

NEW YORK STATE OFFICE FOR THE
PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
ANNUAL REPORT
2009



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INTRODUCTION

This is the Second Annual New York State Domestic Violence Report. Our office, the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, is the only State agency with the explicit mission to address domestic violence. However, we can only be successful in carrying out our mission with the continued collaboration of our colleague agencies as they develop new policies, conduct public awareness, and in a host of other ways support our efforts on this important issue.

Given the breadth of the State's response to domestic violence, we decided this year that the Annual Report should become a publication of the New York State Domestic Violence Advisory Council (NYS DV Advisory Council). The Council includes representation from 14 State agencies, as well as 9 appointed members who represent a broad cross section of service-providers from advocates, to civil and criminal attorneys, to judges and legislators. By asking them to contribute to the production of this report, we hope that it will be as inclusive as possible of all of their efforts to show how the comprehensive nature of State government's response to this issue. It will also include reports from the appointed members sitting on the Council, who represent a range of nonprofits, prosecutors, civil attorneys, and others. This summary illustrates that we apply the goal of a coordinated community response to ourselves.

In 2009, New York saw itself faced with one of the worst economic crisis in the history of the State – a situation that is ongoing – and we were all challenged to reduce costs yet maintain essential services to individuals most in need. This report highlights some of the impressive advances our State made despite these challenges. The legislature passed and the Governor signed an impressive package of legislation that should help hold offenders accountable, and protect victims from discrimination. We saw an upsurge in the state-initiated, but locally-supported public awareness campaign to “Shine the Light” on domestic violence by turning the state purple in October, which made it clear that everyone can participate in raising awareness at almost no cost, but with great effect. Significant fiscal commitments were made to strengthen systems' response to domestic violence in both the criminal justice and human services fields that will reduce burdens on localities, and help us to collect the information necessary to ensure that offenders can be prosecuted effectively. New York State received two important Federal grants; one which will enable two supervised visitation programs to run locally in Brooklyn and Oswego counties, and another that will provide training tools to police officers, advocates, and supervising agencies across the state at no cost to them. New York's expertise continues to grow in this field, and our report ends with the plans we have for 2010 and beyond.

We at OPDV, and on behalf of all of our government colleagues, want to extend our deepest thanks for the tireless work everyone on the ground does to support victims in their basic right to attain a safe and secure life. We cannot do it alone. Please let us know what more needs to be done, and how we can help you in your work.

PUBLIC EDUCATION & AWARENESS

The NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV), believes a critical key in the prevention of and response to domestic violence is public education. Broadening the general public's knowledge and understanding of the issue is essential to changing social norms and behaviors. Here are some ways in which OPDV and its partner agencies raised awareness of domestic violence in 2009:

Shine the Light on Domestic Violence by Turning NYS Purple

Purple is the color chosen to help spread awareness of domestic violence. To raise awareness around the state, the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV) had the honor and privilege of partnering with more than 120 different entities across New York State – non-profit service providers, private businesses, churches, universities, tourist attractions, chambers of commerce, television and radio stations, state, county and local government agencies, law enforcement, task forces and coalitions, and retail stores – all of which joined with domestic violence survivors and elected officials to “show their purple” during Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Landmarks across the state were bathed in purple light, among them: Niagara Falls and the Peace Bridge in Western New York, the Empire State Building and 7 World Trade Center in New York City, the Alfred E. Smith Building in Albany, and the historic Whiteface Mountain fire tower in the Adirondack Park.

Other communities participated in creative ways. Downtown Seneca Falls painted a purple stripe and stenciled anti-domestic violence slogans along the sidewalks, as shop owners distributed flyers with information about domestic violence and available services. Schoharie County highlighted the entrances to their towns with purple flag displays, banners – even a snowplow in purple – and police cars and public transportation vehicles displayed purple magnetic ribbons.

Additional Highlights:

- On Oct. 14, many members of the state workforce wore purple to promote awareness of domestic violence.
- A cell phone drive in partnership with Verizon Wireless took place at all state agencies, and proceeds benefited victims in New York State in the form of grants to nonprofits.
- All marked New York State Police cars - more than 1,400 - are displaying “Stop Domestic Violence” bumper stickers.

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- Organizations around the state held Awareness Days, including providing information for employees, encouraging staff to wear purple and donating to domestic violence programs.

For more information visit:

www.opdv.state.ny.us/public_awareness/purplegallery09.html

This Isn't Love Campaign

A teen dating awareness campaign, “This Isn’t Love,” was released in February. Using images of Valentine’s Day candy conversation hearts displaying non-traditional messages – Where R U? Answer Me! Call Me Now! – the campaign was designed to educate teens that controlling behavior and jealousy are signs of abuse, not affection. The NYS Education Department distributed a web-banner with related materials to all State schools and non-profits that serve the schools. OPDV developed a poster for customization and download by local programs.

For more information visit:

www.opdv.state.ny.us/public_awareness/campaigns/tdvcampaigns/thisisntlove.html

OPDV e-Bulletin

OPDV published four issues of its e-Bulletin covering substantive topics such as Financial Issues and Domestic Violence, Gender and Intimate Partner Violence Research, Crime Victim Compensation, Traumatic Brain Injury, LGBT Legal Issues, Parental Alienation Syndrome, Domestic Violence Fatality Review, and Domestic Violence and Disabilities. The Bulletin also highlights local and staff programs that deserve statewide recognition. Nearly 2,000 individuals receive the e-Bulletin, and it has been used in trainings across the state.

For more information visit: www.opdv.state.ny.us/public_awareness/bulletins/index.html

For the Media

Press events and press releases were issued regarding Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the “Shine the Light on Domestic Violence” initiative, the passage of a large package of legislation, the development of a statewide Domestic Incident Report repository, and the production of Finding Safety & Support in five languages, generating significant media coverage. A team of students from New York University concluded work on a project in collaboration with OPDV focused on analyzing NYS print media’s reporting of domestic violence in New York State, which will result in tip sheets on the topic later in 2010.

For more information visit:

www.opdv.state.ny.us/public_awareness/press/opdv_releases/index.html

OPDV Website

The website received 834,195 visits in 2009. Major content additions to the website include a comprehensive criminal justice section, pages on traumatic brain injury and teen dating violence and a statistics section with national and state statistics and links to reports. The website is regularly updated with new, topical information.

For more information visit: www.opdv.state.ny.us

PUBLICATIONS

The following members of the NYS DV Advisory Council developed new publications for 2009:

NYS Office of Court Administration (OCA)

The Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts issued a publication entitled “Immigration and Domestic Violence: a Short Guide for New York State Judges.” This publication, along with other domestic violence materials, is available on line at the OCA website.

To find out more information please visit the following link.

