Pro Bono Restraining Order Project Looks to Expand

Legal assistance is one of the top resources that victims request when contacting CCADV and our 18 member organizations. Unfortunately, we do not receive funding to provide legal assistance and our funding to provide court advocacy (guidance on the court process, but not legal advice) and court accompaniment is stretched thin. This is particularly true in Connecticut civil/family courts, where the state only funds CCADV to support four (4) advocates.

Recognizing this critical gap, CCADV, Hartford-based Robinson+Cole and Greater Hartford Legal Aid (as a representative of legal services providers throughout the state) partnered in 2012 to establish a pro bono project assisting domestic violence victims seeking restraining orders in court. Beginning in Middletown Superior Court with the assistance of New Horizons and Hartford Superior Court with the assistance of Interval House, pro bono attorneys began receiving referrals, assisting low-income victims with restraining order applications and, if necessary, appearing at the hearing with the victim. All involved have noted the incredible success of the project - attorneys find both personal and professional satisfaction assisting victims, victims feel empowered and the domestic violence organization directors find that victims being assisted through the project are able to find longer-term safety and stability.

The project is working to expand to include additional attorneys and courts throughout the state. Recently the firm of Carmody & Torrance partnered with CT Legal Services and Safe Haven of Greater Waterbury to begin providing pro bono services to victims at Waterbury Superior Court. Next month CCADV President & CEO, Karen Jarmoc, and Director of Legal Advocacy, Geralyn O’Neil-Wild, will assist with training incoming project attorneys. At it’s 5th Annual First 100 Plus Breakfast & Awards Ceremony in November, CCADV will recognize Robinson+Cole for their work on this project.

Participating attorneys have noted that only a small time commitment is needed with many attorneys scheduling a specific block of time each month for the project. Volunteers have included both litigators and transactional lawyers, none of whom were previously involved in family law practice. If you’re interested in setting up a similar program at your firm, please contact Karen Jarmoc at CCADV, Jamey Bell at Greater Hartford Legal Aid or Nuala Droney at Robinson+Cole.
Intimate Partner Violence is a preventable public health issue that affects millions of Americans according to the Center for Disease Control. Healthcare professionals can and should play a critical role in screening for and responding to this health issue. Most Americans trust their health provider and they come to see you because they want help. Healthcare settings are safe and nurturing - the perfect place to explore options and resources with victims.

**Training Includes:**

- Prevalence and dynamics of intimate partner violence
- Health professionals’ role in screening and intervention
- Screening tools, best practices and resources that will strengthen interventions
- Referral sources and other resources to support patient care

Trainings are available for 1 to 3 hours and **EACH HOUR QUALIFIES FOR ONE CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT.**

Trainings and consultation for policy guidance are **FREE OF COST.**

This project is funded by the CT Department of Social Services and is a partnership between CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Injury Prevention Center at CT Children’s Medical Center/Hartford Hospital. Training is provided at no cost.

Please contact **Natacha Kerelejza, LCSW**, Clinical Director of the Health Professional Outreach Project at CCADV to schedule your free training!

860.282.7899 | nkerelejza@ctadv.org | www.ctadv.org

**You Can Make a Difference!**

Addressing intimate partner violence in healthcare settings is important!

- You provide a safe and nurturing environment.
- You have existing relationships with patients and provide information that they can trust.
- You can help connect your patient’s current health issue to the abusive relationship she or he may be experiencing.

**Professional Organizations Recommend Screening!**

- American Medical Association
- American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
- American Nursing Association
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- Institute of Medicine
- Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals and Health Care Organizations
- US Preventative Services Task Force
Task Force on Minors Exposed to Family Violence Gets Underway

The CT General Assembly’s Task Force to Study the Statewide Response to Minors Exposed to Family Violence, the creation of which was advocated for by CCADV during the 2015 legislative session, got underway in July. Co-chaired by CCADV President & CEO, Karen Jarmoc, and CCMC/Hartford Hospital Injury Prevention Center Director, Garry Lapidus, the group is tasked with examining the system-wide response to children exposed to family violence including the Dept. of Children & Families, the Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction Services, healthcare professionals, law enforcement, guardians ad litem, attorneys for minor children, and the Judicial Branch. The task force will also work to develop a state-wide model policy for responding to children in these situations.

