

Title: TCFV Legislative Update

Presenter Information:

Krista Del Gallo, Legislative Director at the Texas Council on Family Violence

Molly Voyles, Director of Policy at the Texas Council on Family Violence

Outline of topic: This presentation provides an overview of outcomes for survivors and family violence programs based on the budget and legislation passed by the 88th Texas Legislature in their Regular Session.

Teaching objectives:

(A) Underscore and outline the importance of understanding the legislative process and working policy makers to prioritize the needs of survivors and programs

(B) Describe the process by which TCFV determines legislative priorities and how our advocacy is informed

(C) Overview of the appropriations (funding) and legislation that passed and identify subjects where ongoing work remains

Summary:

This session will offer Summit attendees and overview of the what TCFV accomplished during the 88th Legislative Session impacting survivors of family violence.

Krista Del Gallo is the Legislative Director at the Texas Council on Family Violence. Krista has been working within the domestic violence and sexual assault movements since 1994. Krista has significant expertise relating to housing and economic protections and options for survivors, as well as child support, custody and parenting. She has over two decades of experience advocating with relevant systems, the Texas Legislature, and Congress on survivor issues.

Molly Voyles is the Director of Public Policy for the Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) and has worked in the movement to end violence for 30 years. In her position at TCFV, she is focused on public policy efforts that center the needs of survivors and advance systems change.

KRISTA DELGALLO

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Texas Council on Family Violence Austin, Texas

Lead policy related legislative work for the Texas Council including facilitation and coordination of the TCFV Public Policy Committee. Manage staff and oversee the work on several distinct projects and partnerships regarding family law, health and economic well-being, and relief for immigrant survivors with governmental agencies and allied policy groups. Enhance capacity and foster collaborations with between stakeholders and family violence programs.

**Legislative Director
May 2021- Present**

Texas Council on Family Violence Austin, Texas

Manage staff and oversee the work on several distinct projects and partnerships with state agencies and allied policy groups. Enhance capacity and foster collaborations with between stakeholders and family violence programs. Coordinate all economic justice research and work at the state coalition level through material and curricula development. Respond to related requests for technical assistance and training on issues regarding child custody, housing rights, health and relief and economic options for immigrant survivors.

**Policy Manager
Aug. 2007- May 2021**

Texas Council on Family Violence Austin, Texas

Coordinate all economic justice research and work at the state coalition level. Develop collaborations, materials and trainings in response to the economic obstacles facing survivors, focusing on the remedies, protections and resources available through current law and policy. Expand economic options to survivors through information sharing, partnerships and advocacy.

**Policy Coordinator
Sept. 2006-Aug. 2007**

Texas Council on Family Violence Austin, Texas

Provide specialized technical assistance and training to domestic violence victim advocates and allied professionals throughout Texas on issues specific to immigrant and low income battered women and their children as well as federal laws affecting victims and to develop, advocate and analyze policy strategies to improve the responsiveness of social service systems and the justice systems to the needs of victims of domestic violence.

**Public Policy Analyst
Feb. 2002-Sept. 2006**

SafePlace Austin, Texas

Provide holistic support to families who experienced domestic violence and resulting homelessness

**Family Advocate
1998 – 2002**

- Advocate for families within various systems settings such as DHS, CPS, the courts and schools

- Educate families in both Spanish and English on tenants' rights, immigration, credit and access to community resources
- Promote change on behalf of families at the macro-level through community and legislative involvement and collaborative projects
- Encourage families to become involved in their communities and assert their rights and opinions within systems that affected their lives
- Conduct trainings in the community and within SafePlace on issues of domestic violence, immigration, immigrants access to public benefits, court process for sexual assault survivors, dynamics of sexual assault, rape culture, SafePlace services, child sexual abuse, healthy relationships, sexual harassment

Middle Way House

Children's Activity Specialist/Hotline Advocate

Bloomington, Indiana

1994 - 1998

- Facilitated recreational and educational activities in a culturally sensitive environment for children residing in this shelter for families fleeing domestic violence
- Answered domestic violence/sexual assault crisis line calls

Luna Nueva

Intern

Tepetzlan, Mexico

1998

- Composed a document citing the mission statement, cosmology and active and future projects of this women's sustainability grassroots agency for prospective international donors through information gathered in interviews with the founders and participant observation of all the agency's activities and meetings
- Participated in children's health education program which promoted awareness among children in various elementary schools around issues of nutrition and dental health using theater, puppet shows, games and stories

White Buffalo Calf Woman Rosebud Lakota Reservation

Intern

South Dakota

1996/1997

- Provided support, legal advocacy, children's advocacy and activities to families residing in this shelter for women and children fleeing domestic violence

EDUCATION

Indiana University Bloomington, Indiana

1998

Bachelors of Arts - minors in Women's Studies, Sociology and Philosophy (GPA 4.0)

Molly Voyles | **Director of Public Policy**
mvoyles@tcfv.org

Skills & Expertise Areas:

- Public Speaking
- Technical Writing
- Organizational Change
- Facilitation
- Policy Analysis
- Trauma-Informed Supervision

Work Experience:

2006-Present Director of Public Policy, Texas Council on Family Violence, Austin TX

- Provide technical assistance and consultation to family violence programs, funders, and other allied partners across the state on topics ranging from program policy to privacy considerations
- Co-developed statewide curricula and training on a wide variety of topics and provided trainings for groups of 5-500
- Create & develop written materials such as bill analysis, testimony, and model policies
- Research and analyze existing legislation, co-lead in the development of legislative agendas, and support implementation of legislation
- Collaborate with stakeholders, such as the Health and Human Services Commission, on system change advocacy

2002-2006 Passages Program Advocate, SAFE Alliance, Austin, TX

- Provided long-term advocacy to survivors of domestic violence with a focus on housing stability and support
- Supported collaborative team building with seven community agencies and led initiatives to create survivor-informed responses across the team
- Engage in system coordination to support long-term housing options for survivors of domestic violence

1996-2002 Youth Programs Advocate, Middle Way House/The Rise, Bloomington, IN

- Aided in the support and supervision of children aged 0-14 who have been exposed to domestic violence
- Provided youth engagement activities to minor victims of domestic and dating violence
- Supervised and trained employees

Education

May 2002 Bachelor of Social Work earned at Indiana University

Molly Voyles | **Director of Public Policy**
mvoyles@tcfv.org

Skills & Expertise Areas:

- Public Speaking
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