CCADV, POST Release Report on CT Lethality Assessment Program

In November, CCADV and CT Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) released a new report – Connecticut’s Lethality Assessment Program 2017 Report. The report highlights that Connecticut is the first state in the country to achieve statewide utilization by law enforcement of an intimate partner violence risk assessment tool.

The Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) provides a two-pronged approach that allows law enforcement to identify victims of intimate partner violence (IPV) at risk for increased or fatal violence and get them immediately connected to help. The screening instrument, one component of LAP, was the subject of a rigorous validation study by Dr. Jacquelyn C. Campbell and her colleagues at Johns Hopkins University. The screen itself takes less than 5 minutes to conduct and evaluate for potential immediate referral to domestic violence services. Upon completion of the lethality screen, law enforcement utilizes a corresponding referral and service protocol based on the dangerousness of the situation.

The successful statewide implementation of LAP has had a significant impact on connecting IPV victims in Connecticut to domestic violence services at a critical time while also shaping policy to strengthen the state’s response to domestic violence. LAP data from the commencement of statewide rollout (October 2012) through September 2017 demonstrates:

- 22,566 screens statewide
- 51% deemed “high danger”
- 73% of “high danger” victims spoke with a counselor when the police officer placed the phone call to the local domestic violence organization at the scene
- 89% of those victims that spoke with a domestic violence counselor at the scene followed up for services

An analysis of the frequency in which the 11 risk factors were affirmatively responded to reveals that, in a sample of over 3,000 screen responses:

- Jealousy or control factors were the most pervasive component at 76%
- Prior and/or pending separation was second at 61%
- Attempted strangulation was third at 58%
- Stalking behaviors was fourth at 53%

Continued on page 3...
Statewide Domestic Violence Service Statistics
Fiscal Year 2017

In FISCAL YEAR 2017, our 18 MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS provided services to

33,661 ADULTS
38,404 VICTIMS
4,743 CHILDREN

What SERVICES do victims request when they come to us?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURT-BASED ADVOCACY</th>
<th>SHELTER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32,774 VICTIMS</td>
<td>2,179 VICTIMS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,207 ADULTS</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ONE-ON-ONE COUNSELING</th>
<th>SUPPORT GROUPS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29,290 VICTIMS</td>
<td>1,617 SESSIONS</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMUNITY EDUCATION</th>
<th>HOTLINE CALLS</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3,193 EVENTS</td>
<td>32,744 CALLS</td>
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What does this mean for Connecticut’s DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICE SYSTEM? Approximately 370 counselors statewide, 30 FEWER than the previous year, provided...

31% SUPPORT GROUPS
30% ONE-ON-ONE COUNSELING
13% COURT-BASED ADVOCACY
11% COMMUNITY EDUCATION
9% HOTLINE RESPONSES

While the total number of victims requesting services and requesting shelter each decreased by 3%, STAFFING DECREASED by 8% with many positions eliminated or left vacant due to budget uncertainty at the state and federal levels.

Even with reduced staffing, SHELTERS OPERATED at 122% CAPACITY throughout the year and COUNSELORS PROVIDED 9% - 31% MORE SERVICES to help make victims safer and achieve stability. Why is that?

Because victims continue to present with more complex needs that they struggle to have met by other segments of the human services system have been impacted by budget cuts, such as behavioral health or housing issues. To the right you can view some of those needs with which domestic violence counselors have assisted victims.

A snapshot of some of the needs for which victims require advocacy with various service systems.

Click here to download the full factsheet.
We are proud to report that as of November 1, 2017, 100% of Connecticut's cities and towns, including the State Police and all municipal police departments, are utilizing or in the process of being trained to utilize LAP. This includes 8 colleges and universities, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Police, Mohegan Tribal Police, South Central CT Regional Water Authority, and CT State Environmental Conservation Police. Created by the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence/Maryland LAP, LAP was first piloted in Connecticut in 2010 by Ansonia Police Chief Kevin J. Hale in concert with CCADV member organization, The Umbrella Center for Domestic Violence Services. CCADV and POST partnered in 2012 to begin statewide implementation.

To ensure that the best practices and sizeable accomplishments achieved through LAP are not only maintained, but advanced, some next steps include:

- Reviewing further research opportunities and data collection initiatives to formulate recommendations for systems-level change.
- Assess potential changes to LAP protocol based on the available data about types of abuse experienced by victims in Connecticut.
- Develop processes to ensure adherence to the fidelity of the LAP protocol.
- Establish a clear model for the implementation and sustainability of LAP on a statewide basis that can be utilized by Connecticut and other states.
- Determine other areas of the criminal justice system that could be informed about offender risk and dangerousness through the utilization of the LAP screen score while maintaining victim safety and confidentiality.
- Work with other stakeholders to ensure uniform data collection across systems.

