



SPEAKER BIO

TERESA STAFFORD



Teresa M. Stafford is the Senior Director of Victim Services and Outreach at Cleveland Rape Crisis Center (CRCC). Teresa oversees the agency's 24-hour response to survivors, criminal justice advocacy, Project STAR (sex trafficking, advocacy and recovery), Hogar Conseulo and administers professional development trainings across the state and on a national level. Teresa has over 20 years of experience providing direct service to both offenders and victims of crime, with a specialization in sexual violence, domestic violence and families of homicide victims. Teresa attended Tiffin University majoring in Criminal

Justice Administration. Prior to joining CRCC, she held the position of Witness-Victim Coordinator for Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office, where she oversaw the creation of the Witness Victim Unit. Teresa is also a contract consultant with International Association of Chief of Police.

In addition to her current role Teresa is also the Cuyahoga County Sexual Assault Response Team Coordinator, a member of the Ohio Attorney General's SART Training Team, advisory board member for Safe Harbor Docket, Cuyahoga County Untested Sexual Assault Kit Taskforce member and former Board President for Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence. Teresa provides expertise and consultation to communities developing their Sexual Assault Response Teams, training to law enforcement agencies regarding the dynamics of sexual violence, human trafficking and working with sexual assault survivors. Teresa specializes in working with faith based communities, multi-disciplinary teams and systems to enhance their ability to respond to all survivors of sexual violence in a trauma informed manner. Teresa is a social justice activist who is committed to eliminating factors that marginalize survivors and increase their ability to access services. Teresa also provides mentorship to new advocates in the field and is a leader with the Women of Color Caucus in Ohio.

Teresa has received several awards over her career including the Gloria Pointer Award for Supporting Families of Victims, Peter DeMarco Exemplary Service Award and National Sexual Violence Resource Center Visionary Award.