Representatives of the CT Police Chiefs Association receiving the Larry & Shirley Bostrom Pillars of Change award at CCADV’s First 100 Plus awards ceremony in September.

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Over 250 people attended *Emerging Best Practices to Strengthen Connecticut’s Response: A “Domestic Violence Across Communities” Event* on October 15th and 16th at the Sheraton Hartford South in Rocky Hill. The conference was co-sponsored by the CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the CT Department of Social Services.

Attendees gained tools and practical applications to enhance our state’s response to domestic violence in the areas of lethality assessment, fatality review, cultural responsiveness, the impact of domestic violence on children, trauma, cyber-stalking and offender accountability.

National and local experts provided valuable insight on strengthening policies and ensuring comprehensive prevention and intervention initiatives, leaving attendees strategically positioned to help advance our shared work.

Betsy McAlister Groves, Director of the Child Witness to Violence Project at the Boston Medical Center, spoke about the trauma that domestic violence causes for children, affecting everything from their development and neurobiology to the quality of the relationships they are able to form later in life. Establishing a trauma-informed environment for children requires that providers foster nurturing relationships, create safe settings that are organized and establish a routine, and that challenging behaviors are managed by setting limits and creating opportunities for the child to succeed.

Dr. David Adams gave attendees a glimpse into the mind of a batterer. He co-founded Emerge, the nation’s first batterer intervention program where he has counseled abusers and conducted outreach to victims for over 30 years. Dr. Adams noted that abusive men need to be in control and are highly skilled at manipulation and image maintenance. Understanding that their actions are purposeful and meant to gain control, rather than random impulsive behavior, will help as we seek to hold these men accountable and prevent further violence.

Conference participants also heard from Chic Dabby-Chinoy, Director of the Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence, about lethality and cultural considerations for underserved communities. It is essential that we examine system-generated risks, such as anti-immigrant policies and homophobia, which impact whether or not victims seek help.

With a focus on coordination, collaboration and cooperation, we will be able to continually improve our ability to meet the needs of domestic violence victims. Increasing tools for judges and lawyers, improving trauma counseling for children and focusing on early education and prevention will be key components as CCADV works to facilitate the coordination of services.

Governor Dannel P. Malloy was also on hand to offer his support and present a proclamation recognizing October as Domestic Violence Awareness month. Governor Malloy has been a strong advocate for ending violence against women and in June signed into law Public Act 12-114, which strengthened protections for victims by expanding the definition of stalking and increasing the length of civil restraining orders.

Visit us at [www.ctcadv.org](http://www.ctcadv.org) to access various presentations and handouts from the conference.
Fatality Review Committee Releases 2012 Findings

In July, the Connecticut Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee released its 2012 report calling for increased public awareness about the dynamics of domestic violence and the risk factors that often precede intimate-partner homicide. The Committee found that in the vast majority of cases reviewed, family, friends and co-workers were not fully aware of the escalating circumstances between the perpetrator and the victim. While they knew there was a problem, they did not recognize the warning signs that the situation could become fatal.

The Committee also noted the need for appropriate tools to assess the potential for lethal violence in cases of stalking. Individuals working with domestic violence victims should discuss the potential for increased violence when a victim attempts to leave the relationship, with stalking as one of an abuser’s tactics to gain control over the situation.

A culturally and linguistically appropriate response system is also needed in our state to adequately meet the needs of all victims. The Committee highlights the importance of understanding the complex ways in which people respond to domestic violence, given their cultures and practices. In an effort to respond to the diverse experiences of victims, help must meet the unique needs of each population and/or community, including those individuals that are underserved or have limited English proficiency.

The Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) has already begun to address this year’s recommendations. The Coalition has hired a Diversity and Accessibility Coordinator with the goal of implementing a more culturally-specific response to domestic violence in Connecticut. CCADV also partnered with the CT Police Officer Standards and Training Council to bring the nationally recognized Lethality Assessment Program to Connecticut in an effort to better assess risk factors among victims (see sidebar).

The Connecticut Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee, which is coordinated by CCADV, works to prevent future deaths by conducting multi-disciplinary, systemic examinations of violent intimate partner fatalities. The Committee’s objectives are to enhance the safety of victims and accountability of batterers, to identify systemic gaps and barriers to service, to implement coordinated community responses and to influence public policy for the intervention and prevention of domestic violence.

