CCADV Hosts Family Court Symposium

In March nearly 150 people, including GALs, advocates, CSSD Family Relations staff, and judges, attended CCADV’s Family Court Symposium - Opportunities for Enhanced Practice: Family Court Response to Domestic Violence. Presenters included:

- Honorable Shaun Floerke, a judge in Minnesota's Sixth Judicial District
- Loretta Frederick, JD, Senior Policy Legal Advisor, Battered Women’s Justice Project
- Lundy Bancroft, Author/Consultant on domestic violence and child maltreatment
- Jill Davies, Esq., Deputy Director of Greater Hartford Legal Aid and Author

Presenters discussed several aspects of the family court process as it relates to domestic violence, including considerations for making child custody decisions. Mr. Bancroft pointed to the urgency with which advocates, judges and child protection workers must look more carefully at post-separation decisions. He stressed the importance of a thorough investigation into allegations of domestic violence - many abusers present well to the court and therefore people making custody decisions sometimes discount allegations of abuse because the abuser seemed “nice”. In fact, the way a man treats women is the best indicator of how they will treat their children. He explained that while parenting often improves during the custody dispute, it often regresses after.

Attorney Frederick presented a detailed practice guide for family court decision-making in domestic abuse-related custody matters. Cautioning against simply “divvying things up,” she emphasized the importance of accounting for continuing coercive control post-separation that jeopardizes the child’s safety and well-being or the safety and well-being of the battered parent. Attorney Davies discussed the various challenges and risks present for victims when deciding to end an abusive relationship. She stressed the importance of supporting the decision made by the victim and developing a plan to help keep the victim and child safe regardless of that decision.

Judge Floerke discussed the assumptions and fundamental values in court that co-parenting is best, even after separation, and that parents who seek sole custody or attempt to restrict the other parent’s access are not acting in the best interest of the child. It is critical that advocates provide information about the abuse to the court while maintaining credibility. Judges have to be fair, they cannot favor one side over the other and cannot be swayed by public opinion.

The symposium was a partnership between CCADV, CT Women’s Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF), CT Bar Association, and Quinnipiac School of Law.
Money raised through our Statewide Spring Reception goes to support many of the critical activities of CCADV that are not supported by grant funds. This includes public awareness, including the development and publication costs of various outreach materials and campaigns; prevention efforts; and advocacy efforts on both a state and federal level. We appreciate your support as we continue to strengthen our work on behalf of our 18 member organizations and victims of domestic violence throughout Connecticut.

Questions? Please contact Erica Tirado at 860.282.7899 | etirado@ctcadv.org

**CCADV Training Institute**

Don’t miss out on these exciting opportunities through CCADV’s Training Institute! Click on the titles below for a description and registration information.

**Law Enforcement/Members**

**LAP: Train-the-Trainer**
May 10 | 9:30am - 4:00pm | CCADV
Members, Law Enforcement Only

**Leadership, Liability & Lessons Learned: Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking**
May 11 | 8:00am - 4:30pm | POSTC, Meriden
Police Command Staff Only

**U Visas & T Visas for Undocumented Survivors**
May 30 | 9:30am - 4:00pm | Members, Law Enforcement Only

**Understanding Domestic Violence for Campus Telecommunications Personnel**
June 21 | 9:00am - 11:00am | CCADV
Police, Police Telecomm Staff Only

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**Click for the complete Spring 2017 catalog!**

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**Community Welcome**

**Intersection of Domestic Violence & Trafficking**
May 25 | 10:00am - 1:00pm | CCADV

**Members Only**

**Developing a Language Access Plan**
May 9 | 10:00am - 3:00pm | CCADV

**Facilitating Effective Support Groups**
June 8 | 10:00am - 1:00pm | CCADV
CCADV’s 2017 policy efforts focus on two main policy changes – strengthening the state’s anti-stalking and strangulation laws and increasing funding for victim services through the state’s Marriage License Surcharge.

House Bill 7299, An Act Concerning Strengthening Laws Concerning Domestic Violence, seeks to broaden Connecticut’s definition of stalking to address national best practices that improve the ability of law enforcement to intervene in stalking behaviors earlier and protect victims from escalating violence. A known risk factor for fatal intimate partner violence, 29 other states have revised their statutory definitions to allow for a lower level fear when charging for stalking. If passed, HB 7299 will add “suffer substantial emotional distress” to the state’s anti-stalking law making it more accessible to victims.

HB 7299 also proposed expanding the definition of strangulation to include acts of suffocation. Suffocation involves impeding a person’s ability to breathe, similar to strangulation, with the same potentially devastating health effects from a deprivation of oxygen to the brain. Acts of strangulation and the associated long-term consequences have received heightened awareness within the criminal justice system. Addressing suffocation with the same vigilance is a common sense step towards enhancing victim safety and offender accountability.

