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CCADV, CCEH Recognized by Hartford Business Journal



In November CCADV was recognized, along with CT Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH), by the Hartford Business Journal (HBJ) at its annual Community Excellence & Nonprofits Awards. CCADV and CCEH received the "Nonprofit Collaboration of the Year" award, which recognizes a collaborative project that engages relationships with multiple nonprofit organizations and multiple shareholders within the community and that helps solve a community problem or issue.

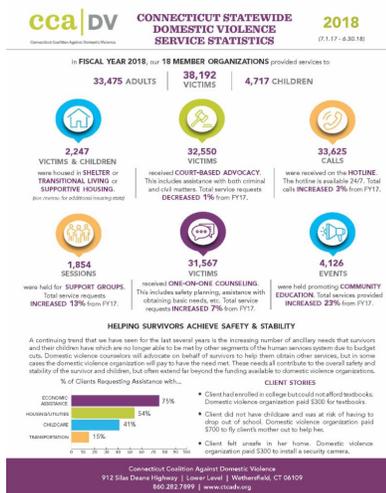
In January 2017 CCADV and CCEH launched its collaborative effort to create equitable access to housing for survivors of domestic violence facing homelessness. Recognized as a national model of collaboration, between 1.1.17 and 10.1.18 the partnership saw 84 households, including 34 single adults and 50 families, housed or beginning the process of securing permanent housing.

[Click here to read the HBJ article about the award and collaboration.](#)

Survivors Accessing More Services, Staying in Shelter Longer

In November, CCADV published its Fiscal Year 2018 (7.1.17 - 6.30.18) statewide domestic violence service statistics. These statistics represent the work of all 18 member organizations around direct service provision.

As has been the case for the past several years, the total number of survivors served remained consistent at just over 38,000 adults and children. However, despite serving about the same overall number of survivors, we continue to see spikes in the number of services that survivors are accessing. Survivors in need of one-on-one counseling increased 7% from the previous year. Through one-on-one counseling survivors receive a number of services, all of which have increased:



Counseling/Support – 88,674 services provided; **9% increase** from previous year *(Includes both individual and group counseling focused on addressing survivor trauma and empowerment.)*

Advocacy – 56,518 services provided; **38% increase** from previous year *(Includes calls, emails, etc. on behalf of the client/survivor to help them access various resources such as TANF, SNAP, housing vouchers, behavioral health services, etc.)*

Safety Planning – 82,337 services provided; **22% increase** from previous year *(Includes discussions and planning to address immediate safety concerns that can be impacted by access to resources such as money, housing, familial supports, etc.)*

Information & Referral – 76,652 services provided; **26% increase** from previous year *(Includes referrals to other types of service providers. The largest number of referrals are made for mental health, substance abuse and housing services.)*

In addition to increases in community-based services, survivors are also staying longer in shelter longer. The average length of time that survivors remained in shelter increased to 47.5 days during FY 2018. This represents the longest length of stay in the past 10 years, increasing 8% over the previous year and 83% since 2008. Shelters continue to remain overcapacity throughout the year with overall shelter utilization rising by 1% over the previous year to 123%.

[View the Factsheet](#)

CCADV Welcomes New Staff!

CCADV has welcomed two new staff members over the past few months...

Maria Guzman, Director of Diversity & Accessibility

Maria joins CCADV after working more than two years at the Center for Family Justice in Bridgeport as their Coordinator of Crisis and Housing Services. While there, she led the program development and operations of CFJ's safe house, transitional housing, hotline and its law enforcement coordinated response, among other things. Maria also comes with a strong working knowledge around housing and supportive employment for individuals and families.

As CCADV's Director of Diversity & Accessibility, Maria will lead outreach and development of ongoing and new strategies to ensure that the unique needs of domestic violence survivors within underserved and underrepresented populations are met. In particular, Maria will be identifying the training and technical assistance needs of advocates and other stakeholders to most appropriately respond to underserved populations with a focus on culturally specific community based organizations.

Maria can be reached at mguzman@ctcadv.org.



Ashley Starr Frechette, Director of Health Professional Outreach

Ashley joins CCADV after working as a Transition Coordinator for elders and individuals with disabilities in Framingham, Massachusetts. She also serves as a member of the Massachusetts Statewide Architectural Access Board Committee to increase advocacy, policy and education around disability rights. Ashley holds a Master of Public Health.

