CCADV, Injury Prevention Center Release Best Practices for Addressing Intimate Partner Violence on Campus

Intimate partner violence (IPV) among students on college campuses continues to be a serious problem both nationally and in Connecticut. Also referred to as dating violence, IPV includes abusive behavior between two individuals in a sexual, dating or romantic relationship. Abuse can take many forms including physical, verbal, emotional, psychological, sexual, technological, and financial. Victims of IPV are inflicted with pain and suffering that can result in increased healthcare costs and lost time and educational opportunities at school. According to a 2011 national poll of college students:

- 1 in 3 college women report having been in an abusive dating relationship
- 1 in 5 report being victims of actual physical abuse, sexual abuse or threats of physical violence by their partner
- More than 50% of students surveyed found it challenging to distinguish dating abuse and admitted not knowing how to help someone who may be a victim

Recognizing the importance of this issue, in July CCADV and the Injury Prevention Center at CT Children’s Medical Center/Hartford Hospital released *Intimate Partner Violence Policies on Campus: Best Practices for College Campuses in Connecticut*. The report is the result of a statewide needs assessment of Connecticut college and university policies related to intimate partner violence. Of the 25 Connecticut institutions of higher education that were surveyed, 22 (88%) participated in the survey, revealing that schools can be strengthened by applying standard policy and procedure that clearly define and respond to intimate partner violence.

Survey results demonstrated that while many colleges have polices which have been updated over the past year, few define technological or emotional abuse. Failure to incorporate these important types of abuse may inadvertently relay the message to students that physical abuse is the primary or most important form of IPV.
CCADV Introduces First in New Series of Law Enforcement Trainings

Over the past several months, CCADV has been working on the development of a curriculum for providing in-service training to Connecticut law enforcement personnel on domestic violence. This training curriculum is two hours in length and is a basic overview for law enforcement to engage discussion as to their role in responding to and understanding the dynamics of family and domestic violence. The curriculum highlights legislative updates that pertain to Connecticut’s family violence statutes and the responsibilities for law enforcement when responding to incidents of family violence.

This curriculum encourages the use of a three person training team, which includes a trainer from law enforcement, a prosecutor, and domestic violence advocate, to model a coordinated, trauma-informed, community based approach that supports batterer accountability and victim safety.

This project was coordinated by Joseph Froehlich, CCADV Director of Law Enforcement Services with the assistance of Linda Blozie, Director of Training & Prevention and Marie Kenny, Director of Health Integration and Member Organization Services. In addition, Tracy Cooley was contracted as a consultant to provide curriculum development and training. Twenty stakeholders from various disciplines contributed to the development of this curriculum. CCADV’s law enforcement advisory committee reviewed and provided recommendations for the curriculum.

On June 25, 2014 the curriculum was presented during a one day training session to 17 participants that included both police and advocates. The instructors were Tracey Cooley, Linda Blozie, Marie Kenny and Joseph Froehlich. The training included topics such as knowing your audience, use of technology for presentations, and the application process for becoming a certified POST instructor. Participants were provided with a trainer’s manual, resource information, and student handouts. The training included evaluation forms that can be used to determine the effectiveness of this curriculum.

This train the trainer session is the beginning of a series of training modules that will be available later this fall for those interested in instructing law enforcement. Additional modules include instruction in the following areas: safety planning, firearms and domestic violence, dual arrest and self-defense, juvenile offenders of domestic violence and report writing.

Each CCADV member organization is encouraged to designate at least one person to become a certified POST instructor. Those interested in presenting this curriculum or becoming a certified POST instructor can contact either Joseph Froehlich at jfroehlich@ctcadv.org or Linda Blozie at lblozie@ctcadv.org.

Thank You for Supporting CCADV!

Many thanks to all of those who attended or contributed to our Statewide Spring Reception held at the Governor’s Residence on June 10, 2014. The event was a great success and reached capacity, bringing in valuable funding to support essential CCADV efforts. Money raised through the event goes to support those activities not supported by grant funds such as 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.

You can see photos from the event on our Facebook page.

Additionally, thanks to CCADV Board Member, Michael Chowaniac, Area Director of Government Affairs for Cablevision, CCADV, the event, and local member organizations were featured on a recent segment of Cablevision’s Neighborhood Journal. The video features interviews with Governor Dannel P. Malloy and First Lady Cathy Malloy, as well as CCADV Chief Executive Officer, Karen Jarmoc, CCADV Board Vice President, David Bogan, and several others. Click on the image of the video to watch it!

