



As we say goodbye to 2022, we are reflecting on the work GCADV has been able to do through the support from our member programs and community partners. With that continued support, we look forward to our ongoing mission to advocate for survivors throughout Georgia and support our member programs' work. In the re-launch of our newsletter, we're highlighting some of GCADV's recent work and looking toward what's on the horizon in 2023. We're especially excited to re-connect and gather once again with many of you, as we return to hosting in-person events, like Stand With Survivors Day, Frontline Advocacy Training, and Race for Empowerment. And we'll continue to take advantage of the benefits of connecting with you virtually by offering many of our trainings, meetings, and activities through Zoom and other virtual platforms. We look forward to seeing you!

-Christy Showalter

Assistant Director
Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence

A FOCUS ON NON CARCERAL SOLUTIONS

When survivors of intimate partner violence choose to engage the criminal legal system as a means of holding their abusers accountable, GCADV supports their decision to do so. We also have come to realize that we can't prosecute our way out of harm. A singular criminal legal response to domestic violence does not adequately address the problem, yet the criminal legal response is commonly considered "best practice" when seeking to address domestic violence. Since the politicization of the anti-violence movement, we have become heavily invested in the carceral system, and understandably so. We wanted people to take victim-survivors seriously. We wanted there to finally be "real consequences" for inflicting harm on an intimate partner. We wanted "justice." But what we have come to understand over time is that the vast majority of survivors choose not to engage the criminal legal system because most victim-survivors don't actually want their partner to go to jail; they just want the violence to stop, or they are afraid of being harmed or having their partner harmed by law enforcement; afraid of dual arrest, or afraid that not only will the criminal legal response not be helpful, but it might in fact exacerbate the violence.

GCADV believes in addressing the root causes of violence. We believe public safety comes in the form of full access to safe and affordable housing, healthcare, good education, living wages, full employment, grocery stores, green spaces, and recreation. We believe not having access to these basic human needs is violence. When support and rehabilitation are necessary, we believe that looks like mental health services, drug treatment, and pre-arrest diversion. We have an opportunity to truly invest in solutions that prevent violence, not solutions that promote it.

To read the full story, [CLICK HERE](#)

PROGRAM UPDATES 2022

COMMUNITY RISE



GCADV has enrolled three new Community-Based Organizations (CBO) into the Community RISE Program bringing the total to five new enrollees this year.

Several culturally specific trainings, and community conversations are being developed for state-wide presentations for 2023. Titles include Trans Health and Wellness conference, Native community and the effects of IPV community conversation and/or training, The Best Practice When Serving the Transgender Survivor of IPV, Don't Knock The Hustle, Gender Identity, and Gender Pronouns are several of the trainings that will be facilitated. For any questions or inquiries, please email Leona Williams, Director of Culturally Specific Outreach: Lwilliams@gcadv.org.

DON'T KNOCK THE HUSTLE

Changes are being made to the Entrepreneurial Pursuit Match Savings Program including:

- \$500 mini grants instead of match savings
- No longer requesting bank information as a security measure, and instead asking for a written pitch of their business/business idea
- Expanding who qualifies to include survivors of childhood abuse, formerly incarcerated people, and advocates supporting survivors of violence.

GCADV has been following up with past match savings applicants and expects to award 11 mini grants by the end of the month. The goal is to award 20 past applicants by the end of the year.

For any questions or inquiries, please email Kiana Elkins, Economic Justice Director, at kelkins@gcadv.org

JUSTICE FOR INCARCERATED SURVIVORS



This year, the JFIS team and their amazing volunteer network conducted their first in person interviews in over two years, speaking with 15 women total at Pulaski State Prison, Lee Arrendale State Prison, and Emanuel Women's Facility.

Incarcerated survivors who meet the eligible criteria work with our pro-bono attorneys at Alston & Bird to create a supporting parole packet to submit in advance of the Survivor's upcoming parole eligibility date. This year, our team has completed and submitted 6 parole packets to the Board of Pardons and Paroles. In August, the JFIS team warmly welcomed Selena Faith as the first GCADV employee solely dedicated to the JFIS project.

Our team plans to continue scheduling visits to the prisons every 2-3 month, depending on our capacity and need.

2022 TRAINING UPDATES

Frontline Training:

GCADV held our first in-person Frontline training since the start of the pandemic in September 2022. Moving forward, we will alternate two in-person and two virtual Frontline sessions per year.

There are many benefits to virtual training – accessibility, less time away from work, flexible scheduling, and the ability to record sessions. However, many people find learning to be easier attending training in-person. A good balance of both in-person and virtual training, including Frontline, will allow us to meet the needs of all advocates in Georgia. The last Frontline session of 2022 was in December and was virtual.

Advanced Advocacy Training:

Alexis Champion and Trish Hardy provided an in-person day training to the advocates at Project Safe, Inc. in Athens, Georgia on Oct. 13th. We discussed advanced advocacy topics including trauma-informed best practices, goal setting with survivors, and setting and maintaining professional boundaries.

Serving LGBTQ Survivors of IPV:

GCADV hosted a 2-part virtual training, facilitated by national training and TA provider the Network La Red, based in Massachusetts on best practices in serving LGBTQ survivors. This training was held in November of 2022.

