CCADV Receives Grant to Strengthen Mens Engagement Efforts

A 2012 assessment conducted by CCADV’s Intimate Partner Violence Prevention Steering Committee revealed that only 6% (9/156) of Connecticut-based agencies that offer an element of prevention work had male only programs for promoting healthy relationships and teaching parenting skills for individuals at risk for IPV victimization or perpetration. To address this issue and the importance of engaging men and boys in the prevention of domestic violence and dating violence in Connecticut, CCADV will be partnering this spring with the National Latin@ Network, the Boys & Girls Club of Connecticut and Connecticut Youth Excellence Project to advance evidence-based prevention initiatives which strengthen strategies to change the culture of controlling and violent behavior.

CCADV will build upon the success of its statewide 10x10 Campaign – a third year project aimed at engaging men as leaders to address intimate partner violence – by introducing the National Latin@ Te Invito men’s engagement campaign with an aim to determine opportunities to incorporate culturally relevant messaging. We will be guided in this initiative by the National Latin@ Network where our organization will receive capacity building and social media training on engaging the Latin@ community.

Funded through a grant from the Office on Violence Against Women, the project will also use the 10x10 model to partner with the Boys and Girls Club of Connecticut and Connecticut Youth Excellence Project to foster male youth leadership. We will collectively facilitate a youth oriented 10x10 Campaign training and provide opportunities for male leaders ages 13 to 17 to educate their peers about violence prevention. CCADV is excited about this project whereby young men will participate in a training about primary prevention, the positive youth development model and youth engagement strategies. This meaningful venture builds our state’s opportunity to create positive change in regard to established patterns of abuse as talking to young men early about healthy relationships offers strong occasion to stop negative behaviors before they can start.

All of this work will be supported by a 10x10 public awareness campaign which will create a consistent message for men and boys about the prevention of intimate partner violence throughout Connecticut. By year three, in conjunction with this positive messaging, male youth leaders will be positioned to facilitate trainings and help lead on this important initiative. All of this work will culminate with a full-day symposium in 2017 to showcase the innovative approaches used by young men in our state. Ultimately, the project aims to increase awareness of domestic violence and dating violence among young men and boys. We also expect to increase confidence in youth to prevent and/or confront violent behavior which fortifies leadership skills that will allow them to educate their peers on violence prevention.
CCADV and Connecticut Children’s Medical Center Establish Children’s Center on Family Violence

Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Connecticut Children’s Medical Center have partnered to establish the Children’s Center on Family Violence (Center). Planned to officially launch in October 2016, the Center has been created to respond to and reduce the number of children impacted by family violence through a trauma-informed, multidisciplinary, multiagency approach. CCADV and Connecticut Children’s will leverage expertise, resources, and collaborations with community-based and government agencies to reduce the impact of family violence on children. Housed within the Office of Community Child Health at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center, the Center’s activities will be focused on researching and then evaluating best practices through clinical care and sharing learnings with the field through training, education, and public policy.

What does the Children’s Center hope to achieve?

Vision:
Systems serving children impacted by family violence are consistently using evidence-based practices. As a result, children affected by family violence are more resilient, live in homes where healthy, pro-social interactions are the norm, and achieve optimal healthy development.

Mission:
We are a multidisciplinary center seeking to improve outcomes for children impacted by family violence. We will engage systems responding to these children and work with them to advance research and evaluation, promote evidence-based best practices through education and training, and strengthen policy at agency, state and federal levels.

How does the Children’s Center hope to achieve these goals?

Core Strategies for Impact:

- **Research & Evaluation:** develop and evaluate trauma-informed, culturally relevant best practices for children impacted by family violence.
- **Education & Training:** engage community members, students, and professionals from multiple disciplines to better understand and implement best practices for supporting children impacted by family violence.
- **Clinical Care:** develop, implement, and promote evidence-based best practices in victim advocacy, mental health, and medical care for children impacted by family violence.
- **Public Policy & Advocacy:** advance the field of family violence by providing public officials and policymakers with insight on evidence-based best practices to inform the adoption of policies, laws, and regulations.

Why is the Children’s Center needed?

Social Problem:
Children exposed to family violence often face life-long, negative consequences, including a host of physical and psychological health impairments that compromise healthy child development and constitute a serious public health issue. Best practices are not consistently implemented by systems serving these children, and there is a need to strengthen the evidence base for child-focused interventions.

