Learn more about what we've been up to...

- Registration Open! Healthcare & Domestic Violence Conference 11.14.18
- Health Professional Outreach Call to Action
- I Choose Symposium Success
- CCADV Releases Latest Fatality Review Report
- DVAM 2018 Wrap-Up
- CCADV Finds Improved College Campus Policy & Practice in Latest Report
- CCFV Co-Hosts International Expert in Victim Interviewing
- Member Spotlight on Safe Futures: Protect Our Pets Program

Please Join Us! Healthcare, Early Childhood & Domestic Violence Conference 11.14.18
Please join us for this exciting conference exploring the importance of domestic violence prevention education in the areas of healthcare and early childhood services.

Health professionals, social workers and early childhood workers are encouraged to attend.

Registration costs $75 and includes breakfast and lunch. Click here for the conference agenda.

Register!

CCADV Health Professional Outreach Project Releases Annual Update and Call to Action

In September, CCADV released its latest Health Professional Outreach (HPO) Project update with a look back at project activities throughout fiscal year 2018. The report highlights training provided to 845 health professionals, including 470 students, on a variety of topics related to domestic violence and healthcare. The report also demonstrates a noted increase in the number of referrals that domestic violence organizations have received from social service and healthcare providers since the project began at CCADV in 2015.

This year’s report includes an important call to action for all health professionals. While CCADV continues to provide training statewide on how to screen patients for intimate
partner violence and make referrals, the HPO Project is encouraging health professionals to move beyond disclosure-driven screening and instead educate every patient, every time. Research suggests that disclosure-based responses to domestic violence are limiting because they can constrain opportunities for prevention and limit education to only those who are ready to disclose and who have been screen appropriately.

Going beyond disclosure-driven screen and educating every patient, every time can be done by:

- Establish a policy in your healthcare setting to screen patients alone – Place a sign in the waiting room that makes this policy clear and let patients know that it’s your policy to see the patient alone first, but that someone accompanying them can join them later into the visit.

- Incorporate an intimate partner violence screening question into your exam – While completing the patient’s social history, but sure to ask, “Is anyone in your life hurting or threatening you in any way?”

- Use every interaction as an opportunity for education and awareness – Whether or not the patient discloses abuse, you can still share information about the frequency of abuse and let your patient know that there are free and confidential services available.

Read the report to learn more. And of course, please join us for our healthcare conference – Beyond Screening: Education Every Time – on November 14th!

Learn More

I Choose Symposium Attendees Report Success

On September 8th, over 120 boys and their adult leaders, primarily from the Boys and Clubs throughout Connecticut and the Connecticut Youth Excellence Project, joined together at the Bristol Boys and Girls Club to learn more about healthy relationships and how to prevent intimate partner violence and dating violence. This Symposium was the final activity of a three year grant, issued by the US Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women to initiate a Men and Boys as Allies project.

Dwayne DeFore, an experienced violence prevention educator, adjunct professor in sociology and Ph.D. candidate from Massachusetts started the day. His presentation focused on examining how advertising influences and/or reflects cultural norms about masculinity, and how messages about masculinity have shifted over time from an emphasis on ‘hyper-masculinity’ to more varied definitions of manliness (colloquially referred to as ‘metrosexual’ male). The day also included interactive group discussions and a performance by the Looking In Theater from the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts that highlighted issues young people face around teen dating and the use of social media (sexting).
The majority of youth in attendance (90%) either strongly agreed or agreed that they now have a good understanding of the signs of teen dating violence. Most also felt confident (85%) in their ability to help prevent teen dating violence among their peers. The majority felt (80%) that the information they received would help them to have healthier relationships in the future, and that they are able to talk to an adult in the program (85%) if they need advice on having a healthy relationship. Also, 90% of the youth who completed the survey after the Symposium reported that they would recommend that other youth get involved in programs like this to prevent teen dating violence.

