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NEWS RELEASE

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THE WOMEN’S FORUM OF NC DISCUSSES DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND MENTAL HEALTH DURING COVID

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Women’s Forum of North Carolina is hosting a Lunchtime Conversation titled “Domestic violence and mental health: inside the pandemic pressure cooker,” on Monday, April 19, 2021. The event will be held via Zoom from 11:45 a.m. until 1:15 p.m., and Cassandra Rowe, the Healthcare Program Coordinator for the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence, will be speaking.

Virginia Adamson, President of the Women’s Forum of NC, said: “The Coronavirus pandemic truly is a pressure cooker for many women and children. This Lunchtime Conversation will aid the Forum’s members in understanding this vital public yet personal issue in our state.”

The North Carolina Department of Administration released a report in December of 2020 that detailed the COVID-19 pandemic’s gendered and racial toll on women and families in North Carolina. The report found that 94% of domestic violence service providers in North Carolina reported unexpected costs associated with the pandemic, and 75% of service providers reported increased demands for services. The pandemic is at the root of the rise of intimate partner violence and the current mental health crisis. Stay at home orders were meant to prevent the spread of the virus, but many felt unsafe at home and created dual danger for women and men

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who suffer from domestic violence. Health and economic stressors also have adverse effects on North Carolinian's mental health.

Cassandra Rowe has been with the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence for the last five years, leading its programming focused on intimate partner violence, health and healthcare. Rowe earned a Master of Public Health degree from the Gillings School of Global Public Health at UNC-Chapel Hill in 2014. Before working at NCCADV, she had experience working as a sexual assault crisis counselor at the Rape Abuse and Incest National Network and public health researcher at the UNC Sheps Center for Health Services Research, Population Services International and Palladium.

The Women's Forum of North Carolina holds educational luncheons around the state on a monthly and quarterly basis. These luncheons are open to both members and their guests. The Women's Forum of North Carolina is reaching out to members in different ways during COVID-19. The pandemic created an opportunity for members across the state to be able to engage in these conversations virtually rather than having to travel.

The Women's Forum of North Carolina provides a vehicle through which women are effective agents for constructive change by speaking out and taking action on public issues, through the development of potential women leaders and as a force for the enhancement and enrichment of the lives of all North Carolina Women. To register for the event, visit

<https://womensforumnc.org/events/#!event/2021/4/19/april-lunchtime-conversation-domestic-violence-and-mental-health-inside-the-pandemic-pressure-cooker>.

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