<http://www.nycourts.gov/ip/womeninthecourts/index.shtml>

NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV)

OPDV published several informational guides in 2009:

- Police Guide to the New York Expanded Access to Family Court Law.
For more information visit:
http://www.opdv.state.ny.us/professionals/criminal_justice/expandaccessfc.html
- Expanded Access to New York’s Family Courts: A Brief Guide for Domestic Violence Service Providers.
For more information visit:
http://www.opdv.state.ny.us/professionals/criminal_justice/dvprov-expandaccessfc.html
- Domestic Violence and Traumatic Brain Injury.
For more information visit: <http://opdv.state.ny.us/professionals/tbi/index.html>
- Domestic Violence and Child Safety Planning (updated).
For more information visit:
http://www.opdv.state.ny.us/professionals/childwelfare/dvchild_safetyplan.html

POLICIES, PROJECTS & PROGRAMS

During 2009 the following members of the NYS DV Advisory Council developed new policies and/or participated in domestic violence projects and programs:

NYS Office for the Aging (OFA)

- Implemented Executive Order #19.

For more information visit: www.aging.ny.gov

NYS Office of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Services (OASAS)

- OASAS treatment providers added questions about domestic violence to the discharge form used throughout their facilities. With 164,456 clients discharged from programs in 2009, 12,319 (7.5%) identified themselves as victims of domestic violence and 5,500 (3.34%) identified themselves as perpetrators of domestic violence.
- Implemented Executive Order #19
- Participated in Domestic Violence Awareness Day by requesting that employees wear purple to promote awareness
- Promoted/organized the donation of old cell phones for use by victims of domestic violence

For more information visit: www.oasas.state.ny.us

NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS)

- Implemented Executive Order #19.
- Participated in Domestic Violence Awareness Day by encouraging staff to wear purple. On “Purple Day” employees from the Domestic Violence Unit staffed display tables answering questions and disseminating literature.
- On-going co-facilitation with OPDV and OTDA of the Domestic Violence Regulatory Workgroup. The workgroup is re-assessing the regulations that govern domestic violence programs and will make recommendations for

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- improvements aligned to current issues and practices. The creation of a final regulatory proposal package is anticipated in 2010.
- Participated in a workgroup with the Federal Family Violence Prevention Fund in Washington, DC, focused on the Federal Child and Family Services Review (CFSR). This resulted in the publication of “Strategies to Improve Domestic Violence Responses in CFSR Program Improvement Plans.”
 - Using the data available in the Domestic Violence Information System, a new profile has been developed for each county, providing information about the approved residential and non-residential domestic violence programs in the county as well as data and trends related to occupancy rates and length of stay.
 - Collaborated with Oswego County Opportunities and the New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children on a federal grant to assist children exposed to domestic violence. Guidelines were developed for providing supervised visitation services to families experiencing DV. Supervised visitation guidance will be further enhanced through an additional grant administered by OPDV.
 - Issued a request for proposals to start new and/or continue existing Child Protective/Domestic Violence collaboration projects. Eleven projects were selected for funding. In each funded project a domestic violence advocate is located at the CPS office and typically provides case consultation, participates in home visits and cross training and works jointly with case workers to develop safety plans with victims of domestic violence and their children.
 - Federal Family Violence Prevention Services Act (FFVPSA) funds were administered equally to all approved residential and non-residential domestic violence programs in the state on a non-competitive basis. Each of the 96 applicants was eligible to receive an award of up to \$37,155 to support general operating expenses, health and safety improvements and/or program enhancements.

For more information visit: www.ocfs.state.ny.us

New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NYSCADV)

- The Annual Meeting, for the first time, included state partners, OPDV, OTDA, and OCFS to communicate directly with membership.
- Received a Rural Grant from Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) in order to provide domestic violence services to New York’s more rural counties.
- Expanded collaboration with the Brain Injury Association of New York State to address the intersecting needs of TBI and domestic violence survivors.

For more information visit: www.nyscadv.org

NYS Department of Corrections (DOCS)

- Implemented Executive Order #19 and added their updated “Domestic Violence and the Workplace Policy,” Directive #2003 to the Departmental Directives.

For more information visit: <http://www.docs.state.ny.us/>

Office of Court Administration (OCA)

- Implemented Domestic Violence Workplace Policy, offered work/life assistance, domestic and sexual violence hotline and contact information for all 62 NY counties.
- The 40 domestic violence courts in NYS, each staffed by a designated judge, saw more than 35,000 new cases.
- The 3 jurisdictions with high case loads, Brooklyn, the Bronx and Yonkers have separate domestic violence courts designated as youthful offender domestic violence courts (YODVC’s).
- Established integrated domestic violence court initiatives (IDVIs) in seven counties, 3 in the fifth judicial district and 4 in the seventh judicial districts. Unlike IDV courts, the IDVIs do not involve the transfer of cases to one court; the cases remain where they are but have many of the same benefits of IDV courts including better information to judges regarding the status of related cases in other courts, enhanced training for judges and court staff, better integration with services and judicial monitoring of offenders. The 7 IDVIs served 80 families with 251 cases. For more information visit: http://www.nycourts.gov/courts/problem_solving/idv/home.shtml
- The 45 integrated domestic violence (IDV) courts in NYS, using a “one family – one judge model, saw more than 17,000 new cases.

For more information visit: www.courts.state.ny.us

NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS)

- Implemented Executive Order #19.
- Operation IMPACT significantly integrated recognition of domestic violence into its work. This program provides resources and services to the 17 counties and primary law enforcement jurisdictions outside of NYC that account for approximately 80% of the non-NYC crime. Certain jurisdictions focused their IMPACT actions on domestic violence. That activity for the year in the jurisdictions is as follows:

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Albany County IMPACT Partnership: The Albany Police Department was provided funding through Operation IMPACT to hire a DV Intake Specialist, who would review all domestic violence cases in order to intervene early to provide referrals to victims, and to assist in identifying appropriate cases to refer to the Albany Domestic Violence Court. With funding provided through Operation IMPACT, the Albany Police Department was able to enhance an already effective domestic violence program that existed in collaboration with the District Attorney's Office and various service providers in the city.

Erie County IMPACT Partnership: The Buffalo Police Department was awarded funding in 2009 to increase compliance checks based on the review of domestic incident reports and to update their records management system to include the ability to record and search the database for domestic violence crimes.

Niagara County IMPACT Partnership: Niagara Falls Police Department's domestic violence strategy includes enhancement of the Domestic Violence Impact Team, a collaborative effort of the police department, sheriff's office, and probation department. Enhancements include deliberate follow-up on every domestic incident report filed, stricter enforcement of orders of protection, and regular execution of domestic violence-related warrants. The Niagara County District Attorney's Office also added a policy that would limit the ability of domestic violence offenders to reduce their charges through plea bargaining.