Thank you to our generous sponsor
Additionally, a review of existing policies at Connecticut colleges and universities revealed that several institutions include information on IPV in various sections of the student handbook rather than in a specific section on IPV. A college or university’s response can be significantly strengthened by implementing a strong stand-alone policy with a consistent message in both its student handbook and on its website.

Implementing best practices not only confronts IPV, but it also promotes safer campus environments. Below are some of the best practices to help develop strong policies and procedures to address IPV on campus:

- Clearly define intimate partner violence and all its forms (sexual, physical, emotional, technological, etc.)
- Implement a zero tolerance policy for intimate partner violence
- Implement educational and prevention programs to promote awareness
- Develop procedures for disciplinary action following incidents of alleged intimate partner violence
- Develop procedures for protecting victim confidentiality
- Establish written notice outlining reasonable accommodations that can be made for victims in terms of changing academic, living, transportation and work schedules.
- Provide accessible resources for students related to available services on campus and in the community

CCADV and Connecticut Children’s Medical Center/Hartford Hospital Injury Prevention Center are committed to working with Connecticut colleges and universities to create model policies, establish consistent best practice standards and formalized relationships between schools and the state’s 18 domestic violence organizations.

Watch CT-N coverage of the press conference, which was held at the University of Saint Joseph.
Member Spotlight On...

Thrift Shop Helps Victims, Supports Safe Haven Programs

Safe Haven of Greater Waterbury operates the Safe Haven Thrift Shop located at 82-H Bennett Square (right behind Leo’s) in Southbury Connecticut. The shop was originally opened in 1998 as the Southbury Community Thrift Shop by Shirley Martin and Dorrie Johnson. These two civic minded women operated the shop and donated all of the proceeds to charities in the community, one of which was Safe Haven.

In 2003 Shirley and Dorrie were ready to step down and offered the shop to Safe Haven. Safe Haven took over management of the shop and hired Susan McNeil as a full time manager and Jennifer Holt as a part time assistant manager. Susan and Jennifer are supported by a staff of 45 dedicated volunteers who work in 3 hour shifts. Most of the volunteers are retired women and men that live in Heritage Village and the surrounding area. This group of volunteers are not only hard workers in the shop, they have become each other’s extended family. Working at the shop not only provides a social outlet for the volunteers, it also serves to create friendships that go beyond the walls of the shop. They help each other out with grocery shopping, getting to and from medical appointments or maybe even going out for dinner.

The name was formally changed to the Safe Haven Thrift Shop in May 2011 and in December 2012 moved to the current location in Bennett Square. The name change was designed to ensure that both the donors and the shoppers understand that their support is going to help victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The shop was moved to the new location because it is larger, more visible and laid out in a way that is more organized and makes it easier for shoppers to find what they are looking for.

The Safe Haven Thrift Shop provides a revenue stream in the form of unrestricted funds to support Safe Haven’s programs. Some of Safe Haven’s clients are fleeing from a life filled with violence and starting out new. A good portion of these clients have left most everything behind. As they start moving forward, they may need some help with clothing, household items or furniture. If this is the case, a Safe Haven counselor will take the client to the Thrift Shop and let them pick out some items, free of charge, that will help them in this transition.

The thrift shop offers a variety of women’s clothing including “boutique” items of higher quality with labels such as Talbot’s, Liz Claiborne, Ann Taylor and Chico’s. The shop also carries jewelry, purses, shoes, household items, small appliances, men’s clothing and furniture. Safe Haven Thrift Shop maintains a Facebook page where featured items are updated weekly. I absolutely love this shop. They always have a nice collection of merchandise that is good quality, from furniture and household items to apparel. The staff members are all very pleasant and helpful. I recommend this shop to everyone looking for something local and affordable. The best of it all is that it is all for a great cause!” – a comment left on the Facebook page by a patron.

The people of the greater Southbury area have been very generous to us. Their support lends to a very eclectic, unpredictable shopping experience. Many of our donors are from the Village... people who have traveled the world and now find it time to downsize. The result is a shop full of beautiful furniture, china, glassware, and souvenirs from every corner of the globe.”

Susan McNeil, Manager

Thrift Shop hours are Monday through Saturday 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM and Sunday 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Donations are accepted Monday through Saturday 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. If you have any questions about the shop or about a making donation, please call 203.267.5727.
New Statewide Spanish Hotline to Launch this Fall

Earlier this year CCADV was successful in advocating to the CT General Assembly for funding for a statewide Spanish domestic violence hotline. Funding in the amount of $150,000 was included in the state budget thanks to the leadership of Appropriations Committee Chairs, Senator Beth Bye (D-West Hartford) and Representative Toni Walker (D-New Haven); Committee Vice Chair, Representative Mae Flexer (D-Killingly); Committee member and subcommittee chair, Representative Catherine Abercrombie (D-Meriden); and members of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus.