Evidence of Need:
Children can be exposed to family violence in numerous ways and to different degrees. Some children directly experience the violence, while others are silent observers. Even when children do not directly experience the violence, they are indirectly affected due to the impact of violence on maternal well-being, parenting, and household functioning. Exposure to intimate partner violence (the violence occurring between the child’s caregivers or one caregiver and that person’s intimate partner) is associated with increased risk of other forms of child maltreatment, including physical and emotional abuse and neglect.

Who can we contact to discuss the Children’s Center?

**Nina Livingston, MD**
Co-Director, Children’s Center on Family Violence
Child Abuse Pediatrician, Medical Director, Hartford Regional Child Abuse Services, CT Children’s Medical Center
nlivingston@connecticutchildrens.org

**Karen Jarmoc, MA**
Co-Director, Children’s Center on Family Violence
CEO, CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence
kjarmoc@ctcadv.org
Thank You for Supporting CCADV and the First 100 Plus

Thank you to our generous sponsors and all those who came out to support the 2015 Class of First 100 Plus - statewide leaders who are working to improve conditions for victims of domestic violence and their families in Connecticut. In our fifth year we were pleased to recognize the meaningful efforts of both MEN AND WOMEN across our great state who are boldly stepping forward to advance policy and practice around serving victims of domestic violence.

Click here to check out more event photos on Facebook.

Congratulations Class of 2015!

The Jackson Family
Coalition Crusader Award

Robinson+Cole, LLP
Lawrence & Shirley Bostrom
Pillars of Change Award

The youngest member of the First 100 Plus, Logan Jarvis, with proud dad, Marc.

Click here for a complete list of the 2015 Class of First 100 Plus.

Photos courtesy of Perceptions Photography.

State Senator Beth Bye; CCADV CEO, Karen Jarmoc; CCADV Board Chair, David Bogan; Attorney General George Jepsen

SAVE THE DATE

6th Annual Breakfast & Awards Ceremony
Friday, October 7, 2016
7:30am - 9:00am
Hartford Marriott Downtown

Presenting Sponsor:

Champion:

Defenders:
CCADV Announces 2016 Policy Priorities

In 2016, CCADV will concentrate our policy efforts on with various systems to improve outcomes for children exposed to domestic violence. The 2015-2016 Legislative Task Force to Study the Statewide Response to Minors Exposed to Domestic Violence (see next page) was tasked with examining policies and procedures used by the Department of Children & Families, Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services, healthcare professionals, law enforcement, guardians ad litem, attorneys for minor children and the Judicial Branch for minors who are exposed to family violence. CCADV will advocate for strong policy, procedures and cross-system collaborations that prioritize the physical, emotional and psychological needs of children who witness fatal and non-fatal domestic violence, while maintaining victim confidentiality.

We will also focus efforts on strengthening the state’s system for the service of restraining orders, bolstering funding for certified domestic violence counselors to serve as advocates in all civil/family courts throughout the state, securing a temporary hold or “cooling off” period for individuals arrested for family violence that provides the victim with time to safety plan with a domestic violence counselor, and improving school-based prevention and education for teen dating violence and intimate partner violence. We will continue to monitor and advocate for other issues that may impact victims such as child custody, divorce/alimony, health insurance, Family & Medical Leave Act, wage gap, etc.

**ENHANCING VICTIM SAFETY**

**Removing Weapons from Domestic Violence Offenders**
Reduce victims’ risk of death or harm by permitting courts to order that individuals subject to a temporary, ex parte restraining order surrender firearms and ammunition when a victim is determined to be facing an immediate and present physical danger.

**Improving Service of Restraining Orders**
We support recommendations of the 2014-2015 legislative Task Force to Study Service of Restraining Orders that will lessen the burden on the victim to initiate service, strengthen communication between the victim, the court and the authorized agent of service, and to improve the rate of successful service of the orders.

**Providing Time for Victims to Find Safety**
Allow for an optional 12 hour hold for persons charged with the commission of a family violence crime, subject to the review of the facts of the arrest by the releasing entity including the use of a risk assessment tool to determine risk to the alleged victim.

**Advocating for Victims in Family Court**
Funding should be allocated to support one fulltime Family Violence Victim Advocate in each of the state’s domestic violence organizations who is dedicated solely to civil matters, including assistance with applying for restraining orders and safety planning for those victims in family court. Currently the state only funds 4 such advocates, leaving victims in 11 family courts to navigate the system alone.

**CREATING A COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE**

**Improving Outcomes for Children**
We support recommendations of the 2015-2016 Task Force to Study the Statewide Response to Minors Exposed to Domestic Violence. Recommendations must create strong policy, procedures and cross-system collaborations that prioritize the physical, emotional and psychological needs of children who witness fatal and non-fatal domestic violence, while maintaining victim confidentiality.

