

Julie Boland

Center for Prevention of Abuse

Position: Director of Sexual Assault and Advocacy Services

Time at Agency: 37 years

Commitment to advocacy on behalf of those affected by domestic violence:

Julie Boland has spent nearly 40 years advocating for domestic violence survivors. As the Director of Sexual Assault and Advocacy Services at the Center for Prevention of Abuse (CFPA) in Peoria, Illinois, she leads efforts to support and empower survivors. She oversees the Sexual Assault Services program and the Order of Protection offices in Peoria, Tazewell, and Woodford counties, ensuring access to essential legal resources and protection. Julie also manages a 24-hour medical advocacy response program, providing immediate and compassionate care for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and elder abuse. This program addresses both medical and emotional needs, emphasizing holistic care in the recovery process. Her extensive advocacy work has significantly raised awareness and addressed the needs of those affected by domestic violence, making her a key figure in the fight for justice and healing.

Personal qualities that reflect an ongoing commitment to ethical, peaceful, and respectful work with others:
Julie Boland's personal qualities reflect her deep commitment to ethical, peaceful, and respectful work. She demonstrates profound empathy and understanding of the emotional and psychological challenges faced by survivors, allowing her to connect with them on a personal level. Her long-standing dedication to advocacy showcases her strong principles and integrity, as she approaches her work with honesty and transparency, ensuring trust in the services CFPA provides.

Julie is incredibly resilient, navigating challenging situations while remaining steadfast in CFPA's mission to help people live free from violence and abuse. Her role requires effective collaboration with various stakeholders, including legal professionals, healthcare providers, and community organizations. She fosters teamwork and cooperation among her staff and peers, emphasizing the importance of a united front in addressing domestic violence.

Julie's sensitivity to the diverse backgrounds of survivors enables her to provide respectful and tailored support. She leads CFPA's Diversity, Inclusion, and Outreach advisory committee, ensuring representation across all aspects of CFPA.

Ways in which they still instill a spirit of advocacy in others: Julie Boland actively fosters a spirit of advocacy by mentoring new medical advocates and volunteers. She shares her extensive knowledge and experience, helping them understand the critical aspects of advocacy work. Julie encourages them to develop their own voices and approaches while providing support to survivors. She organizes and facilitates training sessions to educate community members and medical professionals about domestic violence, sexual assault, and the role of a medical advocate. These sessions empower participants with the knowledge and skills needed to become effective advocates.

Julie also highlights the successes of individuals and groups within the advocacy community, celebrating their achievements to inspire others. Through these efforts, she promotes a culture of advocacy and equips others with the tools and confidence to advocate for themselves and their communities.



Julie Boland (left) receives her award from incoming ICADV Board Chair, Sharon Spinks (right)



Julie Boland (right) with her mother at the ICADV Annual Meeting

Experience that demonstrates a broad commitment to social justice:

Julie Boland's extensive experience underscores her deep commitment to social justice, especially in the fight to end violence against women. With nearly four decades of advocacy for domestic violence victims, she remains a steadfast voice for social justice, addressing systemic issues surrounding violence against women.

As the Director of Sexual Assault and Advocacy Services at CFPA, Julie oversees vital programs and shapes policies to improve services for survivors. Her leadership enables her to advocate for systemic change at all organizational levels. By managing programs like the Sexual Assault Services program and the 24-hour medical advocacy response program, she ensures survivors receive holistic support, addressing both immediate needs and long-term recovery.

Julie's oversight of the Order of Protection offices demonstrates her commitment to empowering women within the legal system, breaking down barriers that often prevent survivors from seeking justice. She actively engages in community outreach and educational initiatives to raise awareness about domestic violence and sexual assault, contributing to a broader movement for social justice.

Her leadership of CFPA's Diversity, Inclusion, and Outreach advisory committee ensures representation across all aspects of CFPA.

Through these efforts, Julie embodies a robust commitment to social justice, tirelessly working to end violence against women and promote equity, safety, and dignity for all individuals.

Creativity in building the domestic violence movement within a social change framework:

Julie Boland's creativity shines through her innovative approaches to advancing the domestic violence movement within a social change framework. She has developed training sessions focused on Title IX requirements and victim sensitivity, customizing these programs to meet the unique needs of college staff. This ensures they can provide informed and compassionate responses to survivors.

Her past work with Illinois Imagines highlights her ability to build partnerships across different sectors. By bringing together interpersonal violence programs, self-advocates, and disability service providers, she has created an inclusive approach to improving responses for survivors with disabilities.

Julie leads CFPA's Diversity, Inclusion, and Outreach advisory committee, ensuring representation from diverse communities, recognizing that domestic violence can affect anyone. She actively seeks input from survivors and community members to inform her programs and initiatives, making her advocacy efforts both relevant and impactful.

Through these creative initiatives, Julie has not only advanced the domestic violence movement but also fostered a culture of collaboration and innovation, helping to enact meaningful social change that prioritizes the needs of survivors.