

## Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services Board of Directors

### **Lisa Oracheski - President**

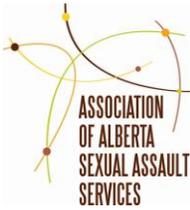
Lisa Oracheski worked in the highway construction industry for 17 years before recently going back to university to work on her BA in Psychology. She became involved in the issue of sexual violence through her 12 years of volunteer work at the University of Alberta Sexual Assault Centre where she provided face-to-face and over the phone crisis intervention and support to clients in the university community. During this time, Lisa was also on the Education team and co-facilitated 50-90 minute presentations on sexual abuse and sexual assault to various university classes, student groups, and high school students. She joined AASAS as a community board member in 2008, and has held the position of President since 2009.

### **Bill Walker – Vice President**

Bill Walker is currently a Municipal and Emergency Management Consultant with Transitional Solutions Inc. which provides management consulting to municipal and other clients and has served as the CAO for the Town of Beaverlodge. Bill previously worked with the City of Grande Prairie for over 40 years and during this time served in the capacity of Fire-fighter, Lieutenant, Chief Fire Prevention Officer, Deputy Fire Chief, Fire Chief, and Manager of Protective & Emergency Services, Protective Services Director and Community Safety Director.

Bill holds the professional designation of Certified Local Government Manager (CLGM). His belief in lifelong learning has led to opportunities in a number of different areas. He has instructed a number of courses and seminars and has presented internationally to diverse groups such as the World Burn Congress and the United Arab Emirates Conference on Environment & Disaster Planning as well as to a number of Alberta and local organizations. Bill has served on the Boards of a number of organizations.

Bill is married to Kim and they have 3 children, 12 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. He is an artist and loves drawing and painting landscapes and people as well as travelling to different areas of the world.



### **Thorna Lawrence - Treasurer**

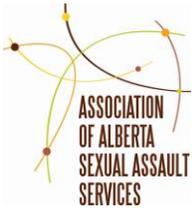
Thorna Lawrence was appointed to the Board in April 2015 and served as the Board's Treasurer. Thorna has extensive consulting and business systems experience in Alberta's private sector and has specialized in business analysis and strategic management and consulting since 1987, working for Alberta's technology and energy sectors. She has operated T.L. Lawrence Consulting since 2005, and has served in consulting roles at Trimac Transportation, Pason Systems, Teck Coal, and Deloitte Touche.

She holds a degree in Economics from the University of Calgary and a Chartered Professional Accountant, Chartered Accountant designation from the Chartered Professional Accountants of Alberta. A strong supporter of volunteer initiatives, she has served as the Chair of the Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse Board for fifteen years and as both treasurer and board member with the United Way of Calgary and Area. She also holds a Directors designation from the Institute of Corporate Directors.

### **Dara Sutton - Secretary**

Dara Sutton BSW RSW – has collaborated with community resource agencies to deliver services to numerous individuals as the Team Leader for the CMHA Housing First Program for the past two years and the Peer Support Coordinator for the Students' Association of Medicine Hat College for the previous three years. Her Human Services career history, over the past twenty-five years, has been diverse within the private and non-profit sectors resulting in advocacy, community participation, and communication experience.

Dara participated in Medicine Hat community enhancement strategies including the Charity to Investment Roundtable, and contributed as an ad hoc committee member to the Community Asset Mapping strategy and Sexual Assault Protocol initiated by the Sexual Assault Response Committee in partnership with the Kind Communities Alliance. Dara considers it an honour to serve as a board member and believes that through community engagement and education the rate of sexualized violence will decrease while the voices of those affected can be heard. It is an ongoing process to recover from violence and taking action has been a central component to the supported resilience Dara has experienced as a survivor.



## **Marilyn Fleger**

Marilyn Fleger has dedicated most of her professional life supporting initiatives that work to create a better life for vulnerable women and has over 20 years of experience in the non-profit sector, working in the areas of women's issues, family violence, women in conflict with the law, and poverty. Within this time, she gained tremendous insight of the social issues that women face with poverty and homelessness through her nine years of work in the inner city of Edmonton.

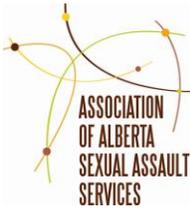
She spent ten years connected with women's shelters while she was the Assistant Director of the Grande Prairie Women's Residence Association; Director of the Camrose Women's Shelter; and Provincial Coordinator of the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters. She also served two years as Chair of the Alberta Advisory Council on Women's Issues; three years with Elizabeth Fry Society addressing issues related to women in conflict with the law and eight years volunteering in the mentoring program at Edmonton Institution for Women. Marilyn is currently retired.

