CT Attorney General George Jepsen and CCADV Executive Director Karen Jarmoc at CCADV’s Spring Reception, hosted by George and Diana Jepsen

Inside:
CCADV Partners with CT POSTC
Member Spotlight on Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis
Child Witness to Domestic Violence Roundtable
Children & Trauma
Capitol News

And more...
What’s Inside...

CCADV Partners with CT POSTC.................................................. 2
Member Spotlight - Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis....................... 3
Homage for One of Our Hispanic Advocates............................... 3
Violence Against Women Act Roundtable.................................... 4
Children Who Witness Domestic Violence................................... 5
Children & Trauma....................................................................... 6
Brazilian Exchange Program - Lessons Learned............................. 7
Capitol News................................................................................ 8

Who Is CCADV?

The Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) is the state’s leading voice for victims of domestic violence and those agencies who serve them. Founded in 1979, CCADV is a membership organization of 18 domestic violence agencies that provide critical support to keep victims safe 24 hours per day, wherever they live in our state. To that end, CCADV works at a state and national level to create and implement policy changes that strengthen Connecticut’s response to domestic violence. We collaborate closely with a number of community, government and business leaders to ensure a systematic and comprehensive approach to victim services and offender accountability. As the only statewide organization representing the 18 domestic violence agencies in Connecticut, we work stridently to build membership capacity through comprehensive training and technical assistance. Through an immediate response, like our statewide hotline, we aim to protect and improve the lives of victims. Whether seeking safety through shelter, assistance with court proceedings, or counseling, our member agencies work tirelessly to meet the needs of victims. If you know someone who needs our help, please call our statewide domestic violence hotline at 888-774-2900 to be connected to your local domestic violence agency.
This past February, CCADV partnered with the CT Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POSTC) to offer a comprehensive training for family violence supervisors and liaisons from state and local law enforcement agencies, as well as family violence victim advocates. The training, which featured renowned international expert, Mark Wynn, was held at the CT Police Academy in Meriden. More than 100 participants received essential training on the importance of the partnership between law enforcement and domestic violence advocates, as well as dynamics of violence against women and the impact on victims.

The training focused on four critical areas:

**First-Line Supervisor’s Response to Violence Against Women**

- Addressed the common characteristics of violence against women crimes including the presence of multiple concurrent crimes, minimization of the incident by the victim, and the serial nature of perpetrators
- Discussed the leadership role of the First-line Supervisor as one of the most powerful influences in the department who impacts the performance and morale of first-line responders, as well as the victim’s experience

**Assessing Threats and Lethality**

- Provided questions that officers and advocates can ask to assess the threat facing the victim including: does s/he believe the threat; was it made in the presence of other people; and is it detailed and specific
- Lethality factors were discussed including: access to weapons, threats of homicide or suicide, increased severity and frequency of abuse, strangulation of the victim and violence toward children

**Techniques for Building Cases and Investigating for Power and Control**

- Discussed investigating who is dominant, who is creating the fear, who is in fear, who is the more significant aggressor and who needs protection
- Summarized power and control tactics including intimidation, isolation, economic abuse, use of male privilege, threats, minimizing/denying/blaming, and use of the children

**Stalking and Counter Stalking**

- Highlighted key statistics including: 81% of stalking victims stalked by an intimate partner report also being physically assaulted by that partner; 88% of female homicides cases were stalked after the relationship ended
- Outlined common “harassing” behaviors including annoying or threatening phone calls, following, sending unwanted letters or gifts, showing up at the victim’s home or workplace, and disabling the victim’s car

The training was well received by attendees who noted the importance of engaging both police officers and victim advocates at the same time. Advocates appreciated the opportunity to view domestic violence from a police perspective, while law enforcement was better able to understand the role of victim advocates and value of building relationships with them.

Mark Wynn is a retired Lieutenant who served 20 years with the Metropolitan Police Department in Nashville, Tennessee, including time as Lieutenant to the Domestic Violence Division. He is a graduate of the FBI’s National Academy and was selected as one of the top ten police officers of the year by the International Association of Chiefs of Police and Parade Magazine. Since retiring, Wynn has provided trainings nationally and internationally on issues related to domestic violence, sexual violence, stalking and effective investigative practices.

