



## A message from our Board of Directors

**On behalf of the Board of Directors we would like to extend a warm welcome to Monica Rivera as our new Executive Director!** We'd also like to thank our search committee, which included representatives from Violence Free Colorado staff, member programs, and Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CCASA), for being generous with their time, insight, and recommendations as we moved through this process. Sincere thanks to the HR Advantage group for providing comprehensive support and for guiding us through this executive search. And a special thanks to our staff (Roshan, Marissa, Miranda, Lindsay, Brandy, Hannah, Amelia) for holding it all together with a small team while we were in search mode.

During the search process, we received positive and exciting feedback on Monica's candidacy. It was clear at every step of the process that Monica leads with her values - a quality of genuineness that will guide the coalition during this time of transition. Her tenure as the Director of the Women and Gender Advocacy Center at Colorado State University makes her an expert in our field. Her kindness and care are evident from the moment you interact with her - an indispensable trait to move people and communities through the difficult work of coalition-building, working to end sexual and domestic violence, and ultimately healing our communities. We hope you will join us in welcoming Monica as we continue our work together!

For the next few months, we'll be focused on helping Monica understand the depth of our work and establish foundational relationships with our staff and board. In late summer we'll reach back out with a few updates and an invitation to an in-person meet and greet. Stay tuned for more details!

There are exciting days ahead for Violence Free Colorado and we're thrilled to bring Monica's expertise, vision, and presence to the team. Please find her bio below.

Sincerely,

**Violence Free Colorado Board of Directors**

Adam Evans, Sean Miller, Laura Pearson, Nicole Castillo

**Monica Rivera (she, her)** is originally from the east coast but has been working in the field of interpersonal violence prevention, education, and advocacy in Colorado for over 16 years. Most of her professional career has been in higher education where she served as director for a 24-hour interpersonal violence crisis center. She sits on a state-wide committee as a representative for victim advocacy and is also an adjunct faculty member in CSU's ethnic studies and gender studies departments.

Monica has had the honor of presenting a TedX Talk titled, "[Body Sovereignty and Kids: How we can cultivate a culture of consent](#)", and has been featured as a content expert on [CBS Evening News Special Report](#) and in [The Atlantic](#). Her written work was included in Education Week's [10 BIG Ideas Special Report](#) and she is a chapter co-author in [New Directions for Student Services: Addressing Sexual Violence in Higher Education](#).

Monica holds an undergraduate degree in Sociology from Syracuse University and a graduate degree in Sociology from Colorado State University. Her work is firmly rooted in intersectional feminist praxis and she operates from a set of guiding philosophies which include a commitment to transparency and the belief that feedback is a form of love. Her approach to organizational management is collaborative, accessible, and grounded in liberatory activism at the individual, community, and systems levels.

In her free time, she is a documentary photographer and budding thanatologist. She enjoys writing, reading, and traveling with family and friends... particularly if that travel takes her to large cities or the coast. She is honored to be joining the incredible group of humans at Violence Free Colorado and looks forward to continuing her service to survivors in this new role.



Monica Rivera, our new Executive Director

## Coalition Updates

### Leadership Team

#### Rose Community Foundation funding

We'd like to thank Rose Community Foundation for their funding to provide training, technical assistance, and interpretation services to advocates across the state, so that these advocates can offer culturally-responsive care to Afghan evacuees experiencing domestic violence. We're grateful for the Foundation's support.

#### Registration for the Colorado Advocacy in Action Conference

It's not too late to [register](#) for the Colorado Advocacy in Action Conference June 14 - 16, and the pre-conference institute June 13! If you are a DVP-funded organization, remember you can also get up to [four registration reimbursements](#) for your staff to attend. We've got a great line-up of sessions this year and hope to see you there.

[Register here for CAIA!](#)



Marissa Shoback and Roshan Kalantar

Leadership Team

### Training and TA Team

#### Facts & Snacks at noon July 5: 2022 Legislative Update

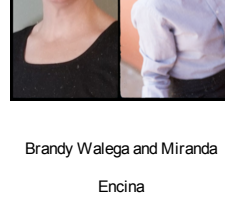
\*\*\*Please note the date change, just for July!\*\*\*

Join our Public Policy Specialist, Amelia Lobo, for highlights of the 2022 legislative session and learn about some of the impacts for survivors. There will also be time for questions!

**Presenter:** Amelia Lobo, Violence Free Colorado Public Policy Specialist

**Register today!**

*There will be no Facts & Snacks webinar in June due to the CAIA conference.*



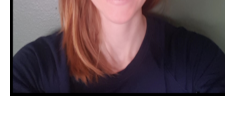
Brandy Walega and Miranda Encina

Training and Technical Assistance Team

### Community Impact Team

#### Share your input for our new website

In the coming months, we'll be redesigning our website! Please take our [quick survey](#), to share what you're looking for in our new site.



Hannah Colter, Violence Free Colorado Community Impact Specialist

### Public Policy Team

**The 2022 legislation session ended May 11! Here's where some of the bills we've worked on stand:**

- SB22-183, which provides \$48 million to services for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and other crimes, has been signed by the Governor!
- SB22-100, which continues the statewide fatality review board, has also been signed by Gov. Polis.
- HB22-1210, the Domestic Violence Offender Management Board sunset bill, has passed and has been sent to Gov. Polis.
- SB22-150, which creates an Office of Liaison for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives, passed both chambers and has been sent to Gov. Polis.

Many of our efforts this year received bipartisan support, and we'd like to thank all the legislators who voted for policies that support survivors. A special thanks goes to Rep. Monica Duran and Sen. Faith Winter, who continually prioritize survivors in their legislative work.