## **Brad Cunningham**

Brad J Cunningham works with the Family and Community Safety Program within the Peavine Metis Settlement, an Indigenous Settlement that supports Metis Culture, Practices, Heritage and Values.

In 2011, Brad started a healing circle for men that were sexually abused as children. Being a survivor of child sexual abuse himself, Brad feels very strongly about this issue and is committed to raising awareness of this crime within his community. Brad would like to continue sharing his life experiences and breaking the silence around this crime, and will continue working towards changing the justice system to be more supportive of sexual abuse and sexual assault survivors. Today Brad works with the Provincial Government in a program called the Family and Community Safety Program.

Brad has completed a Community Safety Plan with the Federal Government and is currently working with the Federal Government to have them provide programs and services that will raise awareness and promote the education when it comes to the prevention of sexual violence, domestic violence and suicide prevention.



## **Rhonda Steinwand**

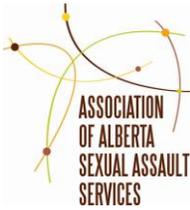
Rhonda has been a Licensed Practical Nurse in rural Alberta for 32 years and adding. She has dealt with sexual abuse on a personal and professional level and has deeply felt the arrogance and ignorance which led her to put some of her passion into this work. For the past 6 years she has been fortunate to be on the board of Association of Communities Against Abuse out of Stettler and also the AASAS Board. It is so vital to not only maintain but to obtain as many healthcare related services especially out in our more rural and remote areas. Rhonda wants to help work at breaking the silence and bridge the gap between victim to victory.

## **Brenda Murdoch**

Brenda Murdoch is a recently retired Senior Constable from the Calgary Police Service. She has worked in various units including the Domestic Violence Unit with CONNECT Family & Sexual Abuse Network, the Diversity Resource Team and SORCe (collaborative resource centre for the homeless). Brenda has presented to police recruits, health and the community on sexual assault, domestic violence, cultural diversity and the homeless. She has also presented on Animal Abuse and the Link to Violent Criminal Behavior. Brenda has a passion for working in collaborative environments and developing innovative ways to prevent and respond to sexual assault and domestic violence.

Brenda is a Certified Forensic and Composite Sketch Artist who worked with victims of sexual assault and other violent crimes to successfully create an image of the offender resulting in numerous identifications.

Brenda holds a BSc. in Zoology from the University of Calgary. Prior to policing, she worked at the Chief Medical Examiner's Office assisting with sudden death investigations and she has worked as a manager for the Calgary Health Region. She has volunteered previously in wildlife rehabilitation and served on two related Boards.



## **Linda McCracken**

Linda McCracken has 45 years of nursing experience, the majority within the emergency care sector here in Alberta. Over those years her practice evolved to include the clinical forensic aspects of emergency care and authored/published papers on the topic. With a full certificate in Forensic Studies from Mount Royal University and having served as a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner with the Calgary Sexual Assault Response Team, Linda gleaned a clearer understanding on the importance of practicing trauma & violence informed care. Sharing this knowledge & passion, since 2001, Linda has championed healthcare provider training across the province on universal assessment & response for survivors of domestic & sexual violence/abuse. Along with her collaborative partners in Social & Justice she helped develop a Train-the-Trainer curriculum on domestic violence/abuse response for the Calgary Zone Emergency/Urgent Care and Maternal & Child Health portfolios and e-learning modules for both Alberta Health Services (AHS) & Primary Care Network staff. She has had a longstanding relationship with RCMP Victims Services and the Victim Assistance Unit of the Calgary Police Services in providing training to their volunteers on sexual assault response and the intersect of intimate partner sexual violence

In 2007 Linda became the Domestic Violence Program Coordinator for AHS-Calgary Zone. She received the 2012 Government of Alberta Inspiration Award on Leadership in Family Violence Prevention as well as an Honorary Lifetime Award for longtime service and contributions to the National Emergency Nurses Affiliation of Canada (served as a BOD member 1992-1996). In addition, Linda serves as a consultant for frontline staff and various AHS clinical policy/procedures and guideline domestic violence working groups and Workplace Health & Safety required operational practices committees.