Mark Wynn

Visit [www.markwynn.com](http://www.markwynn.com) or CCADV for additional information and resources.
Homage for one of our Hispanic advocates

Last month, one of our very own Latina advocates, Iris Ruiz, of Interval House was honored at “Homenaje a la Mujer Hispana,” in Hartford. Ms. Ruiz, who is the shelter manager for Interval House brings close to 3 decades of expertise to the domestic violence field and was publically recognized along with eleven other Latina leaders in their respective communities. Being true to her spirit of activism, Ms. Ruiz did not hesitate to lend her speech to speaking about the importance of domestic violence awareness and informing the audience that our Hartford domestic violence program is there for all victims who need help. The daylong event included educational workshops on breast cancer and domestic violence and concluded with great music and food for all. Ms. Ruiz is a wonderful example for all advocates in Connecticut.
Congressman Larson, CCADV, CONNSACS Discuss VAWA

By Melanie Smith, UConn School of Social Work

On February 19, Karen Jarmoc, Executive Director of CCADV, Laura Cordes, Executive Director of CT Sexual Assault Crisis Services (CONNSACS), and Congressman John B. Larson held a roundtable to discuss the importance of reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) with amendments that extend protections to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered (LGBT) individuals, Immigrants, and Native Americans. Panelists included State Representative Mae Flexer (D – Killingly); CT State’s Attorney Kevin T. Kane; CT Office of Policy & Management (OPM) Under Secretary Mike Lawlor; Kara Hart, Greater Hartford Legal Aid; Cathy Zeiner, Safe Futures; and Barbara Spiegel, Susan B. Anthony Project.

First authorized in 1994, VAWA has created a comprehensive and coordinated community response to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. As a result of this vital measure, community-based agencies have provided enhanced services that keep victims safe and the criminal justice system has held more offenders accountable for their actions.

While VAWA has historically had bi-partisan support and was easily reauthorized in 2000 and 2005, it expired in 2011 amid partisan debate in Washington, DC. Last year, some members of Congress blocked reauthorization and sought to impose unnecessary and costly audit requirements on providers that would result in fewer dollars for direct services.

The roundtable highlighted what Connecticut and the Nation have been able to provide since VAWA was established. “Since VAWA was first passed in 1994, the crime rate has gone down every year due to the services that can now be accessed. VAWA has helped pass laws, allowed the issue of domestic violence and sexual assault to be taken seriously, built support and understanding of the issues, and has provided real resources,” OPM Under Secretary Mike Lawlor explained.

Congressman Larson noted that on February 12, 2013, with an added amendment regarding protections for sex trafficking victims, VAWA passed the Senate with a vote of 78-22. Congressman Larson said, “Every Democrat, two Independents, and many Republicans voted in favor and all 20 women in the Senate voted yes... In the State of the Union Address, President Obama’s message to Republicans that are against re-authorizing VAWA was to ‘let the vote go forward; if it does, it will pass.’ ...We now need to work together to get this crucial legislation passed and avoid sequester. Pressure coming from citizens makes an important difference; I am optimistic that we will get it done by next week!”

On February 28, 2013 the U.S. House of Representatives passed the bill to re-authorize VAWA with a vote of 286-138. President Obama signed the bill into law on March 7th, 2013. CCADV Executive Director, Karen Jarmoc, joined her colleagues from across the country at the Interior Dept. in Washington, D.C. to watch the bill signing.

What’s In VAWA 2013?

The reauthorization of VAWA in 2013 improves the nation’s response to domestic violence and sexual assault by providing added protections for all victims and by closing gaps in services and offender accountability.

Several areas were added or improved upon, including:

- **Native Americans:** Gives tribal courts the authority they need to hold offenders accountable in their communities.
- **Victims in public housing:** Expands protections to individuals in all federally subsidized housing programs, explicitly protects victims of sexual assault and creates emergency housing transfer options.
- **College students:** Requires schools to establish policies related to the prevention and intervention of dating violence, including: record incidents and report findings of dating violence, educate and provide information to students regarding their rights and resources.
- **LGBT victims:** Prohibits discrimination to ensure that all victims of violence have access to the same services and protection to overcome trauma and find safety.
- **Immigrants:** Strengthens the International Marriage Broker Regulation Act and strengthens provisions around self-petitions and U visas.
- **Maintains and strengthens VAWA grant program.**

More information can be found at the National Network to End Domestic Violence, [www.nnedv.org](http://www.nnedv.org) or at [http://4vawa.org](http://4vawa.org).
On March 6, CCADV and the Office of the Child Advocate hosted a roundtable discussion in regard to the impact that witnessing domestic violence has on children. Over 15 million children witness domestic violence each year across the country. Children who witness intimate partner violence within their family face a greater risk of developing severe and potentially lifelong problems with physical health, mental health, and school and peer relationships, as well as disruptive behavior.

