

# Coalition Chronicles

newsletter  
Spring  
2012



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Women's Clubs Take on Domestic Violence

CCADV Executive Director Karen Jarmoc joins State Representative Peggy Sayers, State Representative David Baram and members of the Windsor Woman's Club.

**CCADV**  
Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence

“Connecticut is the only state in the nation with a Speaker’s Task Force on Domestic Violence. CCADV is proud to partner with the task force to initiate policy recommendations to keep victims safer in Connecticut.”



CCADV members with Attorney General George Jepsen and Speaker’s Task Force on Domestic Violence Chair Representative Mae Flexer.

## **RAISED BILL 5548: AN ACT CONCERNING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

This session, legislators remained committed to continuing the critical work of improving upon Connecticut’s policies which help to serve victims of domestic violence. Through the work of the Speaker’s Task Force on Domestic Violence, model legislation was passed to put new and meaningful reforms in place to keep victims safer in Connecticut.

In 2011, CCADV and representatives from five member agencies served on the General Assembly’s Task Force on Law Enforcement Response to Family Violence. A host of recommendations from the group were proposed and included in the recently passed Raised Bill 5548: An Act Concerning Domestic Violence. Once the Governor signs this law into place, a new Family Violence Model Policy Governing Council will be created to annually evaluate law enforcement policies and procedures related to domestic violence. This law will also change the state’s stalking and harassment statutes to include email and text messages.

House Bill 5548 includes additional provisions for increased accountability for domestic violence abusers enrolled in the Family Violence Education Program, for the extension of restraining orders from six months to up to one year, and enhanced strategies for locating offenders for service of process. In addition, the new law will institute a statewide model policy for law enforcement’s response to family violence, will strengthen the violation of orders of protection and will improve safeguards for college students who possess an order of protection.

Each year, over 54,000 victims of domestic violence and their children are provided life saving services through the Coalition’s 18 member agencies. To this end, CCADV works tirelessly to ensure that the voices of victims are represented at the Capitol.

**CCADV Supports the Recommendations of the Law Enforcement Response to Domestic Violence Task Force**

# Teens and Healthy Relationships

## IT'S TIME FOR THE PROM

You would think that the prom is one of the best times a teenager can have before leaving high school. There are dresses and shoes to buy, tuxedos to be rented and limos to be lined up for the special evening. Before their date arrives, parents caution their teens not to drink or use drugs. They may talk about abstinence or taking safe sex precautions. But, have they spoken about teen dating violence?

Teen dating violence is a pattern of controlling and abusive behaviors by a person who is in, or has been in an intimate relationship with a teen. Teen dating violence can include physical violence, sexual violence, and/or emotional or verbal abuse. It can happen to teens no matter what race, ethnicity, or religion they are, and no matter their level of education or economic background. Dating violence can also occur in same-sex relationships.

According to the Connecticut Department of Public Health- 2009 School Health Survey, between 9.5%-11.6% of all students surveyed indicated that they had been hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend during the past 12 months. While these numbers have slightly declined over the years, teen dating violence is still an issue that we must discuss with teens.

## DID YOU KNOW

- About 72% of students in 8th and 9th grade report "dating."
- By the time they are in high school, 54% of students report dating violence among their peers.
- About one in 11 teens reports being a victim of physical dating violence each year.
- About one in four teens reports verbal, physical, emotional, or sexual violence each year.
- About one in five teens reports being a victim of emotional abuse.
- About one in five high school girls has been physically or sexually abused by a dating partner.
- About 70% of girls and 52% of boys who are victims of dating violence report an injury from a violent relationship.
- Approximately 8% of boys and 9% of girls have been to an emergency room for an injury received from a dating partner.
- Adolescents who are victims of dating violence not only are at increased risk for injury, but are also more likely to report binge drinking, suicide attempts, physical fighting, and sexual activity.
- Rates of drug, alcohol, and tobacco use are more than twice as high in girls who report physical dating violence or sexual abuse than in girls who report no violence.

## WARNING SIGNS OF TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

It is important to understand the warning signs for dating violence so you can help teens develop healthy relationship attitudes and behaviors.