**Strengthening School-based Prevention**
Increase educational and training opportunities for both students and educational professionals in grades K-12 regarding healthy relationships and teen dating violence. Efforts should address the full inclusion of teen dating violence in the state’s Safe School Climate.

**Enhancing Judicial Best Practices**
Promote offender accountability and victim safety throughout judicial proceedings by ensuring that the judicial and victim service systems collaborate to establish best practices and strong communication.

**SUPPORTING NONPROFIT PROVIDERS**

**Funding the Rising Cost of Services**
Allocate adequate funding that keeps pace with the rising cost of providing services that nonprofits, including domestic violence organizations, face as they contract with the state to provide health and human services on its behalf. A mechanism should be established that addresses annual inflation, ensures rates and grant allocations cover the full cost of service, and allows nonprofits to meet federal and state wage requirements.
Children Exposed to Family Violence Task Force Submits Final Report

Earlier this month the Task Force to Study the Statewide Response to Minors Exposed to Family Violence submitted its final report to the Connecticut General Assembly. Established pursuant to Special Act 15-10, the Task Force met from July 2015 through January 2016 to examine existing state polices and national best practices related to children exposed to intimate partner violence between their caregivers. Chaired by CCADV CEO, Karen Jarmoc, and Injury Prevention Center Executive Director, Garry Lapidus, the Task Force developed 49 recommendations aimed at better meeting the needs of children exposed to intimate partner violence.

Task Force recommendations had several common themes, reflecting important areas for improvement, including: identification of children exposed to family violence through targeted screening and assessment; enhanced training and education around family violence and, in particular, its consequences on children for both professionals and the general public; and collaboration between multiple systems to facilitate connection and access to intervention services. In addition, the Task Force identified the need for systematic, regulated information sharing, improved data capture and analysis, cross-agency supported through policy, as well as continued research to provide an evidence base for best practices.

The recommendations focus on strategies that will enable Connecticut to:

• Invest early in parents and young children
• Help schools and other state agencies promote climates that are trauma sensitive
• Train educators, health care-workers, and other child-serving professionals about identifying, preventing, and responding to family violence and trauma
• Improve intra- and inter-governmental coordination and cooperation
• Increase the availability of trauma-informed services for children and families
• Increase public-awareness and knowledge of childhood violence and trauma.

The Task Force identified opportunities and strategies for Connecticut to emerge as a national leader in its handling of children exposed to family violence. In addressing this problem, the Task Force hopes that Connecticut will become a place where health care providers can effectively screen for family violence and make appropriate referrals, judges are supported by evidence-based training and receive access to relevant information about circumstances coming in their courts, the Department of Children and Families can identify family violence through best practice guided policy, educators can discuss healthy relationships and dating violence with their students, early childhood workers can assess exposure to family violence and provide early intervention, and law enforcement can uniformly respond to family violence in a way that supports and protects non-offending parents’ relationship with their children. In so doing, Connecticut can provide a model for other states to emulate.

Click here to download the full report. Watch meetings and view guest presentation on the Task Force webpage.

Save the Date

Spring Reception
to Benefit CCADV

Tuesday, April 19, 2016
5:30pm - 7:00pm
Governor’s Residence
990 Prospect Avenue
Hartford, CT 06105

Sponsored by
More than one hundred years ago, The Center for Family Justice began in Bridgeport as a YWCA.

Like many YWCA’s of its era, it was among the first community organizations to take the lead on providing shelter and support to victims of domestic violence, eventually changing its name to The Center for Women and Families of Eastern Fairfield County.

In the decades that followed, The Center’s name and mission have evolved as we recognized the complexities of serving domestic violence victims. We also began to address related social issues; directly helping victims of sexual violence, child abuse and more recently, elder abuse and human trafficking.

Three years ago we began the process of becoming the state’s first Family Justice Center. This has been an ambitious, collaborative effort that involved the strong commitment of our staff, board, community, business and government leaders as well as law enforcement and judicial partners.

We felt an urgent and compelling reason to pursue this contemporary model of delivering services: The needs of our clients—women, men and children already dealing with incredible fear, tragedy and heartbreak—to receive the help they needed in the most streamlined way possible.

Since the first Family Justice Center opened its doors in San Diego in 2002, the FJC movement has become noteworthy for the way it empowers victims by offering a myriad of services in a single, centralized location.

In our case, these services range from free, crisis intervention to on-the-premises legal help; one of the on-site services that makes Family Justice Center’s distinct. By allowing clients to walk through our doors and receive all the help they need in one place, it is our goal to serve as a safe haven that can significantly reduce the amount of bureaucracy victims experience as they rebuild their lives. Another goal of The Center is to continue these supportive services long after the trauma that initially brought them to our doors.

