



Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence

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Wethersfield, CT 06109

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Member Agencies

Center for Domestic Violence Services
at BHcare
Ansonia, CT

The Center for Women & Families
Bridgeport, CT

Women's Center
Danbury, CT

Domestic Violence Program
United Services
Dayville, CT

Network Against Domestic Abuse
Enfield, CT

Domestic Abuse Services
Greenwich YWCA
Greenwich, CT

Interval House
Hartford, CT

Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis
Meriden, CT

New Horizons
Middletown, CT

Prudence Crandall Center
New Britain, CT

Center for Domestic Violence Services
at BHcare
New Haven, CT

Safe Futures
New London, CT

Domestic Violence Crisis Center
Norwalk, CT

Women's Support Services
Sharon, CT

Domestic Violence Crisis Center
Stamford, CT

Susan B. Anthony Project
Torrington, CT

Safe Haven
Waterbury, CT

Domestic Violence Program
United Services
Willimantic, CT

For Immediate Release

July 31, 2012

2012 Domestic Violence Fatality Review Report Released

Hartford, CT – The Connecticut Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee, in its most recent report released on July 31, 2012, has found that in the vast majority of fatalities reviewed, family members, friends and/or professionals were not fully aware of the escalating circumstances between the perpetrator and the victim. In addition, these individuals did not recognize the significance of the situation or the warning signs. This troubling news comes as a result of a comprehensive and extensive assessment of circumstances related to domestic violence deaths in Connecticut and provides concrete action steps for improvement.

The 15-member examination team - made up of representatives from CCADV, law enforcement, the Office of the Chief's State's Attorney, the Office of Victim of Services, the Department of Social Services, Survivors of Homicide, the Department of Public Health, the Office of the Child Advocate and the Department of Correction - works to prevent future deaths by conducting multi-disciplinary, systemic examinations of violent intimate partner fatalities. Through its examinations, the group also found that in certain cases, the abusive relationship was established when the victim was a teenager. According to the State Department of Health "2011 Connecticut Health Survey" approximately 10% of all students surveyed reported that they were hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend. This, coupled with existence of a consistent group of precipitating factors, has led the team to recommend initiatives to provide teens with the tools and knowledge necessary to develop healthy relationships and essential life skills.

CCADV has plans to immediately take concrete action on these findings, as well as others, according to Karen Jarmoc, Interim Executive Director. The statewide coalition has identified that the issues identified and the resulting recommendations fell into one of three broad categories: awareness and education, assessment and intervention and the need for additional resources.

The Connecticut Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee 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. The Committee brings together key individuals in social service, medical, education, advocacy and justice systems for detailed examinations of domestic violence fatalities. The Connecticut Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee does not and will not assign blame for fatalities to individuals, agencies or institutions. The perpetrator of the homicide is assumed to be ultimately responsible for the fatality. Rather than investigate these fatalities, the Committee conducts a reflective review by creating an environment conducive to open and honest conversations for the purpose of effecting positive change. The Committee focuses on community responses to domestic violence such as services, policy, practice, training, information, communication, collaboration and resources.

Click [HERE](#) to read the full report.

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*The Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Inc. is a membership organization made up of the state's 18 domestic violence agencies. Help is available to victims 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Each agency offers free services to victims including a toll-free hotline, safety through shelter, counseling and support groups, and by assisting in securing a restraining order. If you or someone you know needs support, call the statewide free and confidential hotline at **888-774-2900** to be connected to your local domestic violence service agency. For more information about CCADV, visit us online at www.ctcadv.org*