

## **Dakota M Draconi, MSW**

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Dakota received a Master of Social Work (With Distinction) from California State University, Fresno in 2012. She also received the Student Affairs Graduate Dean's Medal for her extensive accomplishments in graduate school. In 2008, she received a Bachelor of Arts in Women's Studies from California State University, Fresno.



Dakota is a member of the leadership team of the National Coalition Building Institute Fresno State Affiliate Team, is a peer counselor with Fresno State's Violence Prevention Project, and is a certified domestic violence crisis counselor with Marjaree Mason Center in Fresno.

Dakota is the mother of three grown sons, and a survivor of severe child abuse. She co-founded Breaking the Silence, a local not-for-profit child abuse awareness organization. Through her own experiences, as well as her education in the field, she has developed a deep passion for raising awareness on child abuse and related issues.

Dakota has been providing guest lectures and presentations throughout the Fresno/Clovis community since 1999 to classes and groups at Fresno City College, California State University Fresno, Alliant International University, Heald College, Sierra Massage School, Owens Valley Career Development Center, as well as other locations. She has also carried her message as far away as Alliant International University, Alhambra Campus.