---

CCADV Releases Latest Domestic Violence Fatality Report - Homicide Rate Remains Steady

In October, CCADV released Upon Further Examination: 2017 - 2018 Report of the CT Domestic Violence Fatality Review Task Force. The report shows that between 2000 and 2017, 246 women and men in Connecticut were the victim of an intimate partner homicide. Connecticut's average annual intimate partner homicide rate remains steady at just under 14 homicides each year (13.67). At 87%, women remain the vast majority of intimate partner homicide victims. Firearms remain the single most commonly used weapon in these homicides, used in 40% of intimate partner homicides between 2000 and 2017.

The Task Force continued to identify reoccurring trends related to mental health, addiction, and the role of the workplace. The persistence of these common trends offers the occasion to more thoroughly understand both the victim’s and offender's circumstances in the weeks, months and years prior to the homicide so that gaps in the systemic response to domestic violence can be closed.

CCADV and the Task Force made the following recommendations:

- The Task Force recommends the development of an Intimate Partner Homicide Investigative Toolkit in partnership with law enforcement, the CT Division of Criminal Justice, and the Chief State's Attorney's Office, that will serve as a guide and provide adaptable documents that law enforcement agencies can incorporate into their established protocols.

- CCADV will bolster outreach through its Health Professional Outreach Project to agencies and organizations who serve individuals experiencing mental illness and substance abuse.

- CCADV will, to address bystander intervention efforts in the workplace, develop workplace policy templates, as offered through the U.S. Office of Violence Against Women, to include the availability of training and technical assistance to employers.

Since its inception nearly twenty years ago, the CT Domestic Violence Fatality Review Task Force has reviewed a total of 90 fatalities or near-fatalities with an aim to reduce intimate partner homicides in Connecticut. During the current reporting period, the Task Force reviewed 13 fatal and 1 near-fatal fully adjudicated cases of intimate partner violence that occurred between 2012 and 2016.

Read the Report
Let's Put the "P" in DVAM - Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2018

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM). This year we asked our social media followers to help us "Put the 'P' in DVAM!" Prevention - stopping the violence before it starts - is the only way that we'll ever end domestic violence. Our social media campaign focused on various ways that everyone can participate in prevention and featured quotes from advocates working to promote prevention across the state. One of the best ways to prevent domestic violence is by simply talking about it. This means having conversations with family and friends, but also speaking up and holding others accountable for language or actions that promote abuse and inequity. And of course always starting these practices with youth and teaching them from a young age about respect and healthy relationship boundaries.

If you don’t follow us on social media or your missed the campaign, it’s not too late! Click to follow us on any of the platforms below and share our posts with your friends. You can also check out the campaign photo album on Facebook.

Facebook - @CTCoalitionAgainstDomesticViolence
Twitter - @CTCADV
Instagram - @CTCADV

Purple Thursday

And thank you to all of those who participated in Purple Thursday, a national day of action held each October as part of DVAM. It’s a day to wear purple, helping to raise awareness about domestic violence and show support for survivors. Check out our Purple Thursday photo album on Facebook.

Latest CCADV College Campus Report Notes Improved Policy & Practice

In September, CCADV released a follow-up to an earlier report on college campus policies related to intimate partner
violence (IPV). The new report, *Intimate Partner Violence on Campus: The Response of Connecticut Colleges & Universities*, summarizes the results of a recent survey to all Connecticut colleges and universities regarding their efforts to address IPV and stalking on campus. Of Connecticut's 33 institutions of higher education, 30 (90%) participated, including community colleges, state colleges/universities, and private colleges/universities.

Fifty percent (50%) of respondents report that they consider IPV to be a problem on their campus, while 25% report that stalking is a problem on campus. A clear majority of colleges and universities (85%) view that their campus has made improvements to addressing IPV/stalking since Connecticut Public Act 14-11 went into effect, which mandated several strategies campuses must take to create policies, procedures, awareness and prevention on IPV and stalking.

The report shows that all colleges and universities have made strides to strengthen or put in place policies and procedures to address IPV. Some of these procedures include student and/or staff education, bystander intervention education, residential life education, and media campaigns. All responding colleges and universities have developed a Memorandum of Understanding with their local domestic violence organization to provide education and training on campus and support student victims of IPV and stalking.

