

COALITION REFLECTIONS

A quarterly publication by the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Speaker of the House Announces Domestic Violence Task Force



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On Friday, November 6th, Speaker of the House Christopher Donovan announced he is creating a Legislative Task Force on Domestic Violence to help formulate Connecticut's response to challenges faced by victims of domestic violence that have been exacerbated by the recession. As the recession has deepened, domestic violence shelters in Connecticut are witnessing a dramatic increase in the demand for services. Financial pressures are intensifying the challenges victims and their families are facing. The task force will be chaired by State Representative Mae Flexer (D-Killingly, Plainfield, Sterling), and will include bipartisan membership from the state House of Representatives and state Senate. Rep. Flexer has been chair of a legislative working group on domestic violence, and that group will form the core of the new task force.

Both Speaker Donovan and Rep. Flexer said individuals and organizations from across the state, including the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV), advocates, service providers, educators and law enforcement will be consulted and "a critical part of the conversation" as task force recommendations are developed.

Speaker Donovan said, "Alarmingly what we're seeing is that financial struggles are compounding the challenges faced by victims and their families. We owe this increasingly desperate population answers and solutions to the complex problems they are encountering. I'm also frustrated that despite heroic efforts by so many, the early progress we made in combating

domestic violence has slowed. I am hoping this task force can ignite a new response."

Rep. Flexer said, "We simply can't let the horrific conditions domestic violence victims find themselves in continue without a more vigorous examination of what we as compassionate and concerned elected officials can do. I hope this task force will energize that examination and produce real and practical results to improve their lives." Erika Tindill, Executive Director of CCADV, said, "The Coalition and its member programs look forward to working with Speaker Donovan's Task

Force to improve options for victims and survivors of domestic violence. We are eager to set goals and put action steps in place to make meaningful progress toward a culture of intolerance for family violence in Connecticut."

Speaker Donovan said the task force will review budget implications related to domestic violence victims and the recession; identify trends and research related to employment, housing, homelessness, child care, healthcare, court advocacy and social conditions as they relate to domestic violence; and recommend actions and legislation to address these issues to him and legislative leaders.

The task force will hold its first meeting on Monday, November 30th at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford.



Speaker of the House, Chris Donovan, joined by Rep. Mae Flexer, Erika Tindill, and Cathy Zeiner

Press Conferences: Teen Dating Violence Awareness Campaign



The month of October serves as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. This year, CCADV held a press conference on October 2nd to kick-off this year's campaign of Teen Dating Violence Awareness. The press conference was held at Capitol Preparatory School in Hartford with three students giving speeches and a call to action for their fellow classmates in the help to stop teen dating violence. During the month of October, the Senior students also gave morning announcements about statistics on teen dating violence. Throughout the remaining school year, they have made a commitment to make teen dating violence awareness a top priority in their school.



Press conferences were also held by our Middletown program at Mercy High School and our Danbury program at Abbott Tech.



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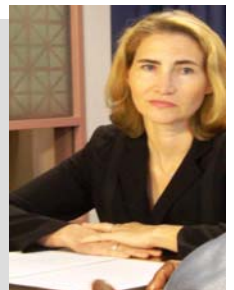
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Jackie Dodd Roundtable Discussion



Jackie Clegg Dodd joined domestic violence advocates for a roundtable discussion on August 21st in Hartford at the Legislative Office Building. Mrs. Dodd was joined by Erika Tindill, Executive Director of the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Teresa Younger, Executive Director of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, Cathy Zeiner, Executive Director of the Women's Center of Southeastern Connecticut in New London, and Barbara Damon, Executive Director of the Prudence Crandall Center in New Britain.



Throughout his career, Senator Dodd has supported efforts to prevent domestic violence and provide resources to the victims of domestic abuse. He is currently working to reauthorize the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, which provides supportive services to victims of domestic violence and their families.

The lengthy two hour discussion covered topics ranging from services for victims in Connecticut, FVPSA, to Mrs. Dodd sharing a personal story of her experience in offering her home as a "safe house" to domestic violence victims when she was in her late 20's.



Executive Director's Section

Giving Thanks



Erika Tindill

It is hard to believe that nearly ten months have passed since I came to CCADV. Taking over as Executive Director during a legislative session was a challenge. Riding this rollercoaster of uncertain funding, loss of staff positions, launching new projects and initiatives, and supporting our member programs is a challenge. Ensuring services and protections that are responsive to the needs of families experiencing domestic violence is an even greater challenge. I see challenges as opportunities – to learn and to make changes toward meaningful progress. And, so I am grateful for the challenges we've faced as an organization as they encourage me to reflect on those things for which I am thankful:

Member programs – They face not only the same challenges of CCADV, but also those that necessarily come with the provision of direct services. I am thankful for their commitment, resourcefulness, and hard work.

Funders - Financial support of our work is the cornerstone of our member programs' ability to positively affect and save lives. It goes without saying that this is the group I cannot thank enough!

Staff – THANK YOU, thank you, thank you for your support, perseverance, input, and (most importantly) for making my job easier!

Change – Change you ask? Yes, change. I am grateful for change. It is the only constant, one of the few things you can really rely on. We don't have a choice about whether things will change, but we do have a choice about how we will respond to it. In this economic environment, we here at CCADV chose not to let change manage us. We are prepared to make choices to manage the changes we are faced with in order to stay on track of our vision of a Connecticut without domestic violence.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Best Practices for Immigrant Victims of Domestic Violence Training

On November 3rd and 4th, CCADV held a statewide training on Best Practices for Serving Immigrant Victims of Domestic Violence in partnership with Legal Momentum, Inc. and Greater Hartford Legal Aid. CCADV had the honor of working with Leslie Orloff, a well known lawyer with more than 17 years of experience and spokesperson for the National Network to End Violence Against Immigrant Women, and Soraya Fata, who has spearheaded policy initiatives to ensure public benefits to immigrant women who are victims of domestic violence. The training was a complete success with the work and permanent support from our partners & friends from GHLA. Many thanks to Kara Hart, En-elsa Díaz and Cheryl Kohler who brought the local perspective to the training. We had a great response from our program members as 50 advocates participated in the training each day. During the two-day training we addressed topics related to the realities of immigrant victims, safety planning beyond the intimate partner's violence, public benefits available for documented and undocumented immigrants, language access and the challenges immigrants encounter at family court. CCADV is pleased to have established a working relationship with Legal Momentum and strengthened joint efforts with GHLA. We hope this training is just the beginning to one of the many future projects in working together for immigrant victims' rights.

CCADV In the Media: A Reflection of October

WDRS, Talk of Connecticut's, Dan Lovallo - made the commitment to hold five radio shows in the month of October on various topics that relate to domestic violence. The topics were: Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Shelter Services, Child Victims, Law Enforcement, and the personal story of a survivor.

FOX 61 and The Hartford Courant - contributed countless front page articles and stories that emerged every week as one opened the paper or turned on the television. A special blog, [Battered Lives](#), on the Courant's website was dedicated to the topic of domestic violence in Connecticut.

It's these simple steps that help shape the public's perception of the tragic reality so many families face everyday on this issue.



Day of Caring



United Way's *Day of Caring* took place on September 11, 2009 on a rainy Friday. Eight employees from Otis Elevators gave their time to CCADV for an entire day. Their project was to construct and paint tabletop sized silent witnesses for Voces Unidas, a CCADV membership Latino group. The rainy weather wasn't an issue for our group of volunteers as the project was moved inside and continued on in high spirits.

Day of Caring is a project of the United Way and in our region, "more than 5,500 employees from 67 local companies stood up for their community by volunteering. This marks the largest number of *Day of Caring* volunteers ever, a 6% increase over last year. There were more than 340 project sites at nonprofit agencies throughout central and northeastern Connecticut. Activities scheduled include indoor and outdoor painting projects, reading to children, helping the elderly with housework, and bowling with intellectually disabled adults."

"Now in its 85th year, the annual United Way Community Campaign organizes fund-raising campaigns in more than 900 workplaces throughout its 40-town area to support programs and services of United Way of the Central and Northeastern Connecticut and Community Health Charities of New England. Details of how campaign funds change lives and improve community conditions can be found at www.unitedwayinc.org."

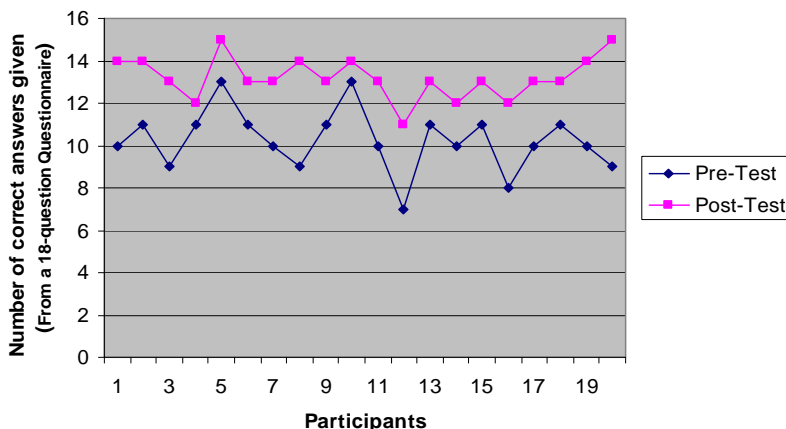
CCADV is grateful and appreciative for the outstanding work and dedication from our *Day of Caring* volunteers!



LIVE UNITED™

Volunteers Gain Knowledge on Domestic Violence

June 09 Statewide Certification Training Pre and Post Test Results



Upcoming Events...

Legislative Liaison Training

- December 15th at the Legislative Office Building

2010 Certification Training Dates

- March 16th - 19th
- June 22nd - 25th
- October 26th - 29th

Save The Date: Melanie Ilene Rieger Conference

- June 8 & 9th at Central Connecticut State University

Please call CCADV at 860.282.7899 for more information!