The roundtable, which was led by Karen Jarmoc, CCADV Executive Director, and Jamey Bell, State Child Advocate, was initiated in response to the U.S. Attorney General’s National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence. This past December, the task force released a report containing findings and recommendations regarding children exposed to violence, including domestic violence. According to the report, witnessing domestic violence can destroy a child’s core sense of security and trust and create deep feelings of helplessness, guilt and shame when they cannot make the violence stop or protect the non-offending parent.

Dr. Steven Marans, who sits on the National Task Force and is a professor of psychiatry and child psychiatry at Yale, noted that violence is a singular path with numerous possible origins. He stressed the importance of trauma-informed care and evaluation before assigning potential interventions. This point was also touched upon by Barbara Spiegel, Executive Director of the Susan B. Anthony Project, which serves as one of CCADV’s trauma-informed services pilot sites. She discussed the importance of a trauma-informed approach to helping kids understand that what they witnessed is not their fault.

Dr. Marans criticized a lack of resources to both evaluate children for trauma stemming from witnessing violence, as well as training individuals to identify it, as short-sighted with negative fiscal implications. Because we cannot see the effects of the emotional trauma done to children by witnessing domestic violence as easily as we can see the effects of physical abuse, we are not as likely to dedicate funding to preventing and treating it. However, witnessing violence makes children 158% more likely to be victimized themselves. And boys who witness domestic violence are four times more likely than those who do not witness it to become perpetrators as adults. Both outcomes will lead to greater long-term costs.

Sarah Eagan, Director of the Child Abuse Project at the Center for Children’s Advocacy, spoke about the importance of early intervention. Chronic failure by the system of care to identify and meet the needs of children dealing with emotional trauma will simply continue to lead to poor outcomes for the child. She called for the creation and use of a validated, evidence-based screening tool to identify the traumatic effects of witnessing violence.

Department of Children and Families Commissioner, Joette Katz, discussed the significance of also working with batterers. She noted that 60% of the Department’s caseload involves families impacted by domestic violence. Katz added that with the Department’s goal of reunifying families, they seek to determine the root cause of the batterer’s behavior and help them to alter that behavior. She also discussed the Department’s work with young men in their system, including the CT Juvenile Training School, around promoting healthy relationships and respect for women.

CCADV continues to work collaboratively with its membership to improve the capacity of child advocate counselors within Connecticut’s 18 domestic violence agencies. Advocates will participate in an intensive two-day training in June led by Betsy McAlister Groves of the Children Witness to Violence Project out of Boston Medical Center. The training will strengthen their knowledge and skill set in regard to working with children and families in shelter and communities. CCADV is also committed to building even stronger partnerships with statewide stakeholders with a tangible goal of improving outcomes for kids.
System Needs

In 2005, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), a division of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, released funds for the development of demonstration projects to enhance services to children and youth who have been exposed to domestic violence. The National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRCDV) subsequently released the report – *Enhanced Services to Children and Youth Who Have Been Exposed to Domestic Violence*. The report outlines some lessons learned about system needs for responding to these children:

- Enhancing the capacity of mental health therapists to understand the challenges of working in shelter environments and to better understand and address the needs of ethnically and culturally diverse children who are exposed to domestic violence and their protective parents requires multifaceted intervention strategies sustained over time.

- The development of an interconnected system of care within communities and strengthening partnerships requires not only the provision of cross-training on the impact of domestic violence on children and approaches to service provision for children and non-abusive parents, but also training on vicarious trauma for domestic violence programs, batterer intervention services, mental health providers and social services staff.

- Working “outside the office box” by utilizing recreational therapy and opportunities for urban children and their mothers to leave their violent homes, and often their violent neighborhoods, as the primary mechanism for trust building, encouraging open communication and offering support and education, can provide opportunities for children to be relieved of their concern for their mother’s safety and allow their mothers to take back parental roles that often had been compromised by abuser behavior.

Tips for Parents & Other Caregivers

The Child Witness to Violence Project (CWVP) is a therapeutic, advocacy, and outreach project that focuses on the growing number of young children who are hidden victims of domestic and community violence and other trauma-related events. It is run under the auspices of the Department of Development and Behavioral Pediatrics at Boston Medical Center.

