



Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence
ACTIONALLIANCE

PRESS ADVISORY

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FIRST LADY OF VIRGINIA TO OPEN TRAUMA CONFERENCE

The First Lady of Virginia, Dorothy McAuliffe, will open a statewide conference this week focused on providing trauma-informed responses to survivors of sexual and domestic violence. The conference, **THE HEART IS A MUSCLE: TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACHES TO SEXUAL & INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE**, will be held May 4 & 5 in Charlottesville.

Approximately 200 victim advocates and other service providers will attend the conference to learn more about strengthening trauma-informed approaches to preventing and responding to sexual and interpersonal violence.

The First Lady's appearance will take place:

Date/Time: Wednesday, May 4 at 1pm
Location: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Charlottesville
990 Hilton Heights Road
Charlottesville, Virginia, 22901

Other conference speakers include renowned trauma expert and survivor Dr. Allison Sampson-Jackson as keynote. Dr. Russell T. Jones, trauma expert who has worked with the highest levels of government, will deliver a plenary session focused on intergenerational trauma and the impact of disasters on communities. Internationally recognized vicarious trauma prevention and organizational sustainability expert and author Olga Phoenix will present back to back workshops to share tools for addressing and transforming vicarious trauma, and be available to talk with participants throughout the conference as an exhibitor. Survivor, international security and mental health expert Mary Boardman will close out the conference with a riveting look at how she navigated multiple systems that were not equipped to help her heal and how she created her own path to healing – a story that all providers need to hear as we work towards interconnected and survivor-focused ways of providing services.

The conference is organized by the Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence Action Alliance, Virginia's leading voice on sexual and domestic violence. Co-sponsors include: Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund, Virginia Department of Social Services, Therapy Notes, University of Virginia Maxine Platzer Lynn Women's Center, and Potomac Art Therapy Association.

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About the Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence Action Alliance

The Action Alliance has been Virginia's leading voice on sexual and domestic violence for more than 30 years and enhances response and prevention efforts through training, public policy advocacy, public awareness programs, and technical assistance to professionals. www.vsdvalliance.org @VActionAlliance

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www.vsdvalliance.org