These "red flags" should alert you to the possibility that a teen may be a victim or is at risk of becoming victim of dating violence:

- Suspicious bruises, scratches, or other injuries
- Failing grades
- Loss of interest in activities or hobbies that were once enjoyable
- Alcohol or drug use
- Excuses their dating partner's behavior
- Fearfulness around their dating partner or when his or her name is mentioned
- Avoidance of friends and social events

These behaviors may indicate that a teen may be a perpetrator or is at risk of becoming a perpetrator of violence:

- Threatens to hurt others in any way
- Insults or ignores a dating partner in public or private
- Constantly calls or texts to check up on a dating partner
- Damages or destroys a dating partner's personal belongings
- Attempts to control a dating partner's friends, their activities, or even the clothes they wear
- Exhibits jealous and possessive behavior
- Demands to know where their dating partner is all the time
- Making a dating partner feel guilty or shameful with statements such as: "If you really loved me, you would..."
- Blames the dating partner for his or her feelings and actions with statements such as: "You asked for it" or "You made me mad"

**td411**

In 2011 CCADV, with the assistance of teenagers across the state, created td411.

td11 was developed so teens can find meaningful solutions for themselves or their friends if they are experiencing abuse in their relationship.

Designed to bring awareness about teen dating violence, td411 gives teens all the information they need to avoid abuse and assists them in finding help when they really need it.

td411 can be downloaded at [www.td411.org](http://www.td411.org).



If you have questions about teen dating violence or you need help, we are also available to assist 24 hours a day by calling our confidential statewide helpline at 888-774-2900.

## **Women's Clubs Take on Domestic Violence**

The Greater Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) is a national leader in the fight to end domestic violence by raising awareness about this social issue. By supporting existing activities, working with various established programs, and initiating educational opportunities for club members and local citizens, the goal of the GFWC Signature Project: Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention is to increase awareness of the widespread occurrence of domestic abuse.

For years, the GFWC of Connecticut has supported the Coalition's public policy agenda and this year is no exception. Through a series of informational coffee meetings, women's clubs- in partnership with CCADV and the member agencies-met with state senators and representatives to discuss the need for enhanced protections for victims of domestic violence and their families. Women's clubs from Enfield, North Branford/Northford, Northeast Connecticut, Windsor, Norwalk, Sharon, Harwinton, Madison, Danbury, and Killingworth presented the statutory goals of the Coalition for the current legislative session.

By having local women's clubs across the state host these coffees for citizens and state legislators, they have joined CCADV in spreading awareness of the issue of domestic violence and helping promote legislation that is necessary to protect victims, as well as engaging members the community to do the same.



JoAnn Calnen, President and Linda Louise LaCasse of the Connecticut General Federation of Women's Clubs

# Forum Held to Address Children Impacted by Domestic Violence

Lead child advocates, health professionals, policy makers and law enforcement deliberated over solutions to assist children impacted by domestic violence in Connecticut at a forum held in February at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford. The event entitled, "Domestic Violence Through the Eyes of a Child," hosted national expert Betsy McAlister Groves, Founder and Executive Director of the Child Witness to Violence Project at Boston Medical Center. The event was co-hosted by CCADV, Connecticut's Commission on Children and the Office of the Child Advocate.

Groves stressed that a continuum of programs to help children heal from the trauma associated with experiencing family violence must be approached from both a prevention and intervention standpoint and by means of a coordinated systematic response. According to event panelist Janice Gruendel, PhD, Med, Deputy Commissioner for the Department of Children and Families (DCF), the agency serves an average of 27,500 children in Connecticut on any given day. A total of 40% of these children have domestic violence as a significant and identified factor in their lives.

Here in Connecticut, more than 1,000 children and 1,300 mothers are sheltered annually in one of the state's 18 domestic violence safe houses. Coupled with those residing in our safe houses are thousands more children and teens out in communities who experience violence in the home and in teen dating relationships.