CWVP offers some important tips for parents and caregivers of children exposed to violence:

What you may see if a child is having trouble:

- Sleep troubles, nightmares, fear of falling asleep
- Headaches, stomach aches, aches and pains
- Increased aggressive behavior and angry feelings
- Constant worry about possible danger
- Loss of skills learned earlier, such as toilet training
- Withdrawing from friends and activities
- Not showing feelings about anything
- Having trouble concentrating

How you can support children:

- A helpful, supportive adult is the most powerful tool to help children feel safe.
- Give children permission to tell their story – it helps children to tell their story to a trusted adult.
- Give clear, simple explanations about scary events. Young children do not really understand the true causes of violence and will often blame themselves.
- Build self-esteem in children. Children who live with violence need daily reminders that they are loveable, competent and important.
- Teach alternatives to violence. Help children learn to solve problems and play in non-violent ways.

CWVP will be in Connecticut in June to train child advocates from CCADV’s 18 member domestic violence agencies.

Visit [www.childwitnessstoviolence.org](http://www.childwitnessstoviolence.org) to learn more about CWVP and access additional resources.

To see more lessons learned and read the full NRCDV report, click HERE.
I often find myself smiling when my thoughts drift back to January when I traveled to Brazil. I was one of thirteen American participants in a US-Brazil Professional Fellowship Exchange Program funded by the US State Department and directed by the Institute for Training and Development (ITD). The professional exchange was a huge success. The goal of the program was to create a holistic approach to addressing challenges for women in leadership roles both in the US and in Brazil. The approach was simple yet effective. Julie Hooks, the program director, orchestrated environments where creative ideas flowed freely, best practices were shared and professional networking occurred naturally. The exchange happened without much effort and change was inevitable. Interestingly, although language was at times a barrier, both Brazilian and U.S. participants found many similarities and lessons to be learned from one another. These lessons proved to be invaluable because they transcended culture, language, age, and experiences and connected all the women in more than one way. I would like to share some of these lessons with you today.

**Lesson 1:** Volunteers are the heart of an organization. Volunteerism was huge in Brazil. More than half of the nonprofits, municipal or regional work places we visited, often in their entirety, were operated by volunteers. Brazilians, young and old, students and retirees volunteer with pride and much dignity. Their spirit was contagious.

**Lesson 2:** Women must make decisions for women. Brazil stands out as an inclusive country when it comes to women in the political arena. Although an emerging country, Brazil is transparent about its challenges in this area and has proactively established national laws around ensuring that women are represented as political candidates during elections. Their Gender Quota Law ensures that 30% of political candidates are women. And it has worked! Dilma Rousseff, the first female Brazilian president, was elected in 2011.

**Lesson 3:** Violence against women is a world-wide problem. A law like the Maria da Penha law, a national family violence law, makes it clear that Brazil gets this. Domestic violence is a crime in Brazil and the country has crafted innovative and culture-specific ways to address it. In addition to the military police body that addresses daily emergencies for the general public, there are police stations operated by all or primarily all women police officers. Women victims of domestic violence can go to these police stations and make a police report and learn how to obtain a restraining order.

**Lesson 4:** Historically racial and socio-economic underserved populations need equal access to healthcare and education. With the world’s second largest population of African descent outside of Africa, and a large indigenous population as well, it is not by surprise that Brazil becomes a leader in tackling issues of inequality. The fact that the country has a universal healthcare system and a public university quota to ensure that poor, black and indigenous Brazilians have equal and fair access to medical treatment and higher education struck me as progressive.

In the end, my experiences in Brazil served as a way to remind me that advocacy works best when we pair true awareness of our biases, experiences and personal challenges with our professional skills, desire to help and ability to connect.

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By Wendy Mota Kasongo

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**Londrina State University Meeting**
Maria da Carmo, Vania Queiroz (Brazilian Fellow), Wendy Mota Kasongo, Dr. Nadina Moreno (Univ. President), Shonda Pettiford (American Fellow)

**Londrina’s Women’s Resource Center & Domestic Violence Shelter**
Financial Abuse: Securing Economic Protections for Victims of Domestic Violence

One of CCADV’s top policy priorities for the 2013 session of the CT General Assembly is to add language to the state’s civil restraining order statute (C.G.S. § 46b-15) clarifying a judge’s ability to grant financial orders as part of a restraining order. Economic protections, such as temporary financial assistance, are essential components of victim safety as they seek to end an abusive relationship.

