



CONNECTIONS

**A quarterly newsletter for CT's domestic violence
and law enforcement communities**

**Spring
2013**

Good afternoon,

Welcome to the first issue of Connections!

CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) is committed to building a strong partnership between law enforcement and our member agency programs. As part of that effort we have developed a quarterly newsletter, Connections, that will inform law enforcement and victim advocates of the great work that is being done as a result of this partnership.

This issue of Connections will highlight the expansion of the lethality assessment program, the work being done by the Family Violence Model Policy Governing Council, and the development of a statewide contact list for domestic violence liaisons in law enforcement.

In August 2012, I was hired as the law enforcement coordinator for CCADV. I have over 30 years of law enforcement experience at both the state and local level and have always been a strong advocate for proper police response to crimes of domestic violence. Having responded to these crimes as a patrol officer, supervisor, and administrator, I am aware of the daily challenges faced by police who investigate these crimes and police administrators who develop and implement policies for police response to domestic violence.

Any police department or domestic violence agency that would like to request training or technical assistance in the area of law enforcement may contact me at jfroehlich@ctcadv.org or 860-282-7899. All of the training we offer to law enforcement is free of charge.

Sincerely,

Joe Froehlich
Law Enforcement Coordinator

**Upcoming Meetings
& Trainings**

**Law Enforcement
Advisory Committee**
June 13 | 10:00 - 12:00
CCADV

**Family Violence Model
Policy Governing Council**
June 13 | 2:00 - 4:00
Legislative Office Bldg.

**Law Enforcement
Advisory Committee**
July 18 | 10:00 - 12:00
CCADV

**Law Enforcement
Advisory Committee**
August 15 | 10:00 - 12:00
CCADV

**Lethality Assessment
Train-the-Trainer Session**
Sept. 26 | 10:00 - 12:00
CCADV

Questions?

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Joe Froehlich

Law Enforcement
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Law Enforcement Advisory Committee

In January 2013, CCADV formed the Law Enforcement Advisory Committee. This committee consists of representatives from local and state police, victim service providers, health providers, Police Officers Standards & Training, universities, state attorney's office, and CCADV. This committee meets monthly to discuss various topics that impact law enforcement and their response to domestic violence calls.

To date, the committee has reviewed the current lethality assessment program and made recommendations regarding training and best practices. Similar assessments and recommendations will be made for other areas of the police response to domestic violence. They are currently reviewing the 2013 Connecticut Law Enforcement Officers' Field Manual to determine if any additional information or guidelines would be appropriate to assist law enforcement when responding to crimes of domestic violence.

The current members of this committee are:

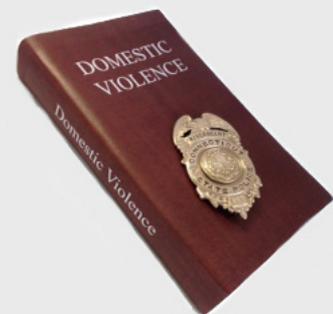
- Sgt. Alison Huyman, Darien Police Department
- Garrett Kelly, retired Sgt. East Hampton Police Department
- Ted Lemay, P.O.S.T
- Dr. Julie Nash, Community Health Center
- Dr. Leila Dutton, University of New Haven
- Deb Greenwood, CEO, Center for Women & Families of Eastern Fairfield County
- Jennifer Lopez, Interval House
- Michele Waldner, Program Director, New Horizons
- Assistant State's Attorney David Carlucci, Hartford State's Attorney's Office
- Captain Edward Gould, Connecticut State Police
- Tonya Johnson, CCADV
- Joe Froehlich, CCADV

Success Story?

Have a success story you'd like to share?

Send your submission to Joe at jfroehlich@ctcadv.org

**all submissions to be approved by CCADV*



LAP Expansion

The Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) was first brought to Connecticut by Chief Kevin Hale of the Ansonia Police Department in March 2011. He read about the program in a trade magazine and implemented it in his police department. During the first year, the police department conducted 78 screens, 41 (52%) of which were considered high danger. Of the high danger calls, 35 (85%) of those victims immediately spoke with an advocate and 22 (62%) subsequently followed up with additional services.

In September 2012, CCADV and 7 additional member agencies began participating in LAP. This innovative partnership with law enforcement is a nationally recognized risk assessment strategy to better serve domestic violence victims in the greatest danger.

