Message from the CEO

Summer 2026

Are you hot yet? If there's one thing we appreciate in Nevada, it's that heat, like all things, is relative. In the summer everyone feels hot, but what exactly hot might mean is vastly different. As I write this, it is currently 102 in Henderson and will get up to 112 in a few days. At the same time, it is 93 in Elko, heading to 98. Let's be clear, 98 degrees is hot. It's just not the same hot as 112. When I get on a call with our colleagues in Elko I never think, "why don't they just understand that their heat isn't that bad?" Instead, I wonder and ask about air conditioning, pools, cool drinks and sunscreen. Because dehydration and sunstroke can happen when we don't have safe environments, period.

The compassion of advocacy is similar to the relativity of summer weather in Nevada. Entirely too often we meet victim-survivors who dismiss the validity of their own trauma by comparing it with stories in the headlines. They have internalized their abusers asking them what they are crying for and telling them that they don't have anything to be upset about. Advocates understand that gaslighting is a foundational characteristic of abuse. Advocates help each individual reality check and recognize that they are, and deserve to be, worthy of attention and resources. Advocates keep each person at the center of their own healing journey, helping every victim-survivor find their own resources for air conditioning, safe water, and the best pools for relaxing. Identifying sustainably safe environments.

Throughout this newsletter are a number of opportunities for building safer environments in Nevada. I encourage you to take the time to read about each and think about where you would most like to become more involved.

And while you are strengthening your community, don't forget that our community is also here to support you. NCEDSV's annual conference this year, Guidance for Growth, will be in Las Vegas from September 15-17. Applications for two types of scholarships are open until the end of July. I hope that you will join us for three days of sharing, learning, growing and renewing our collective energy.

Until I see you next – let's all find some time to sit in a cool spot with an icy drink.

May you be happy,
May you be healthy,
May you be safe,
May you be strong,

Elizabeth
Chief Executive Officer

