CT Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee Press Conference
from left to right: CCADV Executive Director Karen Jarmoc, State Representative Mae Flexer, Deputy Attorney General Nora Dannehy, and Dr. Nina Livingston of CT Children’s Medical Center

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Child Witness to Violence Project Comes to CT
Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee Releases Recommendations
Member Spotlight - New Horizons
CJPAC Examines Batterer Intervention Programs
Capitol News

And more...
Who Is CCADV?

Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) is the state’s leading voice for victims of domestic violence and those agencies who serve them. Founded in 1978, CCADV is a membership organization of 18 domestic violence agencies that provide critical support to keep victims safe 24 hours per day, wherever they live in our state. To that end, CCADV works at a state and national level to create and implement policy changes that strengthen Connecticut’s response to domestic violence. We collaborate closely with a number of community, government and business leaders to ensure a systematic and comprehensive approach to victim services and offender accountability. As the only statewide organization representing the 18 domestic violence agencies in Connecticut, we work stridently to build membership capacity through comprehensive training and technical assistance. Through an immediate response, like our statewide hotline, we aim to protect and improve the lives of victims. Whether seeking safety through shelter, assistance with court proceedings, or counseling, our member agencies work tirelessly to meet the needs of victims. If you know someone who needs our help, please call our statewide domestic violence hotline at 888-774-2900 to be connected to your local domestic violence agency.
Enhancing Capacity for Child Advocacy

Earlier this summer CCADV hosted the nationally recognized Child Witness to Violence Project (CWVP) to provide an intensive, two-day training for child advocates employed by CCADV member programs. CWVP, which is operated out of the Boston Medical Center, is led by renowned experts Betsy McAlister Groves, LICSW (Founder/Consultant) and Maxine Weinreb, Ed.D. (Director).

The training was designed specifically for CCADV member program child advocates to enhance practical, strengths-based clinical approaches to working with children who witness domestic violence. Each year in the United States more than 15 million children witness family violence. And last year, over 1,000 children stayed in Connecticut domestic violence shelters, while close to 600 teens and youth received support services from CCADV member programs.

Building capacity for our child advocates to therapeutically intervene and meet the needs of children exposed to domestic violence is a priority. This training provided the opportunity for advocates to increase their professional knowledge and ability to safety plan with children, offending and non-offending parents; increase skills for identifying concerning behaviors related to domestic violence; enhance their capacity to help restore healthy relationships between children and non-offending parents; and enhance their ability to help families live lives free of violence.

Participating advocates’ professional experience in working with children affected by domestic violence ranged from 5 months to 21 years. Program managers, supervisors and child advocates working with children in shelter and in the community were able to explore and enhance working knowledge of topics such as child development, temperament, attachment, trauma and resilience.

The training incorporated varied learning techniques for learners such as group discussions, video viewing, lecture and individual activities. During the two days, advocates had the unique opportunity to mimic interactions with children while using recommended tools, such as feeling tic tac toe, getting to know each other: the potato chip game, and color your world worksheets. Advocates will now incorporate these important tools and practices in their everyday work.

The advocates’ various levels of expertise provided for great questions and program-specific answers from the trainers. Overall, both the trainers and advocates reported that the event was a huge success. For our advocates, this meant that they were able to comprehend, connect and apply enhanced strategies and evidence-based recommendations to their work. In the end, advocates walked away more informed and better equipped to serve children exposed to domestic violence.

Fall 2013 Trainings Announced!

CCADV’s Training Institute recently announced another set of exciting and practical training classes for fall 2013.

Topics include:
• Child Advocacy within the Medical Community
• Abuse in Later Life
• U and T Visas for Immigrant Survivors
• Domestic Violence for Law Enforcement Professionals
• Children & Families Day of Advocacy Staples
• Victims’ Rights and Court Advocacy

Click HERE to view our full list of trainings. Please note, some trainings are open only to members or other specific professionals.
Recognizing the growing needs of unrepresented parties in Connecticut’s family court system, last year Robinson & Cole LLP reached out to New Horizons to discuss areas of collaboration that would improve outcomes for victims in the Middletown family court. From that discussion, Robinson & Cole LLP launched its Volunteer Attorney Restraining Order Pilot Program. The goal is to assist unrepresented applicants seeking restraining orders against family or household members pursuant to CT General Statutes § 42b-15.