The 2010 census shows that Hispanics and Latinas make up 13.4% of Connecticut’s population. In 2011, Hispanic/Latina victims made up 21% of CCADV’s service population. However, the existing statewide domestic violence hotline automatically routes callers to their local domestic violence organization when they call and it is not always possible for all 18 domestic violence organizations in Connecticut to have bilingual staff answering the hotline 24 hours per day. Therefore, Spanish-speaking victims are not currently guaranteed to speak with a bilingual certified counselor when they call and instead may need to use an interpretation service.

Funding allocated for this initiative will allow for a separate statewide hotline that is staffed 24-hours per day, 7 days per week by bilingual (Spanish/English) certified domestic violence counselors housed in a single location. This means that anytime a Spanish-speaking victim calls they will get to speak directly to a Spanish-speaking counselor who is certified in domestic violence and knows the unique circumstances facing many Spanish-speaking cultures.

CCADV will continue to provide technical support to all 18 domestic violence organizations for hotline services, as well as to enhance the focus on meeting the needs of Connecticut’s culturally diverse population including, but not limited to, Spanish-speaking victims. This will include a special, two-day technical assistance training for all member organizations with the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence slated for September.

The statewide Spanish domestic violence hotline is anticipated to launch in October of this year.

Purple Awareness Ties Available!

Earlier this year CCADV teamed up with Vineyard Vines® to help raise awareness about domestic violence. The result is a beautiful, 100% imported silk tie that incorporates the nationally recognized white ribbon symbol along with the color purple – a notable shade for domestic violence awareness.

100% of the profits from the ties goes to support and sustain meaningful CCADV activities such as targeted public awareness, critical prevention efforts and comprehensive victim advocacy.

The white and purple ribbon has long been associated with efforts to reduce domestic violence and allows for a powerful message. We hope that you will consider purchasing a tie to help raise awareness!
Domestic violence victims and advocates saw great success following the 2014 session of the CT General Assembly. CCADV and our 18 member organizations worked diligently to achieve several key legislative victories that will lead to increased support for victims and strengthened accountability for offenders.

One major victory came with the inclusion of financial relief as part of the civil restraining order for certain victims of family violence. As of January 1, 2015, requesting financial relief will be an available option when seeking a restraining order in certain situations where the victim is either married to her or his abuser or lives with her or his abuser and they share a child in common. A judge will have to determine if the respondent (abuser) has the ability to pay and whether the support is necessary to maintain the safety and basic needs of the applicant (victim) or the applicant's child(ren). Financial relief, to be paid by the abuser, may be ordered for up to 120 days and the request will only be available for consideration during the initial restraining order application. This is an issue that CCADV and its 18 member organizations worked on for two years and we are glad that Connecticut will now be in line with at least 36 other states who make this type of relief available to victims.

Lawmakers also supported the addition of teen dating violence to certain portions of Connecticut’s Safe School Climate statutes. Adopted in 2011, the Safe School Climate plan seeks to address bullying within schools by educating students, teachers and administrators about the chronic problem. Teen dating violence will now be incorporated into parts of the plan and require that each local and regional school board include the issue in their prevention and intervention efforts. CCADV will also become a member of the statewide safe school climate resource network through which we will provide information, training opportunities and resources related to teen dating violence.

CCADV is also pleased to announce that an additional $200,000 was allocated by the General Assembly to support important services for victims, even in this continually difficult economy. New funding was made available to support a statewide Spanish domestic violence hotline that will be staffed 24 hours per day, 7 days per week by bilingual certified domestic violence counselors who understand the unique circumstances facing many victims from Spanish-speaking cultures (see article on page 5). Funding was also provided as of January 1, 2015 to hire two additional full-time Family Violence Victim Advocates (FVVAs) who will be stationed in family court to assist victims dealing with civil matters. Connecticut currently has approximately 45 FVVAs who work with victims in the criminal courts following the arrest of their abuser, but there are currently only 2 FVVAs dedicated to assisting victims with civil matters.

Click HERE for a full summary of our victories, including new penalties for the malicious disclosure of shelter locations and enhanced penalties for violation of restraining and protective orders.