Marriage License Surcharge Press Conference

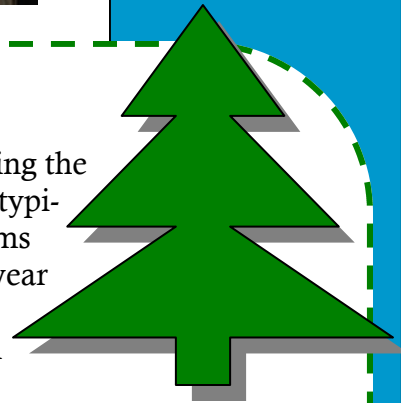
On August 28, CCADV held a press conference about the Marriage License Surcharge (MLS) funds that are being held by the Department of Social Services (DSS). The MLS is a funding stream enacted into law in Connecticut to assist in the funding of domestic violence and sexual assault programs. Connecticut General Statute §7-73 legislation initiated a \$10 surcharge on all marriage licenses in Connecticut. A portion of this surcharge is collected for shelter services for victims of household abuse in accordance with Connecticut General Statute 17-b-850.

“This is not taxpayer money, nor does its allocation depend on the passage of a state budget,” said Erika Tindill, Esq., Executive Director of the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence. There is **over \$1 million dollars** that has yet to be allocated by DSS for domestic violence services. To date, all CCADV’s 18 member programs have submitted their contracts and are still waiting for the money to be allocated to their program.



Holiday Giving: Tis' The Season

As the year draws to a close, we are reminded what a mixed blessing the holidays are for victims of domestic violence. While the season is typically an occasion for sharing and family togetherness, some victims and children suffer through the holidays in silence. This time of year can be riddled with family and financial stress, both of which can contribute to abuse in the home. This is evidenced by the fact that shelters are often full this time of year.

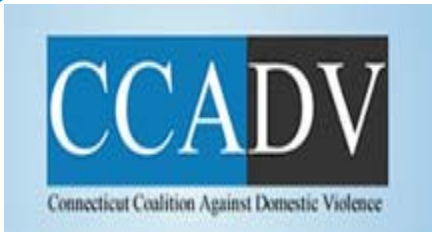


This past year, children came to domestic violence shelters throughout our state with their mothers who were fleeing from the terror of violence in the home. These are children in need not only for shelter and protection, but also for early child counseling and other services. There is not enough money to take care of the healing of their hearts. During this time of year so many generous people focus their time and attention on children. We all need to care about the future of our children and how violence is affecting our kids. We have only just begun. We have seen the tremendous need there is to break the cycle of violence, to focus special attention on the children who are living with violence in their homes.

In the spirit of the holidays, hearts open up especially to children in need of the magic, mystery, and joy of a special holiday gift. Even if the magic doesn't last for very long, it helps to heal their hearts and lets them know that people do care. The holidays are a time of much joy for children; their smiles are wrapped as beautifully as the gifts they receive.

May the joy, magic, and love of the season be yours now and throughout the year!

Please send your donation by check to: CCADV, 90 Pitkin Street, East Hartford CT 06108
All donations are tax deductible! Thank you!



90 Pitkin Street
 East Hartford, CT 06108
 Phone: (860) 282-7899
 Fax: (860) 282-7892

Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Inc. (CCADV) is a membership organization whose purpose is to work together to end domestic violence by advocating for victims and changing the social conditions, beliefs, and social actions that perpetuate abuse against victims of domestic violence.

24-Hour Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline
888.774.2900

Visit us at
www.ctcadv.org



Coalition's 18 Member Programs

The Umbrella
 Ansonia, CT
 (203) 736-9944

The Center for Women and Families of Fairfield County
 Bridgeport, CT
 (203) 384-9559

Women's Center of Greater Danbury
 Danbury, CT
 (203) 731-5206

Domestic Violence Program United Services
 Dayville, CT
 (860) 774-8648

Network Against Domestic Abuse
 Enfield, CT
 (860) 763-4542

Domestic Abuse Service
 Greenwich, CT
 (203) 622-0003

Interval House
 Hartford, CT
 (860) 527-0550

Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis
 Meriden, CT
 (203) 238-1501

New Horizons
 Middletown, CT
 (860) 347-3044

Prudence Crandall Center
 New Britain, CT
 (860) 225-6357

Domestic Violence Services of Greater New Haven
 New Haven, CT
 (203) 789-8104

Women's Center of Southeastern CT
 New London, CT
 (860) 701-6000

Domestic Violence Crisis Center
 Norwalk, CT
 (203) 852-1980

Women's Support Services
 Sharon, CT
 (860) 364-1900

Domestic Violence Crisis Center
 Stamford, CT
 (203) 357-8162

Susan B. Anthony Project
 Torrington, CT
 (860) 482-7133

Safe Haven Greater Waterbury
 Waterbury, CT
 (203) 575-0036

Domestic Violence Program United Services
 Willimantic, CT
 (860) 456-9476