New Horizons’ Family Violence Victim Advocates (FVVA) stationed at the Middletown courthouse inform victims of the pro-bono services offered by Robinson & Cole LLP and are able to make referrals when appropriate. The FVVA may also provide background information on the victim being referred to Robinson & Cole LLP to ensure that the legal needs of the victim are related specifically to the restraining order and that no conflicts of interest exist.

In representing parties, attorneys assist in completing ex parte restraining order applications and affidavits. They also represent parties at evidentiary hearings held at the court and help them to present the most compelling case for obtaining a restraining order. The program allows unrepresented parties not only the benefit of attorney advice, but assistance in navigating the court system.

Robinson & Cole LLP’s Program began in August 27, 2012 and has stationed at least two of the firm’s lawyers at the Superior Court in Middletown on Mondays, the busiest day of the week for New Horizons’ FVVAs. This results in the most efficient manner to provide legal representation to individuals applying for restraining orders. Having run a successful program in Middletown, Robinson & Cole LLP attorneys began a pilot program splitting their time between Middletown and Hartford in June 2013.


Over the past year, volunteer attorneys have provided the following services to individuals who otherwise would not have had legal representation:

- 50 engagements (both male and female clients)
- 17 ex parte applications and affidavits completed
- 33 evidentiary hearings held resulting in 16 restraining orders
- Over 550 attorney hours volunteered

The partnership between New Horizons and Robinson & Cole LLP has proven effective in serving family violence victims within the Middletown family court system. New Horizons trauma-informed approach to assisting victims coupled with Robinson & Cole’s in-depth knowledge of the law comprehensively meets the diverse needs of victims.
2013 Legislative Session Wrap-Up

The 2013 session of the CT General Assembly came to a close on June 5th. A new $37.6 billion two-year budget was adopted that preserved level funding for domestic violence shelters and other services, such as Family Violence Victim Advocates (FVVAs), despite cutting many nonprofit health and human services. The state’s minimum wage was also raised from the current $8.25 to $8.70 as of 1/1/14 and from $8.70 to $9.00 as of 1/1/15.

Public Act 13-214, An Act Concerning Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, passed the House and Senate unanimously and was signed into law by Governor Malloy on June 25th. The bill strengthens several areas of state law related to domestic violence and also requires key studies by the Judicial Branch. Here’s a breakdown of what’s included:

Enhanced Communication (C.G.S. §53a-32; effective October 1, 2013)

In addition to the police and victim of the offense for which a person is serving probation, this requires probation officers to also contact “any victim advocate assigned to assist the victim” when they suspect a probation violation.

Private Courthouse Space for Family Violence Victims (new section; effective July 1, 2013)

Requires the Chief Court Administrator to provide in each court where family matters or family violence matters are heard or where a domestic violence docket exists a secure room for victims of family violence crimes and advocates for victims of family violence crimes which is separate from any public private space intended to accommodate the defendant, provided that such room is available and its use is practical.

Judicial Plan to Incorporate Financial Relief in Restraining Orders (new section; effective from passage)

Requires the Chief Court Administrator to develop a plan to include temporary financial support as part of the relief available under a restraining order. The plan will include an assessment of best practices in other states; recommended procedures for determining assets, ability to pay, and amount of support needed; and, recommended procedures for collecting financial support. The plan is due to the Judiciary Committee & the Speaker’s Task Force on Domestic Violence no later than January 15, 2014.

Update of Statutory Definitions (various statutes; effective October 1, 2013)

Replaces the terms “battered women” with “domestic violence victim”; “battered women’s counselor” with “domestic violence counselor”; and “battered women’s center” with “domestic violence agency”

Assessment of Judicial Training Programs (new section; effective upon passage)

Requires the Chief Court Administrator to assess the training programs for judges and Judicial Branch staff related to family violence and at a minimum compare such training programs to those in other northeastern states. The report is due by December 31, 2013.

Click HERE for a complete summary of PA 13-214.

Other Public Acts of Interest

PA 13-94, An Act Concerning Professional Bondsmen, Surety Bail Bond Agents and Bail Enforcement Agents

- Bondsmen, etc. must be at least 21 years old and have a high school diploma or equivalent education;
- DESPP can suspend or revoke the license of bondsmen, etc. if under a restraining or protective order for using or attempting or threatening to use force against someone;
- Requires annual firearms refresher training; and
- Requires DESPP to approve badges.

Signed into law June 6, 2013 Effective October 1, 2013

PA 13-194, An Act Concerning Court Operations

Among other things it requires that, when a court closes on a scheduled hearing date for a restraining order, the court must hold the hearing the next day the court is open and the ex parte order remains in effect until the date of such hearing.