Trauma-Informed Capacity Building (TICB):

GCADV presented a series of ten TICB virtual training sessions beginning in March of 2022 and ending in December. This training series will be open to all staff at two new programs selected this year: Hospitality House in Rome and Safe Families in Fulton Co.

We held a special session on Oct. 25th specifically for practicing attorneys in Georgia working with domestic violence survivors, entitled Practical Skills for Being a Trauma-Informed, Anti-Violence Trial Lawyer. Facilitated by guest presenter Alicia L. Aiken, JD – Director of the Confidentiality Institute; Principal, Danu Center for Strategic Advocacy, LLC.

For any questions or inquiries, email Alexis Champion, Director of Training and Capacity Building, at achampion@gcadv.org

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:
to register please visit: <https://training.gcadv.org>



2023 EVENTS



Feb 13th, 2023
Advocacy 101 Webinar

Feb 14th
KICKOFF EVENT

REGISTER NOW

MORE INFO



RACE FOR EMPOWERMENT

SAVE THE DATE

4.29

VIRTUAL RACE WEEK: APRIL 22-28
IN-PERSON CELEBRATION: APRIL 29



HOT TOPIC:

Non-Carceral Solutions and Fulton County Jail's Overcrowding Crisis



WANT TO LEARN MORE? ABOUT NONCARCERAL SOLUTIONS? CHECK OUT THESE BOOKS:

There are many opportunities for non-carceral solutions to help in addressing social issues. Alternative sentencing provides opportunities to decrease institutionalization and encourage individuals to become contributing members of society. A recent example in the media is the overcrowding experienced by Fulton County jails.

Compared to other urban counties nationwide, Fulton County jails detains its residents at a rate nearly three times higher (Georgetown Law, 2022). The overall increase in individuals put behind bars, long processing times, high pretrial detention rates, and inability to make bonds have led to an emergency overcrowding crisis in the jail that has been rising over the last five years. Findings from Georgetown Law's (2022) meta-analysis of more than 100 previous studies illustrated that pretrial detention does not prevent reoffending. In fact, pretrial detention likely increases someone's chances of reoffending following release.

The findings from Georgetown Law and the highly anticipated Fulton County Jail Population Review Study (JPR) concluded that diversion tactics could better address the solution to Fulton County's overcrowding. The JPR identified that in 2022 alone, 3,462 bookings were classified as divertible.

The JPR was a stipulation to the August 2022 agreement from the City Council of Atlanta's agreement to approve the leasing of 700 beds at the Atlanta City Detention Center to address the overcrowding at the Fulton County Jail. Although the JPR highlighted the significant opportunity for non-carceral solutions to reduce the population within the jail, documentation is currently being prepared to be signed by Mayor Andre Dickens and to move forward with the lease.

If you are interested in reviewing the full Fulton County Jail Population Review Study or the Georgetown Law Reducing Jail Overcrowding Without Increasing Crime study, please see below:

[Fulton County Jail Population Review: Assessing Short-and Long-Term Jail Use Trends](#)

[Reducing Jail Overcrowding Without Increasing Crime: Lessons from Fulton County, Georgia](#)






BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

ELISA COVARRUBIAS



Elisa Covarrubias is the CEO at Men Stopping Violence. Before this, she spent over 15 years in non-profit crisis services for survivors of intimate partner violence and sexual assault. During her career, she helped develop the current Georgia State Standards for Sexual Assault Centers, participated in the Georgia Sexual Assault Response Team Expert Committee, and served as an Advisory Board Member for Georgia Latin@s Against Domestic Violence, in addition to various other local task forces and multi-disciplinary teams. Elisa is a Georgia Women's Policy Institute Alum and an AmeriCorps National Service Alum. In 2020, Elisa was awarded the Cobb Young Professionals Next Generation Award and she currently serves on the Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence's Board of Directors.

At GCADV, she serves on the finance committee and chaired the recent fall fundraiser committee.




MEMBER PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT:

HALCYON HOME

Halcyon Home was recently presented with a Proclamation from Thomasville City Council that recognizes October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM). Pictured below is Mayor Jay Flowers presenting their Executive Director Deborah Murray with this proclamation to encourage Thomasville citizens to observe October as a time to learn more about domestic violence and support those who are trying to assist in community awareness.

Halcyon's Home for Battered Women and Their Children, Inc. has been a long-term, active member program of the coalition. Halcyon Home serves community members of Southwest Georgia in the following counties: Grady, Decatur, Seminole, Thomas, and Mitchell. Founded in 1997, Halcyon Home provides assistance, aid, and comfort through shelter, education, and support through direct service to battered women, their children, and survivors of sexual assault. Halcyon Home is always interested in accepting donations from supporters. For a specific list of Halcyon Home's current needs, please visit: <https://www.halcyonhomeshelter.org/current-needs>.

Or consider visiting the Halcyon Home Store, located at 604 E. Clay Street in Thomasville, GA, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Wednesday – Saturday.



GCADV WELCOMES NEW STAFF



(Left to Right)
Kiana Elkins - Economic Justice Director
Hunter Pierce - Development Director
Carlie Abel - MSW Intern.