To date the task force has heard from several experts in their respective fields, including:

- **Dr. Damion Grasso**, an Asst. Professor of Psychiatry at UConn Health, and **Dr. Nina Livingston**, a Child Abuse Pediatrician and Medical Director at Hartford Regional Child Abuse Services, who discussed the way children perceive intimate partner violence between their caregivers, the methods with which they cope and signs of its effect on their development;

- **Linda Harris**, Program Director of Family Support Services at the Office of Early Childhood (OEC), who discussed early prevention and intervention models available through the services of OEC;

- **Commissioner Dora Schriro**, Dept. of Emergency Services & Public Protection, who reviewed the protocol used by state police at a scene involving children and family violence;

- **Dr. Jason Lang**, UConn Health Center, **Lt. Sean Grant**, Manchester Police Dept., and **Amy Evison**, Community Health Resources, all who partnered to establish the REACT Program, a trauma-focused response model that connects the child, law enforcement and Emergency Mobile Psychiatric Units;

- **Honorable Paul Knierim**, Probate Court Administrator, **Honorable John Keyes**, New Haven Probate Court, and **Honorable Beverly Streit-Kefalas**, Milford-Orange Probate Court, who discussed probate processes when dealing with cases involving children and family violence;

- **Kelly Annelli**, CCADV Director of Member Organizations Services, **Suzanne Adam**, Executive Director of Domestic Abuse Services at YWCA Greenwich, and **Lillian Ankrah**, Domestic Abuse Services at YWCA Greenwich, who discussed trauma-informed services available at Connecticut’s 18 domestic violence organizations for children exposed to family violence;

- **Judge Janice Rosa** and **Attorney Darren Mitchell** of the National Judicial Institute on Domestic Violence, who discussed best practices for the judicial response to family violence, available trainings to enhance judges’ skills and opportunities for a coordinated community response; and

- **CT Judicial Branch** who discussed existing training practices for Connecticut judges.

The task force will continue to meet over the next several months with findings and recommendations due to the General Assembly’s Human Services and Children’s Committees by January 15, 2016. CCADV plans to focus legislative efforts during the 2016 session to ensure passage of the task force recommendations. Meeting agendas, minutes and most presentations are available on the [Task Force webpage](#).

National Assoc. of Women Law Enforcement Executives Conference

In August, CCADV Director of Law Enforcement, Joseph Froehlich, presented at the 20th Anniversary Conference of the National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives. Hundreds of law enforcement officers from across the country attended the conference. Joe’s workshop focused on the value of the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) which began in Connecticut in 2008 in Ansonia and started rolling out statewide in 2012. LAP is currently being used by 600 police agencies in 34 states and is based on a strong partnership between law enforcement and local domestic violence organizations. Using evidence-based risk factors for intimate partner homicide, officers are able to determine potential lethality and immediately connect high risk victims with local domestic violence counselors. Attendees discussed LAP protocols, necessary training and needed resources. Officers not currently utilizing LAP were eager to bring program details back to their departments.
Recognizing Our Leaders

THANKING THREE MEMBER ORGANIZATION DIRECTORS FOR THEIR YEARS OF SERVICE

We want to take a moment to recognize three of CCADV’s member organization leaders who are embarking on the next chapter of their lives. Each has led efforts to provide essential direct services that help victims stay safe and regain control over their lives.

In January of 2016, Susan DeLeon, Director of The Umbrella Center for Domestic Violence Services (a program of BHcare), will leave the organization after over three decades of service. Starting as a volunteer with the Lower Naugatuck Valley Battered Women’s Project, Inc., Susan held various positions before becoming the program’s director in the early 90s. Originally serving 5 towns in the Ansonia/Valley area, Susan led the organization in a merger with the New Haven domestic violence services provider, eventually increasing the service area to 19 towns in the New Haven/Valley area.

Known as a patient, solution-focused leader, Susan is credited for her strong grant-writing skills, including recently securing funding from the Community Foundation of Greater New Haven and other philanthropic organizations to move forward with plans to open a family justice center. Susan has long had a passion for ensuring that domestic violence, and especially elder abuse, is brought out of the shadows. Under her leadership, an elder abuse council was created that eventually led to the establishment of the CHERISH Program. Partnering with assisted living communities, retirement homes and skilled nursing facilities, CHERISH provides an array of services to those 60 year of age and older who experience late life domestic violence.