House Bill 6702, An Act Concerning Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault seeks to address the inclusion of financial orders, as well as other matters such as:

- Providing a safe, secure location in each courthouse for Family Violence Victim Advocates to meet privately with victims
- Establishing ongoing training for Guardians ad Litem related to family violence
- Assessing the effectiveness of the state’s batterer intervention programs
- Assessing current training programs related to family violence for CT judges

Several CCADV member programs, including Domestic Violence Crisis Center, Interval House and Women’s Center of Greater Danbury, came up to Hartford in April to testify on various parts of HB 6702, including the matter of financial orders.

Regarding financial orders, substitute language for HB 6702 approved by the Judiciary Committee on April 19th provides that a judge may grant such relief that:

If the respondent has the legal duty to do so and the ability to pay, and if necessary for the safety or to maintain the basic needs of the applicant or the respondent’s dependent children, ordering the respondent to (A) provide financial assistance to the applicant for a period of up to one hundred twenty days, and (B) maintain utility services provided to the family dwelling or dwelling of the applicant if the applicant and respondent resided together on the date of the application.

The bill will now move on to other committees of cognizance and then the House of Representatives for consideration. Please contact your legislators and urge their support of HB 6702 and the inclusion of financial relief in CT’s civil restraining order.

One Billion Rising

On February 14, 2013, activists from across the state staged a flash mob at the Legislative Office Building to celebrate V-Day and One Billion Rising a global movement to end violence against women and girls.

The event, which was led by CT Sexual Assault Crisis Services, included more than 200 people rising and dancing to show their support for policies that seek to eliminate violence against women.

Governor Dannel P. Malloy, First Lady Cathy Malloy, Secretary of the State Denise Merrill, Senate President Donald E. Williams and Representative Mae Flexer all spoke about the importance of addressing the epidemic of violence.
## CCADV Member Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Phone Numbers</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Center for Domestic Violence Services at BHcare</td>
<td>Ansonia, New Haven</td>
<td>(203) 736-9944, (203) 789-8104</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bhcare.org">www.bhcare.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women's Center of Greater Danbury</td>
<td>Danbury</td>
<td>(203) 731-5206</td>
<td><a href="http://www.wcogd.org">www.wcogd.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Network Against Domestic Abuse</td>
<td>Enfield</td>
<td>(860) 763-4542</td>
<td><a href="http://www.networkagainstdomesticabuse.org">www.networkagainstdomesticabuse.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Interval House</td>
<td>Hartford</td>
<td>(860) 527-0550</td>
<td><a href="http://www.intervalhousect.org">www.intervalhousect.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>New Horizons</td>
<td>Middletown</td>
<td>(860) 347-3044</td>
<td><a href="http://www.chc1.com">www.chc1.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Safe Futures</td>
<td>New London</td>
<td>(860) 701-6000</td>
<td><a href="http://www.safefuturesct.org">www.safefuturesct.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Women's Support Services</td>
<td>Sharon</td>
<td>(860) 364-1900</td>
<td><a href="http://www.wsadv.org">www.wsadv.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Safe Haven</td>
<td>Waterbury</td>
<td>(203) 575-0036</td>
<td><a href="http://www.safehavengw.org">www.safehavengw.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>The Center for Women &amp; Families</td>
<td>Bridgeport</td>
<td>(203) 384-9559</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cwfec.org">www.cwfec.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Domestic Abuse Service/Greenwich YWCA</td>
<td>Greenwich</td>
<td>(203) 622-003</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ywcagreenwich.org">www.ywcagreenwich.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis</td>
<td>Meriden</td>
<td>(203) 238-1501</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mwchrysalis.org">www.mwchrysalis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Prudence Crandall Center</td>
<td>New Britain</td>
<td>(860) 225-6357</td>
<td><a href="http://www.prudencecrandall.org">www.prudencecrandall.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Violence Crisis Center</td>
<td>Norwalk, Stamford</td>
<td>(203) 852-1980, (203) 588-9096</td>
<td><a href="http://www.dvcct.org">www.dvcct.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan B. Anthony Project</td>
<td>Torrington</td>
<td>(860) 482-7133</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sabaproject.org">www.sabaproject.org</a></td>
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