Dutchess County IMPACT Partnership: In 2009, the Poughkeepsie Police Department was awarded funding that would allow specially-trained officers to conduct "well checks" two times per week at the homes of domestic violence victims who have an order of protection filed against their abuser. They also partnered with the NYS Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NYSCADV) to conduct a public service campaign that included raising awareness with regard to the purpose of NYSCADV and educating city residents on the crime of domestic violence including the causes, nature and patterns of the abuse and the negative ramifications of domestic violence for not only the victim of the abuse, but for the community as a whole.

Rensselaer County IMPACT Partnership: The Troy Police Department used IMPACT funding to assign a full time investigator to conduct follow-up and investigations on all cases where a domestic incident report was filed, while the District Attorney's Office committed to provide follow-up and resources to all victims of domestic violence and to investigate domestic violence cases to ensure prosecution even in the absence of victim cooperation.

Oneida County IMPACT Partnership: One component of the Oneida County 2009 IMPACT strategy to reduce violent crime is the enhancement of the Domestic Violence Interdiction Program, which partners the Utica PD, the District Attorney's Office and Probation in identifying, tracking, and prosecuting chronic domestic violence offenders in Utica.

- DCJS recently revamped the NYS Sexual Offense Evidence Collection Kit, often referred to as the "rape kit" to reflect advances in DNA technology and to

streamline an inevitably discomfoting physical examination. DCJS also produced an instruction training video on how to use the kit for medical professionals that features award winning actress and advocate Mariska Hargitay of NBC's Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.

- **Domestic Incident Report Repository:** In 2009 the Division of Criminal Justice Services and the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence announced the creation of a statewide "Domestic Incident Report" repository. A domestic incident report is completed whenever the police respond, it contains a wealth of information including: if weapons were present at the location or threats were made, victim and defendant information, and location. However, those hard-copy reports, which are typically filed chronologically with each department and DCJS, are not conducive to cross-referencing or data-mining.
- The repository will give police officers, sheriff's deputies, prosecutors, probation and parole officials the ability to search – by victim or offender name, incident address or document number – Domestic Incident Reports (DIRs) filed by more than 550 police agencies in the 57 counties outside of New York City. This allows authorized users to access DIR's regardless of which agency filed the paper report. This cross pollination of information will be crucial to victim and officer safety and effective prosecution of domestic violence cases. The repository is due for completion in 2011. For more information visit: www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us/pio/press_releases/2009-11-17_pressrelease.html

For more information visit: www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us

NYS Domestic Violence Advisory Council

- The Council met twice in 2009 providing domestic violence information and updates from various agencies and systems.
- The NYS Domestic Violence Annual Report is now a product of the Council. The focus of the Council's efforts for 2010 will be Teen Dating Violence.

NYS Education Department (SED)

- Implemented Executive Order #19.
- Promoted October as "National Domestic Violence Awareness Month."

For more information visit: www.nysed.gov

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NYS Department of Health (DOH)

- Implemented Executive Order #19
- The Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) is an on-going telephone and mail survey of mothers who have recently had a baby. New mothers are asked several questions related to domestic violence, for example:

During the 12 months before you got pregnant, did an ex-husband or ex-partner push, hit, slap, kick, choke, or physically hurt you in any other way?

During the 12 months before you got pregnant, were you physically hurt in anyway by your husband or partner?

During your most recent pregnancy, did an ex-husband or ex-partner push, hit, slap, kick, choke or physically hurt you in any other way?

During your most recent pregnancy, were you physically hurt in anyway by your husband or partner?

For more information visit: www.nyhealth.gov/statistics/prams/

- The Adolescent Health Program helps community based organizations create, implement and enhance education programming and services that promote individual and groups skills to form positive dating/sexual relationships, enhance partner communication skills, set appropriate boundaries, reduce anger and violent behaviors, act responsibly, and to communicate with parents and other trusted adults. Programming also directs adolescents to domestic violence services within their communities.

For more information visit: <http://www.nyhealth.gov>

NYS Department of Labor (DOL)]

- Implemented Executive Order #19.

For more information visit: www.labor.state.ny.us

NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH)

- Implemented Executive Order #19
- “This Isn’t Love” materials and resource links to web based information were distributed to The NYS Psychiatric Facilities and Outpatient Programs. In addition 61 OMH youth and children’s programs including Family Based Treatment, Community Residences, Teaching Family Homes, Crisis Residences and Waiver Providers and Clinics were given the same campaign information.

- Several facilities participated in Domestic Violence Awareness Month by collecting used cell phones to be refurbished for use by victims of domestic violence, and by setting up information tables to share information about domestic violence and community resources.

For more information visit: www.omh.state.ny.us

NYS Division of Parole (DOP)

- Implemented Executive Order #19.
- Implemented Domestic Violence Manual Item 9401.07 which instructs Parole staff in identification, investigation and response to domestic violence incidents/cases providing direction in the supervision of releases with a history of domestic violence behavior.
- Incorporated and expanded their Domestic Violence Alert process and reporting system on their Case Management System.
- Partnered with OPDV on collaborative GTEAP training grant (See NYSOPDV for more information).
- Updated the Offender Accountability and Victims Services Resource guide.
- Collaborated on development of Domestic Incident Report (DIR) policy and procedure with NYS Police, and NYS Association of Chiefs of Police and local municipalities.

For more information visit: www.parole.state.ny.us

NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV)

- Implemented Executive Order #19
- Coordinated Reporting Project: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds were used to conduct a feasibility study regarding the creation and/or adoption of a uniform reporting system for agencies receiving domestic violence and/or sexual assault funds from any NYS government agency. The goal is to reduce the burden on providers that have to report similar information to many different funders, as well as to assist NYS in improving data collection. Key stakeholders will select the best technological solution, and seek to implement.
- Operation IMPACT: OPDV expanded its efforts with Operation IMPACT, an initiative of DCJS that supports strategic crime-fighting and violence reduction initiatives in the 17 counties outside of NYC that account for 80% of the crime upstate and on Long Island. Whereas 2008 involved the building of relationships between OPDV and the district attorneys and police chiefs within each of the

IMPACT counties, the focus for 2009 was the Executive IMPACT conference, held on November 17, 2009, in Saratoga Springs, NY. The conference, titled Reducing Domestic Violence: Coordinated Strategies for Operation IMPACT Executives, planned in partnership with DCJS, provided training, panel discussions, and interactive participation on the issues of coordinated, collaborative approaches to reducing and responding to domestic violence for an audience of 160 police, probation, parole, and district attorney executives and crime analyst staff. Featured speaker and national DV researcher/trainer Dr. Andrew Klein provided the framework for the day by sharing best practices and model approaches for communities, while several IMPACT counties and their collaborative approaches to DV were highlighted in various presentations throughout the day. OPDV has provided ongoing follow-up training to IMPACT jurisdictions based on the information and materials presented at the conference, and continues to receive positive feedback on strengthened relationships and overall DV response efforts within communities who are part of IMPACT and who continue to reach out to OPDV for support and information. For more information visit: www.opdv.state.ny.us/professionals/criminal_justice/impact