We know from federal research The Family Justice Center model can make it easier for victims to navigate the often complicated process of engaging with law enforcement, the judicial system and supportive services. This leads to less victim recantation and more likelihood that perpetrators of domestic and sexual violence will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

**Member Spotlight On...**

**The Center for Family Justice: From Dream to Reality**

*By Debra A. Greenwood, President/CEO, The Center for Family Justice*

The Center for Family Justice team members (from left): Kayte Cwikla-Masas, Assistant Program Director; Angela Schlingheyde, JD, Civil Legal Coordinator; Debra A. Greenwood, President/CEO. (photo courtesy of Char Nolan)

**BY ALLOWING CLIENTS TO WALK THROUGH OUR DOORS AND RECEIVE ALL THE HELP THEY NEED IN ONE PLACE, IT IS OUR GOAL TO SERVE AS A SAFE HAVEN THAT CAN SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF BUREAUCRACY VICTIMS EXPERIENCE AS THEY REBUILD THEIR LIVES.**
In April we will formally launch as the state’s first Family Justice Center with a series of special events to mark our official grand opening. The process to reach this milestone has been a long but inspiring one that’s included several major transformational milestones.

They include:

- A $1.3 million renovation of our headquarters on Fairfield Avenue in Bridgeport. Our new facilities include designated spaces for housing the many partners who are now, more formally part of our team.
- Hiring of a Civil Legal Advocate who is actively working to establish an on-the-premises legal incubator program that will serve our clients while providing impactful pro bono experiences to new lawyers.
- Establishing on-the-premises law enforcement partners from Bridgeport, Easton, Fairfield, Monroe, Trumbull and Stratford, so victims can tell their stories to investigators in a comforting environment while receiving other services.
- Memorandums of understanding to provide in-house support services from partners including Norwalk’s Triangle Community Center (to address issues of concern to LBGTQI clients), Life Bridge and the Department of Children and Families.
- The creation of the Bigelow Wellness Room, a calming space for victims of violence, abuse and trauma to alleviate stress and learn coping skills through practices such as yoga and meditation.
- The Verizon Room devoted to the building of self-sufficiency skills—most notably education and employment training—which will help clients achieve personal and financial independence.
- The support and encouragement of our partners at CCADV.

By becoming the state’s first Family Justice Center, we also hope to be an engaged role model committed to helping our sister agencies who share our goal of providing an umbrella approach to client services. While we are certainly proud to be Connecticut’s first Family Justice Center, it is the fervent hope of our staff, partners and supporters, that we are not the last.

Debra A. Greenwood is the President/CEO of The Center for Family Justice, Connecticut’s first Family Justice Center.

CCADV Hosts Advocate Skill Building on Restraining Orders

In January, CCADV hosted a half day, multi-faceted training for advocates designed to enhance skills related to assisting victims with the restraining order process. According to the Connecticut Judicial Branch, there are an average of 9,000 restraining order applications filed in the state each year. While the state currently provides funding for only four (4) civil court family violence victim advocates, advocates within all of CCADV’s 18 member organizations come into contact with victims who may opt to seek protection through a restraining order. The process is extremely complex and few victims have access to legal representation while completing the process. Although they are prohibited from providing legal advice, family violence victim advocates are able to guide victims through the court process, explaining the various steps involved with applying for the order, serving the order, attending the hearing, and, most importantly, steps for staying safe during and after the process.

Advocates heard from Attorney Rebecca Loos of Connecticut Legal Services who outlined the process from the day of application through the granting of the order. The presentation included detailed lists of information that the can help the judge make her or his decision on whether or not to grant the order. Participants also heard from a panel of key stakeholders who discussed their roles and responsibilities regarding restraining orders. The panel included:

- Honorable Elizabeth Buzzuto, Chief Administrative Judge, Family Court
- Johanna Greenfield, Deputy Director, Family & Support Matters, Court Operations
- Andy Castle, Regional Manager, Family Relations, Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division
- Lisa Stevenson, Marshal, State Marshal’s Office

Each panel member provided participants with insight into their positions and the parameters in which their work must be conducted. Panelists discussed the challenges they often face and what actions victims might consider taking to avoid such challenges.
Our world is strange, beautiful, surprising, inspirational, painful, and rich with meaning at all ages of our lives. Particularly for a child, life is full of wonder at new things - with every moment new, and every feeling raw and vital, the world has a different meaning. Sometimes adults are fortunate enough to catch a glimpse of the world as a child sees it, such as watching the trees blow in the wind or seeing a shooting star. The difficult times, the traumatic times, are not the small glimpses we wish to see, yet those times may be just as informative. Perhaps through the eyes of a child, we can see what it is like to live in a domestic violence shelter and how that experience might be enhanced.

