



2025 7th Annual SAAM Suffolk County Campus Sexual Assault Prevention **Enough is Enough** Virtual Conference April 16th 2025

Virtually through Zoom – [Click here to Register](#)

9:00 – 10:00

Introduction by Laura A. Ahearn, Esq., LMSW, Executive Director,
Crime Victims Center, Inc.

Guest Speakers:

Monica R. Martinez, New York State Senator

Bea Hanson, PhD, MSW, Executive Director, Office for Victim Services

Kelli Nicholas Owens, Executive Director, NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

Title IX Overview

Christina Vargas, MS, Suffolk County Community College, Title IX Coordinator

10:10 – 11:00

Title IX Panel

Moderated by **Christina Vargas, MS, Suffolk County Community College, Title IX Coordinator, Chief Diversity Officer**

Panelists include **Dr. Dionne Walker-Belgrave, EdD, MBA, Suffolk County Community College**

Kathleen Flynn, MA, MCHES Farmingdale State College

Jean Anne Smith, Long Island University

Melissa Wallace, Esq., New York Institute of Technology

11:10 – 12:00

An Overview of Sex Crimes and Consent

Melissa Grier and Kapish Barry - Assistant District Attorney's, Suffolk County District Attorney's Office

12:10 – 1:00

Evidence Collection Using the NYS Sexual Offense Evidence Collection Kit (SOECK) also known as the "Rape Kit"

Nancy Harris, RN, SANE-A/P, NYS-Certified Forensic Nurse,
Medical Manager for St. Peter's Health Partners

1:10 – 2:00

Inside the Crime Lab: Examining Evidence from NYS Sexual Offense Evidence Collection Kits

Christina Barry, MS, Forensic Scientist II, Suffolk County Crime Lab

2:10 – 3:00

Enough is Enough College Panel

Moderated by **Dulcie Delfonce, BA, OPDV Domestic Violence Program Specialist & Amanda Jesser-Peña, MA, CVC**
Director of Prevention and Development with panelists **Latorsha Washington, The Crime Victims Center, Rossy**
Bran, The Retreat, & Max Henin, ECLI VIBES

Workshop I 11:10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

An Overview of Sex Crimes and Consent

Presented by **Melissa Grier & Kapish Barry** - Assistant District Attorney's, Suffolk County District Attorney's Office

This presentation will consist of an overview of criminal charges pertaining to sexual assault which are commonly encountered on a college campus. The presenters will discuss, among other things, the elements of those crimes, relevant statute of limitations considerations, and commonly held concerns by victims of sexual abuse. Finally, the presenters will provide an overview of how a criminal case travels through the criminal justice system, including obstacles the prosecution faces and victim considerations.

Workshop II 12:10 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Evidence Collection Using the NYS Sexual Offense Evidence Collection Kit (SOECK) also known as the "Rape Kit"

Presented by **Nancy Harris, RN, SANE-A/P, NYS-Certified Forensic Nurse**, Medical Manager for St. Peter's Health Partners

This workshop provides a comprehensive overview of the New York State Sexual Offense Evidence Collection Kit. Participants will learn step-by-step procedures for collecting, preserving, and documenting evidence in cases of sexual offenses. The session emphasizes best practices to ensure accuracy, integrity, and compliance with legal standards. Ideal for professionals in multidisciplinary response including those in healthcare, law enforcement, forensic sciences, advocates and rape crisis counselors.

Workshop III 1:10 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

"Inside the Crime Lab: Examining Evidence from NYS Sexual Offense Evidence Collection Kits"

Presented by **Christina Barry, MS**, Forensic Scientist II, Suffolk County Crime Lab

This session explores the forensic examination of evidence submitted from the New York State Sexual Offense Evidence Collection Kit once it reaches the crime laboratory. Participants will gain insight into the step-by-step process forensic analysts follow when opening and analyzing each component of the kit. The workshop will focus on the identification of biological materials such as blood, saliva, and semen, with the goal of obtaining DNA profiles that may lead to potential matches. This session is ideal for professionals interested in understanding the critical role of forensic analysis in the investigation of sexual offenses.

Workshop IV 2:10 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Enough is Enough: College Panel

Moderated by **Dulcie Delfonce, BA**, OPDV Domestic Violence Program Specialist & **Amanda Jesser-Peña, MA**, CVC Director of Prevention and Development

Panelists include **Latorsha Washington**, The Crime Victims Center, **Rosy Bran**, The Retreat, & **Max Henin**, ECLI VIBES. College students deserve a safe, healthy, and nurturing environment free from discrimination and violence. In July 2015, New York established Enough is Enough (EiE) to address sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking on college campuses. This panel will provide answers to how College and University EiE and Title IX professionals can respond to different types of sexual violence on college campuses. During this panel, EiE educators from local providers will share their thoughts on how to address sexual violence on college campuses.