And thank you to the many legislators who worked to pass such comprehensive policies for victims. In particular, we would like to thank Senator Martin Looney (D-New Haven), Senator Beth Bye (D-West Hartford), Representative Mae Flexer (D-Killingly), Representative Toni Walker (D-New Haven), and Representative Catherine Abercrombie (D-Meriden). Our successes would not have been possible without their leadership.

**HONORING LORI** In June, U.S. Senators Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy introduced critical legislation at the federal level to secure gun restrictions for individuals who are subjects of temporary restraining orders, also known as ex parte orders. The Lori Jackson Domestic Violence Survivor Protection Act is named in honor of Lori Jackson Gellatly who was shot and killed by her husband on May 7, 2014 in Oxford. At the time of her death, a judge had ordered an ex parte restraining order on Lori’s behalf against her husband and a hearing to consider a full, one year order was scheduled for May 8th. The Act would restrict anyone subject to a temporary restraining order from possessing or purchasing firearms.

Currently in Connecticut and most other states, individuals who are subjects of permanent restraining or protective orders are prohibited from possessing or purchasing firearms. However, only a few states extend that restriction to subjects of temporary restraining orders, which, in Connecticut, may be put into place for a two week period prior to the hearing if a judge determines that the victim faces an immediate and present physical danger. Extending gun restrictions to temporary orders is crucial because the most dangerous time for domestic violence victims is when the victim begins taking steps to end an abusive relationship, as is the case for many restraining order applicants. This is a particularly important time to takes guns out of the equation of abusive relationships.

CCADV and the state’s 18 domestic violence organizations are considering pursuing such a change at the state-level.
Save the Date

4th Annual Breakfast & Awards Ceremony

HONORING MALE LEADERS WORKING TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS

NOVEMBER 14, 2014
HARTFORD MARRIOTT DOWNTOWN

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS! Know a male working in your community - in ways large and small - to prevent domestic violence? Nominate him for consideration to be included into the First 100 Plus Class of 2014.

Click HERE for more information and to make your nominations!

CCADV Training Institute
Upcoming Trainings

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

All Welcome

ADHD & PTSD: Supporting the Educational Needs of Children Impacted by Domestic Violence
August 12 I 10:00am - 1:00pm I CCADV

Talking with Men About Preventing Intimate Partner Violence
September 5 I 10:00am - 12:00pm I CCADV

Understanding Anxiety, Depression & Trauma
September 9 I 10:00am - 1:00pm I CCADV

The Link Between Animal Cruelty, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
October 22 I 10:00am - 1:00pm I CCADV

Members Only

Facilitating the Council for Boys & Young Men Curriculum
August 20 I 10:00am - 1:00pm I CCADV

Creating a Quality Narrative Report
August 28 I 10:00am - 1:00pm I CCADV

Day of Advocacy Staples
September 18 I 9:30am - 4:30pm I CCADV

Restraining Orders, Financial Options & Safety
September 26 I 1:00pm - 4:00pm I CCADV

LAP: Train-the-Traininer
October 9 I 9:30am - 4:30pm I CCADV

Click HERE to download the complete Summer/Fall 2014 Training Catalog

Call for Nominations!
Know a male working in your community - in ways large and small - to prevent domestic violence? Nominate him for consideration to be included into the First 100 Plus Class of 2014.

Click HERE for more information and to make your nominations!
CT Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee Releases 2014 Findings & Recommendations

Since 2000, there have been 188 intimate partner homicides in Connecticut; an average of 14 per year. Women have made up 86% of those homicides. This includes 11 intimate partner homicides – 7 women and 4 men - in 2012. CCADV and the CT Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee (Committee) recently released their 2014 findings and recommendations in the annual report, Upon Further Examination. The Committee works to prevent future deaths by conducting multi-disciplinary, systemic examinations of violent intimate partner fatalities. Reviews are conducted in a confidential, reflective, and culturally-sensitive environment that will lead to recommendations for positive social and systems change.

For the first time this past year the Committee began reviewing near-fatal incidents of intimate partner violence, also referred to as “critical events.” These are incidents of intimate partner violence that resulted in serious physical injury to the victim as defined in CT General Statutes § 53a-3(4). There were 171 near-fatal incidents of intimate partner violence in 2012. These reviews provide the Committee with the unique opportunity to, when available, speak directly to the victim to learn what policies and practices they believe increased or decreased their safety leading up to the near-fatal incident.

In one year in CT...