The traumatic events leading up to a child’s stay in shelter are fresh in their minds. These events have physical, emotional and mental effects on children, for which they receive counseling from the beginning of their stay in shelter. In addition to this trauma with which the children are already coping, children are also exposed to trauma when they enter a new, unfamiliar environment at the shelter.

The “Through the Eyes of a Child Project” will allow children to chronicle their stay at a domestic violence shelter with the hope of alleviating some of the trauma that children face with their new surroundings by providing a better understanding of shelter life through a child’s perspective. Children are given a disposable camera with which they can photograph anything in the shelter – those things that they perceive to be both nice and not-so-nice. The children will then use these images to create a journal in the form of a scrapbook with the child’s explanation of the photographs they took. From this we hope to learn the needs of children in shelter along with their likes and dislikes of shelter life and, through their eyes, turn a traumatic life experience into their first glimpse of the hope that they need and deserve.

The project has been piloted with three of CCADV’s member organizations and is overseen by the Child and Family Advocate along with Shelter and Safe House Managers. Children, with the permission and assistance of their families, chronicle their stay in shelter for a week long period resulting in the anonymous scrapbook. The project is supported by the Connecticut Department of Children and Families.
CCADV Training Institute
Upcoming Trainings

New Winter/Spring 2016 Calendar Now Available!

Don’t miss out on these exciting opportunities through CCADV’s Training Institute! Click on the titles below for a description and registration information. And be sure to read the full catalog for additional training opportunities.

**Community Welcome**
- **Motivational Interviewing**
  Feb. 10 | 9:30am - 4:30pm | CCADV
- **Community Conversation - Increasing Support for Asian Women & Their Children**
  Feb. 10 | 10:00am - 11:30am | CCADV
- **Brain Injury & Domestic Violence**
  Feb. 16 | 1:30pm - 4:00pm | IBTD, New Britain

**CONNECT: Suicide Prevention & Intervention**
Mar. 9 | 9:00am - 1:00pm | CCADV

**Members Only**
- **Transitioning to a Supervisory Role**
  Feb. 19 | 9:30am - 1:00pm | CCADV

**Law Enforcement/Members Only**
- **U Visas & T Visas for Immigrant Victims of Domestic Violence**
  Mar. 16 | 9:30am - 12:30pm | Wethersfield PD

**Healthcare Professionals Only**
- **IPV Screening, Assessment & Intervention for Healthcare Professionals**
  Feb. 9 | 10:00am - 12:00pm | CCADV

**School-based/Youth Serving/Member Organizations**
- **Safe Dates**
  Feb. 25 | 9:00am - 3:00pm | CCADV
- **Shifting Boundaries**
  Mar. 23 | 9:00am - 12:00pm | CCADV

Check out the full catalog!
MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

The Umbrella Center for Domestic Violence Services
Ansonia  New Haven
(203) 736-9944  (203) 789-8104
www.bhcare.org

Women's Center of Greater Danbury
Danbury
(203) 731-5206
www.wcogd.org

The Network
Enfield
(860) 763-4542
www.thenetworkct.org

Interval House
Hartford
(860) 527-0550
www.intervalhousect.org

New Horizons
Middletown
(860) 347-3044
www.newhorizonsdv.com

Safe Futures
New London
(860) 701-6000
www.safefuturesct.org

Women’s Support Services
Sharon
(860) 364-1900
www.wssdv.org

Safe Haven
Waterbury
(203) 575-0036
www.safehavengw.org

The Center for Family Justice
Bridgeport
(203) 384-9559
www.centerforfamilyjustice.org

Domestic Violence Program/
United Services, Inc.
Dayville  Willimantic
(860) 774-8648  (860) 456-9476
www.unitedservicesct.org

Domestic Abuse Service/
Greenwich YWCA
Greenwich
(203) 622-0003
www.ywcagreenwich.org

Chrysalis Domestic Violence Services
Meriden
(203) 238-1501
www.mwchrysalis.org

Prudence Crandall Center
New Britain
(860) 225-6357
www.prudencecrandall.org

Domestic Violence Crisis Center
Norwalk  Stamford
(203) 852-1980  (203) 588-9096
www.dvccct.org

Susan B. Anthony Project
Torrington
(860) 482-7133
www.sbaproject.org

CCADV is the state’s leading voice for victims of domestic violence and those agencies that serve them.