Click here to read the full report. For questions or additional information about LAP, please contact CCADV Director of Law Enforcement Services, Dan Cargill.
Domestic Violence Awareness Month
& Purple Tie Tuesday

FOX61 FEATURES DVAM

Throughout the month of October, Fox61 featured Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) both online and through several morning interviews. CCADV CEO, Karen Jarmoc, and two of our Member Organization Directors - Interval House President & CEO, Mary-Jane Foster, and Director of Domestic Violence Services, Research & Education at Community Health Center, Inc./New Horizons, Dr. Kimberly Citron - were featured on Fox61’s morning show to discuss various initiatives and events for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The issue was featured through Fox61’s H.O.P.E. Initiative webpage (Helping Organizations Promote Education) and content was provided by CCADV.

DVAM SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

Throughout Domestic Violence Awareness Month, CCADV posted images on Facebook and Twitter to promote our new “I Choose” prevention campaign. As you know, the goal of the campaign is to engage boys and men to make positive life choices that don’t involve violence. The social media campaign highlights various statistics and the importance of healthy relationships. We also encourage people to download our I Choose Social Media Toolkit (see page 7) and use the selfie signs to tell us why they choose to take a stand against domestic violence.

A few examples of posts used in the social media campaign are included below, but you can check out the full month of posts on our Facebook page.

PURPLE TIE TUESDAY

We saw another successful Purple Tie Tuesday this year! It’s a great day to get people involved with raising awareness and having conversations at home, school or in the workplace. Many thanks to the members who participated and shared their photos with us. Below are a few photos from the day, but you can check out more on our Facebook page.
7th Annual First 100 Plus Breakfast & Awards

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who came out to support CCADV’s 7th Annual First 100 Plus Breakfast and Awards Ceremony! You helped us create another memorable morning, celebrating the work of nearly 80 new honorees - men and women leading efforts across the state to improve outcomes for victims of domestic violence. As the state’s leading voice for victims of domestic violence and those organizations that serve them, we fully recognize that we cannot make progress alone. It truly is the work that each of you does that emboldens our opportunity to help people at their most vulnerable time.

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and attendees, we raised nearly $50,000 this year! Funds raised through the First 100 Plus Breakfast & Awards Ceremony fortify CCADV’s work to strengthen outcomes for survivors through public awareness, training and technical assistance. CCADV and our 18 member organizations serve nearly 40,000 survivors each year. Domestic violence shelters in our state operate at 122% capacity with nearly 70% of the almost 1,000 children staying there annually being 6 years old or younger. Your generosity helps us to maintain life-saving interventions and supports.

Thank you to all of our generous sponsors:

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Mohegan Sun
Spectrum
CCADV Advocates - adimeback.com
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CT Trial Lawyers Association
Forensic Accounting Services
Jackson Lewis
Locke Lord
Magellan Cares Foundation
O’Brien, Tanski & Young
Robinson+Cole
Webster Bank
Women’s Health CT

Check out more photos from the event on our Facebook page, all courtesy of Perceptions Photography!

Thank you to the wonderful Sandy Aldieri, owner of Perceptions Photography, for donating her time and expertise again this year to capture these moments!
CCADV’s Health Professional Outreach Project Unveils New Report, Training Videos

In September, CCADV released its most recent analysis of our Health Professional Outreach Project (HPO) led by project director, Jillian Gilchrest. During year two of the project (7.1.16 - 6.30.17) CCADV provided 70 trainings to more than 1,000 health providers across Connecticut. Staff found that a large majority of health professionals were only screening patients for IPV when they observed signs of physical injuries. Training included discussing the various methods of control - emotional, psychological, technological, sexual, and physical - and the impact that all forms of abuse can take on a victim’s health such as depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, increased risk for hypertension, etc. This both broadened health professionals' understanding of IPV and the importance of screening all patients regardless of the presence of physical injuries.

Key partnerships in year two of the project included work with Women’s Health Connecticut, The Child Health and Development Institute of Connecticut (CHDI), and Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE). CCADV provided 24 in-person trainings and two webinars to more than 125 providers within the Women’s Health Connecticut network, which also created a practice-wide policy of screening patients for IPV and making referrals to the local domestic violence organization. Over 23,000 patients have been screened since March 2017.

As the Health Professional Outreach Project moves into year three, several next steps have been identified including:

• Expand the number of healthcare entities that make screening for IPV a policy of their practice. We know that pregnant and parenting women are at higher risk for IPV, so ideally, all OBGYN and pediatric offices in Connecticut will incorporate the screen into their practice.