About the Speakers

Laura A. Ahearn, Esq., LMSW, Executive Director, Suffolk County Crime Victims Center, Inc.

Laura A. Ahearn is a NYS licensed attorney and social worker, founder and executive director of the Crime Victims Center (CVC). The CVC is dedicated to the prevention and treatment of sexual assault and the provision of comprehensive trauma informed support services to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, human trafficking, hate crime, all victims of violent crime including survivors of homicide, and elderly, minor, and disabled victims of all crime. The CVC implements a Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE) and Rape Crisis Counselor (RCC) Response program to respond to acute sexual assault victims presenting in Suffolk Eds. The CVC also educates medical providers to perform SAFE Exams in its IAFN-approved 56-hour didactic and clinical SAFE Training Program. The agency provides over 30 curriculum-based evidence-informed or evidenced-based prevention education programs for all ages and to professionals working with children, support services to local, state and federal law enforcement, and policy and legislative support services.

Monica R. Martinez, New York State Senator

Monica R. Martinez, a dedicated public servant, immigrated to the US at age three, fueled by her family's sacrifices. With a BA in History from Binghamton University and a Master's in Education from NYU, Martinez pursued a career in education before transitioning to government. As Suffolk County Legislator, she championed free summer programs and anti-gang initiatives. Notable achievements include founding the Suffolk County Child Care Commission and securing grants for STEM programs. Elected as the first woman of color to represent the Third Senatorial District, Martinez prioritized affordability, education funding, gun safety, healthcare, and environmental protection. Now Chair of Local Government, she continues to advocate for constituents and serve on various committees, committed to improving the lives of all New Yorkers. Senator Martinez has been a CHAMPION for sexual assault prevention and the provision of support services. Senator Martinez has assisted in securing funding to ensure medical providers are educated to perform SAFE exams and victims receive the services they are entitled to. She has introduced several pieces of legislation to ensure the welfare and safety of women and to promote and protect their health. These include monumental chapter amendments such as outlawing the dissemination of intimate images without consent and anti-sexortion protection for victims of non-consensual dissemination of explicit images; increasing access to mammograms especially for women under 40; and increased access to menstrual health resources for the protection of women's health. Senator Martinez has supported legislation to protect pregnant individuals during enrollment periods; and supported a campaign for uterine fibroid awareness.

Bea Hanson, PhD, MSW, Executive Director, NYS Office for Victim Services,

Bea Hanson is the Director of the New York State Office of Victim Services where she is responsible for overseeing compensation for victims of crime and grants to more than 200 victim service providers across New York State. She previously served as Senior Advisor to the NYC Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence and Executive Director of the NYC Task Force on Domestic Violence. She previously served as the Principal Deputy Director of the U.S. Office on Violence Against Women, where she led national implementation of the Violence Against Women Act including distribution of nearly \$500 million annually to communities across the country to prevent and respond to domestic and sexual violence. Bea previously served as Chief Program officer for Safe Horizon and was the Director of Client Services at the NYC Anti-Violence Project. She holds a Ph.D. in Social Welfare from CUNY, an MSW from Hunter College, and a B.A. from the University of Michigan.

Kelli Nicholas Owens, Executive Director, NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

Kelli Owens is the Executive Director of the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV), the nation's only executive-level agency solely dedicated to ending gender-based violence. Under her leadership, OPDV works to develop statewide policies and programs that support survivors and promote lasting change. Previously, Owens served as New York State's Director of Women's Affairs, where she helped launch the first-ever Council on Women and Girls and led key initiatives under the state's Women's Agenda. She played a central role in advancing landmark legislation, including the Reproductive Health Act, Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act, and major reforms in reproductive health, maternal care, workplace protections, and pay equity. Owens brings deep experience in advocacy and public policy, having held senior roles at Family Planning Advocates/Planned Parenthood Advocates of New York and the YWCAs of the Northeast Region. She holds a B.A. in Political Science from Utica College of Syracuse University.

Workshop Presenters

Melissa Grier, Assistant District Attorney, Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Bureau, at The Suffolk County District Attorney's Office

Melissa Grier graduated from Hofstra Law School in 2009 after receiving her bachelor's and master's degrees from Boston University in 2004. Melissa is a Principal Assistant District Attorney currently assigned to the Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Bureau of the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office. During her tenure in the office, she has prosecuted and tried numerous cases, including charges of Murder, Rape, Assault, Strangulation, and Unlawful Surveillance. Melissa is also the handler of Tillman III, a certified facility dog who works with all victims and people he encounters at the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office.