Visit www.ctcadv.org to see the full report.

In its first month, LAP connected 75% of high-risk victims with their local domestic violence agency.

Lethality Assessment Program

The Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) kicked off statewide in Connecticut in September. LAP is an innovative partnership with law enforcement to implement nationally recognized risk assessment strategies to better serve domestic violence victims in the greatest danger.

The program, which is the result of collaboration between CCADV and the CT Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POSTC), is being piloted through 8 CCADV member domestic violence service agencies with 14 municipal law enforcement agencies. Connecticut is one of only ten states nationwide selected to participate in the program.

Modeled after the LAP first piloted in Maryland, this program is a two-pronged intervention process that makes use of a specialized lethality assessment tool. Trained police on the scene of a domestic violence call assess a victim’s risk for serious injury or death and can then immediately link those at greatest risk to their local domestic violence advocate for support and safety planning.

Some examples of lethality factors include: has the abuser ever threatened to kill the victim; has the abuser ever used or threatened to use a weapon against the victim; or has the abuser ever tried to choke the victim. Factors such as these often indicate an increased likelihood that a situation could become fatal.

The Maryland LAP is partially credited with reducing that state’s domestic violence-related homicide rate by 40%.
On October 9th CCADV welcomed Rossanna Camacho and Vania Queiroz, two participants with the Brazil Women’s Empowerment Project. The project is funded by the U.S. Department of State and headed by the Institute for Training and Development (ITD), which partnered with Smith College, both in Massachusetts. The purpose of the professional exchange program is to create opportunities for Brazilian and U.S. professionals to learn from one another, experience diverse organizational and institutional structures, experience women-defined advocacy and servitude while also promoting women’s roles in their communities.

Judging from Rossana and Vania’s feedback, CCADV’s first-time involvement was a success. The women fully emerged in a “Connecticut specific” response to domestic violence. During their two week placements, our fellows conducted site visits to our New Britain, Danbury and Hartford programs as well as to the Manchester Police Department. They also attended the “Emerging Best Practices to Strengthen Connecticut’s Response” conference and still had time to enjoy a little shopping at West Farms Mall and visit different local restaurants.

Rossana and Vania gained many practical tools including how to facilitate the initial response to victims of domestic violence specifically around emotional support and advocacy for victims regardless of whether there is police intervention, as well as domestic violence program structure and operation including shelter and transitional living programs. All in all it was a great experience and our guests look forward to bringing back all lessons learned to their communities in Brazil.

In January, Wendy Mota Kasongo, CCADV’s bi-lingual Diversity and Accessibility Coordinator, will travel to Brazil for two weeks to participate in a fellowship in a Brazilian organization and attend conferences on sharing best practices for promoting women’s leadership and community health.

CCADV would like to extend a very special thank you to Barbara Damon, Arlene Greco, Lorraine Gauthier, Pat Zachman, Sharon Chappuis, Alex Lopez-Masa, Nicole Sabel, Cecile Enrico, Iris Ruiz, Penni Micca & the Manchester Police Department for participating and facilitating the site visits.

CCADV honored its second class of First 100 men on September 21st at the Crowne Plaza in Cromwell. The First 100 program has now honored over 200 male leaders from across the state who have worked to raise awareness of the availability and access to domestic violence services in Connecticut. Many of the honorees were nominated by CCADV’s 18 member agencies for the strong leadership they provide in their local communities. Attorney General George Jepsen, a member of the First 100 class of 2011, was on hand to honor the members of this year’s extended group.

CCADV also honored State Representative Mae Flexer (D-Killingly) as its Coalition Crusader for her tireless efforts at the State Capitol to strengthen our laws and enhance protections for victims. The CT Police Chiefs Association was also honored with the Larry & Shirley Bostrom Pillars of Change award for their dedication to training and intervention initiatives that will strengthen the response of law enforcement to victims of domestic violence.
In June, Governor Malloy signed into law Public Act 12-114, An Act Concerning Domestic Violence. This important legislation resulted from the continued commitment of the Speaker’s Task Force on Domestic Violence, led by State Representative Mae Flexer (D-Killingly), as well as the efforts of the General Assembly’s Task Force on Law Enforcement Response to Family Violence, which was co-chaired by CCADV Executive Director, Karen Jarmoc, and included representatives from five CCADV member agencies.

