



Sharing Power in Survivor Serving Organizations

Webinar Presenters, February 28, 2023

Eva Lessinger, *Director - Beyond Harm*

Eva Lessinger has dedicated over 15 years to work in the fields of ending intimate violence, reproductive health, women's empowerment, and trauma healing. Eva is the Founder and Co-Director of Beyond Harm, New Orleans' first restorative, trauma-responsive intervention focused on intimate partner and sexual violence. As a survivor herself and long-time advocate, Eva created Beyond Harm to be survivor-centered, but focused on providing dignified pathways to change for those who cause harm.

Eva is a social worker by training and previously served as Director of Programs at the New Orleans Family Justice Center (NOFJC) until the spring of 2022. During her time at the NOFJC, the agency experienced unprecedented growth, nearly doubling in size over 6 years. Eva was responsible for developing and managing this growth, including expansion into forensic health care, HUD-funded housing, and holistic therapies.

Eva currently sits on the Board of Directors at Court Watch Nola and the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board at the City of New Orleans. Eva applies an intersectional feminist and human rights lens to all of her work. She believes we must also continually examine issues of power and equity within direct social services, especially within the anti-violence field.

Eloise Sepeda, *Collective Impact Senior Manager - Child Welfare, Mission Capital*

Dr. Eloise Sepeda is a Latina and Native Roots of the Kickapoo Nation who is a child/adult survivor of family & stranger sexual violence, gangs, substance abuse, and homelessness. Despite the high risks of lethal violence and becoming a teen mom, she was supported by the community. Eloise uses her personal & professional experience as a national SME Restorative-Transformative Justice, Violence & Abuse, Intersections of Child Welfare & Race Equity consulting to advance equity and human-centered engagement to promote healing and well-being. She has coauthored RJ curricula and training for Educators, Law Enforcement, and Mental Health providers with UT Austin and Texas State University. Dr. Sepeda has also offered specialized training and implementation for Child Welfare, DV/SA/HT agencies, Faith Based organizations, Civil/Legal court services and communities, parents/ youth. She currently serves as Faculty for Futures Without Violence and on the Ujima Women Transforming Families Cohort of Women of Color in Leadership.