Additionally, this year the legislature created several new grant programs to support housing and behavioral health programs, codified the right to contraception and abortion in Colorado law (HB22-1279), expanded access to Medicaid and CHIP to all pregnant people and children in Colorado regardless of immigration status (HB22-1289), introduced new protections for sex workers (HB22-1288), and more.

We'll share more information in the coming weeks, including a full end of session report and a webinar to review changes that impact domestic violence advocacy and survivors. Thank you all for your calls, emails, tweets, and other outreach to legislators!

**As always, please reach out to Amelia at [alobo@violencefreeco.org](mailto:alobo@violencefreeco.org) with any questions.**



Amelia Lobo, Violence Free Colorado Public Policy Specialist

## Resources and Other News

### Pasifika Power & Control Wheel

#### Translation Project

Check out Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence's (API-GBV) report that stemmed from their recent initiative to translate the Power & Control Wheel into indigenous Pasifika languages. The project became an even greater process of transferring cultural knowledge, values, and traditions to modern-day resources.



### A great new resource in relationship

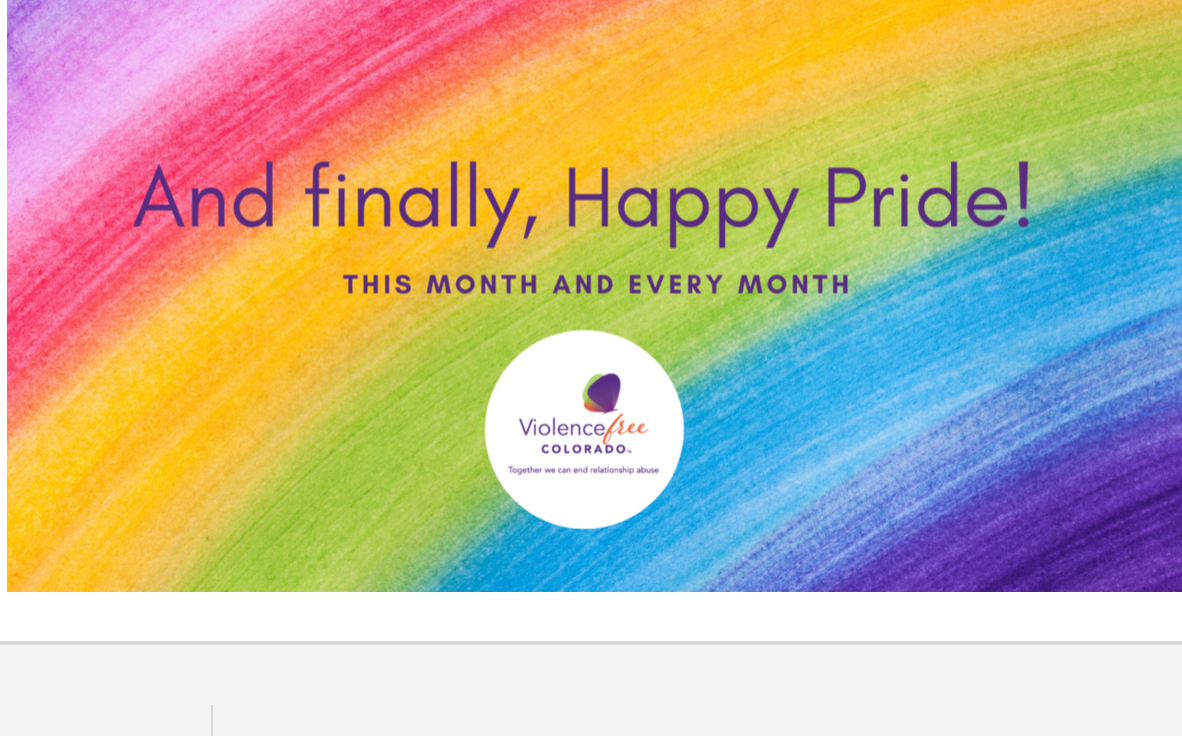
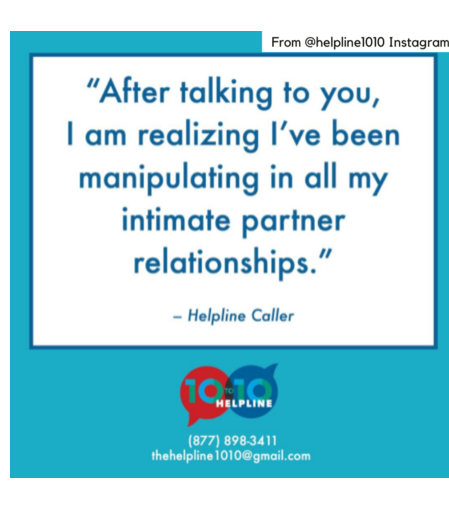
#### violence prevention

The [10 to 10 Helpline](#) offers a respectful, supportive environment for callers in their efforts to use safe behaviors in their relationships. It's specifically designed to respond to people who are using abusive behaviors in their relationship(s) and support behavior change.

Friends, family, and professionals who want to help someone stop harming their partner can also call to get support.

The [10 to 10 Helpline](#) started last year and is based out of Massachusetts, but can accept calls from all over! **Call them at 877-898-3411 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. MT, and share this new resource widely! It's free and confidential.**

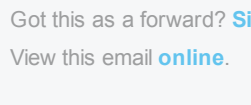
Follow them on [Instagram](#) (@helpline1010) and [Facebook](#) (@10to10Helpline.org), and visit their website [here](#).



Contact Us

[communityimpact@violencefreeco.org](mailto:communityimpact@violencefreeco.org)

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