

# Empowerment-Based Advocacy

March 16, 2020

9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Sheraton Detroit Novi Hotel – Novi, MI

## Description:

This training will focus on defining and implementing empowerment-based services. The presentation will be discussion and scenario based. The discussion will be grounded in an intersectional and survivor-centered lens. Participants can anticipate challenging questions regarding current norms and rules in their agencies as well as opportunities to share successful implementation of survivor-centered and intersectional policies, rules, and regulations that they've been able to implement in an empowerment-based way. This training will include time to discuss the barriers and challenges that can impact our ability to remain empowerment-based and opportunities to strategize on solutions to issues without impacting survivor-centered practices.

## Objectives:

1. *Participants will develop methods to center agency policy and procedures on empowerment by considering survivors experiences and their many intersections.*
2. *Participants will learn methods of balancing empowerment-based services alongside risk management strategies to maintain a strong organization while operating from a place of survivor empowerment.*
3. *Participants will interact with other directors, advocates, and policy makers on ways to implement empowerment-based services alongside best practices to assure organizational health.*

## Audience:

This gathering is for Executive Directors, advocates and policy makers within shelters and organizations. This is a basic decision-making and organizational culture conversation that will require open and honest discussion with a mind toward survivor-centered policies, positive change, and future-oriented thinking.

### Schedule and Agenda:

8:30 am – 9:00 am Registration

9:00 am – 5:00 pm Training

Morning: Advocacy Through an Intersectional Lens

- Oppression as the foundation of violence
- Tone setting
- Discussion and Activities on Empowerment Theory
- Positive, forward moving, solution-based approaches

Lunch Break

- On your own
- 75 minutes

Afternoon: Advocacy Scenarios and Best Practices

- Trauma-informed
- Survivor-centered
- Review and comparison of services and barriers

### Trainer Biographies



**MERKEB YOHANNES** joined MCEDSV in 2017 and is a **Senior Program Director**. She joins MCEDSV after nearly 10 years of working in advocacy and program management at a non-profit organization serving those with disabilities. Prior to that she lived in Atlanta, Georgia primarily working in social services amongst Immigrant and Refugee families and was an active member of various social justice community groups. Merkeb has vast experience working in developing countries with international non-profit organizations, local governments and faith-based organizations in areas of woman and girl empowerment, grant management, HIV/AIDS prevention and intervention, media material development for public health issues, and workforce training and development. As a Lansing resident, she continues to volunteer in her community with local agencies that advocate and support survivors as well as with the Refugee community.



**LISA WINCHELL-CALDWELL** is the **Deputy Director** at MCEDSV. She brings experience in violence prevention, domestic and sexual violence survivor services, housing and homelessness, public policy, grant writing and project management, economic justice, and engaging and developing youth leadership. Ms. Winchell-Caldwell has led several national demonstration projects on the prevention of domestic and sexual violence during her almost twelve years at MCEDSV and has implemented prevention and intervention services for survivors for two decades. Of particular note she has worked closely with the Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention on researching and implementing primary prevention best practices for almost ten years. She has worked on prevention projects from pre-K to elder mentoring groups and been a part of implementation teams focused on everything from a single daycare to coordination of statewide efforts. She has been fortunate during her time in the field to be a part of various prevention collaboratives including adolescent health/school-based health centers, maternal and child health, school districts, neighborhood centers, law enforcement, college campuses, youth-serving non-profits, sports teams, and other diverse partners.



**ERIC STILES** is the **Associate Director** of the Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence (MCEDSV). Eric brings experience in providing trainings on a national level. He has worked in the area of increasing services for sexual violence and intimate partner sexual violence survivors across the lifespan and in enhancing services for all survivors. He has trained nationally to an audience of multi-disciplinary teams that provide support and assistance to those who have experienced interpersonal violence.

Areas of focus for Eric are: working with male survivors of sexual violence, those from LGBTIQAH Communities, working with rural areas on anti-sexual violence work, and working with anti-oppression. Through his involvements in college as an activist, a sexual assault counselor, mental health counselor, and prevention educator/educator, Eric has been in the movement to end sexual violence/all forms of violence for over 19 years. He holds a BA of Sociology from Pennsylvania State University and MS of Community Counseling from Shippensburg University.



**PHILLIP BARNHART** is an **Events & Program Manager** at MCEDSV. He joined MCEDSV having spent four years in his home community of Flint as it struggled through its water crisis. He served one year as an AmeriCorps VISTA, developing programs and community partnerships in Flint elementary schools, and then as a program manager at the United Way of Genesee County where he directed the Flint Recovery Corps, a service corps designed to connect residents effected by the water crisis with support resources. He continues to serve as a board member, administrator, program manager, and

instructor with the Flint Public Art Project, which he helped to found in 2011. FPAP seeks to connect Flint with the global conversation around reactivating blighted spaces through public art, and focuses on navigating trauma through the arts. In addition to his work at MCEDSV, he is currently a Lecturer II at the University of Michigan-Flint where he teaches Cultural Studies and American Philosophy in the Graduate School.



**DANIELLE CHAUVIN** is a **Program Manager** at the Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence. She started at the Coalition in June 2019, with seven years of experience working directly with survivors of DV/SA, and their families. Danielle has helped survivors at the intersection of homelessness, substance abuse, and mental health. She has worked with communities in mid-Michigan, to provide education on how individuals can better support survivors and the agencies that serve them.

With her Bachelors of Art in Journalism, Danielle is passionate about communication and sharing information with others. She has helped DV/SA agencies explore options for engaging their community in activism, particularly via social media. She's collaborated with community stakeholders and other activists to create dynamic, sharable social media content.

As a Volunteer Coordinator, she trained new volunteers and staff, encouraging life-long, and collaborative learning. Danielle enjoys having conversations with new advocates that focus on empowering survivors and include discussions of trauma-informed care.

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