Kapish Barry, Assistant District Attorney, Major Crime Bureau, at The Suffolk County District Attorney's Office

Kapish Barry has been with the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office since 2019 and is currently assigned to the Major Crime Bureau. Mr. Barry prosecutes a wide range of felonies including burglaries, robberies, and assaults. Mr. Barry is also on the VAWA team which is a unit in the Major Crime Bureau. The unit stands for violence against women but has since expanded to include anyone who has been the victim of sexual violence. In that unit, Mr. Barry prosecutes sex-based offenses between strangers where the victim and the defendant are: (1) not married; (2) do not have children together; and (3) do not reside together. Mr. Barry obtained his LL.M. from Benjamin Cardozo Law school in 2019 and obtained his J.D. from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law in 2018.

Nancy Harris, RN, SANE-A/P, NYS-Certified Forensic Nurse, Medical Manager for St. Peter's Health Partners

Nancy Harris has been a dedicated forensic nurse since 1997, specializing in adolescent and adult care, and expanding to pediatrics in 2001. She is certified by New York State and nationally through the International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN). Nancy has extensive experience working with survivors of sexual assault, domestic and interpersonal violence, elder abuse, and child abuse. She is also recognized for developing new programs, delivering trainings and presentations, and assisting in writing policies, protocols, and grants to support trauma-informed care.

Christina Barry, MS, Forensic Scientist II, Suffolk County Crime Lab

Christina Barry is a Forensic Scientist II at the Suffolk County Crime Lab. She joined the lab in September 2019 as a Forensic Scientist I and was promoted in 2022. She has served as the alternate CODIS Casework Administrator since 2020. Christina began her forensic science career at the NYC Office of Chief Medical Examiner, where she worked as a Criminalist II. She holds a Bachelors degree in Psychology from SUNY Stony Brook and a Masters in Forensic Science from Pace University.

Dulcie Delfonce, BA, *Domestic Violence Program Specialist, OPDV*

Dulcie Delfonce, is a Gender Violence Prevention Specialist at the NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV). She co-manages the Enough is Enough (EiE) program where she assists in technical assistance, evaluates the program's performance, provides support, and manages the day-to day needs of funded programs in the Downstate region. Prior to co-managing EiE, Ms. Delfonce worked as a trainer at OPDV, where she facilitated trainings to service providers using a survivor centered, culturally responsive and trauma-informed framework to train on the intersection of domestic violence and gender-based violence in their respective fields. She also has experience in the non-profit sector where she provided trauma-informed advocacy to commercially sexually exploited youth, sexual assault and domestic violence survivors and co-survivors. Ms. Delfonce has been in the violence prevention field for more than a decade. She has her BA in Gender Women Studies from SUNY Plattsburgh.

Title IX Overview and Panelists

**Christina Vargas, MS, *Title IX Coordinator, Chief Diversity Officer,*
*Suffolk County Community College***

Christina Vargas is the Chief Diversity Officer and Title IX Coordinator at Suffolk County Community College. She has the responsibility for developing, leading, providing oversight and meeting strategic initiatives and priorities related to diversity, equity and inclusion for faculty, staff, and students. She also oversees compliance with anti-discrimination policies and harassment complaint resolutions. Previously, she spent 20 years of her career at Stony Brook University, serving as Director of Diversity and Affirmative Action/Title IX Coordinator for all University academic and administrative areas, Stony Brook Medicine and the Long Island State Veteran's home. Throughout her career, she has displayed a passion for social justice, multiculturalism, inclusion and equity and has worked to bring various communities together in partnership. Ms. Vargas was selected as a 2020 Fellow of the SUNY Hispanic Leadership Institute, is on the Board of Directors for ERASE Racism, Inc., is a past President of Stony Brook University's Alumni Association, and serves an adjunct lecturer for the Master's Program in Higher Education Administration at Stony Brook University. Ms. Vargas received her Bachelor of Science in Business Management and her Master of Science in Management and Policy from Stony Brook. She holds a Diversity Management Certification as an Advanced Practitioner from Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations.

**Dr. Dionne Walker-Belgrave, EdD, MBA, *Affirmative Action Officer, Deputy to the Chief*
*Diversity Officer and Title IX Coordinator, Suffolk County Community College***