Signed into law July 2, 2013 Effective October 1, 2013 (section referenced above)

PA 13-158, An Act Concerning Bail Bonds

This bill would have automatically terminated a bond and released a surety when an accused voluntarily returns to court between five days and six months after a bond forfeiture. Language included in early versions of the bill would have also reduced the minimum down payment on a bond from 35% to 30% and extended the repayment period from 15 months to 18 months.

Vetoed June 25, 2013.
Trauma-Informed Enhancement Initiative

CCADV member programs provide services that are “trauma-informed.” The five core principles of a trauma-informed and responsive environment are safety, trustworthiness, choice, collaboration and empowerment.

What Are “Trauma-Informed” Services?

A trauma-informed agency provides services that are:

- informed about, and sensitive to, trauma issues;
- reconsiders and evaluates all components of the agency in light of a basic understanding of the role trauma plays in the lives of people seeking services;
- delivers services in a way that avoids unintentional re-traumatization and facilitates survivor participation; and,
- places priority on survivors’ safety, choice, and control.

In April 2012, CCADV, in collaboration with Roger D. Fallot, Ph.D., Director of Research and Evaluation with Community Connections in Washington, D.C., offered a two-day trauma kick-off event - Creating Cultures of Trauma-Informed Care. Eleven (11) member programs participated in the training event, of which 5 programs were chosen to participate in Phase I of the Trauma Enhancement Initiative. Each trauma enhancement site identified a “trauma champion” and a trauma initiative workgroup with comprehensive representation including administrators, supervisors, advocates, and survivors all with the authority to initiate meaningful change.

Staff learned how to implement the Self-Assessment and Planning Tool, which:

- helps agencies evaluate and assess current practices;
- identify and prioritize key areas for change; and,
- monitor and track progress to facilitate a stronger trauma-informed service system.

Throughout Phase I each trauma enhancement site participated in group meetings as well as site visits with CCADV staff. Site visits focused on consulting with the workgroups on the change process, supporting and providing feedback, discussing barriers and identifying strategies to overcome them. When possible, site visits also included conversations with survivors about the agency’s progress on providing services adhering to the five core principles of safety, trustworthiness, choice, collaboration and empowerment. Based on the joint site visit, each agency was provided an individual report that included the agency’s strengths, growth opportunities, and recommendations moving forward.

CCADV also coordinated additional trauma-informed trainings for participants, including: Train-the-Trainer Understanding Trauma, Mental Health First Aid, the Intersection of Domestic Violence, Homelessness and HIV/AIDS, Parenting After Violence, Motivational Interviewing, Harm Reduction, Facilitating Psycho-educational Groups, Understanding Substance Abuse and Trauma, and a Mindfulness Response for Supervisors.

Phase I of the Enhancement Initiative wrapped-up on June 25, 2013 with a Reunion and Transition Celebration. Some outcomes from Phase I include:

- greater safety and trust between survivors and staff
- staff are more cognizant about the impact of the physical and sensory environment on survivors accessing services
- trauma-informed language is being used in supervision, case reviews, peer support and general discussions
- greater collaboration with survivors with an emphasis on empowerment and healing

Phase II will begin this fall and include 7 additional member programs.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
FATALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE

2013 Findings & Recommendations

In July, the CT Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee, led by CCADV, released its 2013 Findings & Recommendations. The Committee spent the past year reviewing intimate partner homicides that occurred in 2011. Fourteen (14) women were killed in Connecticut that year by a current or former husband or boyfriend. Those 14 women accounted for all of the intimate partner homicides that year. There have been 175 intimate partner homicides in Connecticut since 2000.

The Committee conducts retrospective examinations of intimate partner homicides in order to analyze the strengths and challenges present in the community’s response to domestic violence. This year’s recommendations relate to the four key areas of meeting the needs of children, the judicial system response, the impact of technology, and raising public awareness.

Several of the 15 recommendations relate to meeting the needs of children exposed to family violence and, in particular, fatal family violence. Children are believed to have been present at the home during 3 of the homicides in 2011. One recommendation calls on health and human services professionals to implement the use of a validated, evidence-based screening tool to identify the traumatic effects that witnessing violence has on children. The Committee also urges CT’s Family Violence Model Policy Governing Council to review several law enforcement protocols for interacting with children at the scene of a domestic violence homicide.

Over the years, the Committee has found that rapidly advancing technology is playing an ever-increasing role in intimate partner violence (IPV). The Committee calls for enhanced training related to technology and evidence preservation in technology-assisted crimes. This should also include greater opportunities for cross-training between various stakeholders, including law enforcement, domestic violence advocates and state prosecutors.

