

**NVRDC creates the District's Community-Based Sexual Assault
Advocate Credentialing Program Steering Committee**

Oct. 3, 2016 —The Network for Victim Recovery of DC (NVRDC) is excited to announce the launch of the D.C. Community-Based Sexual Assault Advocate Credentialing Program Steering Committee. The first meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 5, 2016 at the office of Arnold & Palmer LLC.

Following the DC Council's passage of the groundbreaking Sexual Assault Victims' Rights Amendment Act (SAVRAA), which established a legal privilege to protect survivors' confidentiality, NVRDC is leading a Steering Committee to develop a credentialing program for community advocates serving sexual assault survivors. Over the course of the next year, the Committee, which is comprised of a diverse group of community stakeholders, will work to review and approve training priorities, course content, program requirements, and competency exams.

The aim of the credentialing program is to provide standardized training to community-based service agencies that may interact with survivors of sexual violence. Many survivors of sexual assault will not engage in formal entry points of service. Survivors may choose to seek services in their faith based communities, with other community-based organizations, or with key stakeholders. Without access to training and resources, many survivors of sexual assault receive inconsistent support and information on services, victims' rights, and system-based options.

"NVRDC is excited to begin this collaborative process that will formalize and expand upon the existing advocate training program and ensure consistency and that the highest level of services continue for sexual assault survivors," stated Co-Executive Director, Nikki Charles.

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Network for Victim Recovery of DC empowers victims of all crimes to achieve survivor defined justice through a collaborative continuum of advocacy, case management, and legal services. For more information or to access our services, please visit our website at www.nvrdc.org or call 202-742-1727.