Susan has dedicated her life to helping victims of domestic violence and success of the The Umbrella, and for that we extend our deepest gratitude.

Earlier this month, Lori Rivenburgh, Executive Director of Women’s Support Services (WSS) in Sharon, left her post to head the Boys and Girls Club of the Town of Wallkill (NY). During her seven years as Executive Director, Lori focused on the growth of the organization and its ability to meet the needs of victims in the very rural area of northwestern Connecticut. Under her leadership, WSS expanded from five full and part-time staff to 10 staff members - seven fulltime and three per diem.

Believing that outreach and partnership were the best avenues to address domestic violence, Lori engaged in all aspects of the local community making certain that WSS was recognized as a strong organization with which to partner to assist victims in both Connecticut and New York. She also worked to expand services and establish innovative best practices to ensure that all federal and state service standards would not only be met, but would be exceeded.

A known problem-solver, Lori was always willing to have and lead tough discussions on policy and funding to build optimal services. Serving on a number of boards and supervisory committees across the state, including CCADV's Board of Directors and the statewide fatality review team led by CCADV, Lori was seen as a team player who wouldn’t shy away from a challenge, including testifying before the Connecticut General Assembly. Lori’s dedication and sense of humor will be missed, but we are grateful for the lasting impact she has had on our work.

Next month, Michele Waldner, Program Director of New Horizons, will be moving on to the next journey of her life in warmer, beachier locations. New Horizons is a program of Community Health Center, Inc. (CHC), providing domestic violence services to victims in Middletown and 14 surrounding towns in lower central Connecticut. Michele has served CHC in various capacities for 27 years. Under her leadership, New Horizons has developed into a strong program that ensures comprehensive service delivery. Michele strengthened program standards and expanded outreach efforts, building strong relationships with local community organizations to meet the ever-complex needs of victims coming through her door.

Working with one of the smallest staff of any domestic violence organization in the state, Michele has focused on cross-disciplinary training so that there is always a staff member available with the needed expertise to assist victims. Known for maintaining open communication with staff and victims, she is forthright and honest with victims making certain that they understand their options as well as risk while leaving no doubt that New Horizons will be there every step of the way. A powerful advocate, Michele has served on various committees including CCADV’s Board of Directors and Law Enforcement Advisory Committee to help build a stronger response for those in need. Her efforts to empower victims will be lasting and we are deeply appreciative for the mark she has left on our movement.
Please join us as we recognize the 2015 Class of statewide leaders who are working to improve conditions for victims of domestic violence and their families in Connecticut. In our fifth year we are pleased to announce that CCADV will begin 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.

The Jackson Family
Coalition Crusader Award

Sandy Aldieri
Linda Allard, Esq.
Catherine Bailey, Esq.
Claudia Barbieri
Don Bastic
Elizabeth Beaudin
Officer Monique Belisle
Tony Berrigan
Joyce Betts
Officer Kim Binette
Senator Toni Boucher
Kevin Bruemmer
Marzena Bukowski
Senator Beth Bye
Dr. Brendan Campbell
Miguel Cardona
Mother Jennifer Carroll
Dr. Janet Chang
Michael A. Chowaniec, Esq.
Cathy Christy
Lucia Chubet
Detective Mark Conway
Rikki Crea
Detective Kerry Dalling
Nick Daukas
Rick Deenihan
Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro
Enelsa Diaz, Esq.
Phyllis M. DiCara, Esq.
Steve DiLella
Dennis Dillahunt
Officer John D’Inverno
Chief William Dittman