Dr. Dionne Walker-Belgrave received her B.S. degree in Business Administration from SUNY New Paltz, M.B.A. with a concentration in Finance from Adelphi University, and an Ed.D. from Dowling College in Educational Administration. She was part of the inaugural professionals to receive the Cornell Certified Diversity Professional (CCDP) and Advanced Diversity Practitioner (CCDP/AP) Certifications. Dr. Walker-Belgrave holds an EEO-Affirmative Action Certificate and Diversity Management Certificate from Cornell University. Additionally, she holds a Management Development Program (MDP) Certificate from Harvard University. She is the Affirmative Action Officer, Deputy to the Chief Diversity Officer and Title IX Coordinator at Suffolk County Community College. She is responsible for work with the CDO in the development, leadership, oversight, and achievement of strategic initiatives at the institution, as well as priorities related to diversity and inclusion for faculty, staff, students and the community at large. Dr. Walker-Belgrave also aids in college-wide planning, compliance, recruitment, training, educational access efforts, anti-discrimination policies, and harassment complaint resolution for academic and administrative areas. With over thirty years of combined corporate and higher education experience, Dr. Walker-Belgrave has served in roles such as, Assistant Dean of Students; Director of Affirmative Action/Equity and Diversity; Director of Financial Aid; Financial Auditor; Budget Analyst and currently the CEO of her own consultant business, DWB of New York, LLC. She has continuously exhibited devotion to DEI and social justice advocacy within various communities and abroad through her research, service, and collaborative initiatives. Dr. Walker-Belgrave was selected as a Harvard Institute for Higher Education (HIHE) participant, serves as a member of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), 3rd Vice President - Suffolk County Coalition of 100 Black Women Inc., Long Island Urban League and State of Long Island (SOBLI), and Suffolk County Anti-Bias Task Force, Suffolk County Human Rights Commissioner, Director of the Suffolk County StopBias program, partner in - Erase Racism, and past Chairwoman for New York State's Regional Affirmative Action Officers.

Kathleen Flynn, MA, MCHES, Title IX Coordinator, Farmingdale State College

Kathleen Flynn is the Title IX Coordinator at Farmingdale State College. She brings years of higher education experience, specifically in the student services area, to the college. She has worked in health education, prevention, and addiction studies and has been a prevention specialist since 1994. She also served as a rape crisis counselor, which inspired her to take on the role of the Title IX Coordinator at Farmingdale. Kathleen is currently an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Addiction Studies Program at Suffolk County Community College. Her other teaching experiences include having been an Adjunct Professor for the School of Health Sciences at Adelphi University and in Stony Brook University's Department of Preventive Health, teaching at Seafeld Inpatient Substance Abuse Treatment Center, and at the Association of Mental Health & Wellness. Additionally, she was a Public Health Educator for Suffolk County Department of Health in their Tobacco Free Program. Kathleen has been a prevention specialist with 25+ years of experience in educational instruction staff training, public health & health studies instruction, alcohol and other drug prevention programming, business administration, survey administration and analyses, sexual abuse prevention, and smoking cessation. Kathleen previously was the OASAS College Environmental Prevention Grant Coordinator at Suffolk County Community. The grant focused on the prevention of underage drinking and prescription drug abuse. She was also a Health Educator at Stony Brook University for 14 years. Kathleen earned a Bachelor's Degree in Communications from SUNY Buffalo and a Master's Degree in Community Health from Adelphi University and has received extensive training in Title IX, Gender harassment, substance use, and substance use disorders.

Jean Anne Smith, MA, Senior Women Administrator and Deputy Title IX Coordinator, Long Island University

Jean Anne Smith serves as the Senior Women Administrator and Deputy Title IX Coordinator at Long Island University, where she plays a pivotal role in fostering a safe and inclusive campus environment. Before her current role, she also served as the Associate Dean of Students at Long Island University. Prior to joining Long Island University, she held positions at Hofstra University, where she worked as the Associate Director of Residential Life Operations and as the Associate Director of Campus Life.

Melissa D. Wallace, Esq., Equity Officer, Title IX Coordinator, and 504 Coordinator at New York Institute of Technology

Melissa D. Wallace, Esq., is New York Tech's equity officer, Title IX coordinator, and Section 504 coordinator. She earned her J.D. from St. John's University School of Law and her B.S. from St. John's University. Wallace oversees compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, New York State Education Law Article 129-B ("Enough is Enough") and other federal, state, and local laws pertaining to sex discrimination and gender-based misconduct. Wallace also oversees compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and other laws pertaining to protecting qualified individuals from discrimination based on their disability. As the university's Equity Officer, she collaborates with stakeholders to impact the institution's equity, inclusion, diversity, and belonging goals. While Wallace is based at the Long Island campus, she serves students, faculty, and staff at all New York Tech campuses. Her career path includes serving as Kings County Assistant District Attorney, Nassau County Assistant District Attorney, and Equal Opportunity Investigator with the New York City Department of Education. A consummate professional, she has particular expertise in conducting sensitive investigations.

24/7 Crisis Hotlines:



The Crime Victims Center:

Office:	(631) 689-2672
24/7 Rape Crisis Hotline:	(631) 332-9234
24/7 Domestic Violence Hotline	(631) 624-1084