- **GTEAP:** OPDV received Grants to Encourage Arrest Program (GTEAP) funding from the Office on Violence Against Women to administer a six-agency, state level partnership consisting of: OPDV (DCJS, Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA), Division of Parole (DOP), the New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NYSCASA), and the New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NYSCADV). Partners will focus on the development of written curricula, on-site training, and the creation and promulgation of interactive training tools addressing the three high priority topics of Offender Accountability, Interview Techniques for Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Victims, and Expanded Access. While this 2-year grant will be piloted within four (4) NYS jurisdictions, the finalized interactive training tools will be promulgated statewide to ensure consistent, long-term, ongoing delivery of training and information throughout the State for police, probation, parole, Domestic Violence Advocates, and Sexual Assault Advocates.
- **Community Corrections:** OPDV expanded its long-term relationship with the NYS Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA) by partnering with the NYS Division of Parole (DOP), recognizing the need to simultaneously work with the two agencies that provide Community Corrections oversight within New York State. OPDV provided programmatic, legal, and cultural competency review and comment on the revision of existing Supervision and Investigation documents previously created under a Grants to Encourage Arrest Program partnership, combining the two original documents into one larger, more succinct model procedural package for investigating and supervising domestic violence offenders. Within this effort, OPDV also provided input regarding the safest ways for Probation and Parole to work with victims of domestic violence offenders under supervision, and supported the NYS Coalition Against Domestic Violence in providing best practice recommendations regarding safety planning,

information sharing, and victims' ability to access the criminal justice system with relevance to their ongoing cases and concerns. OPDV also assisted in the creation of a Stalking document and an Officer-Involved DV document for community corrections. Both are currently in the final review stages and will be promulgated to Probation and Parole departments statewide during the summer of 2010. OPDV continues to work with OPCA and DOP to provide training, support, and technical assistance to Probation and Parole departments statewide on the supervision and response to domestic violence offenders and victims.

- **Expanded Access to Family Court:** In July of 2008 the New York State Legislature expanded access to Family Court by broadening the definition of 'members of the same family or household' to include '... persons . . . who are or have been in an intimate relationship regardless of whether such persons have lived together at any time.' The legislature anticipated that this expanded definition would result in an increase in the number of family offense petitions filed in family court, as well as have an impact on law enforcement called on to respond to a greater number of domestic incidents. In recognition of the increased demand on the legal system and law enforcement resources, the legislation includes a mandate that the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV), in conjunction with the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), submit a report detailing the effects of the amendment on police practices.
- OPDV is collecting information from stakeholders with regard to the implementation and impact of the new law on the relevant communities. First, OPDV will work with our partners from the Office of Court Administration, the New York City Police Department, and DCJS to collect and analyze available data regarding court filings and police response. Second, we will host a series of statewide conversations with a broad range of advocates, legal services providers, and other interested people, to hear about local experiences regarding implementation. Finally, OPDV will track how the courts are defining "intimate relationship" through the analysis of the written decisions based on the new amendment. All information will help us to develop a comprehensive picture of the effect of this legislation which will be included in the report to the legislature due in July, 2011.
- **Domestic Violence Regulation Work Group:** Starting in July of 2008, state agencies, domestic violence service providers and local department of social service staff met for the first time in more than 30 years to discuss the revision of the NYS Regulations for Domestic Violence Services. The state agencies – Office of Children and Family Services, Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance and Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence – collaborated with domestic violence advocates and local social service district staff to ensure as inclusive a process as possible. These meetings resulted in a list of potential long and short term revisions to the regulations. The issues to be addressed range from residential program operations, including staffing patterns, volunteer oversight and hotline staffing to clarifications based on changes in the law. The three state

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agencies are committed to moving forward a list of short term proposed changes by the end of the year, and will revive the conversation on the longer term changes in a second phase. Information on the progress of the work group can be found on the OPDV and OCFS websites.

For more information visit:

http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/dv/workgroup_materials.asp

- Domestic Violence and the Workplace: A year after the signing of Executive Order #19, the Domestic Violence and the Workplace Program submitted its first annual report to the Governor and it can be reviewed at www.opdv.state.ny.us/professionals/workplace/workplacereport09.pdf

Highlights from the report that reflect information reported by NYS Agencies from 8/1/08 through 7/31/09 include:

- 49 Incidents of DV occurring in the workplace
 - 232 Employees reporting they were victims of DV
 - 67 Employees reporting others were victims of DV
 - 376 Employees requesting DV information
 - 301 Referrals made to DV service providers
 - 92 Orders of protection were disclosed to agencies
- The program continues providing technical assistance to state agencies as issues in the workplace arise and is exploring ways to expand domestic violence policy work to NYS municipalities.
 - Domestic Violence Dashboard: In 2009, for the second year, the Dashboard Project released a document that tries to paint a picture of both the prevalence of domestic violence, and the strength of New York State's response to it, based on available information. Although two years cannot yet identify ongoing trends, the data suggested that New York, like many other places, experienced an increase in indicators of domestic violence between 2007 and 2008. By collecting this cross-system data, we are improving our ability to measure the totality of the domestic violence challenge in our state, and identifying that there is an even greater need for our systems to work together. For more information visit: <http://www.opdv.state.ny.us/statistics/nydata/index.html>
 - Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI): Informational materials were developed by OPDV, the Brain Injury Association of NYS (BIANYS) and the NYS Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NYSCADV). TBI materials were sent to domestic violence agencies during Brain Injury Awareness Month, and domestic violence materials went out to brain injury service providers during Domestic Violence Awareness Month. For more information visit: www.opdv.state.ny.us/professionals/tbi/index.html
 - Federal Safe Havens Grant: In partnership with Safe Horizon and Oswego County Opportunities, OPDV wrote and received a federal grant from the Office

on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice, for a 3-year project on supervised visitation. The grant will fund centers in Brooklyn and Oswego counties, and enable OPDV to coordinate the development of statewide guidelines for supervised visitation in domestic violence and child abuse cases.