Public Act 12-114 significantly enhances the protections available to victims of domestic violence. Some major highlights of the new laws that went into effect on October 1st include:

- **Definition of Family Violence**: expanded to include stalking or a pattern of threatening
- **Definition of Family Member**: eliminated the age restriction to allow people of any age who are related by blood or marriage, or who live together or have lived together, to seek relief from abuse
- **Definition of 2nd Degree Stalking**: now includes fear of the loss of employment (see full definition on page 7)
- **Length of a Restraining Order**: increased from six (6) months to one (1) year
- **Cyber-stalking and Violations of Protective/Restraining Orders**: if, while a protective/restraining order prohibiting contact is in place, a victim receives unwanted electronic or telephonic communications, a complaint can now be filed in the town where the victim lives, the town where the communication was received or the town where the communication was initiated
- **Enhanced Communication**: provides increased opportunities for communication between the court system and victims, as well as victim advocates
- **Model Law Enforcement Policy on Family Violence**: requires law enforcement agencies to set minimum guidelines for arrest policies in family violence incidents that at a minimum meet the standards set forth in the model policy and requires each department to appoint a domestic violence liaison
- **Family Violence Model Policy Governing Council**: established to evaluate law enforcement policies and procedures on family violence
Please Join Us

2nd Annual Women’s Policy Day

Tuesday, November 27th
8:00am - 1:00pm
Legislative Office Building, Hartford

Join us for a day dedicated to informing and motivating women to engage in the legislative process. Attendees will gain a better understanding of the CT General Assembly and tools needed to be leaders on policy changes impacting women.

Participants will learn the basics of Connecticut’s Legislature and join an interactive session on the public hearing process where they’ll learn tips for testifying on a bill. A panel of female lawmakers will also be on hand to discuss their experiences serving in public office and how women can be more involved. The day will also include a discussion about the impact of the federal Affordable Care Act on women’s health.

This is event is FREE!

Visit www.ctcadv.org to register!

CCADV Releases Updated Service Statistics

CCADV recently released its fiscal year 2012 (7/1/11 - 6/30/12) service statistics gathered from its 18 member domestic violence service agencies. These agencies provide critical services that help keep victims safe and improve their lives. Below is a breakdown of the services provided:

- **57,619 victims of domestic served throughout the state**
- **Crisis Services** - 27,787 contacts with victims in crisis were handled by the staff and volunteers of our member agencies.
- **Safe Home Services** - 1,378 adults and 1,018 children stayed in our members’ emergency safe homes because they were in serious physical danger and had no other safe options.
- **Community Services** - 11,721 adult victims, 76 teens experiencing dating violence and 522 children received support services from our agencies. These services included individual counseling, support groups, legal advocacy, information and referral, and assistance with developing safety plans.
- **Criminal Court-based Services** - 42,757 court referred domestic violence victims received direct services from our member agency staff and volunteer advocates who are based in the criminal courts. These services included counseling, court advocacy, assistance with orders of protection, information and referral to community services and assistance with developing safety plans.
- **Community Education Services** - 130,771 people attended our community education programs. These programs including training for police officers and other professional groups; presentations to religious, civic and business organizations; and domestic violence prevention programs to elementary through college-age students.
Stalking

The National Center for Victims of Crime’s Stalking Resource Center reports that 6.6 million people are stalked annually. One (1) in six (6) women and one (1) in nineteen (19) men have experienced stalking victimization at some point during their lifetime in which they felt very fearful or believed that they or someone close to them would be harmed or killed. The majority of victims are stalked by someone they know, with 66% of female victims being stalked by their current or former intimate partner.

Stalking can include:

- receiving repeated phone calls, including hang-ups
- having your computer or telephone use monitored
- receiving unwanted gifts, emails and text messages
- the person repeatedly driving past where you live or work

Unfortunately many stalking victims don’t recognize the behavior for what it truly is or they think it’s something that they have to put up with as part of ending an abusive relationship. However, stalking is very serious, can escalate over time, and often leads to increased violence.