Nuala E. Droney, Esq.
Dr. Paul Dworin
Bishop Larry Elliott
Congresswoman Elizabeth Esty
Kate Evans
Gail Fisher Brown
Simon Flynn, Jr.
Sarah Gallardo
Betty Gallo
Senator Terry Gerratana
Jillian Gilchrest
Armando Goncalves
Officer Beth Graves
Sergeant Renee Harvey
Pastor Richard Haverly
Miriam Hayes
Mary Healey
Robert Hojancki
Dale Holder
Michael Hurlburt
Logan Jarvis
Julia Keilty
Katie Kelley
Sr. Asst. State’s Atty. Brian Kennedy
Karen Kulak
Dr. Nina Livingston
Rebecca Loos, Esq.
Kathryn Mayer
Lynn McArthur-LeFler
Officer Gail McDonnell
Detective Kelly McFarland
Jane McManus
Marisol Megia
Louisa Moller
Pam Nuchols
Trooper Karen O’Connor
Lynn Olson-Douglass
April Pierce
Ron Pinciaro
Officer Ronald Piotrowski
Rafie Podolsky, Esq.
Keri Potts
Alice Pritchard
Wanda Rieger
Mary-Ann Ried Gill
Reuben Rivera
Michael A. Rosano
Becky Rutrough
Officer Andres Sanchez
Tracy Scala
Scot Scala
Commissioner Dora Schriro
Bruce Silverstone
Paul Slager, Esq.
Michele Solomon
Asst. State's Atty. Sarah Steere
Sr. State's Atty. Judy Stevens
Mayor Erin Stewart
Donna Szarwak
Detective Donovan Thorpe
Robbin Todhunter
Detective Cynthia Torres
Carolyn Treiss, Esq.
Sally Tremaine
Theresa Valentine
Dr. Marianne Yoshioka

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

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

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Leaving Isn’t That Easy
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

At CCADV, we know that leaving an abusive relationship isn’t always that easy. There are a number of challenges and barriers that victims face when deciding to end an abusive relationship. It might be that the abuser controls all of the money and the victim has to choose between violence at home or being homeless and impoverished. Perhaps the abuser has isolated the victim from family and friends so there is a feeling that there’s simply no one to whom she or he can turn. Maybe the victim is an immigrant and her or his abuser threatens that the police will deport them if called. Or often it’s as simple as the fact that the victim loves her or his abuser, and simply wants the abuse to end, not the relationship.

We want victims to know that we get it. And we want to help others understand it as well, so that everyone has the ability to acknowledge and appreciate the trauma that victims suffer and the realities they face when making significant, life-altering decisions.

Throughout the month of October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we used social media to share some common challenges and feelings that victims contend with when deciding to end an abusive relationship. Check us out on Facebook and Twitter to access and share the images. We hope that people learn from and share the images to help spread the word about the available services at CCADV’s 18 member organizations, all of whom provide a wide range of services that can assist victims making the courageous decision to seek help.

**td411 Mobile App**

CCADV continues to raise awareness about the availability of the td411 mobile application. Through the contribution of additional monies provided by the Department of Children and Families, CCADV engaged and retained the services of McDowell Jewett Communications, a Hartford-based public relations firm, to assist with an awareness campaign. The goal of the campaign was to create materials for teachers, school counselors, social workers and other school professionals to assist them when working with youth and concurrently increase awareness on teen dating violence. Another objective was to increase the mobile app's download by teenagers. The campaign included FM radio slots, Pandora Radio slots, production of online ads to promote the app, and printed materials.

Additionally, the project director, CCADV Director of Diversity & Accessibility, Wendy Mota Kasongo, created a brief online survey for teens to provide feedback on teen dating violence and the td411 mobile app. Member organization community educators in Torrington, Bridgeport, Waterbury & New London with strong middle and high school presence were solicited to engage teens to complete the survey. As an incentive, all teenagers who download the app and complete the survey are to receive a $10 iTunes card for their participation.

Click here for a downloadable td411 flyer to help spread the word. Please contact Wendy with questions.
Health Insurance Open Enrollment Begins in November... Victims Don’t Have to Wait

With the annual health insurance open enrollment period just around the corner (November 1, 2015), the US Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) wants to remind everyone that victims of domestic violence never have to wait for open enrollment. Victims of domestic violence or spousal abandonment can enroll in the Affordable Care Act through either national or state health insurance marketplaces at any time. Recognizing the many barriers that victims face when deciding to end an abusive relationship, HHS put the exception in place so to help those victims staying for purposes of maintaining health insurance for either themselves or their children.

Additionally, since the Affordable Care Act was passed, screening and counseling for domestic and sexual violence have been covered benefits. Experiencing intimate partner violence in any capacity can contribute to number of chronic health problems including depression, substance abuse, and sexually transmitted diseases. Women that are abused are often more likely to report frequent headaches and chronic pain; they have difficulty sleeping, poor physical and mental health, as well as some activity limitations.

As part of its Health Professional Outreach Project, CCADV is in the process of conducting trainings in various healthcare settings throughout Connecticut with the goal of increasing screening and intervention for victims involved in the healthcare system. Screening tools and evidence-based best practices will be available for healthcare providers through toolkits currently being developed. The project will consult with providers to review policies and procedures to enhance the healthcare response to intimate partner violence, including new billing procedures for screening. A key to the project’s success will be strengthening the relationships between regional healthcare systems and CCADV’s 18 local domestic violence organizations.