- “When Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Intersect: Tools to Engage the Family”: In October, the second annual regional forums were held in Buffalo, Syracuse and Tarrytown. OPDV provided 212 CPS and CW workers with the opportunity to listen to and engage with local and national speakers. For more information visit:
www.opdv.state.ny.us/professionals/childwelfare/regforums/index.html

NYS Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA)*

- Implemented Executive Order #19.
- Advanced departmental legislation and worked collaboratively with NYS Police, NYS Association of Chiefs of Police and NYS Sheriffs Association to ensure that Domestic Incident Reports (DIR’s) are shared with probation and parole authorities to increase offender accountability and reduce domestic violence fatality. This initiative was included in the Governor’s Omnibus Bill which was later passed into law (Chapter 476 of the Laws of 2009) on 12/15/09.
- Conducted 11 regional collaboration meetings for 261 community partners from 36 different counties, involving probation, law enforcement, prosecutors and domestic violence advocates to assist with the implementation of new law.
- Completed draft packages of “Probation Officer Involved Domestic Violence Model Policy, Probation Response to Intimate Partner Stalking” and “Probation Domestic Violence Integrated Package.”
- Participated in National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, provided confidential resources and collected cell phones for victims.

For more information visit: www.dpca.state.ny.us

*Formally Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (DPCA)

NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA)

- Implemented Executive Order #19.
- Continued supervision of Family Violence Option (FVO) through which Domestic Violence Liaisons (DVL’s) provide waivers from social service program requirements (i.e. employment, child support) if participation would further endanger a victim of domestic violence.
- Supervised programs that assist victims of domestic violence with public assistance benefits and shelter expenses.

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- Continued mediation services for providers and local social services district to help settle questionable payments.
- Participated in Domestic Violence Awareness Month: encouraged staff to wear purple on October 14th; collected 116 cell phones for victims of domestic violence; set up a domestic violence information booth in the lobby of OTDA home office.
- Awarded New Destiny Housing Corporation \$4,800,000 in HHAP funds for the new construction of an eight-story, 41 unit/95 bed permanent housing facility for Survivors of Domestic Violence in the Concourse/Highbridge section of the Bronx. This project will include 21 units/52 beds for HHAP with the remaining units reserved for low-income families from the community.

For more information visit: www.otda.state.ny.us

Saratoga County District Attorney

- Institutionalized the DIR process by indexing and cataloging DIRS historically back through and including 1997. This county-wide database receives DIR's from the 14 law enforcement agencies in Saratoga County and can be sorted by victim, offender, charged, uncharged and jurisdiction. All prosecutors have access to the database.
- Protocols and memorandums of understanding have been executed between all county agencies giving access to the DIR database. Department of Social Services (DSS) utilizes the database, charged and uncharged, when conducting investigations into child abuse and neglect, hotline reports, criminal investigations family offenses and related investigations.

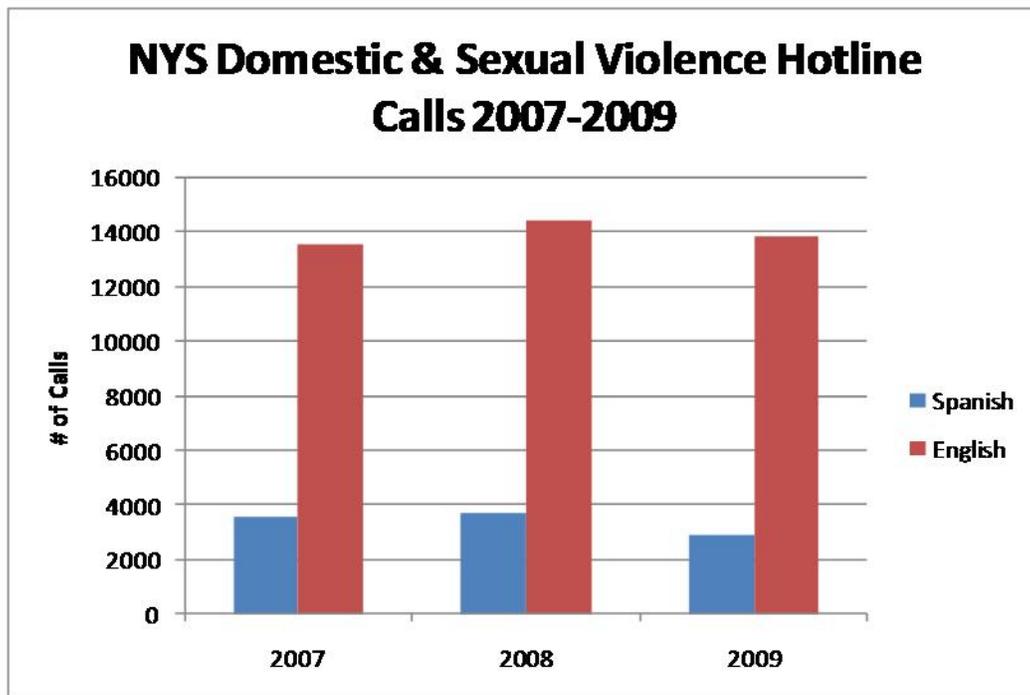
For more information visit: <http://jimmurphyda.com/>

2009 SERVICES

Direct services were provided by some members of the NYS Advisory Council. Below is a snapshot of those services for 2009:

NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV)

- New York State supports two statewide victim hotlines, which together received over 16,000 calls from individuals seeking help.



During 2007 through 2009, the Hotlines answered over 51,500 calls for assistance.

- **Victim Resource Services:** Provided through a partnership with the Office of Victims Services, formerly Crime Victims Board, and OPDV the Victim Resource Coordinator provided compensation claims assistance, telephone support, information and referral, criminal justice support advocacy, emergency assistance, and personal advocacy, for nearly 300 callers in 2009.
- Victims of crime call for help with many issues, including but not limited to systems failures (police, courts, and social services), immediate crisis, lack of permanent housing, advocacy and appropriate referrals.

For more information visit: www.opdv.state.ny.us

NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse services (OASAS)

- Bronx Addiction Center (ATC) Domestic Violence Program provided domestic violence services to 583 clients. The program provides initial consultations, psycho-education, individual counseling, group therapy, aftercare planning, safe-haven, family interventions and post-discharge advocacy and support for men and women with histories of, or concerns about domestic violence. In addition, this program provides extensive staff and community training.

For more information visit: www.oasas.state.ny.us

NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS)

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Unit awarded \$13,060,105 in Services, Training, Officers and Prosecution (STOP) VAWA funding supporting 174 grants:

- 111 grantees were awarded \$5,685,192 in 2009 VAWA funding
- 63 grantees were awarded \$7,374,913 in VAWA Recovery funding
- 69% of funds went to domestic violence or dating violence programs.
- 29% went for sexual assault programs
- 2% went to anti-stalking activities

For more information visit: www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us/ofpa/vawamain.htm

NYS Department of Health (DOH)

- The Community Health Worker Program (CHWP) provides outreach, education, referral and follow up, case management and home visiting services to women who are at highest risk for poor birth outcomes. In 2009, CHWP's assessed about 3,500 families for domestic violence risk and provided support, and education.
- The Rape Crisis and Sexual Violence Prevention Program (RCSVPP) provides services to victims of rape/sexual violence to help alleviate the long term effects of these crimes. The RCSVPP funds at least one Rape Crisis Center in every county.