With advances in technology, cyber-stalking is becoming an increasing problem. In response, the Stalking Resource Center has developed The Use of Technology to Stalk, a self-paced, interactive online training course designed to increase the ability of criminal justice professionals and victim service providers to recognize how stalkers use technology. To learn more and determine if you are eligible to participate, visit www.tech2stalk.com.

To learn more, visit the Stalking Resource Center www.ncvc.org/src.

Connecticut recently strengthened the definition of stalking in the 2nd degree (C.G.S. § 53a-181d):

Previous Definition:
A person is guilty of stalking in the 2nd degree when, with intent to cause another person to fear for his physical safety, he willfully and repeatedly follows or lies in wait for such other person and causes such other person to reasonably fear for his physical safety.

New Definition Effective 10.1.12
A person is guilty of 2nd degree stalking when (1) such person knowingly engages in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for such person’s physical safety or the physical safety of a third person; or (2) such person intentionally, and for no legitimate purpose, engages in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear that such person’s employment, business or career is threatened, where (A) such conduct consists of the actor telephoning to, appearing at or initiating communications or contact at such other person’s place of employment or business, provided the actor was previously and clearly informed to cease such conduct, and (B) such conduct does not consist of constitutionally protected activity.

“Course of conduct” means two or more acts, including, but not limited to, acts in which a person directly, indirectly, or through a third party, by any action, method, device or means, (1) follows, lies in wait for, monitors, observes, surveils, threatens, communicates with or sends unwanted gifts to, a person, or (2) interferes with a person’s property.

Increasing Public Awareness

CCADV recently received funds through the CT Department of Correction (DOC) and Verizon Wireless to raise public awareness about the dynamics of domestic violence and services available to victims throughout the state at CCADV’s 18 member agencies.

The Department of Correction donated $2,000 through its Brooklyn Cares program. Brooklyn Correctional Institution has been a long-time supporter of CCADV.

Verizon Wireless also partnered with CCADV through the First 100 Plus event held in September, providing $10,000 to help highlight the state’s toll-free hotline and other resources for victims.

Brooklyn Cares Donation - DOC Commissioner Leo C. Arnone; CCADV Executive Director, Karen Jarmoc; Warden Stephen Faucher, Brooklyn Correctional Institution
Help is available...

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

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

Women's Center of Greater Danbury
Danbury
(203) 731-5206

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

Network Against Domestic Abuse
Enfield
(860) 763-4542

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

Interval House
Hartford
(860) 527-0550

Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis
Meriden
(203) 238-1501

New Horizons
Middletown
(860) 347-3044

Prudence Crandall Center
New Britain
(860) 225-6357

Safe Futures
New London
(860) 701-6000

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

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

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

Safe Haven
Waterbury
(203) 575-0036

Governor Malloy Recognizes Domestic Violence Awareness Month

By His Excellency Dannel P. Malloy, Governor:

THEREAS, domestic violence is a serious crime that crosses all economic, racial, religious, gender, and cultural barriers; and

THEREAS, the crime of domestic violence violates an individual’s privacy, dignity, security, and humanity due to the use of physical, emotional, sexual, psychological, and economic control or abuse; and

THEREAS, children who experience domestic violence are at a higher risk of failure in school, emotional distress, and substance abuse, and are more likely to perpetuate the cycle of violence themselves later in life; and

THEREAS, Domestic Violence Awareness Month provides an opportunity for citizens to learn more about preventing domestic violence and to show support for the numerous organizations and individuals who provide critical advocacy, services, and assistance to victims; and

THEREAS, during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we recognize the significant achievements we have made in reducing domestic violence in America, and we recommit ourselves to the important work still ahead of us; and

THEREAS, by working together, we can break the cycle of violence and build communities that are safe for everyone; now

THEREFORE, I, Dannel P. Malloy, Governor of the State of Connecticut, do hereby officially proclaim the month of October 2012 as DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH in the State of Connecticut. I urge all our citizens to join me in working together to eliminate domestic violence from our community and bring peace and equality to every home.

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

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