

“Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Summit”

Family Services of Southeast Texas
Beaumont, Texas

Date: June 29-30, 2023

Time: 9 am to 4:30 pm

Location: TBD

Organizer: Bonnie Spotts, Community Relations Director bspotts@weststrengthenfamilies.org

Workshop Description: During this 6-hour course, staff from the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA) will provide an in-depth look at the dynamics of sexual violence in Texas, including prevalence and incidence rates and state-specific trends for sexual violence. This session will offer the group more information on the neurobiological response to sexual violence and how to respond to survivors with trauma-informed care practices.

Additionally, attendees will explore the working relationship between advocacy services and law enforcement. Attendees will learn more about working effectively as a multi-disciplinary team to serve survivors of sexual violence and will explore ways to improve coordinated response in the region.

Learning Objectives: After completing this session, participants will:

- *Evaluate* the scope and unique needs of sexual violence survivors in Texas.
- Be able to *identify* the aspects of building a multi-disciplinary team to better serve survivors of sexual violence.
- *Define* the similarities between the professions so that common ground can be identified and working relationships can be more focused on trauma-informed care for survivors.
- *Understand* the neurobiology of sexual violence exposure and *develop* skills to work with survivors' unique needs.

Agenda:

9:00 am The State of the State: Sexual Violence in Texas by Rose Luna, CEO, and Crystal Garcia, Training Coordinator (1.25 hrs)

10:30 am SART by Deepkia Modali, SART Coordinator (1.25 hrs)

1:00 pm Understanding the Complexity of Sexual Assault Investigations by Sergeant Liz Donegan (ret). (3.5 hours)

Crystal M. Garcia, MAS-PHM is the Training Coordinator at TAASA. A survivor leader with a 20-year history of working with survivors, specializing in helping advocates learn more about Collective Leadership and Trauma-Informed Care. Crystal is the recipient of the 2013 TAASA Community Engagement Award and the 2016 NSVRC Visionary Voice Award. She studied Health Education at Texas Tech University and went on to earn a Master's Degree in Population Health Management from The Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and is now working on her Doctorate in Public Health.

Deepika Modali, SART Project Coordinator A survivor herself, Deepika has been part of the movement to end violence for the past 12 years. This includes managing the Crisis Services team at Asian Family Support Services of Austin and participating in statewide task forces. An inaugural member of TAASA's Survivor Advisory Board. Deepika is very passionate about providing culturally grounded services and

advocating for all survivors to be heard. In her current role at TAASA, Deepika supports the 254 counties across the state as they implement Sexual Assault Response Teams.

Rose Luna, Chief Executive Officer She has been with TAASA for over 18 years and was named CEO in September 2017. She serves on the steering committee of the sexual assault survivor task force at the Texas Governor's Office, is President of the Board of the Texas Victim's Service Association, and is a member of the Texas Evidence Collection Protocol advisory board. Rose hails from Bartlett, Texas, and graduated from Texas A&M University with a bachelor's in business administration and a master's degree in Leadership and Change at St. Edward's University.

Sergeant Elizabeth Donegan (Ret) is a 26-year veteran of the Austin Police Department (APD). For nearly ten years she led the APD Sex Crimes Unit, widely recognized for its progressive approach toward investigating non-stranger sexual assault.

Liz served as Co-Chair of the Austin/Travis County Sexual Assault Response Resource Team (SARRT) for six years and has served on SARRT for over 20 years. She serves on the Board of Directors for End Violence Against Women International (EVAWI) as Vice President of Criminal Justice Outreach. She has her B.S in Social Psychology and attended the The University of Texas / WestPoint Leadership Academy.

Liz served as an expert for the Response Systems Panel, a federal advisory committee that conducted an independent review and assessment of the systems used to investigate, prosecute, and adjudicate crimes involving adult sexual assault and related offenses under military law. She has also trained and presented at training events and conferences hosted by the U.S. Department of Defense, including the U.S. Army Summit, programs at Ft. Hood, Ft. Sam Houston, Ft McCoy, and Ft Leonard Wood. She is a veteran of the U.S. Army.