For more information visit: www.nyhealth.gov

NYS Department of Labor (DOL):

- Provided unemployment insurance to several hundred NYS clients who lost employment due to domestic violence issues.

For more information visit: www.labor.state.ny.us

Sanctuary for Families (NYC)

- Served over 10,400 domestic violence survivors, trafficking victims and children through direct counseling, legal, shelter, and economic stability services.
- Provided crisis shelter to 77 mothers and their 151 children.
- Provided transitional shelter to 167 mothers and their 233 children.
- Provided individual counseling, support groups, and case management to over 1,500 adults and 1,782 children.
- Provided legal representation and advocacy to 3,070 adults and children and legal advice and referrals to an additional 1,288 clients.
- Connected with more than 20,000 additional community members through education, awareness-building and advocacy initiatives.
- Advocated for improved laws and policies on domestic violence working directly with City and State legislators and officials, as well as with a wide range of coalitions and work groups.

For more information visit: www.sanctuaryforfamilies.org

Saratoga County Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Services (DVRC)

- Housed 66 women and 47 children in shelter for a total of 2,116 bed nights.
- Responded to 1,959 hotline calls.
- Provided in-person services to 713 clients.
- Provided legal advocates to assist with 89 petitions for orders of protection, temporary custody or temporary support.
- Assisted 36 women to find jobs to support their families.
- Assisted 31 households to find permanent, violence-free homes.
- Provided transitional and permanent supportive housing with weekly supportive services to 16 women and 28 children.
- Provided 256 prevention education programs to a total of 6,259 persons.
- Provided 4 professional education programs to a total of 38 professionals.

For more information visit: www.dvrCsaratoga.org

NYS Office of Victim's Services (OVS) *

- Received 4,777 domestic violence claims for reimbursement.
- Paid nearly \$2.6 million in compensation to domestic violence claimants to cover costs such as: medical, counseling, loss of support, loss of wages, essential personal property, and funerals.
- During October 2008 – September 2009 OVS:
 - Provided over \$7 million in federal funds and \$2.5 million in state funds to victim assistance programs that serve domestic violence victims.
 - OVS-funded victim assistance programs served 152,949 primary and 6,129 secondary domestic violence victims.
 - OVS funded 43 domestic violence programs, 22 sexual assault programs, 28 domestic violence and sexual assault programs and 88 comprehensive victim assistance programs that serve both domestic violence and sexual assault victims, for a total of 181 programs across the state.

For more information visit: www.cvb.state.ny.us

*Formally NYS Crime Victims Board (CVB)

YWCA of Genesee County, Inc.

- Provided services for 747 victims of domestic violence and their children, including criminal justice advocacy, court accompaniment, personal advocacy, emergency shelter, one to one telephone counseling, information about domestic violence and referrals to other community resources.
- Started a support group that provides emotional support and information about domestic violence at Hope Haven (alcohol & substance abuse rehabilitation facility) and GCSASA (Genesee Counsel on Alcohol and Substance Abuse).

For more information visit www.ywcagenesee.org

LEGISLATION

Significant changes were enacted with the 2009 Omnibus Domestic Violence Bill and several other laws, designed to enhance protections and services for domestic violence and sexual assault victims. In addition, the mandatory arrest provisions for family offenses were extended for two more years, until September 1, 2011. Below is a summary of some of the highlights of the 2009 legislative session:

Omnibus Domestic Violence Bill

This law makes numerous changes to various existing state laws, including:

- Requires judges to state on the record how domestic violence and/or child abuse were factored into custody and visitation decisions.
- Strengthens domestic violence training for attorneys for children (law guardians).
- Requires law enforcement to forward domestic incident reports to probation and parole officers.
- Provides for certain violation-level harassment convictions to remain unsealed and accessible to law enforcement, thereby, providing a more complete history of abusive behavior.
- Protects victims of sexual assault committed by a family or household member by designating certain low-level sexual assault crimes as family offenses, requiring that mandatory arrest provisions apply and allowing victims to petition family court for orders of protection, which would be required to be filed with the statewide registry.

Employment Discrimination

This law establishes victims of domestic violence as a protected class in the employment provisions of the NYS human rights law. The law prevents an employer from firing or refusing to hire an individual based on their status as a victim of domestic violence and prevents discrimination in compensation or in the terms, conditions or privileges of employment.

Prohibiting Requirement of Victim/Abuser Contact for Services

This law prohibits the state or any local government from requiring a victim to contact an abuser in order to meet eligibility for services or benefits. If a victim provides informed consent, or if information is needed to comply with federal law, regulation or mandate, the governmental entity must provide an intermediary to make contact on behalf of the victim, in a manner that will protect the privacy, confidentiality and current location of the victim.

NYS Colleges Address Domestic Violence/Stalking

Under this law, NYS colleges are required to address domestic violence and stalking by providing incoming students with information on prevention, laws, penalties and the college's response to any incidents or offenses, including assistance for victims. The bill also requires a review of campus policies and procedures for educating the school community, including personnel, on reporting of incidents during investigations, referring complaints to proper authorities and counseling victims.

Divorce/Assets and Benefits Protection

This law requires orders to be issued by the court, at the beginning of any divorce proceeding, to prevent both parties from incurring unreasonable debts, dissipating assets (including personal property, real estate, retirement funds, etc.), or removing a party or the children from health or life insurance policies.

Sexual Assault Services Information/Public Assistance

Under this law, local social services districts are required to inform anyone applying for/receiving public assistance of their option to receive an information packet on sexual assault. The packet will contain referral and contact information for local programs that provide services to victims of sexual assault, including counseling and hotline services, rape crisis centers and sexual assault examiner programs.

For more information visit: http://opdv.state.ny.us/law/summ_year/sum09.html

TRAINING

As NYS faces significant financial challenges, agencies have had to figure out how to best continue providing training, much of it mandated, for staff and consumers, with limited funds for travel, materials and training personnel. In an effort to provide quality training, alternative options have been utilized such as on-line training modules, webinars and web-cast training. Members of the NYS DV Advisory Council have provided/participated in the following training:

NYS Office for the Aging (OFA)

- Ten members of Executive Management team attended OPDV's Domestic Violence and the Workplace training.

For more information visit: <http://www.nysed.gov>

NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS)

- A three-part training curriculum was created for OCFS Regional Office Domestic Violence licensing staff to support the quality of OCFS technical assistance and support. The training was offered though I-Linc, a distance learning technology, to accommodate statewide needs.

For more information visit: www.ocfs.state.ny.us

NYS Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NYSCADV)

- Designed a new state-wide training structure to provide a regional training circuit to meet the needs of providers.