According to Connecticut's Domestic Violence Fatality Review Report which was issued in July 2011, in all but one case of homicide reviewed by the committee over the past ten years, there were children present when the fatality occurred, including children who were not related to the family. Policy recommendations offered up by panelists include increased training for judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement in regard to the impact of family violence on a child and how to respond.



From left: Elaine Zimmerman of the Commission on Children, Betsy McAlister Groves, Karen Jarmoc of CCADV, Jeanne Milstien, former State Child Advocate

## Preventing Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is a critical issue that calls for community-oriented approaches to stopping violence before it can begin. Beginning in February, CCADV and a multidisciplinary group of experienced prevention practitioners, stakeholders, and advocates formed a Prevention Steering Committee that is tasked with the development of a statewide plan for the prevention of domestic violence in Connecticut. The purpose of this plan will be to reframe and build upon current statewide efforts with an aim to prevent domestic violence from occurring in the first place. Key stakeholders are committed to developing a data-driven and evidence based 3-5 year plan with promising practices to prevent domestic violence. Plans are underway to unveil the plan in summer 2013.

*If domestic violence is viewed as a societal and community issue, strategies targeted only at individuals and families are insufficient to address the problem. We must combine both prevention and intervention approaches to ensure meaningful change.*

If you need help  
or just someone to talk to,  
call our statewide domestic  
violence helpline  
at 888-774-2900.

# Lethality Assessment

Domestic violence does not exist in a vacuum. While each individual perpetrator of domestic violence makes the personal choice to use violence as a way to exert control, they do so in the broader context of family, community and societal settings. For this reason, our work must reach out to all groups and systems dedicated to keeping victims safer in Connecticut.

According to the Connecticut Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee – a project of CCADV– Connecticut has averaged 16 homicides annually over the past ten years.

In response, CCADV is partnering with law enforcement from across the state to implement nationally recognized risk assessment strategies to better serve victims in the highest danger. Connecticut domestic violence advocates and police departments have been selected as one of ten sites across the country to receive training and technical assistance to address homicide prevention and reduce violence against women. This month, CCADV along with its member agencies and the State of Connecticut Police Officers Standards and Training Council (POST) will begin its training in the National Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) which is supported by and modeled after the statewide Lethality Assessment Model Program, housed at the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence. The purpose of this assessment program is to create a statewide systemic response to promote and enhance strategies to address lethality prevention here in Connecticut.

LAP is a two pronged intervention course of action in which police officers identify victims of domestic violence who are at risk of being seriously injured or killed by their intimate partners and immediately connect them to the domestic violence agency in their area. Police departments from Greenwich, Guilford, Manchester, New Britain, New London, North Haven, Norwalk, Norwich, Shelton, State Police, Waterbury, and Waterford will work with their local domestic violence agency to create project teams, which will receive extensive train-the-trainer instructional sessions to prepare them to train their fellow advocates and officers to implement the LAP beginning October 2012.

Once trained, police officers, at the scene of a domestic violence incident, will complete a research-based lethality assessment tool which was developed by the professionally respected Jacqueline Campbell, PhD, RN from Johns Hopkins University. The lethality assessment tool is a series of 11 questions that include such questions as:

- Has your partner ever tried to or used a weapon against you?
- Has your partner ever threatened to kill you or your children?
- Is your partner violently or consistently jealous or does your partner control your daily activities?
- Have you left your partner or separated after being married or living together?
- Is there anything else that worries you about your safety?

Upon completion of the assessment- if an officer discovers the potential for danger is high- the officer will make an immediate referral so the victim has instant access to their local domestic violence agency. Here the victim can speak with an advocate, and together they can develop and implement an individualized plan of safety which will include follow-up check-ins to ensure the victim remains safe.

Through this high priority response, all project partners expect to reduce the overall number of potential fatalities. The LAP enables police officers and local domestic violence victim services programs to work as equal partners in a more coordinated, communicative, and cooperative manner to engage victims who would, otherwise, be unlikely to seek the support of domestic violence services.

The LAP was recognized by Harvard University's Ash Institute as one the **"Top 50" Innovations in American Government** in 2008.