Finally, HB 7299 also proposes increasing penalties for violations of conditions of release and requiring that a pre-sentence investigation be completed on all family violence felonies when the defendant is facing incarceration, including eliminating the option for the state and defendant to agree to waive completion of the report.

HB 7299 passed the Judiciary Committee unanimously in April and awaits action by the House of Representatives.

Senate Bill 787, An Act Concerning Revenue Items to Implement the Governor’s Budget, increases the state’s Marriage License Surcharge (MLS). CCADV is working collaboratively with the CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence on this initiative that, if passed, will increase available funding for domestic and sexual violence victim services. Since its inception in 1992, the MLS has not been increased from the current amount of $20, which is paid by individuals applying for a marriage license in Connecticut. SB 1011 proposes raising the surcharge to $35, which is more in line with surcharges in neighboring states including New Hampshire ($50) and Vermont ($60).

SB 787 passed the Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee unanimously in April and awaits action by the Senate.

In April Prudence Crandall Center hosted a regional legislative breakfast with Chrysalis Domestic Violence Services, Interval House, Safe Haven and Susan B. Anthony Project. Senators Joe Markley (R-Southington) and Terry Gerratana (D-New Britain) and Representatives Bill Petit (R-Plainville), Hilda Santiago (D-Meriden) and David Wilson (R-Litchfield) all attended the event. Member directors discussed the challenges and opportunities facing Connecticut’s domestic violence service system. Shelter capacity, victim needs and the need for increased prevention education were topics that legislators inquired about. CCADV CEO, Karen Jarmoc, explained statewide service statistics and outlined CCADV’s 2017 policy priorities. Legislators were encouraged to support an increase to the Marriage License Surcharge and the proposed changes to the state’s stalking and strangulation laws.
Mother’s Day & Father’s Day Are Around the Corner
LET CCADV HELP WITH YOUR GIFT!

THE PERFECT MOTHER’S DAY GIFT!

MAKE A DONATION IN HONOR OF A MOM

CLICK TO DONATE!

Donate to Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence and give a gift that helps prevent domestic violence and ensures that victims know how to access life-saving services.

Domestic violence is a serious problem impacting women’s health in Connecticut. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, women who have experienced domestic violence are 80% more likely to have a stroke, 70% more likely to have heart disease, 60% more likely to have asthma, and 70% more likely to drink heavily than women who have not experienced intimate partner violence.

Please consider making a donation in honor of your mother this Mother’s Day and help raise awareness about life-saving services for victims of domestic violence. When you donate, we’ll email you a certificate that you can give to your mom letting her know that a donation was made in her name.

GET DAD THE TIE HE’S ALWAYS WANTED

We’re not kidding because this tie is 2 GIFTS IN 1! Not only does it let the important father figures in your life show everyone that they believe in preventing domestic violence, but the proceeds go to support prevention and public awareness activities at CCADV. It’s the gift that keeps on giving!

The Vineyard Vines® Tie is hand made in the U.S.A. with 100% imported silk and incorporates the nationally recognized purple ribbon for prevention of domestic violence. The tie measures approximately 57” long and 3 ½” wide.

Ties can be purchased for $75 ea plus shipping and sales tax

CLICK TO BUY A TIE!

LOOK AT HOW HAPPY JOE IS SPORTING HIS CCADV AWARENESS TIE. YOU SHOULD MAKE YOUR DAD THAT HAPPY!
The statistics on the intersection of domestic violence and HIV/AIDS are telling...

- At double the national rate, 55% of HIV-positive women have been found to have experienced domestic violence.
- Victims of domestic violence are 48% more likely to be infected than women in non-violent relationships.
- Women experiencing domestic violence are at a higher risk for HIV/AIDS because they might be forced to have sex with an infected partner or have limited ability to negotiate safe sex practices.
- HIV-positive women who have been recently abused are 4x as likely to experience antiretroviral therapy failure or to not practice safe sex compared to women who have not been recently abused.
- In a study of HIV service providers, 24% reported at least one patient who disclosed their HIV status and then experienced physical abuse, while 45% of providers had patients who feared physical abuse upon disclosure.

The National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) has a useful toolkit for both domestic violence and HIV/AIDS providers aimed at providing information and resources that enhance services for persons exposed to HIV/AIDS and domestic violence. Toolkit contents address safety planning, frequently asked questions, common challenges, best practices, templates for adaptation, and resources for additional information and assistance. Several resources support building collaborative partnerships and cross training efforts between the domestic violence and HIV/AIDS fields. Strong, collaborative relationships are important for ensuring quality services for domestic violence survivors who may be at risk for or living with HIV/AIDS.

Visit [www.nnedv.org](http://www.nnedv.org) to access the Positively Safe Toolkit!

