




Expanding Alternative Paths to Justice and Healing

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	UPDATE
Experiential Support Groups	<i>funding opportunities and support for centers facilitating groups</i>	A few centers presented an Ignite Talk at MECASACon describing the Experiential Support Groups they held this year. Evaluation data will be shared with MECASA next month. - Kayce
Support for Experience Specific Multi-Agency Support Groups	<i>facilitating calls for centers</i>	Currently two centers are interested in connecting to discuss working together to hold a group. In the process of setting up a call to discuss their plans further. - Kayce
Criminal Justice Reform	<i>supporting victim-centered CJ reform initiatives</i>	Attending meetings exploring the possibility of parole and potential additional changes to criminal records. - Melissa and Elizabeth
Maine Prisoner Reentry Network Partnership	<i>investigate cross training and joint-programming opportunities</i>	This particular partnership has fizzled out. The connections made at MECASACon 2021 prompted conversations between our two agencies and we reached out several times to connect and request feedback/collaboration opportunities on the NAMI DOC CIT training. Any further collaboration might need funding to support MPRN capacity and efforts to build trust. - Katie K.
National Guard Task Force	<i>preparation and planning for statewide task force</i>	Attending initial meetings of the National Guard Advisory Council and preparing for meetings with research, stakeholder engagement, and drafting questions. - Melissa and Elizabeth
 Title IX Advocacy	<i>reviewing and preparing response to new proposed federal regulations</i>	Shared with centers and social media ways to submit a public comment if interested. MECASA signed on to support the NAESV's comment and were able to contribute two concerns that were incorporated into their submission. - Melissa

Increasing the Accessibility of Services

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	UPDATE
Population and Services Assessment	<i>assessing prevalence and efficacy of services for specific populations</i>	Survivor survey will be shared with centers, partners, and social media early October. Expected completion in December. - Katie K.
Survivors with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD)	<i>improving access to support for survivors with IDD</i>	Two centers presented with Disability Rights Maine advocates at the SUFU conference in September, with support from MECASA. Center prevention educators began discussing how to better support the needs of students with IDD. - Lisa DRM & SUFU presented at MECASACon on Ableism. DRM has received a 3 year OVW grant to work with MECASA and other partners to address gaps in information and services for Mainers with IDD. - Katie K.
Racial Equity Work	<i>working with consultants to learn about building agencies that center equity</i>	The Stewardship Committee, including three MECASA staff and two MAC members presented, with support from our consultants, a path for FY23 racial equity work that includes MECASA, center directors and deputies as well as all center staff. - Katie K.
Rural Program Support	<i>supporting outreach and services</i>	SASSMM, AMHC, RRS, and MECASA received another 3 years of OVW Rural funding! With updated activities and goals, MECASA will convene a conversation about programming and reporting. - Katie K.
Remote Testimony Protocols	<i>developing protocols for child survivors to testify from CACs</i>	Working on a final draft of the best practices document. - Melissa
Text/Chat & Direct Answer Program Redesign	<i>restructure of text/chat and direct answer programs</i>	Centers continue to meet to discuss pooling helpline resources. We have entered into phase 2 of the Center Specific Helpline Needs Assessment with the Catherine Cutler Institute. Which includes a survey for volunteer advocates. - Kayce
Increasing Prevention in Schools	<i>supporting centers getting access to schools</i>	Doing outreach with various state organizations (ME School Counselors, Special Education Directors, etc.) to bolster connections between local agencies and prevention educators. - Katie C.
Statewide Access to CACs	<i>supporting the development and accreditation of CACs</i>	NRCAC delivered training to CACs on the updated accreditation standards for FY23 and will be visiting several locations in Maine this fall to provide in-person support. - Katie C.