• Develop a preventative screening tool for health professionals that can be utilized with adolescents and that aims to prevent individuals from perpetrating IPV. It is critical to define the underlying causes that prompt and perpetuate IPV and to implement strategies that impact those underlying causes.

• Support the work of the Healthy Youth coalition, a group of advocacy organizations working to require comprehensive health education in grades K-12 in Connecticut, and continue to solidify relationships with and training opportunities at institutions of higher education.

Jillian also developed and coordinated a new series of 8 online training videos for health professionals that are now available on CCADV’s website. The training videos will help health professionals build their understanding and capacity to support patients. The videos will allow them to do this at their own pace and within their own time frame. Video topics include:

• Why health professionals should screen for domestic violence
• A toolbox for domestic violence screenings and referrals
• Talking to Women: screening & referral for OBGYN health professionals
• Impact of domestic violence on children
• Talking to Caregivers: screening & referral in pediatric health settings
• Culturally-specific issues, mental health, and trauma

Check out the first video in the series. All of the videos are available on the HPO Project page on CCADV’s website.

For questions or more information, please contact Jillian Gilchrest, Director of Health Professional Outreach.
In September CCADV released its new “I Choose” Campaign Social Media Toolkit. The toolkit is packed with useful images and sample social media posts that individuals and organizations can use to get engaged in “I Choose”, CCADV’s new prevention campaign focused on engaging boys, and men, to make positive life choices that don't involve violence. It stems from the idea that violence is a choice - and with the right mentors and the right tools, boys can choose to rise above domestic violence. Together, we are working towards educating boys about making good life choices: "I Choose respect;" “I Choose not to normalize violence towards women;" “I Choose to take a stand against domestic violence.”

Click HERE for a downloadable version of the toolkit with a Word doc that includes sample social media posts, jogs of images you can share, and printable “selfie signs” that can be individualized to say what you choose. Also, be on the lookout for our giant “I Choose” selfie frames and our selfie booth coming to community events.

Contact Linda Blozie, Director of Training and Prevention, with questions or for additional tips on how to get involved.

Linda debuted our “I Choose” Selfie Booth at our 7th Annual First 100 Plus Breakfast & Awards Ceremony and it was a big hit! Above left - Lee Schlesinger, Safe Haven Executive Director and CCADV Board Member; Below left - State Rep. Robyn Porter, CCADV CEO, Karen Jarmoc, and State Sen. Mae Flexer

CCADV Visits Joe Torre Safe At Home Foundation in NYC

As part of CCADV’s Engaging Men and Boys grant through the US Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women, CCADV Director of Training & Prevention, Linda Blozie, and Director of Member Organization Services, Kelly Annelli, recently went to New York City to visit the Joe Torre Safe at Home Foundation. The two-day workshop highlighted the Margaret’s Place Program, a dedicated safe room in schools where students can go to talk or “hang out” in a comfortable environment that feels safe to them – a place where respect and confidentiality are the rule. Program components include:

• Violence prevention curriculum (YES)
• Faculty/Parent/Community outreach
• School-wide campaigns
• Individual counseling
• Group counseling
• Peer leadership

The violence prevention curriculum, Youth Empowered to Speak (YES), is taught over five weeks in 7th and 9th grade classrooms, and is designed to educate students about violence, the impact of trauma, coping skills, safety strategies, and how to help a friend. It empowers young people to play a role in ending the cycle of violence by teaching them to seek help and alternatives to violence. Students who participate in the program report being 5x more likely to speak up if they witness someone being abuse or hurt rather than ignore the situation.

A next step for CCADV is to consider the feasibility of adopting some aspects of the Margaret’s Place Program in Connecticut. This may include incorporating guidance for creating similar safe spaces for kids at school in our existing training efforts in school-based settings. CCADV and our 18 member organizations provide violence prevention education at schools across the state utilizing the Safe Dates and Shifting Boundaries curriculums. So far in 2017, about 230 education professionals have received the training. The Margaret’s Place Program offers a promising opportunity to enhance our school-based prevention work.
Member Spotlight On...

Camp HOPE Connecticut

The impact of being a primary or secondary victim of domestic or sexual violence or child abuse is devastating and can have profound long-term consequences. Children exposed to trauma have been deprived of the safety and security that should be a rite of childhood. They are also at a higher risk for residual emotional, social and behavioral impact.

Camp HOPE America is a growing national network of camps created to respond to this kind of trauma in a sensitive, therapeutic way. The Camp HOPE model helps children and teens overcome obstacles in a safe, supportive environment; improves self-esteem; and makes them more emotionally resilient. A peer-reviewed clinical study published in the September 2016 edition of the journal Child and Adolescent Social Work determined that the Camp HOPE model is a successful intervention for children exposed to trauma and domestic violence. A study of more than 200 children who attended Camp HOPE in California and Oregon, reported they left camp with a greater sense of optimism, gratitude, grit, social intelligence and self-esteem. This is hope personified: It changed the way children see themselves and their futures.