Another critical piece of IPV prevention that the Committee has found to be an ongoing trend is a lack of public awareness about domestic violence. All too often the Committee finds that neither the victim nor their family or friends knew where to get help as the violence escalated. To that end, the Committee firmly calls on the General Assembly to fund the CT Department of Public Health to conduct a biennial, statewide public awareness campaign aimed at the prevention of domestic violence.

To read the Committee’s full set of findings and recommendations, click HERE.

Examining Near-Fatalities

In the coming year the CT Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee will seek to expand its capacity to conduct multi-disciplinary, systemic reviews by adopting a new sub-committee structure that will allow for the review of near-fatal acts of intimate partner violence. The Near Fatality Domestic Violence Case Review subcommittee will examine the facts and circumstances surrounding near fatal incidents of intimate partner violence. The goal is to inform the Committee’s efforts to serve victims of domestic violence by hearing directly from survivors of attempted homicides. This will allow the Committee to learn first-hand what policies or practices survivors feel increased or decreased their safety leading up to the near-fatal incident.

The Committee will continue to review adjudicated intimate partner homicide cases, as well as murder-suicides through the Domestic Violence Fatality Case Review subcommittee. Additionally, a subcommittee focused on research and recommendations will provide critical support to the case review subcommittees through information gathering that will inform Committee deliberations and assist in the development of recommendations. This subcommittee will also revisit past Committee recommendations to review current progress and provide ideas and support for implementation as appropriate.
Throughout the United States Batterer Intervention Programs (BIP) have long been recognized as an integral part of a comprehensive approach to domestic violence prevention. These programs typically consist of educational classes or treatment groups, but may also include individual counseling and case management. BIPs seek to hold batterers accountable for their actions, while some higher level programs also seek to rehabilitate batterers and alter their behaviors. BIPs also play a role in victim safety – many victims want to maintain a relationship with their partner but only if their violent and controlling behavior stops.

Research demonstrates that Connecticut is 1 of 6 states that have not established standards for its batterer intervention programs. Of the 44 states with program standards, 70% are statutory and include enforcement mechanisms. Some common elements of other state standards include independent monitoring of programs; curriculum prohibitions, such as the disallowing anger management; exclusion and dismissal conditions; victim accountability strategies; and lethality assessment/reassessment throughout the program.

In April CCADV Executive Director Karen Jarmoc and Offender Risk Reduction Coordinator Nancy Turner presented on Batterer Programming & Standards to CT’s Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission (CJPAC). CCADV made the presentation to highlight the lack of standards and certification requirements for batterer intervention programs in Connecticut - in particular, those programs that are not funded and overseen by the Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division (CSSD).

One third of all criminal court cases in Connecticut are domestic violence-related and, according to a statement made by CSSD at the CJPAC meeting, approximately 10,000 of those cases do not get referred to Family Relations. These offenders are accessing private, non-state funded counseling or anger management services that are neither subject to program standards nor have defined outcome measures.

While CSSD is able to collect, analyze and report data on offenders who have participated in state-funded programs, information and standards about providers outside of the CSSD system is non-existent and, therefore, of questionable value. The absence of clear standards for programs and certification of providers leaves judges at a disadvantage when dealing with domestic violence offenders and attempting to hold them accountable for their violence.

Recommendations offered by CCADV include: establishing uniform curricula for programs across the state; requiring certification of programs and facilitators; allowing outside, independent monitoring of programs; and incorporating input from victims and victim advocates.

A subcommittee of CJPAC has been formed to further examine BIPs and the potential implementation of program standards and certification requirements. The group will be led by Mike Lawlor, CJPAC Chair and Under Secretary at the Office of Policy & Management, and includes domestic violence advocates, Executive and Judicial Branch personnel and BIP providers. Meetings will be held over the summer and early fall before presenting recommendations to the full CJPAC. Based on those recommendations, CJPAC will then determine appropriate policy recommendations for consideration during the 2014 session of the CT General Assembly.

