



**New York State Coalition
Against Sexual Assault**
Believing. Healing. Preventing.

January 22, 2024

Dear members, partners, and friends:

I am reaching out to you today as the Interim Executive Director of the New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault. I assumed this role on November 1, 2023, and am honored to step into this position. The NYSCASA team and I are dedicated to upholding the legacy of those who have tirelessly worked towards ending all forms of sexual violence and exploitation through the NYSCASA mission.

During these recent months, there have been some changes in our organization's staff and structure. However, I am confident in our ability to continue providing the services, advocacy, and expertise that you rely on. This transitional period allows us to strengthen our foundation, foster collaboration, and explore avenues to address our community's evolving needs. I will continue to update you as we solidify our plan to restructure internally, create new positions, and hire team members.

NYSCASA is committed to advocating for the support, funding, and services needed within your communities and programs. We recognize that rape crisis programs have stretched budgets, high turnover, declining community resources, increasingly complex survivor needs, and a need for more resources to allow equity and accessibility in your programming.

NYSCASA exists to create a sense of community, encourage teamwork, share knowledge and educational resources, provide technical assistance and be a collaborative group. It is crucial that individuals who have experienced violence receive the necessary assistance, access to resources, and innovative support they deserve. Advocates also deserve access to resources and guidance that can adapt to their evolving needs, as well as the chance to be heard. These are the factors that contribute to NYSCASA being a coalition.

We want to hear what is happening within your communities and how NYSCASA can help. I will be available for Zoom appointments in the coming weeks for those interested in engaging in dialogue. You can access the appointment [link here](#). I eagerly anticipate creating spaces for these discussions and fostering a connection between NYSCASA and providers of rape crisis services, partners, and supporters in the coming months.

If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at wrivera@nyscasa.org. 518.482.4222. We understand that changes within an organization can be complex. We encourage you to join us in embracing the importance of teamwork, creativity, and adaptability as we progress.

Thank you for all you do every day on behalf of victims and survivors of sexual assault.

Sincerely,

Will Rivera