For more information visit: www.nyscadv.org

NYS Department of Correctional Services (DOCS)

- DOCS made the commitment that all of their employees would receive training on "Domestic Violence and the Workplace." OPDV conducted 15 trainings for DOCS training staff, enabling the 247 participants to go back to their facilities and provide general training to employees. In 2009 a total of 29,489 DOCS employees received the training. In addition, DOCS trained all of their Deputy

Domestic Violence Annual Report 2009

Training

Superintendants of Administration who act as the facility liaisons for the Governor's Domestic Violence and the Workplace initiative.

For more information visit: <http://www.docs.state.ny.us>

NYS Office of Court Administration (OCA)

- Domestic violence is a topic at the annual new judge's seminars and at the Court Officers Academy.
- In June 2009 the Office of Court Administration presented a webinar on domestic violence, firearms and orders of protection to town and village justices. The two hour presentation is posted on the Unified Court System (UCS) website.
- The summer 2009 seminars for judges at the Judicial Institute and January "lunch and learn" programs addressed the new records check legislation in custody and visitation cases.
- The office of the Chief of Policy and Planning provided training to judges and court staff in new and operational DV and IDV courts; in June 2009 they provided training to DV and IDV resource coordinators. In addition, the office regularly works with judges and court staff at individual court locations.

For more information visit: www.courts.state.ny.us

NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS)

DCJS Office of Public Safety secured an ARRA grant for violence against women to develop a series of training programs geared toward law enforcement response to domestic violence. The training will be delivered to law enforcement agencies throughout NYS in 2010.

For more information visit: www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us

NYS Education Department (SED)

- Hosted several on-site and web-cast OPDV Domestic Violence and the Workplace trainings for SED staff.

For more information visit: www.nysed.gov

NYS Department of Health (DOH)

- The Rape Crisis and Sexual Violence Prevention Program (RCSVPP) provided 3,035 multi-session educational programs to 43,686 individuals.
- The Family Planning Program contracts with 51 providers with 189 clinic sites. Each of these programs must provide training to staff on domestic violence, develop policies and procedures for domestic violence screening and provide information about their efforts to identify domestic violence in their annual report.

For more information visit: www.nyhealth.gov

NYS Department of Mental Health (OMH)

- Developed and implemented on-line Domestic Violence and the Workplace training. All NYSOMH employees are required to complete the training.

For more information visit: www.omh.state.ny.us

NYS Division of Parole (DOP)

- Developed and implemented statewide training on Manual Item 9401.07 and Executive Order #19, including a Train the Trainer curricula, with 85% of DOP staff trained.

For more information visit: www.parole.state.ny.us

NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV)

Since its inception, OPDV has provided state-of-the-art training for professionals across a variety of disciplines. Comprehensive skills and knowledge based training has been developed for many NYS systems. As NYS faces significant financial challenges, OPDV along with other state agencies have had to figure out how to best continue a professional level of training, much of it mandated, with limited funds for travel, materials and staff. In 2009 OPDV provided various state partners with both web-casts and webinars and is currently working with the Governor's Office for Employee Relations (GOER) on an on-line Domestic Violence and the Workplace course for all NYS employees.

Child Protective Services (CPS): 355 CPS workers completed the two-day state-mandated "Domestic Violence Training for CPS Workers" conducted by OPDV in collaboration with OCFS. These 22 skill-based, interactive trainings helped CPS workers better understand how domestic violence impacts the families they work with, and assisted them in their case practice.

Child Welfare (CW): OPDV & OCFS collaborated on the development of a new training program for Child Welfare workers. 200 CW workers completed the voluntary two-day "Domestic Violence Training for Child Welfare Workers" conducted by OPDV. These 12 trainings were skill-based and highly interactive providing an understanding of how domestic violence impacts families.

Healthy Families New York: OPDV developed a draft curriculum for this program that provides home visiting services to families who are either expecting a baby, or are recent parents, until the children are 5 years of age.

Domestic Violence and the Workplace: Fifteen full-day Domestic Violence and the Workplace trainings were offered including 1 webinar and two webcasts, with more than 1,220 NYS employees trained. 351 participants then completed one of the 9 follow-up 1/2 day train the trainer programs. In addition seven shorter presentations were attended by more than 250 employees. In addition, shorter Domestic Violence and the workplace presentations were provided for several state agencies.

Local District Social Services (LDSS) Training: OTDA* provided funding to OPDV to provide 28 one-day domestic violence training sessions for LDSS staff. This course trained 409 Temporary Assistance, Child Support Enforcement and Employment workers about the barriers related to domestic violence.

Family Violence Option/Domestic Violence Liaison Training Institute (DVLTI): The DVLTI is a collaborative effort coordinated by the State University of New York (SUNY), Professional Development Program (PDP) with training and technical assistance from OPDV. Four four-day mandatory institutes provided 32

participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to fulfill the job responsibilities of the Domestic Violence Liaison position.

Homeless Shelter Training: OPDV conducted six one-day domestic violence training sessions for 86 participants. This course provides the staff of homeless shelters with fundamental knowledge on the issue of domestic violence so that staff can better understand/interact with victims.

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI): OPDV provided several trainings and conference presentations on TBI, many in collaboration with the NYS Brain Injury Association.

Domestic Violence Mental Health & Substance Abuse: OPDV provided nine presentations on topics related to substance abuse and various mental health issues for treatment providers and court personnel.

LGBT Domestic Violence Curriculum: OPDV worked on revisions to the curriculum on same-sex domestic violence that OPDV originally created for the AIDS Institute in 2001. The revised curriculum is expected to be finalized in the spring of 2010.

NYS Victim Assistance Academy: The 5th Annual NYS Victim Assistance Academy was held in June at Buffalo State College for 35 crime victim service providers from across the state. The SVAA is a project of the NYS Coalition Against Sexual Assault. OPDV staff served on the Advisory Committee and Curriculum Committee and also provided core faculty for the Academy.

Law Enforcement: More than 45 presentations were held for NYS law enforcement personnel with more than 1,250 trained.

Health Care – NYC Program: Conducted domestic violence trainings and presentations to NYC and metropolitan region health care providers with a focus on screening, assessing and intervening with all female patients.

- 60 Maternal and Child Health Trainings were conducted for 220 participants.
- 71 General Awareness Presentations for Health Care Providers were attended by 1270 participants.
- 26 presentations on DV as a Public Health Issue were conducted for 604 participants.
- 90 presentations on Domestic Violence and Cultural Competency within the Health Care System and Domestic Violence and Immigrant Women within the Health Care System were attended by 1764 participants.

