

## Religion & DV Issues Committee Meeting

Minutes for November 23, 2021

Meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Bernita Walker. Introductions found present Varsha N., Co-chair; Cecelia Walker, Co-chair; Rae Marie Martinez, Marci Patera, Takiya Benjamin, and Isabel Checa.

Attendees were invited to share their organizational affiliation and to reflect on what they are grateful for as the Thanksgiving holiday approaches.

Guest Speaker, Rae Marie Martinez of United American Indian Involvement shared about historical context of the treatment of American Indian Tribes providing understanding of the current vulnerabilities and ongoing prevalence of Domestic Violence, and Sexual Assault in these communities. She provided perspectives regarding religion/spirituality, and offered tips on effective service provision, including the importance of connecting the survivor to their tribe, recognizing the important role of the Elders in providing support and empowerment, and being proactive about avoiding stereotypes.

Matters not posted on the agenda: none

Comments: None

Next meeting is January 25, 2021

Meeting adjourned at 3:00pm