20,000 family violence incidents resulting in at least 1 arrest
(73% involve intimate partner violence)

1/3 of all criminal court cases involve family violence
(2013)

9,000 restraining order applications filed in family court

Over the 14 years since the Committee came into existence, the response of the criminal justice system to domestic violence victims and offenders continues to be a central factor in the cases reviewed. Of the cases reviewed this year, one (1) of the fatal cases and four (4) of the near-fatal cases had prior involvement with the criminal justice system and three (3) of the near-fatal cases involved violations of protective orders. One of the recommendations issued by the Committee this year calls on the Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission to form a subcommittee that will evaluate the response of the criminal justice system to such violations of court orders. The Commission’s chair, Mike Lawlor of the Office and Policy and Management, and Governor Dannel P. Malloy have committed to undertaking this important effort.

The report also touches on intimate partner violence as a serious public health problem that can benefit from enhanced coordination among healthcare professionals, social service professionals and domestic violence advocates. This includes identifying effective, trauma-informed screening methods when victims or perpetrators present for various health services related to addiction, mental health, gynecology and obstetrics, or pediatric services for their children. Some victims will present to healthcare professionals with the obvious physical signs of abuse, but many times they will not. It is critical that healthcare professionals are fully aware of the less obvious signs of abuse, how to have a confidential conversation with their patient about possible abuse, and where to direct them if the answer is “yes.”

Finally, this year’s report addresses the ongoing need for increased public awareness and education. Teaching people to identify the signs of an abusive relationship and the risk factors that indicate escalating violence or potentially fatal violence is a vital piece of raising awareness about the availability of support services. Until people can recognize when abuse is present in a relationship, whether it is their relationship or that of a family member or friend, they will not know to reach out for help.

Click HERE to read the full report and check our Facebook page to see more photos from the press conference.
CCADV and DEEP Discuss Domestic Violence

Following the murder of Lori Jackson Gellatly in May (see “Honoring Lori” on page 6), her employer, CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), reached out to CCADV as they struggled to understand the loss of one of their own. DEEP Commissioner, Rob Klee, wanted to ensure that his staff not only had the opportunity to mourn their colleague, but also to learn more about the signs associated with domestic violence in hopes that other potential victims or loved ones of victims working within the Department would know where to turn for help.

In July, CCADV Chief Executive Officer, Karen Jarmoc, and Director of Offender Risk Reduction, Nancy Turner, participated in a discussion with over 100 DEEP employees about domestic violence. The basic signs of abuse and evidence-based risk factors for escalating and potentially lethal violence were reviewed, as were the barriers and challenges faced by many victims experiencing abuse or contemplating ending an abusive relationship.

The presentation also included some common indicators that co-workers of potential domestic violence victims can look for in the workplace. Some of these indicators include the abuser/perpetrator…

- Monitoring the victim’s activities,
- Repeatedly calling the victim on a daily basis,
- Frequently showing up at the workplace,
- Acting suspicious of people the victim works with; and,
- Harassing co-workers.

Practices for creating a safe workplace were also explored, such as:

Consider personal safety and security…
- Does the employee need to be listed in the company’s phone directory?
- Is there building security?
- Are the parking areas secure?

Consider privacy…
- If a victim wanted to disclose their situation, who would they speak to?
- If a victim needed help, could they receive internal or external assistance within work hours?
- Is there an Employee Assistance Program in place?
- Are there clear policies about the type/amount of information shared about employees when someone calls looking for them? (Recognize that perpetrators are often very skilled in obtaining information.)

Looking for more information for your workplace? Visit Workplaces Respond to Domestic & Sexual Violence - A National Resource Center. Funded by the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women, this organization has a number of great tools for employers looking to strengthen their workplace policies related to domestic and sexual violence.
MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

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

The Center for Family Justice
Bridgeport
(203) 384-9559
www.cwfefc.org

Domestic Violence Program/
United Services, Inc.
Dayville    Willimantic
(860) 774-8648    (860) 456-9476
www.unitedservicesct.org

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

Domestic Abuse Service/
Greenwich YWCA
Greenwich
(203) 622-0003
www.ywcagreenwich.org

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

Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis
Meriden
(203) 238-1501
www.mwchrysalis.org

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

Prudence Crandall Center
New Britain
(860) 225-6357
www.prudencemandall.org

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

Domestic Violence Crisis Center
Norwalk    Stamford
(203) 852-1980    (203) 588-9096
www.dvccct.org

Women’s Support Services
Sharon
(860) 364-1900
www.wssdv.org

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

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

CCADV is the state’s leading voice for victims of domestic violence and those agencies that serve them.