The program, which is a result of collaboration between CCADV and the Connecticut Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POSTC), included Ansonia with 13 additional towns across the state - Manchester, New Britain, Waterbury, Norwalk, Plainville, Norwich, Shelton, New London, Groton City, Waterford, Norwich, Guilford and North Haven. Modeled after the LAP program first piloted in Maryland, it is a two-pronged intervention process that makes use of a specialized lethality assessment instrument and an accompanying protocol. Trained police on the scene of a domestic violence call assess a victim's risk for serious injury or death using the one-of-a-kind Lethality Assessment Screen. Officers immediately link "high risk" victims to the community-based domestic violence program hotline in their area with the goal of quickly linking the victim to available services.

CCADV formed a Law Enforcement Advisory Committee to review and assess the results of this program to determine best practices that should be implemented by Connecticut. Interviews of law enforcement officials, victim advocates, executive directors, and victims helped form recommendations for the Connecticut Lethality Program. The fourteen police departments conducted 763 screens, 458 (60%) were considered high danger, 404 (88%) of those victims immediately spoke with an advocate, with 266 (66%) following up with additional services.

In April and May 2013, 16 additional police departments and 3 domestic violence agencies received training in the implementation of LAP. It is anticipated that by July 1, 2013 30 law enforcement agencies and 11 domestic violence providers will be participating in LAP. Click [HERE](#) to view the complete list of LAP participants as of July 1, 2013.

Family Violence Model Policy Governing Council



On April 25, 2013, the Family Violence Model Policy Governing Council held its first meeting. The Council will be chaired by State Representative Mae Flexer and CCDV Executive Director Karen Jarmoc.

Member programs represented on the Council include: Barbara Bellucci, Center for Domestic Violence Services at BH Care; Andrea Mancuso, Domestic Violence Crisis Center; and Cathy Zeiner, Safe Futures. Law enforcement represented on the Council include: Chief Michael Lombard, Wilton Police Department; Chief Joseph Dooley, Southern Connecticut State University; Major Alaric Fox, Connecticut State Police- Commissioner's Office; and TFC Karen O'Connor, Connecticut State Police-Training Academy.

The Council is tasked with:

- Evaluating policies and procedures used by law enforcement agencies when responding to incidents of family violence and violations of restraining or protective orders
- Reviewing and updating the statewide model law enforcement policy on family violence
- Evaluating the accuracy of the data collected by the Dept. of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) and the Judicial Branch's Court Support Services Division (CSSD)

The Council has formed two working groups focused on data collection and policy recommendations. The group will also review gun forfeiture policies and compliance of the model policy with recently adopted state gun safety legislation.

Family Violence Police Liaisons

In September 2012, CCADV sent out letters to all law enforcement chiefs requesting the name of the supervisor who, per the statewide model law enforcement policy on family violence, is to be designated to "expeditiously review and oversee the Police Response to Crimes of Family Violence Model Policies, Procedures and Guidelines and to enhance such agency's response to victims, community, and court personnel with respect to family violence".

The law enforcement community has responded to this request and currently 100 law enforcement agencies have designated 117 domestic violence liaisons. There are a few law enforcement agencies that have not complied with this request. As we continue to build this partnership, we ask all law enforcement agencies to provide this contact to us so that we may share it with our community partners.

Community Partner Spotlight

CCADV would like to recognize and thank Safe Futures and Groton City Police Department for their outstanding partnership. Under the leadership of Chief Thomas Davoren and coordination of Lt. Bruce Lowe, the lethality assessment program was implemented in September 2013. Katherine Verano and Kate Griffith-Potter of Safe Futures coordinated the program with Groton City Police Department.

During the past seven months the police department conducted 17 screens, 13 (76%) of which were identified as being in high danger, 13 (100%) of the victims immediately spoke with an advocate and 13 (100%) victims continued with services. These are outstanding numbers and they demonstrate the strong partnership between Safe Futures and Groton City Police Department.

However, we all know that numbers do not tell the entire story. During the evaluation of the lethality assessment program a victim stated: "I had no idea that the officer would be so caring and concerned. I really took the officer and the advocate seriously when I saw them work together to help me to a safe place. They showed me that there are people out there to help me and my son, I did not have to do this alone."