Even while making progress, several respondents reported recurring challenges with IPV on campus and with implementing these new mandates. Some challenges reported were students schedules at commuter campuses, a lack of resources to facilitate training, the cost of on-going programming, faculty's reluctance to give up class time for training, and finding a block of time to facilitate bystander intervention training.

---

**Read the Report**

---

**CCADV Co-Hosts International Expert in Victim Interviewing**

In August we were excited to partner with the CT Police Officer Standards & Training Council to welcome psychologist and internationally recognized expert, Dr. Chris Wilson, to Connecticut. Over 120 police officers, advocates, court staff, and private security personnel attended the one-day training on the neurobiology of trauma and how to apply that knowledge when conducting interviews with victims of domestic violence.

Having an understanding of how trauma can impact memory and reactions is invaluable when working with survivors. The training focused on using the methodology of Certified Forensic Experiential Trauma Interview (FETI), its history, and the applicable science related to both memory and reactions to threat.

For the past sixteen years Dr. Wilson has worked with victims and perpetrators of crime, including ten years running domestic violence groups for men, and fifteen years providing evaluations for Oregon courts around issues of domestic violence. He currently serves as the Director of Training for Certified FETI, an organization providing training on neuroscience-based trauma-informed interviewing. He currently trains nationally and internationally on a variety of issues including the
Safe Futures Protect Our Pets program grew out of a Safe Futures board and volunteer-driven task force in 2015 with the interest in helping provide better services to pets of victims. Several members were pet advocates who had experience fostering cats or dogs. Protect Our Pets is intended to offer options and solutions for pets of victims who are fleeing their home because of abuse such as: shelter at Safe Futures Emergency Shelter, Genesis House (first option if victim is coming to shelter); shelter at pet-friendly hotels; shelter through Connecticut Veterinary Medical Foundation Companions in Crisis Program (in partnership with CCADV); pet supplies (food, collars, etc.); access to veterinarian care; and, transportation costs for pets if victim must leave the area for safety reasons. Protect Our Pets also supports pet therapy opportunities for victims through maintaining an on-site therapy dog, Luna, working cats at our emergency shelter, Jack and Jill (our rodent problem has diminished greatly), and visits to area equine assisted therapeutic programs.

Currently, we have two dogs residing at Genesis House with their owners but have had up to four dogs at one time. We have found that residents with pets have made friends with one another, taking care of one another’s dog when needed, lasting even after they have left shelter. When accepting victims with pets, advocates take into consideration, victims overall needs and situation, pets needing to be housed, pets currently at shelter, rooms available at shelter etc. We’ve also found that it can take longer to find pet-friendly housing for victims with pets, but we have and recently housed someone with a small dog through our Scattered Site Transitional Housing Program. Several victims have moved into our Phoenix House on-site Transitional Housing program with pets and currently have two cats living there. We have had victims with dogs, birds, fish and reptiles living there as well.

We began funding Protect Our Pets through an ask on our Facebook page raising almost $2,000, with funds going to pet carrying cases, veterinarian bills, pet food, leashes, etc. We then received funding through the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut that allowed us to make Genesis House more pet friendly through building an outside kennel and run, and acquiring our therapy dog.

This past summer, we were awarded a grant through RedRover to further enhance and strengthen sheltering pets at Genesis House. The funds will be used to purchase two inside type dog kennels; install a reinforcement fence for Genesis House backyard so dogs can have use of the yard under supervision; purchase and installation of a 6 or 8 Unit Cage Bank in Genesis House semi-finished basement to hold small dogs, cats and other small mammals when owners are out etc.; cover needed veterinarian expenses for pets staying at shelter; and, to
We were recently asked by RedRover to appear in a PBS documentary highlighting their collaborative efforts with domestic violence shelters to help victims keep their pets with them when they flee an abusive relationship. At the end of October, they will be coming, along with a PBS film crew and RedRover Responders volunteers, to help install the reinforcement fence. We have come a long way in providing support to victims with pets and are still learning better ways to provide service to them.

Donate to Safe Futures' Protect our Pets Program!

912 Silas Deane Highway, Lower Level
Wethersfield, CT 06109
860.282.7899