**BIPOC Peer Support Call**

**2023 Purpose & Plan**

**Background**

Starting 2020, Tracy Wright, BIPOC Leadership & Resource Sharing Project staff volunteered to facilitate Maine’s BIPOC Peer Support call for sexual assault advocates. Over the past 18 months, she has generously hosted monthly calls (with breaks for the summer), and the invitation has been extended to BIPOC advocates at MCEDV and DV/SA advocates in New Hampshire and Vermont.

Tracy initially volunteered to provide support because MECASA, as an all-white staff, does not have appropriate facilitators for the space. The goal was always to build community, potentially build capacity, and then turn the facilitation back over to Maine.

There were participants on every call since their inception in 2020.

**Group Purpose**

The same barriers that make it hard for survivors to connect to local sexual assault support centers are the same barriers that make it hard for folks from historically marginalized communities to work at local organizations. Workplace culture (spoken and unspoken), fiscal priorities, community relationships, legislative solutions, and the concept of services are all steeped in dominant culture and take more learning and navigating and potential harm for staff holding those historically marginalized identities.

This call is solely an opportunity for spaciousness, resiliency, gratitude, reflection, and connectedness for BIPOC advocates at local programs across Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire. There are no expectations or requirements for what the space needs to be – we leave its exploration and development up to those who are in it.

**Timeframe**

This call will be monthly for 60 minutes – with summers off. The first call of 2023 will be in March.

**Members**

* Advocates working at a sexual assault support centers in Maine, New Hampshire or Vermont or coalition member center staff member who are Black, Indigenous, or a Person of Color
* Advocates working at a domestic violence resources centers in Maine, New Hampshire or Vermont or coalition member center staff member who are Black, Indigenous, or a Person of Color
* Join only after reaching agreement with their ED or supervisor

**Contact Info**

Rene Goddess Johnson, Facilitator

207-210-0785 | Embodied Equity LLC embodiedequityconsulting@gmail.com

Tracy Wright, North Caroline Coalition

tracy@nccasa | former facilitator

Whitney Adell, MCEDV

Maine DV Convener | whitney@mcedv.org

Chani Waterhouse, VT Alliance

VT DV/SA Convener | chani@vtnetwork.org

Donna Brown and Aline Pardilla, WWC
Tribal Conveners | donnabrown@wabanakiwomenscoalition.org and alinepardilla@wabanakiwomenscoalition.org

Deputies & Directors

Coalition Staff

Good afternoon MECASA member centers,

[Tracy D. Wright](https://nccasa.org/about-us/team/), a national technical assistance provider for the Resource Sharing Project (RSP) is facilitating the next round of peer support calls for DV/SA advocates who are Black, Indigenous, and/or people of color in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

These calls are in partnership with the Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault, the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence, Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, and New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

**From Tracy:** *This is solely an opportunity for spaciousness, resiliency, gratitude, reflection, and connectedness for BIPOC advocates at local programs across Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire. There are no expectations or requirements for what the space needs to be – we leave its exploration and development up to those who are in it.*

The calls are for Black, Indigenous, and people of color only and will take place on the following dates using the Zoom link below:

**Thursday, September 15, 2022, 12:00pm-1:00pm**

**Thursday, October 13, 2022, 12:00pm-1:00pm**

**Thursday, November 10, 12:00pm-1:00pm**

**Thursday, December 8, 2022, 12:00pm-1:00pm**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86086142039?pwd=STR2Qm02dlc5MU5RWSs5V2pZSFptdz09>

Meeting ID: 860 8614 2039

Passcode: 346046

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