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**Batterer Programming in Connecticut**

Connecticut’s Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division (CSSD) currently funds the following 3 batterer programming options:

- **Family Violence Education Program**
  - Pre-trial diversion program
  - 9 weeks (13 hours)
  - Educational - not intended to alter behavior
  - Offered statewide

- **Explore**
  - Specific to Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)
  - Post-plea, post-conviction intervention program
  - 26 weeks (1x per week)
  - Intended to alter behavior
  - Offered statewide

- **Evolve**
  - Specific to Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)
  - Post-plea, post conviction intervention program
  - 52 sessions (2x per week)
  - Intended to alter behavior
  - 3-5 year prison sentence for failure to complete
  - Offered in 4 locations in CT
### Anger Management vs. Batterer Intervention

As of September 1, 2009, all Texas programs or providers receiving referrals from the courts for family violence offenses must be accredited and meet statutorily mandated course requirements. Accredited programs are prohibited from teaching anger management. The Texas Council on Family Violence has created this informative chart to show how anger management classes compare to accredited Batterer Intervention & Prevention Programs (BIPP) in Texas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Length</th>
<th><strong>Anger Management</strong></th>
<th><strong>Accredited BIPP</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approx. 3-8 weeks</td>
<td>Stress reduction</td>
<td>Power &amp; Control dynamic in relationship</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Helps the chronically angry to overcome rage that arises in specific situations as well as their general anger against themselves and the world in general</td>
<td>How anger is used to control partner</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cool-down techniques</td>
<td>Identifying and changing underlying attitudes and beliefs that promote violence</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Emphasis on victim safety and involvement</td>
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<th>Program Focus</th>
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<td><strong>Anger Management</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th>Victim of Abuse</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Anger Management</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Anyone</td>
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<tr>
<th>Victim of Abuse</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accredited BIPP</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Intimate Partner</td>
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<tr>
<th>Program Victim Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Anger Management</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>None</td>
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<th>Program Victim Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accredited BIPP</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Victims contacted by mail when offender enters and exits the program to ensure ongoing safety and provide information about services available</td>
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<tr>
<th>Theory</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Anger Management</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Therapeutic techniques</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercises by which someone with excessive or uncontrollable anger can control or reduce the triggers, degrees, and effects of an angered emotional state</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Accredited BIPP</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Behavior is learned over time such that behaviors appear reactionary, but are actually premeditated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abusive behavior is regulated by an estimation of probable consequences, never by provocation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intimate partner violence is a pattern of behavior, not a single event</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intimate partner violence is shaped and supported by societal, familial, and cultural norms</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Accredited BIPP</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Texas provides oversight through the BIPP Accreditation Process, which is monitored by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Community Justice Assistance Division</td>
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### Statutory Program Requirements in Georgia

The State of Georgia also has a statutory mandate for certification of Batterer Intervention Programs via the Official Code of Georgia Annotated § 125-4-9. The following is an overview of the statutorily required program curriculum:

#### General Model - All certified programs will use an educational model of group intervention that adheres to the following principles regarding family violence:

- **Power and Control:** Program topics must follow a model that identifies and challenges family violence as an overall system of physical and emotional abuse where the participant chooses to use tactics of power and control over a victim.
- **Beliefs and Social Context:** Program topics shall consistently identify and challenge personal beliefs the participant holds and social contexts that support those beliefs that motivate the use of power and control tactics over the victim.
- **Effects:** Program topics shall consistently identify and hold the participant accountable for the physical and emotional effects on victims of the participant’s violence and abuse.

#### Appropriate Intervention Practices - Every program must, at a minimum, incorporate the following intervention practices:

- Holding the participant accountable for past, present and future acts of family violence;
- Appropriately identifying and challenging tactics of power and control;
- Appropriately identifying and challenging myths and belief systems that support family violence; and
- Identifying the effects a participant’s abusive actions have on others, including children.

#### Prohibited Intervention Practices - The following is a list of intervention practices that are specifically prohibited from inclusion in Family Violence Intervention Programs:

- Any intervention approach that blames or suggests there is any behavior on the part of the victim that causes, provokes, or excuses abuse;
- Any intervention approach that does not state clearly that participants bear sole responsibility for their choices;
- Any individual, couples, marriage, or family therapy or treatment;
CCADV Member Programs

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

Network Against Domestic Abuse
Enfield
(860) 763-4542
www.networkagainstdomesticabuse.org

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

New Horizons
Middletown
(860) 347-3044
www.chc1.com

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

Women's Support Services
Sharon
(860) 364-1900
www.wsadv.org

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

The Center for Women & Families
Bridgeport
(203) 384-9559
www.cwfecf.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.ywca.greenwich.org

Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis
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.sbatproject.org

Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence
912 Silas Deane Highway, Lower Level
Wethersfield, CT 06109
860.282.7899
www.ctadv.org

Statewide Hotline - 888.774.2900
Call to be connected with your local domestic violence service agency.