This conference is open to all members of the community who have a vested interest in victim safety and offender accountability, including clinicians, law enforcement officers, attorneys, domestic violence advocates, social service and health practitioners.

save <sup>THE</sup> date  
october 15-16, 2012  
rocky hill marriot.rocky hill.ct

## Strengthening Connecticut's Response: Emerging Best Practices

At this conference, you will learn about:

- The impact of domestic violence on children
- Fatality review
- Lethality and danger assessment
- Cultural responsiveness to domestic violence
- Offender accountability
- Cyberstalking
- Bystander assistance
- The batterer as a parent

This event is sponsored by:



This is a "Domestic Violence Across Communities" event.

## Domestic Violence Volunteers Complete Certification Training

Eager to start working with victims of domestic violence, 23 new advocates from across the state completed a comprehensive 24-hour training designed to prepare new domestic violence advocates and volunteers to work with victims and their children.

Each participant attended training on a variety of issues- related to domestic violence- to prepare them to answer our 24 hour helplines, facilitate supports groups, advocate in courts and support children who have witnessed abuse in their homes.

Training topics included the dynamics of domestic violence, batterer behavior, the impact of domestic violence on children, cultural responsiveness, trauma, women- defined advocacy, safety planning and confidentiality. Upon completion of the training, each participant will become a Certified Battered Women's Counselor by their affiliated domestic violence agency.

## CCADV to Receive Publishers Award from the CT Law Tribune

Every year, the Connecticut Law Tribune holds its annual awards events-Honors Night- to recognize attorneys and a member of the legal profession for their outstanding contributions.

On June 14, 2012, the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence will receive the prestigious Publisher's Award for their exceptional efforts in raising awareness about the issue of domestic violence throughout the state of Connecticut.



Volunteers Ellen, Tammy Sue and Arjen work on developing safety plans .

# Help is available throughout Connecticut

Center for Domestic Violence Services at BH Care  
Ansonia New Haven  
(203) 736-9944 (203) 789-8104

The Center for Women & Families  
Bridgeport  
(203) 384-9559

Women's Center  
Danbury  
(203) 731-5206

Domestic Violence Program/United Services  
Dayville Willimantic  
(860) 774-8648 (860) 456-9476

Network Against Domestic Abuse  
Enfield  
(860) 763-4542

Domestic Abuse Service/Greenwich YWCA  
Greenwich  
(203) 622-0003

Interval House  
Hartford  
(860) 527-0550

Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis  
Meriden  
(203) 238-1501

New Horizons  
Middletown  
(860) 347-3044

Prudence Crandall Center  
New Britain  
(860) 225-6357

The Women's Center of SE CT  
New London  
(860) 701-6000

Domestic Violence Crisis Center  
Norwalk Stamford  
(203) 852-1980 (203) 588-9096

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

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

Safe Haven  
Waterbury  
(203) 575-0036

save the date  
**9.25.12**

Crowne Plaza Hotel  
Cromwell, CT

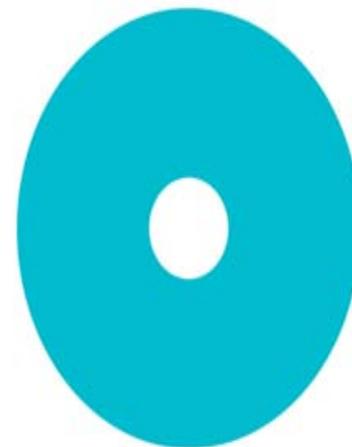
“the first”  
**100 plus**”

Annual Breakfast and Awards Ceremony

to learn more visit [www.ctcadv.org](http://www.ctcadv.org)

NO MORE is a simple idea with the power to unleash new, major attention to the people all around us who are hurt by domestic violence and sexual assault every day and every minute. Each of us can use NO MORE to stop the stigma, shame and silence for good. Like the peace sign, the “support our troops” ribbon or the AIDS ribbon, our goal is to use the NO MORE symbol to help unify all people and organizations who want to end domestic violence and sexual assault.

It's time to change that.  
It's time to say NO MORE.  
[www.nomore.org](http://www.nomore.org)



**NO MORE**



**CCADV**

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