We asked the campers why they wanted to attend Camp HOPE. Here are a few of their comments.

- “Because my dad can’t tell me I’m not man enough.” Boy, age 10
- “To learn ‘hope’ and how to understand my feelings.” Boy age 11
- “I can learn to feel normal. I’m different than everyone around me.” Boy age 9
- “I get a chance, to be a kid, not a mom, not a big sister, not a shoulder to lean on, just a kid.” Girl age 11

Opened in the summer of 2017 and set at Camp Hi-Rock, which is operated by the Coastal Connecticut YMCA, Camp HOPE Connecticut is based at one of the region’s finest accredited overnight camps. Campers live in log cabins set on a tranquil private lake in the Massachusetts’ Berkshires, flanked on one side by the Appalachian Trail. Children enjoy an array of summer recreational activities including hiking, swimming, sailing, jet-skiing, obstacle courses, arts and crafts and evening campfires. Specially-trained counselors, led by The Center for Family Justice (CFJ) team members, engage campers in a curriculum developed to help them overcome adversity and improve their outlook. Children are be assigned to age appropriate HOPE circles, where peer-to-peer support is encouraged. Daily camp activities are designed to promote creative thinking, good decision-making, problem solving, team work, mutual support, trust and goal-setting.

In its first year, Camp HOPE Connecticut had 23 campers’ ages 7-14 attend Coastal Connecticut YMCA’s Camp Hi-Rock in Mount Washington (overnight camp), Massachusetts and 11 campers ages 5-6 attend Camp Tepee in Trumbull, Connecticut (day camp). The children and youth had the opportunity to have all the fun of camp while also engaging with our Camp HOPE program staff on building resiliency and hope. Using Camp HOPE America curriculum called “Rooted,” we engaged the youth on themes like “I am strong. I am able,” “I am on a journey,” “I will cling to what is good,” “Today matters,” and “I can leave a legacy.” Everyone is given the opportunity to talk about what hope means to them and why hope is critical to change.

Camp HOPE campers will continue to be engaged all year long with fun family activities hosted by The Center to keep them connected, engaged and hopeful. Hope starts here! For more information, contact Sasha Collins, Camp HOPE Connecticut Coordinator, at scollins@centerforfamilyjustice.org.
CCADV Attends National Conference on Domestic Violence & Health

In September, CCADV Director of Member Organization Services, Kelly Annelli, and Director of Health Professional Outreach, Jillian Gilchrest, attended NCHDV in San Francisco. Kelly was also participating on behalf of The Children’s Center on Family Violence (CCFV), our partnership with Connecticut Children’s Medical Center. Jillian presented a conference poster on CCADV’s Health Professional Outreach project and Kelly, along with Dr. Nina Livingston, presented a conference poster on CCFV’s pilot shelter screening project. CCADV member organization director, Dr. Kimberly Citron of New Horizons, was also at the conference presenting on screening for intimate partner violence in primary care settings.

Sponsored by Futures Without Violence, the conference focused on those major issues impacting the field including how best to structure the health system to best promote access to affordable and quality care, how to respond to global refugee crisis and improve health services to immigrant, refugee and trafficked survivors, how to counter racism and anti-Semitism as part of violence prevention goals, and the importance of working with young people to prevent exposure to violence and promote resiliency.

Addressing intimate partner violence (IPV) in college campus health settings was a significant focus and take-away for Jillian. Campus health centers play a crucial role in a comprehensive campus-wide response. Campus health centers are where many young women first address their reproductive health with a medical professional. This provides important opportunities for campus healthcare providers to begin a dialogue with young women about healthy relationships. Some of the best practices discussed include staff training, routine assessment as part of clinical encounters, and building partnerships with local victim services organizations. Jillian plans to utilize these best practices to expand the work of CCADV’s Health Professional Outreach project to work with campus health centers on screening for IPV. Trainings scheduled thus far include:

- University of Saint Joseph - Healthcare & Mental Health Counselors
- UConn Health Center, Storrs

CCADV Director of Health Professional Outreach, Jillian Gilchrest, presenting at the conference
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 Network
Enfield
(860) 763-4542
www.thenetworkct.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Greenwich YWCA/
Domestic Abuse Services
Greenwich
(203) 622-0003
www.ywca.greenwich.org

Chrysalis Domestic Violence Services
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.sbaproject.org

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

Statewide Hotline - 888.774.2900 (English) 844.831.9200 (Español)
Call to be connected with your local domestic violence service agency.