As its new Director, Ashley will build upon CCADV's four-year Health Professional Outreach Project. This includes leading Connecticut's healthcare response to intimate partner violence (IPV) through education, institutional support, technical assistance and a streamlined process for referrals to community-based IPV provider resources.

Ashley can be reached at astarrfrechette@ctcadv.org.



2019 Coalition Policy Priorities Released



CCADV has set its 2019 policy priorities that highlight focus areas for CCADV over the coming year to strengthen both statutory and administrative policy and practice that help survivors achieve safety and stability. Focus areas this year include economic justice for survivors and promoting victim safety/abuser accountability.

Economic barriers are the most common challenges that prevent survivors and their children from being safe. When survivors have stable access to resources that help them build economic resiliency, they and their families are much more likely to remain safe and secure. To that end, CCADV will prioritize the establishment of Paid Family & Medical Leave system in CT, increasing the minimum wage, ensuring equitable access to affordable housing, and creating workplace policies that provide,

safe, supportive environments for survivors.

In addition to economic justice policies, CCADV will focus on promoting coordinated systemic responses to domestic violence that are essential to victim safety and abuser accountability. Stakeholders, both public and private, must communicate in an efficient and effective manner to prevent gaps in protection. To that end, CCADV will prioritize additional housing protections including lock changes, parity in sexual violence laws for survivors who are married to or living with their abuser, and ensuring continued protection for survivors when abusers fail to appear at arraignment.

[Click here to read our complete list of 2019 Policy Priorities.](#)

Women With Impact - Watch CCADV's Newest Video!



Our newest video features five inspirational women leaders within Connecticut's domestic violence movement. Advocates, survivors, leaders...these are women who have courageously used their voices and worked tirelessly to improve outcomes for survivors and their children. Featured in the video are”

Longtime advocate and recently retired Assistant Director of Interval House, **Iris Ruiz**, discusses why her work as an advocate means so much to her. Iris will be retiring at the end of month after more than 30 years dedicated to empowering survivors. “This is why I do this work, because in the future these children will not have to be involved in these situations where they're unsafe.”

Survivor and CCADV Board member, **Attorney Nancy Tyler**, highlights the important role that employers can play in creating safe, supportive environments for victims and survivors. “[Domestic violence] was something that women or people in the situation tried to keep away from the workplace. They didn't want to risk their careers or their jobs.”

Survivor and activist, **Tracey Motuzick** (formerly Thurman), discusses her why her activism is so important to her. “I'm very fortunate that I'm here to be able to share my story. And I also feel like I have an obligation to the people that weren't as lucky as I to be their voice for them.”

Survivor, **State Representative Robyn Porter**, explains why she felt it was time to tell her story and help to pass a critical piece of legislation to protect other survivors. “Never thought in a million years that I would share that story on the House floor...I felt it was a call to duty, my way of paying homage to women that had been through that.”

Detective Karen O'Connor discusses her work training law enforcement on domestic violence and supporting survivors. “For us to do our jobs in the best that we can...we need to be trauma-informed...it allows us to get better information so we can do our investigations and hold offenders accountable.”

CCADV's Healthcare Conference Discusses Screening & Education

In November, CCADV's Health Professional Outreach Project held a one-day conference exploring the importance of domestic violence prevention education in the areas of healthcare and early childhood services. *Beyond Screening: Education Every Time* examined the impact that abusive relationships have on patient health and parenting. While healthcare and early childhood providers are in a unique position to conduct a brief domestic violence screen with the individuals they serve, emphasis was put on not waiting for a positive disclosure.

Research has shown that disclosure-driven service referrals constrict opportunities to educate patients and clients about available services, which may actually have an



impact on someone's decision to seek help. Attendees were encouraged to use every patient or client interaction as an opportunity to make them aware of available services whether or not they are ready to disclose abuse.

In addition to several workshops held throughout the day, the conference featured two keynote speakers. Dr. Rahil Briggs is the National Director of **ZERO To THREE's HealthySteps** program, which is a cost-effective program that supports kids and families at a foundational period in the child's life, preventing higher long-term costs that may be experienced when kids don't have appropriate, healthy development. She emphasized that screening is only the beginning of a conversation. Caregivers often trust their

healthcare providers and may feel comfortable disclosing problems so they can capitalize on that to help improve outcomes for moms and kids.