Cultivating Sustainable Workplaces

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	UPDATE
Staff of Color Calls	<i>coordinating calls for BIPOC staff</i>	This fall we relaunched the BIPOC affinity calls for black, indigenous, people of color who are also SA and/or DV advocates in Maine, NH, and VT. Tracy Wright is committed to facilitating the call through 2022 calendar year and then she will lead the group in deciding if they want to continue and who will facilitate. MECASA has budgeted for a facilitator as needed. Whitney, MCEDEV, coordinates outreach to BIPOC DV advocates. - Katie K.
MECASA Hiring Practices	<i>improvement to practices</i>	Hiring practices were redesigned in the summer of 2021 to ensure equity. Practices continue to be revised as positions are filled. - Sarah
Supervisor Learning Cohort Calls	<i>monthly calls for supervisors around the state</i>	These calls began in June and will continue monthly. Topics and agendas are determined with the members of the cohort.
Finance Peer Support Calls	<i>calls for finance specific center staff</i>	These calls are held every other month. Topics are determined by the group. - Julie
MECASA Personnel Policies	<i>surveying staff, centering sustainability and racial equity values</i>	Changes in current Personnel Policies, approved by the Board in June, include a change in the probationary period from 3-6 months, deletion of the dress code, and changes throughout the document to gender neutral language,
Trauma-informed Workplace Training	<i>coordinating training for member programs</i>	Currently planning for a three-part series over FY23. - Sarah
Training Coordination Practices	<i>documenting internal practices for training coordination</i>	Currently expanding sections related to choosing a training space and co-training with center staff. - Jess
 Meeting Facilitation Training	<i>training for center staff on effective meeting facilitation</i>	This was completed in August – 26 center staff attended this two day virtual training. - Canyon
 Creating sustainable and achievable workplans for MECASA staff	<i>focusing during this planning season on creating thoughtful workplans</i>	Workplans are all complete and final, now working with staff to prioritize and ensure we know what it looks like when projects are “finished”. - Jess
 Grant Writing Support	<i>support for members on grant-seeking</i>	Preparing for a second webinar on grant writing in October that will focus on federal grants. - Jess

More exciting programming!

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	UPDATE
Mental Health Trainings	<i>building skills of advocates to respond to survivors with high mental health needs including suicidal and self-harming clients</i>	Completed! Recordings are available on youtube. - Canyon
Prevention Curriculum Workgroup	<i>center staff workgroup to develop a consistent statewide curriculum; support DOE to improve theirs</i>	<p>The curriculum workgroup continues to meet and work on shared definitions as well as the established content areas for a prevention curriculum.</p> <p>The DOE released their updated health education standards which the curriculum workgroup is using to ensure content in statewide prevention curriculum is aligned. - Katie C.</p>
Victim Assistance Academy	<i>coordination and delivery of training</i>	The redesigned Maine Victim Assistance Academy (MVAA) launched its pilot academy this month. This hybrid model academy will run through March 2023.- Kayce
Resources on Sexual Violence Laws	<i>creating tools to improve understanding of issues like image exploitation, statutes of limitation, and age of consent</i>	Facilitated a webinar on new sexual violence laws for advocates, educators, and other partners in September 2022. - Melissa and Elizabeth



This symbol indicates projects that emerged after we set our workplans that we pivoted to make space for.

KEY

ASL - American Sign Language

CAC – Children’s Advocacy Center

CJ – Criminal Justice

CSA – Child Sexual Abuse

CSEC – Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

CPS – Child Protective Services

CSP – Children’s Safety Partnership

DHHS – Department of Health and Human Services

DRM – Disability Rights Maine

EDs – Executive Directors

FY22 – Fiscal Year 2022

IDD – Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

LGBTQIA+ - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual + (and beyond)

MAC – Member Advisory Council (the directors of sexual assault centers)

NRCAC – Northeast Regional Children’s Advocacy Centers

MDT – Multidisciplinary Team

OVW – Office of Violence against Women (a funding source)

PLTA – Pine Tree Legal Assistance

SASC – Sexual Assault Support Center

SUFU – Standing Up For Us (an organization)

TFCBT – Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

UMA – University of Maine Augusta

VAA – Victim Assistance Academy

VLP – Volunteer Lawyers Project

VOCA – Victims of Crime Act (referenced here as a funding source)

VWAs – Victim Witness Advocates