



Opportunity to Learn More about DC's Response to Sexual Assault – DC SANE Program Town Hall

March 5, 2019

Washington DC's key organizations supporting survivors of sexual assault will kick off Sexual Assault Awareness Month by hosting a town hall, *An Insider Look: Sexual Assault Response in the District*, at the University of District Columbia on April 3, 2019. The DC Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners Program (DC SANE Program)—comprised of the District of Columbia Forensic Nurse Examiners (DCFNE) and the Network for Victim Recovery of DC (NVRDC)—will release their findings from a two-year program evaluation commissioned by the Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants (OVSJG) on the District of Columbia's response to sexual assault. The hosts invite all interested media parties and community members to join more than 75 DC residents and community leaders in this important event to raise awareness of the DC SANE Program and its efforts to reduce barriers to seeking care following an incident of violence in the District.

Dr. Shawn Flower from Choice Research Associates will present the findings, which will set forth a road map to ensure the DC SANE Program continues to address the needs of sexual assault survivors in the District. Following the presentation, Karen Mulhauser, a sexual assault survivor, will moderate a panel discussion, composed of Erin Pollitt, Executive Director of DCFNE, Bridgette Stumpf, Executive Director of NVRDC, and Indira Henard, Executive Director of the DC Rape Crisis Center (DCRCC), highlighting the available services for survivors of sexual assault and addressing common misnomers.

In the era of the #metoo movement and as more women (and men) come forward with their stories, it is critical to understand how DC-based victim service providers are responding to sexual assaults. Sexual assault pervades every corner of our community and transcends demographics. In a lifetime, 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men will experience sexual violence. The town hall will demonstrate how DCFNE and NVRDC—as the core members of the DC SANE Program—and other community partners remain on the forefront of survivor care.

“Even amidst the fear and the anxiety and the confusion, and the sadness that was quietly sneaking up on me, you were kind and gentle and human. And thanks to you I suddenly felt less like the result of a thing. I wasn't a statistic or a series of poor decisions or the aftermath of something bad. You were safe and reassuring. Instead of scared,

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reach out. rise up.



***you made me feel brave and important and necessary.” –DCFNE
patient and sexual assault survivor***

Please join this town hall to bring awareness to the victim services in DC and fight against the stigma behind DC’s response to sexual assault. Learn more at:

**** District of Columbia Forensic Nurse Examiners (DCFNE)** is the only nonprofit organization in the District of Columbia dedicated to providing forensic nursing services to victims of crime. DCFNE's nurses are on call 24/7, 365 days a year. Forensic nurses offer hope and healing on what may be the worst day of a patient's life, as well as collecting high quality evidence to strengthen investigations and prosecutions.

**** Network for Victim Recovery DC (NVRDC)** empowers victims of all crimes to achieve survivor defined justice through a collaborative continuum of advocacy, case management and legal services.

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