For more information visit: www.opdv.state.ny.us

NYS Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives* (OPCA)

- Basic domestic violence training was delivered at three fundamental of probation classes here in Albany and in six local programs.
- All new probation officers were required to view the Domestic Violence CD.
- A domestic violence workshop was presented at the NYS Probation Officers Association Conference.
- Advanced domestic violence training was delivered in both Ulster and Nassau County Probation Departments.

For more information visit: www.dpca.state.ny.us

*Formally Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (DPCA)

NYS Office of Victims Services (OVS)*

OVS's 2009 statewide conference for service providers included the following workshops:

- What Teens Tell Us: Dating Violence & Healthy Relationships
- Power and Control: Beyond Gender
- Working with Sexually Exploited Young People
- Teen Dating Violence 101
- Serving Survivors of Interpersonal Violence with Disabilities
- Faces of My Sisters: Cultural Perspective of Black Domestic Violence Survivors
- Traumatic Brain Injury and Domestic Violence

In addition, OPDV provided training to all OVS employees on the issue of domestic violence.

For more information visit: www.cvb.state.ny.us

*Formally NYS Crime Victims Board (CVB)

LEADING THE FIELD

The NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence is increasingly seen as a resource for information on domestic violence. In 2009, state and national media contacted OPDV on more than 50 occasions. State officials, such as OPDV's Executive Director and the state Deputy Secretary for Public Safety were interviewed and quoted on the topic of domestic violence on television, radio and in newspapers. Television shows such as "Good Morning America" and "Castle" requested information and resources.

New York State officials provided guidance to government and advocacy groups throughout the United States, upon request. OPDV Staff was invited to present at the Annual National Alliance to End Homelessness conference in Washington DC. The workshop on Safety as a Priority: Serving Survivors of Domestic Violence examined how to provide safety for survivors while providing them with housing and comprehensive services. OPDV Staff also presented a full day workshop on Domestic Violence and Traumatic Brain Injury in Portland, Oregon for the Multnomah County DV Coordinators Office. OPDV Executive Director received the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence's Justice Award and the New York State Bar Association's Special Achievement in Public Service award.

New York State is also seen as a cutting-edge domestic violence expert on the international front. Textbook publishers in Brazil and Canada requested rights to reproduce OPDV educational materials. The largest Russian television producer contacted OPDV for assistance in filming a documentary. A London-based organization requested materials in Russian for an upcoming training. The Nation, a renowned weekly magazine, contacted OPDV for information on domestic violence statutes in Western Europe, from a historical perspective.

PLANS FOR 2010

Many initiatives launched in 2009 will gather even more steam in 2010, and several new efforts are planned as well. Some have already taken place. The teen dating campaign – control is not love – was re-issued at a press conference highlighting a promising Washington County program during teen dating abuse prevention and awareness month; we have officially launched the restructured focus of the NYS Domestic Violence Advisory Council; and two statewide webinar conversations have been held regarding the implementation of the Expanded Access to Family Court. Despite a challenging environment of dwindling resources and rising need, New York continues to make great strides forward. We are grateful for the commitment of our nonprofit colleagues to make sure they sustain their work with clients at this time, and we are determined to meet their commitment with our own. New York State will continue to work together, across agencies, and with local partners, to ensure that all individuals can be safe in their intimate and family relationships.

Here are a few of the projects planned for 2010:

- All NYS DV Advisory Council members will address teen dating abuse;
- Re-launch of teen public awareness campaign, and launch of an OPDV Facebook page as well as utilization of other social media to expand outreach;
<http://www.facebook.com/NYSdomesticviolence>
- Submission of a model DV Incident Policy for approval by the Municipal Police Training Council; if adopted, the model policy would become the standard guide for all accredited police departments in NYS;
- Issuance of several new informational guides on topics such as trafficking, , domestic violence in gay and lesbian relationships, pet abuse, pregnancy and domestic violence, use of the presentence investigation for probation and parole, and legal restriction on guns when there is domestic violence;
- Ongoing tracking of data regarding expanded access to family court, further statewide conversations with advocates and attorneys;
- Submission of revisions to the OCFS regulations that govern domestic violence programs to the Governor’s Office of Regulatory Reform for review and approval;
- Development and distribution of materials to colleges and universities to assist them in complying with the new law requiring that students be informed about dating abuse;
- Creation of tip sheets to strengthen collaboration between reporters and advocates for improved media coverage of domestic violence;

- Issuance of 2009 dashboard, annual report, domestic homicide report and a report on domestic crimes against the elderly;
- Enhanced “Shine the Light” effort in October;
http://www.opdv.state.ny.us/public_awareness/shinethelight10.html
- Announcement of a Verizon Grant Program for domestic violence survivors who are starting their own businesses;
- Distribution of a joint letter between OPDV and DOH encouraging hospital screening for domestic violence, and use of OPDV’s victim guide;
- Development of training curricula for probation, parole, police and advocates on mandatory arrest, expanded access to family court, training of parole Administrative Law Judges & Investigators in each area mentioned above and interview techniques for victims and perpetrators of domestic violence and/or sexual assault;
- OPDV will work with the Cities of Albany and Schenectady to tailor domestic violence and the workplace policies for municipal governments, and training on this topic will be issued as a web-based interactive module for all State employees;
- Creation of statewide guidelines for the safe use of supervised visitation in family court cases that involved domestic violence;
- Creation of guidelines for domestic violence victims seeking to file for unemployment benefits if they experienced the loss of a job related to their victimization;
- Ongoing training of thousands of governmental employees in police, probation, child welfare, public assistance, mental health, and other disciplines.



NEW YORK STATE

OPDV MISSION:

To improve New York State's response to and prevention of domestic violence with the goal of enhancing the safety of all New Yorkers in their intimate and family relationships.

OPDV VISION:

To create a State in which communities and systems are committed to supporting and promoting equality, dignity and respect so that individuals can feel safer in their intimate and family relationships.

EXCELSIOR

OFFICE FOR THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

NYS Domestic Violence Advisory Council members:

Maggie Fronk, Executive Director
Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Services of Saratoga County

Barbara Hale, Executive Director
YWCA of Genesee County, Inc.

Mary Kornman, Chief, Bureau of Strategic Planning & Crime Control Strategies
Westchester County District Attorney's Office

Susan John, Assemblywoman

James Murphy III, District Attorney
Saratoga County District Attorney's Office

Sharon Townsend, Vice Dean for Family and Matrimonial Law,
New York State Judicial Institute

Michele McKeon, Executive Director
NYS Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Helene Weinstein, Assemblywoman

Angela Yeboah, Attorney
Sanctuary for Families

NYS Crime Victims Board

NYS Department of Correctional Services

NYS Department of Health

NYS Department of Labor

NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services

NYS Division of Parole

NYS Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives

NYS Education Department

NYS Office for the Aging

NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services

NYS Office of Children and Family Services

NYS Office of Court Administration

NYS Office of Mental Health

NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance