

**Elko Committee Against Domestic Violence dba Harbor House**

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[www.elkoharborhouse.org](http://www.elkoharborhouse.org)

March 9, 2021

Nevada Legislators:

The Committee Against Domestic Violence, also known as Harbor House, has served the Elko County community for more than four decades. We are the only domestic violence shelter for Elko, Eureka and White Pine counties.

CADV staff empowers victims of violence to maintain their safety and independence through ongoing support, shelter, peer counseling, legal advocacy within the civil and criminal justice system and referrals to other services.

CADV has been operating in Elko County since 1980 and Harbor House has been sheltering victims of abuse and their children since 1998. Every year CADV provides free and confidential assistance to 150 to 200 victims of domestic or family violence, sexual assault or stalking.

Statewide there has been a 6% increase in the number of first-time domestic violence victims served. In fiscal year 2019-2020, CADV saw an increase of 7% for first-time domestic violence victims when compared with the 2018-19 fiscal year. When I compared our numbers to the victims we helped in fiscal year 2017-18 to last fiscal year it was a 59% increase in new individuals served.

While many people know CADV helps domestic violence victims, most don't know that we also assist sexual assault victims. Every year we provide services to adults and children who are sexual assault survivors.

Just like domestic violence victims, sexual assault survivors can be anyone. Our clients range in age from infants to the elderly, and include all races, genders and socio-economic status.

In fiscal year 2017-18, 13.8% of our clients were sexual assault survivors. In 2018-19 fiscal year, 16.3% of our clients were victims of a sexual assault and in 2019-20 fiscal year 7.4% identified as a sexual assault victim.

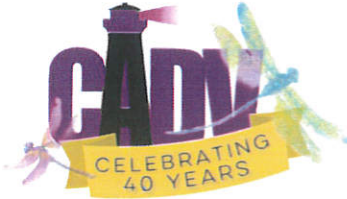
In the current fiscal year, we are already seeing an increase from the previous year. From July 1, 2020 to Dec. 31, 2020, 7.9% of CADV clients were sexual assault survivors.

All of these numbers include adult and child sexual abuse victims and people who were sex trafficked.

We do not charge our clients for any of the services we provide. To be able to provide assistance to victims of violence our organization is funded through grants, private donations and volunteers.

Marriage License sales have been a source of funding that allows us to pay for services and staff that federal grants don't help with the daily operation of CADV. Unfortunately, this fund saw a two-third reduction in 2019 and greatly impacted all agencies statewide. CADV lost \$81,198 from our budget because of this decrease. In December 2020, the state was able to provide additional funding, but it only increased our amount of funding by \$32,481.

The Marriage License fund also acts as match to the federal grants we receive. The federal grants require CADV to provide a 20% match. State funding is an efficient way to meet this requirement. Federal funding allows CADV to pay staff providing direct services, but it doesn't pay for those who manage staff, write the grants or do the day-to-day business operations of Harbor House.



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Restrictions with COVID-19 also have impacted how many people we can have in shelter. Harbor House can accommodate up to 24 people in shelter or 7 families, but with restrictions we had to limit it to 12 people or 4 families in the shelter at one time. We have bedroom suites that are set up with two bedrooms connected to one bathroom. Since Harbor House was built in 1998 we have not had a waiting list, but there have been a few times in the last year that Harbor House was full and if we had one more client need shelter at that time we would have had to find additional accommodations or put the family on a wait list.

CADV staff are the only trained sexual assault advocates available 24-hours a day, seven days a week to support victims through severe trauma. Local hospitals and law enforcement have no one to support the victim as they seek to engage with them.

CADV staff consists of seven people, including myself, who are trained to help victims navigate their way through the medical, social service, law enforcement and judicial systems after being traumatized by violence. One of the most important things for a victim to have after a brutal assault is support and understanding on what they are going through. This is what CADV advocates provide. Victims who have support are more likely to work with law enforcement and assist the system in prosecuting their case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Marianne McKown'.

Marianne McKown, CADV Executive Director