AIDS Connecticut (ACT) will hold its annual AIDS Awareness Day on May 10th at the Capitol. ACT is calling for the reinstatement of $526,930 proposed to be cut from the state budget impacting housing for persons living with AIDS – an 18% reduction of the program’s funding. According to AC, there are over 10,000 people living with HIV/AIDS in Connecticut and over 5,400 need some form of housing assistance. Housing assistance for people with HIV who are homeless improves their health outcomes and dramatically reduces emergency and inpatient health services, criminal justice involvement, and other crisis costs.

Click here for details on AIDS Awareness Day!
Member Spotlight On...

Ending Interpersonal Violence Through Community Prevention Education

Susan B. Anthony Project, since its founding in 1983, has held the dual mission of providing safety, healing and growth for all survivors of domestic and sexual violence and has sought to end interpersonal violence by community prevention education.

The community education department provides outreach and prevention programs to 14 towns in the northwest corner of Connecticut. Prevention programs are facilitated at the local schools reaching students from pre-school through college. All prevention programs are age-appropriate. For example, puppet shows are a method of delivery regarding Conflict Resolution from Pre-K through Grade 2. The puppets (Irving and Annie) make quite an impression on the children and students grades 5 and up consistently provide comments on their evaluations requesting that Annie and Irving come back for programs!

Susan B. Anthony Project is utilizing a public health prevention model that engages all levels of the community from the individual to organizations and systems and community partners. Utilizing this model engages schools in our service area with consistent scheduling of prevention programs beginning in preschool through 12th grade. The programs build on the principles that were taught in previous programs, offering a longitudinal impact. Prevention programs focus on healthy relationships and include such topics as Discovering My Boundaries; Healthy Expectations; Bystander Options; Cracking Gender Codes and the Media Influence Game.

Susan B. Anthony Project’s community educators also facilitate prevention programs to social service agencies in the area such as New Opportunities; Girl Scouts and the Teen Partial Hospital Program at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital. Additionally, for the past three years, community educators participated in the Girl’s Summit, sponsored by Women’s Leadership Initiative of the United Way of Northwest Connecticut. At these events, 8th grade girls from all around the region received a program addressing Healthy Relationships. In conjunction with the Girl’s Summit, a community educator was invited to facilitate a program for the boys at Wamogo in Litchfield while the girls were attending the Girl’s Summit. Training occurs annually for doctors at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital and other professional organizations by request.

Outreach efforts by Susan B. Anthony Project community educators include table events at annual activities such as the Kindergarten Readiness Fair; health fairs at local businesses as well as at Northwestern CT Community College; Stronger Women Stronger World 5K Obstacle Race; Kids Play Fair, a local children's museum; and various career fairs at the local community colleges. Some of our outreach efforts include providing an overview of our services to local community service agencies.

Numerous outreach and public presentations are held each year by community educators during the month of October in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. For example, our community educators begin the month with a wreath hanging at City Hall, which remains there throughout October. The Clothesline Project (a compilation of tee shirts designed by our survivors) is displayed at one of the local libraries. Library packets are distributed to all of the local libraries with information detailing each of the Domestic Violence Awareness month events, agency services, local and national statistics, and various brochures to be displayed. Community educators also distribute Hershey Kisses to both law enforcement and health care providers throughout the month of October—Kisses for Cops and Hugs for Healthcare. The main outreach event for October is the Candlelight Vigil which is held at Coe Park in Torrington. This annual event honors victims/survivors of domestic violence as well as some of our community partners.

The greatest acknowledgment of the importance of prevention work is when outside organizations reach in on behalf of a student, parent, patient or employee for direct service response in instances where domestic violence occurs. Having community awareness and education helps to reduce the stigma and promote options for support to achieve individual safety as well as assuring safer communities for all.
The Center for Family Justice
Receives Recognition for Legal Incubator Program

CCADV member organization, The Center for Family Justice, recently received the Liberty Bell award from the Greater Bridgeport Bar Association (GBBA) in recognition of opening Connecticut’s first legal incubator program this past February. The legal incubator program has enhanced access to justice services for victims of abuse by ensuring that clients of The Center can utilize attorneys working with the program. Both low bono and pro bono services are available and they are already creating positive outcomes for clients involved in the court system. Additionally, The Center has worked with the GBBA for the past 18 months to support victims in over 180 cases.

Safe Futures Advocate Receives 100 Women of Color Award

Safe Futures case manager, Shakia Seabrook, was recently recognized as part of the 100 Women of Color Awards & Gala. This annual event recognizes the contributions that women in various lines of work have made to impact the lives of those throughout their communities. Shakia heads the movement, Bare.Bold&Beautiful, which is dedicated to strengthening the self-esteem of girls and women through thought provoking workshops that challenge self-perception, address insecurities and instill empowerment.

