ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Debi S. Edmund, M.A., is a certified alcohol and drug counselor, a trained domestic violence advocate and a licensed professional counselor. She has several years of experience working with people presenting with multiple issues – among them, interpersonal violence, substance abuse, mental health issues and homelessness. She has worked in a drug and alcohol treatment center, a domestic violence shelter, a behavioral health center and a transitional living program for survivors of sex work, as well as a re-entry program for incarcerated women returning to the community.

She was a member of the Domestic Violence/Substance Abuse Interdisciplinary Task Force of the Illinois Department of Human Services from 1999-2004, where she served as editor of Safety and Sobriety: Best Practices in Domestic Violence and Substance Abuse. She also is co-author and editor, with Patricia Bland, of Getting Safe and Sober: Real Tools You Can Use, published in 2005 and updated in 2008 by the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

Patricia J. Bland, M.A., CDP, is the director of Substance Abuse Training and Technical Assistance for the National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma & Mental Health in Chicago, IL. Patti served as director of the Train the Trainer Project for the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in Juneau for ten years. She is an Associate for the Vera Institute of Justice in NY and serves as a consultant for the University of Northern Iowa Graduate School of Social Work Integrated Services Program. Before moving to Alaska, Patti served both as an advocate and lead chemical dependency counselor at New Beginnings for Battered Women and their Children shelter, transitional housing and community-based programs in Seattle for twelve years. She developed the Domestic Violence/Chemical Dependency Outreach Project for King County at the Alcohol Drug Help Line in 1994 where she worked closely with Consejo, Seattle Indian Health Board, Abused Deaf Women’s Advocacy Services, Refugee Women’s Alliance and other programs serving individuals and families impacted by domestic violence/sexual assault and substance use disorders.

Patti served as the Trainer for Providence Health System’s Family Violence Program for five years, as an Adjunct Professor at Antioch University (teaching graduate course work in psychology) as well as undergraduate course work at Seattle Central Community College. Patti also was an instructor for Child Protective Services at CPS Academy in Seattle, WA. She has published several articles on chemical dependency and domestic violence and completed development of domestic violence curricula for the Washington State Medical Association and the Perinatal Partnership Against Domestic Violence. Patti has provided training and technical assistance on the intersection between substance use issues and violence against women in 47 states and internationally. She is the author of the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Curriculum for Advocates and co-author, with Debi Edmund, of Safety and Sobriety: Real Tools You Can Use. ‘Real Tools’ manuals (in both English and Spanish language versions) can be found at the ANDVSA website: http://www.andvsa.org.