Full guidance on victims of domestic violence enrolling in health insurance can be found [HERE](#).

For questions about CCADV’s Health Professional Outreach Project, please contact Clinical Director, [Natacha Kerelejza](#).

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CCADV Training Institute
Upcoming Trainings

Check out the full catalog!

**Community Welcome**

*When Women Use Violence*
Nov. 10 | 10:00am - 1:00pm | CCADV

*Community Conversation - Increasing Support for Asian Women & Their Children*
Nov. 13 | 10:00am - 11:30am | CCADV

**School-based/Youth Serving/Member Organizations**

*Safe Dates*
Nov. 19 | 9:00am - 3:00pm | CCADV

**Members Only**

*Sesame Street - Little Children, Big Problems: Resources to Promote Resiliency in Children*
Nov. 17 | 9:30am - 1:00pm | CCADV

**Law Enforcement/Members Only**

*Train-the-Trainer: Lethality Assessment Program*
Nov. 18 | 9:30am - 4:00pm | CT POST, Meriden

*Domestic Violence for Police Telecommunications*
Dec. 8 | 9:00am - 12:00pm | CCADV
Meeting Children’s Needs During the Court Process

Earlier this month CCADV Director of Member Organization Services, Kelly Annelli, presented at a daylong training for guardians ad litem (GAL) and attorneys working with children and families in Connecticut courts. The training - Domestic Violence: Its Impact on Children, Parents & Families – was sponsored by the Office of the Chief Public Defender, organized by CT Children’s Law Center and designed to educate participants on the effects of trauma and how to recognize it in adults and children, as well as addressing needs of adults and children in the context of court. Over 40 GALs and attorneys participated in the training, where they also heard from medical professionals and offender treatment experts.

Kelly’s presentation touched upon warning signs of abusive relationships, including common victim and offender behaviors. Participants were asked to focus on the trauma that the non-offending parent has experienced, likely over a number of years, and how that trauma may guide her or his actions. What may seem like obstructive or irrational behavior can often be put into context when considering a history of abuse and trauma. The non-offending parent has worked tirelessly to protect her or himself and the children from abuse and she or he is now faced with the possibility of the children spending time alone with the offending parent or losing them altogether – a situation that would elicit the most protective behaviors.

The impact of witnessing intimate partner violence on children was also explored with typical behavior patterns that attorneys and GALs can expect to witness in the children and parents with whom they work. Kelly discussed several best practices for GALs and attorneys:

- Protect children from violence, abuse and neglect
- Protect victims so they are better able to protect their children
- Empower victims to make decisions
- Do not make assumptions that domestic violence does not exist
- Do not expect victims to discuss the violence openly
- Hold domestic violence perpetrators accountable for their behaviors
- Consider that a parent who uses tactics of coercive control may find litigation to be an effective means of controlling the other parent
- Consider lethality risk factors
- Consult with the local domestic violence provider

Kelly stressed the importance of GALs and attorneys consulting with a certified domestic violence counselor at the local domestic violence organization when they suspect that intimate partner violence is occurring within a family with whom they are working. Advocates at CCADV’s 18 member organizations are the experts and can work with both the GAL and victim to facilitate the process and assist the victim with the steps they must take throughout the case. Member organization child & family advocates provide services to both children and the non-offending parent and adult advocates can accompany victims to court and be a sounding board for the GAL to explore trauma and its impact on the child or parent’s behavior.

Many training participants were unaware of the resources available at local domestic violence programs for them, the children they work with and the parents of their clients. They noted the benefit that child advocates in particular could be to their work and clients. As certified domestic violence advocates can and should play a fundamental role in assisting GALs with their goal of protecting children, each participant was given contact information for the state’s 18 domestic violence organizations. A more comprehensive, effective response for children will be seen with strong professional partnerships.
Purple Tie Tuesday

Many thanks to everyone who wore purple on Tuesday, October 27th - Purple Tie Tuesday - our annual day during Domestic Violence Awareness Month to wear purple as a way to show commitment to raising awareness about domestic violence and promoting healthy relationships.
CCADV is the state’s leading voice for victims of domestic violence and those agencies that serve them.