Kathie Verano, Safe Futures Executive Director, says Shakia is an amazing woman who does wonderful work for the agency and surrounding community.
In March, CCADV and the CT Police Officers Standards & Training Council hosted renowned strangulation expert, Gael Strack, Esq., and Dr. Ralph Raviello of Drexel University College of Medicine. Nearly 200 police officers, prosecutors, advocates, Corrections staff and medical professionals attended the discussion on strangulation prevention. National data estimates that, of women at high risk of IPV, up to 68% will experience near-fatal strangulation, while 54% of high risk victims in Connecticut screened through LAP in FY16 reported being choked. Loss of consciousness can occur within 5-10 seconds and odds for homicide increase 750% for victims who have been previously strangled compared to victims who were never strangled.

According to the Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention, when a domestic violence perpetrator chokes/strangles their victim, not only is this a felonious assault, but it may be an attempted homicide. Strangulation is the ultimate form of power and control, where the abuser can demonstrate control over the victim’s next breath; having devastating psychological effects or a potentially fatal outcome. Presenters discussed identifying and documenting the many non-visible effects of strangulation that often are not felt until days or weeks after the incident.
Taking Tips from National Experts as CCADV Seeks to Expand Mens’ Engagement Efforts

In April, CCADV Director of Law Enforcement Services, Dan Cargill, attended an event in Providence hosted by the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence (RICADV) – Changing the Culture, Stopping the Violence: A CALL TO MEN Symposium. The event featured Tony Porter, a leading voice on the intersection of masculinity and violence against women, and on healthy, respectful manhood. Porter is internationally recognized for his efforts to mobilize men and communities to shit attitudes and behaviors that devalue women, girls and other marginalized groups.

A CALL TO MEN works to create a world where all men and boys are loving and respectful and all women and girls are valued and safe. Embracing and promoting a healthy, respectful manhood prevents violence against women, sexual assault and harassment, bullying and many other social ills. A CALL TO MEN is internationally recognized for training and educating men to embrace and promote a healthy, respectful manhood. The organization’s approach is grounded in the social ecological model, advocated by the Centers for Disease Control, as a framework for primary prevention of gender-based violence. A CALL TO MEN partners with schools, universities, corporations, government, social service agencies, military installations, communities to end all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls.

Dan attended the event representing CCADV’s 10x10 Campaign, which seeks to engage men to promote healthy relationships and the prevention of intimate partner violence, dating violence and stalking. CCADV recently partnered with the Boys & Girls Club of CT to reshape and rebrand the 10x10 Campaign. Don Maleto, Anthony Johnson, and Marlon Ramnanan of the Boys & Girls Club of CT also attended the RICADV event. Stay tuned as the campaign is set to be re-launched this summer!

Click to watch Tony Porter’s 2010 TED talk
### cca|DV

**MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS**

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<th>Organization</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Phone Number 1</th>
<th>Phone Number 2</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Umbrella Center for Domestic Violence Services</td>
<td>Ansonia</td>
<td>(203) 736-9944</td>
<td>New Haven</td>
<td>(203) 789-8104</td>
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<td>Women’s Center of Greater Danbury</td>
<td>Danbury</td>
<td>(203) 731-5206</td>
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<td>The Network</td>
<td>Enfield</td>
<td>(860) 763-4542</td>
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<td>Interval House</td>
<td>Hartford</td>
<td>(860) 527-0550</td>
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<td>New Horizons</td>
<td>Middletown</td>
<td>(860) 347-3044</td>
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<td>Safe Futures</td>
<td>New London</td>
<td>(860) 701-6000</td>
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<td>Women’s Support Services</td>
<td>Sharon</td>
<td>(860) 364-1900</td>
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<td>Safe Haven</td>
<td>Waterbury</td>
<td>(203) 575-0036</td>
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<td>The Center for Family Justice</td>
<td>Bridgeport</td>
<td>(203) 384-9559</td>
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<td>Domestic Violence Program/ United Services, Inc.</td>
<td>Dayville</td>
<td>(860) 774-8648</td>
<td>Willimantic</td>
<td>(860) 456-9476</td>
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<tr>
<td>Domestic Abuse Service/ Greenwich YWCA</td>
<td>Greenwich</td>
<td>(203) 622-0003</td>
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<td>Chrysalis Domestic Violence Services</td>
<td>Meriden</td>
<td>(203) 238-1501</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prudence Crandall Center</td>
<td>New Britain</td>
<td>(860) 225-6357</td>
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<tr>
<td>Domestic Violence Crisis Center</td>
<td>Norwalk</td>
<td>(203) 852-1980</td>
<td>Stamford</td>
<td>(203) 588-9096</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan B. Anthony Project</td>
<td>Torrington</td>
<td>(860) 482-7133</td>
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*CCADV is the state’s leading voice for victims of domestic violence and those agencies that serve them.*

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Statewide Hotline - 888.774.2900 (English) 844.831.9200 (Español)
Call to be connected with your local domestic violence service agency.