from the Henry W. Bloch School of Business and Public Administration at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.
**Jasha Sanford • Center Coordinator**

Jasha Sanford joined the Vera Institute of Justice in August 2012. Prior to joining Vera, she served as an Executive Assistant to a Criminal Defense Lawyer in New York City. In addition to performing her duties as a Center Coordinator with Vera, Jasha is pursuing her Bachelor of Arts degree in Human and Family Development at Arizona State University. Her future academic and professional goals include obtaining a Master of Social Work (MSW) and working with at-risk and underprivileged youth. In her spare time, Jasha is an active member of the National Council of Negro Women and mentors high school seniors and first year college freshmen to help cope with the stresses of attending college and to provide continued support throughout their academic career.

**Apollonia Moriarty • Intern**

Apollonia Moriarty is a CODA (Child of Deaf Adult) born and raised in New York City to two Deaf parents and into a family with many Deaf members. She is currently finishing her Bachelor's Degree for her Forensic Psychology major and Addiction Studies minor. She hopes to use this minor in order to obtain her CASAC (Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor) Certification. In addition to her studies at
John Jay, Apollonia is the President and co-founder of the Photography Club on campus, where she works to promote art in a criminal justice oriented setting. She also has had the opportunity of interning at Vera Institute of Justice through a prestigious John Jay-Vera Fellowship by landing one of ten spots open per year to thousands of students. Upon graduation, she hopes to travel the world before settling down to attend Graduate school and eventually establishing her own non-profit organization focusing on Domestic Sex Trafficking, primarily in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities. She is fluent in ASL (American Sign Language), and does work as an ASL interpreter in the New York City community. During the past 3 summers, she has also volunteered at a camp for KODAs (Kids of Deaf Adults; under 18) in California, to promote positive self-identity with being a hearing child of Deaf adults.
Local Interpreting Services
For more information about American Sign Language interpreting in the Vancouver area after conference hours, please contact:

Sign for Life: Sign Language Interpreting Agency
Local: (503) 865-5737 or (360) 241-5016
Email: info@signforlife.com
Website: http://www.signforlife.com

Deaf Advocacy Services and Local Hotlines
For more information about advocacy services available in the Vancouver area, please contact:

Abused Deaf Women’s Advocacy Services (ADWAS)
8623 Roosevelt Way NE
Seattle, WA 98115
Office: (206) 922-7088 (vp)
Toll Free Hotline: (855) 812-1001 (vp)
TTY: (800) 787-3224
Deaf hotline advocates are available Monday thru Friday from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm (PST)
Email: adwas@adawas.org or Deafhelp@thehotline.org
Local Emergency Numbers and Hotlines
Domestic Violence Resource Center
Local: (503) 640-5352 (v)
Local Crisis Line: (503) 469-8620 (v)
Toll-Free: (866) 469-8600 (v)
Website: [http://www.dvrc-or.org/](http://www.dvrc-or.org/)

Sexual Violence Resource Center
Local Crisis Line: (503) 640-5311 (v)
Toll Free: (888) 640-5311 (v)
Website: [http://sarcoregon.org/](http://sarcoregon.org/)

**Local Hospital and Pharmacy**

PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center
3400 Main Street/100 E. 33rd Street
Vancouver, WA 98663
Local: (360) 256-2000 (v)

Walgreens
2521 Main Street
Vancouver, WA 98663
Local: (360) 693-2524 (v)
Store Hours: 8:00am – 10:00pm
Pharmacy Hours:
   Monday thru Friday: 8:00am –10:00pm
   Saturday: 9:00am – 6:00pm
   Sunday: 10:00am – 6:00pm
Accessible Transportation

For accessible transportation, please confirm with dispatcher, or call the following taxi or shuttle services:

Radio Cab
Local: (503) 227-1212 or (360) 649-1234
Website: http://www.radiocab.net/

Vancouver Cab Co.
Local: (360) 737-3333 (v)

Broadway Cab
Local: (503) 333-3333

Blue Star Transportation Shuttle
Phone: (503) 249-1837 or (360) 573-9412
Website: http://www.bluestarbus.com/

Green Cab & Shuttle
Phone: (503) 234-1414
Website: http://greentrans.com/