Dr. Yolanda Haywood, Senior Associate Dean of Diversity & Inclusion at The George Washington School of Medicine and Health Sciences and a domestic violence survivor, reflected on her personal experience with domestic violence. The first person who asked her if she was being abused was a doctor in an emergency room where she went to receive treatment after her partner punched her in the mouth. When she answered that her partner hit her, the doctor told her that she "needed to learn how to duck." Haywood tied this experience to why IPV-centered training for health professionals is so important.



February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month



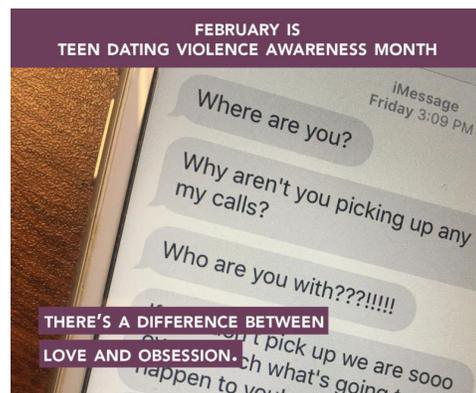
February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Each year, nationwide, approximately 1.5 million high school students experience physical abuse from a dating partner. Here in Connecticut, approximately 7% of female students and 6% of male students surveyed in 2017 reported experiencing physical dating violence, while 30% of female students and 17% of male

students reported emotional dating violence. National statistics also show that 3 in 4 parents have never talked to their children about domestic violence.

There are lots of resources available, both from CCADV and leading national organizations, to help you start conversations locally.

CCADV has a **Teen Dating Violence Awareness Toolkit** with resources that can be used to engage teens and adolescents during TDVAM and throughout the year. The toolkit includes:

- An overview of teen dating violence
- Facts about teen dating violence
- Warning signs
- Sample activities with supporting resources including sample social media posts, printable selfie signs, a sample proclamation, and more!



cca|DV
Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence
www.ctcadv.org

td411
a mobile app designed to provide
teens with info on healthy relationships
& teen dating violence

DOWNLOAD THE
APP TODAY!
Available on the
App Store
GET IT ON
Google play

CCADV also offers downloadable content related to our **I Choose Campaign**, which seeks to engage young men and boys in promoting healthy relationships, and **td411**, our mobile app designed to give

teens information on dating violence in a manner that makes sense for them - through their phone!
Be sure to check out both projects for some useful materials!

You can also check out these national organizations leading the way on teen dating violence, all of which offer a variety of resources:

Break the Cycle

Love is Respect

One Love Foundation

And be sure to keep an eye out for us on social media, where we'll be providing information and looking to connect with folks throughout the month! *(All of our social media feeds are linked at the bottom of this email!)*

8th Annual First 100 Plus Re-cap



Many thanks to all of those who were able to join us this past November for our 8th Annual First 100 Plus Breakfast & Awards Ceremony! This year we celebrated Year of the Woman, with women comprising the entire 2018 Class of First 100 Plus in recognition of their leadership within the domestic violence movement. Everyone helped to create another memorable morning recognizing over 80 women who are leading efforts across the state to improve outcomes for survivors and their children.

We are grateful to our 2018 Coalition Crusaders – Attorney Jill Davies and Tracey Motuzick (formerly Tracey Thurman) - and our Lawrence & Shirley Bostrom Pillars of Change – Aetna. All have demonstrated critical leadership in promoting survivor safety. Whether it's through leading national efforts to strengthen victim-defined advocacy, speaking out as a survivor to change systemic responses to abuse, or creating workplace policies that support survivors, each has played an important role in Connecticut.



Thanks to the generosity of our event sponsors and those in attendance, we raised over \$54,000 this year! 2018 marked CCADV's 40th anniversary. We have had many victories in our efforts over the past 40 years to strengthen the state's response to domestic violence and money raised through the First 100 Plus Breakfast & Awards



Ceremony will help to sustain that work.

Check out photos from the event on our [Facebook page](#) (all photos courtesy of Sandy Aldieri and [Perceptions Photography](#)). And if you couldn't make it to the breakfast but are feeling generous today, [CLICK HERE TO DONATE!](#)



THANK
You

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