

# Debra Robbin, Ed.M

## Executive Director



Since joining Jane Doe Inc. in 2002, Debra has provided leadership for the Coalition's advocacy, education and prevention efforts. She served as the Interim Executive Director since October 2014 before being appointed as Executive Director in early 2015. Working to support survivors and prevent sexual and domestic violence for more than 30 years, Debra is a respected leader across Massachusetts and the nation.

Debra has played a central role in the policy, prevention and services initiatives of the Coalition. Under her leadership, the Coalition has expanded its efforts to mobilize men and boys, to address the needs of underserved communities, and to strengthen both core services and prevention efforts. Through her involvement with the Governor's Council to Address Sexual and Domestic Violence, her role as Co-Chair of the Massachusetts State Prevention Team and Teen Sexual and Dating Violence Prevention Task Force, she has helped shape the policies and priorities of the state's systems and services in supporting survivors, holding offenders accountable, and preventing violence and abuse.

Debra began her work in this field as an intern with the domestic violence program at the YWCA of Central Massachusetts. She later served as Executive Director of The Women's Center in New Bedford, overseeing programs in women's health, domestic violence and sexual assault. During her tenure at Casa Myrna, Debra's accomplishments included training hundreds of service through an infant mortality prevention grant, developing numerous culturally appropriate curriculum and resources, creating a peer led teen dating violence prevention project, and founding SafeLink, the first statewide domestic violence hotline in the Commonwealth.

Debra trained and presented locally, statewide and nationally on sexual assault and domestic and dating violence issues, gender equity and violence prevention. She has been a consultant on program development, non-profit management, evaluation measures and grant writing. She was an early board member of Massachusetts Chapter of Employers Against Domestic Violence and has volunteered with several community-based organizations as board member and facilitator, with a particular interest in social justice, youth empowerment and community organizing.

Debra is passionate about social justice and the changes needed to ensure a peaceful, equitable and inclusive society. When she isn't at JDI, she enjoys yoga, gardening, cooking, her kitties, reading and hanging out with family and friends.

### WORDS THAT INSPIRE

"When I dare to be powerful - to use my strength in the service of my vision, then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid."

*Audre Lorde*

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The Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence