

NEW YORK STATE OFFICE FOR THE  
PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ANNUAL REPORT 2011





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## INTRODUCTION

This is the fourth year we have published the Annual New York State Domestic Violence Report: we hope that it provides you with a useful single resource about the broad, cross-agency work that has been done in the state on the issue of domestic violence. We want to recognize the remarkable efforts of all of our colleagues at state agencies, nonprofit programs, and localities: everyone is working tirelessly to meet the needs of individuals in crisis despite the realities of fewer resources. As a state agency tasked with coordinating and leading interagency efforts on domestic violence, any success we achieve could not be realized without the dedication of our colleagues.

This report is a product 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 members appointed by the Governor, 6 upon recommendation of the legislature. The roles of the different types of members are complementary: state agency representatives address policies and protocols that have the potential to affect anyone affected by domestic violence who comes into contact with the state's systems. The appointed members range from concerned individuals to prosecutors, advocates, civil attorneys and others who work outside of the state system. Together, this group permits us to have a fully-informed conversation about the topics we address, ensuring that any proposed state policy changes are reviewed by those who work outside of our state system. All of our recommendations and changes are the richer for that collaboration. We have formatted the information a little bit differently this year to distinguish among the members who play different roles. The hope at the Council is to provide an example of how regular and sustained collaboration across sectors can result in real systematic change, improved awareness of opportunities for improvement, and solutions that can arise only when people of different disciplines and backgrounds join forces.

This past year marked several important steps forward in our response to domestic violence. The Municipal Police Training Council adopted a new domestic incident curriculum to accompany 2010's updated policy, and all NYS police trainers received the training; the policy is available on OPDV's website [here](#). The "Shine the Light" campaign gathered steam with over 400 participants statewide, and an updated toolkit online; we expanded our use of social media with the creation of a website and [Facebook](#) page dedicated to dating abuse at [RespectLove](#); and we published a report regarding the impact thus far of the "Expanded Access to Family Court" legislation. The City of Schenectady was the second municipality in NY to adopt a domestic violence and the workplace policy – your community can do it too, and we will gladly help!

We at OPDV want to extend our deepest thanks for the work our allies do to support victims in their basic right to attain a safe and secure life. We are in your debt. We would also like to acknowledge the individuals who lost their lives at the hands of their intimate partners; they are not forgotten. Please continue to share with us what more we can do to make sure that all New Yorkers can be safe in their intimate and family relationships.

## NYS EXECUTIVE BRANCH ACTIVITIES

### Public Education & Awareness

**T**he NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence conducts public education and outreach to increase understanding of domestic violence by the general public and specific audiences and, ultimately, change the social norms and behaviors that allow domestic violence to continue. Here are some ways in which OPDV and its partner agencies raised awareness in 2011:

#### ***“Shine the Light on Domestic Violence” by Turning NYS Purple***

The fourth year of this public awareness initiative was the most inclusive, and drew more attention than ever to the problem of domestic violence in all of our communities. Purple is the color used to 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 425 different entities across New York State, including non-profit service providers, private businesses, universities, chambers of commerce, government agencies, and law enforcement agencies. From giant purple billboards in Times Square, to wearing purple, lighting buildings and bridges purple, a purple parade, putting signs in storefronts or hosting a purple scavenger hunt – the participants all joined with domestic violence survivors and elected officials to “show their purple” during Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

For more information visit the [OPDV public awareness website](#).

#### ***OPDV e-Bulletin***

OPDV published four issues of its e-Bulletin covering substantive topics such as Domestic Violence and Housing, Tax Issues, Domestic Violence Cases Connected with the Military, the Domestic Incident Report Repository, Intimate Partner Violence and Sleep Disturbances, the NYS Elder Abuse Prevalence Study, Reproductive Coercion, and Domestic Violence as a Human Rights Violation. The Bulletin also highlights local and State government 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 the [OPDV public awareness website](#).

### ***For the Media***

OPDV participated in many press events in 2011, often in partnership with other agencies. When the newly-enacted strangulation law showed instant dramatic results, the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) published a research brief and collaborated with OPDV on a press release and media availability. When DCJS announced the 2010 Intimate Partner Homicide report, OPDV participated in a press release and media availability which also announced the 2010 Domestic Violence Dashboard Project and the 2010 NYS Domestic Violence Annual Report. OPDV and DCJS also joined to announce the Municipal Police Training Council's new domestic violence training and the creation and launch of the Domestic Incident Repository.

OPDV collaborated with the City of Schenectady to announce that they were the second municipality in the State to adopt a domestic violence in the workplace policy. And OPDV joined with the Manhattan Borough President's office to kick off Domestic Violence Awareness Month and the "Shine the Light on Domestic Violence" initiative at a press event as Times Square was illuminated in purple.

OPDV launched "Respect Love, Love Respect," a website and Facebook page designed to educate teens and young adults about dating abuse at a press conference, accompanied by local advocates and young people wearing T-shirts displaying the new logo.

A press release was also issued by the governor to announce the new law banning the sale of firearms to persons convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence offenses.

For more information, see [press releases](#).

### ***OPDV Websites***

The total number of OPDV website pages viewed in 2011 was 332,106.<sup>1</sup> The website is OPDV's primary means for disseminating information to many people - professionals and victims, systems and constituents. The homepage is regularly updated, frequently featuring web-banners that proclaim awareness events including Stalking Awareness Month, Teen Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Week, Crime Victims Rights Week, Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Major content additions to the website in 2011 include a new section, "Enhancing Victim Advocacy in the Courts," the Model Domestic Incident Policy for Law Enforcement, additions to the "Shine the Light on Domestic Violence" campaign section, including a webinar that provided ideas for how to participate, and an expansion of the Expanded Access to NYS Family Courts section. The website was utilized to disseminate the

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<sup>1</sup> The method of recording data has been greatly improved, providing a much more realistic view of activity on the website. The number of hits recorded in the old system may have shown much higher numbers than what would be generated by actual users viewing html pages.

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2011

### *Public Education & Awareness*

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following reports: New York State Domestic Violence Dashboard Project – 2010 Data, the Domestic Violence Annual Report 2010, and Expanded Access to Family Court in New York State: A Report on the First Three Years of Implementation of Chapter 326. The website is regularly updated with new, topical information. For more information visit the [OPDV website](#).

OPDV also launched Respect Love, an entirely new website with corresponding Facebook and Twitter pages dedicated to teen dating violence and dating abuse. The name, “Respect Love, Love Respect,” was submitted as a slogan contest entry and the site itself was designed largely with input from teens and young people. The website has interactive features like a healthy relationships quiz and stories written by young people about their experiences with dating abuse. In addition, OPDV partnered with Liz Claiborne, Inc. on an essay contest to launch the site.

For more information visit the [Respect Love website](#).

### ***Social Media***

OPDV’s Facebook page features regular posts, which also appear on a Twitter feed, covering awareness activities, topics in the news, grant opportunities, suggestions for how people can get involved, links to resources and links to the OPDV website. By the end of the year, there were nearly 1,700 fans of the page.

OPDV’s page on Facebook is: [www.facebook.com/NYSdomesticviolence](http://www.facebook.com/NYSdomesticviolence)

OPDV’s Twitter is: [www.twitter.com/NYSOPDV](http://www.twitter.com/NYSOPDV)

OPDV’s “Respect Love, Love Respect” Facebook page had 263 fans by the end of the year, after launching in late October.

The “Respect Love, Love Respect” page on Facebook is: [www.facebook.com/respectloveNYS](http://www.facebook.com/respectloveNYS)

The Twitter is: [www.twitter.com/respectloveNYS](http://www.twitter.com/respectloveNYS)

## Publications

The following new publications were developed for 2011:

### ***NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV)***

- OPDV developed new materials for the “Shine the Light on Domestic Violence” campaign:
  - Webinar, “How to Go Purple”
  - Informational poster
  - Sample press release
- OPDV, the NYS Department of Health and the Brain Injury Association of New York State developed:
  - [“Heads Up” poster](#) to help identify traumatic brain injury
- OPDV’s Executive Director and Counsel co-authored an article which appeared in the New York Law Journal:
  - “Widespread Use of New Strangulation Law Underscores Its Necessity”
- OPDV produced and distributed the following reports:
  - [New York State Domestic Violence Dashboard Project - 2010 Data](#)
  - [Domestic Violence Annual Report 2010](#)
  - Expanded Access to Family Court in New York State: A Report on the First Three Years of Implementation of Chapter 326

## **Policies, Projects & Programs**

**D**uring 2011 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)***

- Posted or placed educational materials and information on where to get assistance in NYS regarding Domestic Violence and prevention in all NYSOFA rest rooms.
- Informed all employees about October and Domestic Violence Awareness Month and encouraged our folks to wear purple on 10/19/11.
- Maintained Domestic Violence and the Workplace Policy and submitted bi-annual report to OPDV.

For more information visit the [OFA website](#).

### ***NYS Office of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Services (OASAS)***

- Information for the OASAS Client data system is gathered, system-wide, at time of discharge. Questions are asked to determine whether or not a particular individual was, at any point in the treatment process, identified as a victim or perpetrator of intimate partner violence (IPV)/domestic violence (DV). In 2011 with 209,903 treatment recipients:
  - The percentage of victims identified increased slightly from 11.3% to 11.7%.
  - The percentage of perpetrators identified increased from 5% to 5.7%.
  - 3% of treatment recipients identified as both victims and perpetrators.
  - The overall rates of identification represent a much smaller incidence of co-occurring domestic violence and substance abuse than has been cited by national statistics. OASAS continues to track data and investigate the disparity.

- Conducted a survey of treatment programs for 2012 planning purposes to determine the extent to which programs are screening, assessing and referring individuals to DV service providers. A total of 1022 Treatment Programs were surveyed with 990 (96.9%) responding.
  - Ninety-four percent reported that they screened their incoming clients for whether or not they were DV victims. Ninety-one percent of those that screen reported referring people to appropriate services, mostly to DV programs, coalitions or mental health programs.
  - Eighty percent reported that they screened their incoming clients for whether or not they had a history as a DV perpetrator. Seventy-seven percent of those that screen reported making referrals to appropriate services, mostly to spousal abuse groups, anger management therapy or mental health services.
- Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (CASAC) – OASAS staff and a workgroup of OASAS Certified Education and Training Providers have proposed that Domestic Violence and Substance Use Disorders become a standardized and required component of the CASAC standardized curriculum. Proposal is currently being vetted through the OASAS administration and upon approval implementation will ensue.
- Provided on-going IPV/DV education and awareness to inpatient clients.
- Monitored the NYS Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) with regards to the rate of dating violence noted for NYS youth, and then educated providers on the co-occurring risk of teen substance abuse and dating violence.
- OASAS has developed a system to annually notify providers that Congress and NYS have proclaimed the entire month of February to be Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month. Each year this is also included on the OASAS webpage and noted in the February updates which are distributed to 1550 OASAS prevention, treatment and recovery providers.
- Re-energized a cross-sectional employee workgroup that addresses issues related to IPV/DV services for employees as well as services for clients.
- During October OASAS hosted a DV awareness event and encouraged employees to participate in Turn NYS Workforce Purple to raise DV awareness by wearing purple of 10/19/11.
- Maintained the Domestic Violence and the Workplace Policy and submitted bi-annual reports to OPDV.

For more information visit the [OASAS website](#).

***NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS)***

- OCFS engaged a nationally recognized consultant, Shellie Taggart, with expertise and experience in child welfare and domestic violence intervention to create practice guidance to enable child welfare caseworkers to use family engagement strategies safely in families who experience domestic violence. To date, OCFS's collaboration with Ms. Taggart produced various materials including:
  - A DVD "Domestic Violence: An Overview" will teach caseworkers how to identify domestic violence in families, its impact on family safety and functioning, and strategies to engage caretakers to meet their children's need for safety, well being and permanency. The DVD will be a prerequisite for participating in the Family Engagement Toolkits, one of OCFS's primary training tools to teach family engagement strategies.
  - A document entitled "Identifying Domestic Violence" that is intended to support the ability of caseworkers to identify domestic violence throughout their involvement with the family.
  - A document entitled "Helpful Things to Say" that is intended to support the ability of the caseworkers to engage all family in an assessment of safety and risk when domestic violence is identified within the family.
  - A document entitled "DV Practice Considerations for Conducting Family Meetings with Families Affected by Domestic Violence." This document is intended to support the ability of caseworkers to prepare for, conduct and follow up on family meetings when domestic violence is present.

Each of these tools will be incorporated within the [Family Engagement Meeting Toolkit](#) and adapted for broader use.

- On October 19, 2011 OCFS participated in New York State's "Shine the Light on Domestic Violence. The 4<sup>th</sup> annual OCFS "Purple Day" was conducted and all employees were encouraged to support domestic violence awareness by wearing purple to work. Staff from the Domestic Violence Unit staffed display tables, answered questions and disseminated literature.
- Using the data available in the Domestic Violence Information System, profiles were 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 and length of stay.
- Eleven Child Protective/Domestic Violence collaboration projects continued to be funded. Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) data showed domestic

violence to be one of the most frequent risk factors in indicated CPS cases. 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 and their children. In 2011 approximately 1,660 families received specialized services through the collaboration projects. In 87% of the indicated CPS reports in the project, the children remained safely with the non-offending parent. In 94% of the unfounded reports, families were able to access necessary supports and services.

- Contracted with the Center for Human Services Research at the University at Albany to further evaluate the impact of the CPS/DV collaborations. This study will provide evidence about the effectiveness of co-location as a model, gather information to improve CPS/DV practice, and systematically study the effects of collaboration on children and families.
- Technical assistance was provided through a variety of sources to all residential and non-residential domestic violence programs. Through its home and regional offices, OCFS staff provided on-site monitoring and technical assistance in program and policy development, as well as in licensing, financial and contract issues.
- Maintained the Domestic Violence and Workplace Policy and submitted bi-annual reports to OPDV.

For more information visit the [OCFS website](#).

### ***NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS)***

- Participated in February's Teen Dating Violence Awareness Campaign by posting teen dating information on agency intranet and preserving it in their intranet resource library.
- Participated in October's Domestic Violence Awareness Month by posting domestic violence information on agency intranet and preserving it in their intranet resource library. Other efforts included a statewide mailing of an informational packet to Regional Directors and Superintendents. The packet included Domestic Violence and the Workplace poster, flyer on Domestic Violence Awareness, Flyer on "Shine the Light" encouraging state employees to wear purple on October 19, 2011, and information on an agency wide cell phone drive.
- Other October activities included adding the OPDV link and banner to the agency website; raffles and bake sales that generated proceeds in excess of \$1,400 which

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### *Policies, Projects & Programs*

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were donated to various domestic violence programs; information displays; and non uniform staff wearing purple clothing and ribbons on October 19, 2011.

- Community Supervisions staff conducted a full case review to screen for domestic violence. Findings were documented in their case management system.
- Community Supervision staff continued the Domestic Violence Alert process and reporting system on the Divisions' Case Management System (CMS), including the flashing Domestic Violence alert system.
- Implemented Community Supervision Operation's Domestic Incident Report Directive (DIR) outlining Policy and Procedure surrounding the transmission of a DIR. Including: DIR Tracking Sheet and DIR Spreadsheet.
- Participated in various coordinated community response efforts, including but not limited to Re-Entry and Domestic Violence focused training, meetings and webinars.
- Maintained the Domestic Violence and the Workplace Policy and submitted bi-annual reports to OPDV.

For more information visit the [DOCCS website](#).

### ***Office of Court Administration (OCA)***

- New York State's Domestic Violence (DV) courts, each staffed by a designated judge, took in 32,983 new cases.
- Separate DV courts in three jurisdictions with high case loads, Brooklyn, the Bronx and Yonkers are designated as youthful offender domestic violence courts (YODVC's). These YODVC's handle cases involving teen defendants charged with crimes of domestic violence. They tailor responses and sentences imposed to the particular circumstances of adolescent defendants; they work with programs developed for teens and have available intensive advocacy aimed at supporting complaining witnesses, many of whom are teens as well. Of the nearly 33,000 cases, 548 were YODVC cases.
- New York State's Integrated Domestic Violence (IDV) courts use a "one family-one judge" model to bring before a single judge in Supreme Court the multiple criminal, family and matrimonial cases of families where domestic violence is an underlying issue. In 2011, 3,026 new families and 16,191 new cases entered the 46 IDV courts around the state.

- The Office of Policy & Planning in collaboration with the center for Court Innovation began to develop a Domestic Violence/Integrated Domestic Violence Court Self-Assessment Tool that will be provided to courts to assist them in identifying areas of strength and opportunities for further implementation of best practices. This tool will be piloted in 2012.
- The Office of Court Administration continued to implement its Domestic Violence and the Workplace Policy, offered work/life assistance, domestic and sexual violence hotline and contact information for all 62 counties.

For more information visit the [OCA website](#).

### ***NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS)***

- *Domestic Incident Report (DIR) Repository:* Early in 2011 the Division of Criminal Justice Services and the NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV) launched the statewide DIR repository/database. A DIR is completed whenever the police respond to a domestic incident-related call for service. The DIRs are in turn sent to DCJS and filed as paper reports. The repository will capture the data from each report electronically into one database accessible to all law enforcement, prosecutors, probation and parole personnel, giving them the ability to search – by victim or offender name, incident address or document number. DIR's are filed by more than 550 police agencies in the 57 counties outside of New York City. As of December 31, 2011 48 police agencies have signed up to search the repository which now contains 376,147 DIR's and receives an average of 15,550 DIR's every month.
- **Operation IMPACT:** This on-going DCJS initiative supports strategic crime-fighting and violence reduction efforts in 17 counties outside of New York City that account for 80 percent of the crime upstate and on Long Island. In collaboration with OPDV, all IMPACT jurisdictions are offered training and technical assistance in a variety of different areas including: additions and revisions to Criminal Procedure and Penal laws, such as strangulation offenses; stalking; Domestic Incident Reports; mandatory arrest; primary physical aggressor determination; Orders of Protection; and New York's expanded access to Family Court laws.

In the 2011-2012 RFA cycle, DCJS identified crimes that jurisdictions should plan to address based on their crime data. Two communities, Yonkers and Utica, were asked to address domestic violence. OPDV reviewed and provided input to DCJS on the content of the proposals, and has provided support to both jurisdictions as they implement their plans.

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2011

### *Policies, Projects & Programs*

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Finally, OPDV in collaboration with the DCJS Office of Public Safety, Office of Probation and Correction Alternatives and the Division of Parole, continued work on a federally-funded grant project around the success of the IMPACT collaborations. In 2010 four impact jurisdictions – Nassau, Orange, Dutchess, and Albany – served as pilot series for the development of enhanced training for the criminal justice and advocacy community of key topics in domestic violence. The grant deliverables are nearing completion, and will consist of a series of web-based training tools for police, probation, and parole officers that will be made available stateside.

- Maintained the Domestic Violence and the Workplace Policy and submitted bi-annual reports to OPDV.

#### **DCJS Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA):**

- Assisted in development of NYS DCJS Policy and Procedures Manual for the Domestic Incident Report Repository.
- Participated in panel discussion on restorative justice and domestic violence issues held during Genesee County Mental Health Association Criminal Justice Day.
- Held Probation Response to Domestic Incident Reports Live Meeting for 98 probation professionals from over 40 local departments.
- Participated in Capital Region Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Primary Prevention Roundtable.
- Conducted site visits to 10 probation departments and facilitated collaboration between local probation and law enforcement to enhance delivery of DIR's to probation as required under Criminal Procedure Law.
- Responded to 79 requests for technical assistance on domestic violence issues including officer-involved domestic violence, new strangulation laws, firearms prohibitions, certificates of relief from disabilities, rural and Native American domestic violence training materials, domestic violence in military families, information for judges and magistrates, DIR's, expanded access to Family Court and domestic violence policy development.

For more information visit the [DCJS website](#).

#### ***NYS Education Department (SED)***

- Posted information on domestic violence, including posters, flyers and palm cards in various locations throughout the Department.

- Maintained the Domestic Violence and the Workplace Policy and filed bi-annual reports to OPDV.

For more information visit the [SED website](#).

### ***NYS Department of Health (DOH)***

- 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 questions related to domestic violence, for example:
  - During the 12 months before you got pregnant with your new baby, did your husband or partner push, hit, slap, kick, choke, or physically hurt you in any other way?
  - During your most recent pregnancy, did your husband or partner push, hit, slap, kick, choke, or physically hurt you in any other way?
- The Comprehensive Adolescent Pregnancy prevention (CAPP) initiative funds community based organizations to provide evidence-based sexual health education and best practice interventions on healthy relationships, parent-child communication and other preparatory topics for adulthood that promote individual and group 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, if indicated.
- Maintained the Domestic Violence and the Workplace Policy and submitted bi-annual reports to OPDV.

For more information visit the [DOH website](#).

### ***NYS Department of Labor (DOL)***

- Provided Statewide One Stop Employment and Training Offices with NYSDOL Domestic Violence pamphlets which included contact information for: local Domestic Violence Service Providers, NYS Domestic Violence & Sexual Violence Hotline, and NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence.
- Posted a web banner on the NYSDOL website during October of 2011 to raise awareness about domestic violence.

- Maintained the Domestic Violence and the Workplace Policy and submitted bi-annual reports to OPDV.

For more information visit the [DOL website](#).

### ***NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH)***

- Electronic distribution of Domestic Violence Prevention brochures to OMH field offices for program distribution.
- Posted Domestic Violence information on OMH website.
- Maintained Domestic Violence and the Workplace Policy and submitted bi-annual reports to OPDV.

For more information visit the [OMH website](#).

### ***NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV)***

- ***NYS Domestic Violence Advisory Council***
  - The Council met twice in 2011 providing domestic violence information and updates from member agencies and systems.
  - Released the 2010 New York State Domestic Violence Annual Report.
  - Identified “Screening” as the Council’s topic of focus for 2011.
- ***Law Enforcement***
  - **Release of Statewide Model Domestic Incident Policy and Curriculum for Police.** The Municipal Police Training Council (MPTC) approved a revised domestic violence training curriculum (drafted by OPDV) for police officer recruits. The revised curriculum contains 14 hours of training divided into eight lesson, each incorporating current adult learning principles to develop distinct goals, objectives, written content, and individual and group activities. OPDV also developed a strict certification process for prospective instructors of the new curriculum. This curriculum teaches to the amended domestic incident policy adopted in December, 2010.
  - **OPDV Educated Community About New Strangulation Law.** In order to address NYS’s new Strangulation Law, OPDV hosted three webinars for more than 200 registered participants from various disciplines. The webinar covered the following topics:
    - Differences between the terms choking and strangulation.
    - Basic physiology of strangulation.

- Forms/methods/types of strangulation.
  - Identifying and documenting signs and symptoms of strangulation.
  - Listening for and documenting a victim's description of the experience.
  - Listening for and documenting a suspect's statements or declarations while strangling a victim.
  - Charging New York's strangulation laws, particularly the often underutilized felony statutes.
  - Identifying and charging other underlying or associated offenses.
  - Alleging the NYS strangulation statutes in family offense petitions.
- ***Domestic Violence and the Workplace***
    - **2011 Data on Continued Implementation Through NYS Government.** NYS agencies continue to operate with a Domestic Violence and the Workplace Policy in place and report pertinent domestic violence information to OPDV twice a year. The following reflects the information reported by NYS agencies for 2011:
      - 86 Incidents of DV occurring in the workplace.
      - 173 Employees reporting that they were victims DV.
      - 119 Employees reporting others were victims of DV.
      - 327 Employees requesting DV information.
      - 262 Referrals made to NYS DV service providers.
      - 133 Orders of protections disclosed to agencies.
    - **Assistance to City of Schenectady.** OPDV provided assistance with policy development, technical assistance and training to the City of Schenectady. The City adopted their Domestic Violence and the Workplace policy on September 26, 2011. They are second NYS city to adopt the state's workplace policy (Albany, NY adopted the policy in 2010).
    - **Assistance to the NYC Housing Authority.** New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) requested technical assistance from OPDV to assist in development of a Domestic Violence and the Workplace Policy. After several conference calls and a preliminary draft, staff from NYCHA attended the OPDV Domestic Violence and the Workplace Training in Albany. After training, revisions to the draft were made and submitted to OPDV for review. NYCHA officially adopted their final policy in November, 2011.
    - **Participation in Development of a Policy with The Office of U.N. Women.** The United Nations (U.N.), specifically The Office of U.N.

Women, asked OPDV to participate in an Expert Group Meeting on Gender Based Violence and the Workplace. The objective of the Expert Group Meeting was to bring together external expertise from around the world to explore state of the art research and analysis, identify good practices and lessons learned, and gather social feedback for the development of an institutional policy for Gender Based Violence and the Workplace within the United Nations system. In addition to a draft policy, the outcomes from the meeting included a report which contains an overview, compiles good practice, captures challenges and proposed potential solutions and recommendations that fed into the draft model policy. The end products will be submitted for review and comment in 2012.

- Maintained the Domestic Violence and the Workplace Policy and filed the bi-annual reports with OPDV.

For more information visit the [OPDV website](#).

### ***NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA)***

- Continued supervision of Family Violence Option (FVO) through which Domestic Violence Liaisons (DVL's) provide waivers from Temporary Assistance (TA) program requirements (i.e. employment, child support) to prevent endangering a victim of domestic violence.
- Continued to provide training on the FVO through contracts with the Professional Development Program and OPDV.
- Supervised programs that assist victims of domestic violence with public assistance benefits and shelter expenses.
- Continued mediation services for providers and local social services districts to help settle questionable domestic violence shelter payments.
- Encouraged employees of OTDA to participate in Domestic Violence Awareness Month by wearing purple to work on October 19th.
- Maintained the Domestic Violence and the Workplace Policy and filed the bi-annual reports with OPDV.

For more information visit the [OTDA website](#).

***NYS Office of Victim Services (OVS)***

- OVS worked with the OGS Building Manager of the Shirley A. Chisholm State Office Building located at 55 Hanson Place, Brooklyn, NY 11217 to turn the building façade purple. Filters were put in the outside lighting at the beginning of the month and remained until the end of October.
- On October 19<sup>th</sup> OPDV posters were hung in the lobby of the Shirley A. Chisholm State Office Building located at 55 Hanson Place, Brooklyn, NY 11217 and 1 Columbia Circle, Albany, NY 12203 and purple ribbons were distributed for people to affix to their clothing.
- Domestic violence information regarding awareness and events were posted on the OVS website.
- Maintained the Domestic Violence and the Workplace Policy and submitted bi-annual reports to OPDV.

For more information visit the [OVS website](#).

## 2011 Services

**D**irect services were provided by some members of the NYS Advisory Council. Below is a snapshot of those services for 2011:

### ***NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse services (OASAS)***

The Bronx Addiction Treatment Center (ATC) Domestic Violence Program provided services to 609 clients. Services included intimate partner groups, domestic violence groups, and individual counseling sessions.

- Of the 95 female clients:
  - 70% identified as victims
  - 30% identified a history of being in multiple abusive relationships
  - 20% identified as being in past abusive relationships.
  - 20% identified as being in current abusive relationships.
  - 30% admitted to being the abusive partner
- Of the 503 male clients:
  - 30% identified as perpetrators.
  - 30% identified as being in abusive relationships in which the role of perpetrator or victim was not clearly defined.
  - 20% identified as victims.
  - 20% identified as being in an abusive relationship.
- Of the 11 clients that identified as LGBTQ:
  - 35% identified as victim
  - 30% identified as being in abusive relationships in which the role of perpetrator or victim was not clearly defined.

- 10% identified as perpetrators.
- 25% denied being in an abusive relationship.

For more information visit the [OASAS website](#).

### ***NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS)***

- OCFS has oversight of 163 licensed residential domestic violence programs and 84 approved non-residential programs. These programs provided residential services to approximately 16,700 adults and children and non-residential services to approximately 43,000 adults and children.
- Federal Family Violence Prevention Services Act (FFVPSA) funds were administered equally to all NYS approved residential and non-residential domestic violence programs on a non-competitive basis. Each of the 94 applicants was eligible to receive an award of up to \$35,602 to support general operating expenses, health and safety improvements and/or program enhancements.
- The Hoyt Trust Fund supports three domestic violence programs.
  - Cattaraugus Community Action, Inc.: Agency has been supported with \$72,053 in the past year for the supervised visitation program with services provided at the Salamanca and Olean sites. Services are delivered in partnership with the Center for Family Unity of Salamanca, Parent Education Program of Olean and the Cattaraugus County Department of Social Services. The amount of the current funding stays the same.
  - Oswego County Opportunities, Inc.: Agency has been supported with \$66,445 in the past year for the supervised visitation program delivered at two sites, at the City of Fulton and the rural area of Richland. The program has strong collaboration with Oswego County Department of Social Services. The amount of the current funding stays the same.
  - Salvation Army-Jamestown: Agency has been supported with \$46,296 for the intensive home intervention program for families exposed to domestic violence. Referrals are primarily from the Chautauqua County Department of Social Services. The amount of the current funding stays the same.

For more information visit the [OCFS website](#).

***NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS)***

- DCJS Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Unit awarded \$6,338,361 in Services, Training, Officers and Prosecutions (STOP) VAWA funding supporting 116 grants:
  - 69% of funds went to domestic violence or dating violence programs.
  - 29% went to sexual assault programs.
  - 2% went to anti-stalking activities.
- Awarded \$299,122 in Sexual Assault Services Prevention Act funding to the NYS Coalition Against Sexual Assault.
- Distributed 4,716 Sexual Offense Evidence Collection Kits and 1,528 Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault Kits free of charge to hospitals.

For more information visit the [DCJS website](#).

***NYS Department of Health (DOH)***

- The Community Health Worker Program (CHWP) is an outreach, information, and referral program that conducts monthly home visits to approximately 3,500 high-risk pregnant women and their families each year. Community Health Workers provide information, education and referrals on a variety of maternal and child health topics which may impact maternal and infant health outcomes, including domestic violence, its risk factors, and resources available. If a woman or family member is identified as needing domestic violence counseling or services, a referral is made to the most appropriate domestic violence agency or shelter, taking into consideration language spoken, location and security. Follow up is provided to all clients referred for assistance. CHWP made 81 referrals in 2011 to domestic violence service providers.
- The Rape Crisis and Sexual Violence Prevention Programs (RCSVPPs) provided services to 10,812 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 the [DOH website](#).

***NYS Department of Labor (DOL)***

- Provided valuable economic security to 601 unemployment insurance claimants that self-identified as a victim of domestic violence during 2011. Normally voluntary separation from employment would result in a decision that an individual is not eligible for unemployment insurance benefits. NYS law considers domestic violence as a “good cause” for the voluntary separation from employment making victims eligible for assistance.
- Contracted with 16 entities to support 22 Displaced Homemaker centers to provide services to those individuals who have been displaced from their careers as unpaid homemakers. Services include crisis intervention, referrals to community service agencies (including domestic violence providers), training, assessment, resume writing, job search strategies and job clubs.

For more information visit the [DOL website](#).

***NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV)***

- New York State supports a statewide victim hotline providing English and Spanish language crisis and referral services. In 2011, the Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline responded to 15,736 calls. This is an increase of more than 1,500 over calls received in 2010.
- Victim Resource Services: Provided through a partnership with the Office of Victim Services 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 224 callers and 528 emails and written correspondence in 2011. 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 the [OPDV website](#).

***NYS Office of Victim Services (OVS)***

- Received 5,333 domestic violence claims for reimbursement.
- Paid \$2,836,343 in compensation to domestic violence claimants to cover costs such as: medical, counseling, loss of support, loss of wages, essential personal property and funerals.

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2011

### *2011 Services*

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- Provided \$7,880,744 in federal funds and \$1,970,186 in state funds to victim assistance programs that serve domestic violence victims.
- Funded 48 domestic violence programs, 28 sexual assault programs, 20 dual domestic violence and rape crisis programs and 86 comprehensive programs that service both victims of domestic violence and sexual assault victims for a total of 182 programs across the state.
- Funded victim assistance programs served 96,283 primary and 5,491 secondary domestic violence victims.
- Made 43 payments to DV victims for Moving/Storage expenses totaling \$22,403.
- Made 14 payments to DV victims for Security Device expenses totaling \$12,713.
- Made 6 payments to DV victims for Shelter expenses totaling \$4,458.

For more information visit the [OVS website](#).

## Training

The following trainings were provided by NYS Advisory Council Members:

### ***NYS Office for the Aging (OFA)***

- Through a grant provided by NYSOFA to the NYS Association of Area Agencies on Aging, in March of 2011 four regional Caregiver Coordinator Forums took place to provide training for the coordinators of the New York State Caregiver Support Program..
- In September, 78 Aging Network staff, including NYSOFA employees and case workers from our 59 local Area Agencies on Aging attended a Conference entitled, “Stemming the Tide of Adult Abuse”. The Conference was sponsored by the NY State Adult Abuse Training Institute (AATI) and the National Adult Abuse Protection Services Association (NAPSA) which joined together to bring the national conference to New York State. The Adult Abuse Training Institute is presented by the Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging & Longevity on behalf of the NYS Office of Children & Family Services, and is designed to:
  - Build the skills and knowledge of professionals working with vulnerable adults.
  - Promote the exchange of information, innovative thinking and best practices to improve the provision of services to protect and nurture vulnerable adults.
  - Nurture and sustain all those folks who are engaged in the effort to prevent and/or end abuse to adults in New York State.

This information will be used to improve the older adult protection efforts within NYSOFA.

For more information visit the [OFA website](#).

### ***NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS)***

- Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies (GTEAP): All Administrative Law Judges; Parole Revocations Specialists; Parole Hearing Officers and Parole Board Members were trained on :

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2011

### *Training*

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- Interview techniques for Victims of Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Sexual Assault.
- Offender Accountability.
- Documentation of the above topics.

For more information visit the [DOCCS website](#).

### ***NYS Office of Court Administration (OCA)***

- Domestic violence is addressed at the annual new judge's seminars that newly elected or appointed judges attend. It is also a component of the training at the Court Officers Academy.
- The Unified Court System Office of Policy and Planning in collaboration with the Center for Court Innovation held two statewide Judicial training conferences, in Albany and Garden City, for domestic violence and integrated violence court judges covering topics including domestic violence and the legal system, enhancing judicial skills, information on handling cases involving domestic violence victims connected to the military, an overview of national domestic violence initiatives, the civil rights of intimate partners especially in light of the new marriage equality law, judicial ethics in domestic violence courts, an overview of the evolution and progress of domestic violence related courts, intimate partner sexual assault, intimate partner violence in LGBTQ relationships, risk assessment, research on commercially sexually exploited children, the criminal justice response to domestic violence, and transforming vicarious trauma.
- The Office of Court Administration and the Appellate Division Attorneys for Children, both agency and panel attorneys, received a six hour video training for new attorneys and were offered, as continuing legal education, training on prostitution and human trafficking, complex custodial issues, case law updates for children's lawyers, and the issue of domestic violence and its effect on custody/visitation determinations.
- Other training included the following domestic violence related topics:
  - Representing Teenagers in Domestic Violence Proceedings
  - Victims of Intimate Partner Abuse and the Courtroom
  - Striving for Understanding: the Many Faces of Domestic Violence

- Cultural Competency in Domestic Violence Cases
- Comparisons of Family Court Article 8 and Intimate Partner Prosecutions: The Advantages of Family Court
- Cases Involving Elder Abuse: A Training for Attorneys, and Domestic Violence Within the South Asian Community.

For more information visit the [OCA website](#).

### ***NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS)***

DCJS offered the following training:

- Basic Course for Police Officers: 28 trainings, 604 participants
- Domestic Violence Instructor Course: 12 trainings, 185 participants (In conjunction with OPDV)
- Pre-Employment Police Basic Training: 10 trainings, 69 participants
- Domestic Violence Home Visit Training: 1 training, 23 participants (In conjunction with OPDV)
- Continued to disseminate free copies of DCJS training DVD entitled “Body of Evidence: Using the NYS Sexual Offense Evidence Collection Kit.” In addition to receiving requests from around NYS and nationwide, we received requests from South Africa, the Congo, Holland, Canada, Barbados and Saudi Arabia.

DCJS Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA) offered the following training:

- Assisted at Albany Law School with Intensive Trial Skills Training For the Effective Representation of Battered Women in Custody Proceedings.
- Presented Middle Atlantic States Correctional Association Conference workshop “Probation Officer Domestic Violence Policy Guidance” to 35 probation officers.
- Organized Probation Response to Domestic Violence Native American Communities training for 28 probation professionals from across New York State.
- Presented Domestic Violence information to 43 participants of the OPCA Fundamentals Community Corrections training program for Alternative to Incarceration service providers in Syracuse, NY and New York City.

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2011

### *Training*

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- Presented Monroe County Probation Officers Association conference workshop Domestic Violence: new Information for Probation for 45 probation professionals from the Western Tier of New York State.
- Conducted domestic violence training for 41 new probation officers during the OPCA Fundamentals of Probation Practice training program with a focus on holding offenders accountable and working to enhance victim safety.
- Facilitated Motivational Interviewing: Practical Applications for the Probation Officer training program that included information in the use of Motivational Interviewing for domestic violence cases and other special populations.

For more information visit the [DCJS website](#).

### ***NYS Department of Health (DOH)***

- The Rape Crisis and Sexual Violence Prevention Program (RCSVPP) provided 4,267 multi-session educational programs to 57,927 young people. RCSVPPs conducted these prevention education programs in schools, colleges and community locations. RCSVPPs also provided 393 professional trainings to 4,332 professionals including law enforcement officers, school personnel, social workers, district attorneys and health care providers. Topics included prevention of bullying, healthy relationships, gender roles, self-esteem, communication skills, role of bystander and other prevention topics.
- A Research Brief on Teen Dating Violence and other information on healthy relationships are available on the NYSDOH-funded ACT for Youth Center of Excellence web site: [actforyouth.net](http://actforyouth.net).
- The Family Planning Program contracts with 51 providers with 201 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.
- The Department's new Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Health Home Visitation (MIECHV) initiative will support Nurse Family Partnership programs in Monroe and Bronx counties and Healthy Families New York programs in Erie and Bronx counties. Funded programs will be required to screen for domestic violence, refer for relevant services, and assist clients with completing a safety plans as appropriate. The MIECHV initiative is expected to start in spring 2012.

For more information visit the [DOH website](#).

### ***NYS Department of Labor (DOL)***

- Trained 1,521 DOL employees on Domestic Violence Prevention in 2011.

For more information visit the [DOL website](#).

### ***NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH)***

- Provided a full-day Domestic Violence and the Workplace webinar to 36 participants located in 6 different facilities.

For more information visit the [OMH website](#).

### ***NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV)***

In 2011 OPDV was able to continue its regular training programs and introduced new programs as well. One new initiative trained naval officers and military victim advocates in Saratoga Springs on domestic violence. Another initiative, with the approval by the NYS Municipal training Council, OPDV trained law enforcement training personnel across the state using a brand new curriculum, updated for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in 16 years. OPDV also conducted webinars on expanded access and domestic violence and the workplace.

- **Child Protective Services (CPS)**  
262 CPS workers completed the two-day state mandated “Domestic Violence Training for CPS Workers” conducted by OPDV. These 18 skill-based, interactive trainings help CPS workers better understand how domestic violence impacts the families they work with and assist them in their case practice.
- **Child Welfare (CW)**  
292 CW workers completed the voluntary two-day “Domestic Violence training for Child Welfare Workers” conducted by OPDV. These 18 trainings were skill-based and highly interactive providing an understanding of how domestic violence impacts families.
- **Healthy Families New York (HFNY)**  
102 HFNY workers completed seven one-day skill-based and highly interactive trainings. 22 HFNY workers completed the one day Train-the-Trainer. This is the second year that OPDV has trained HFNY staff using the curriculum, “Domestic Violence Training for HFNY Workers,” and the first that a Train-the-Trainer was provided to workers who will continue to train their own staff. This project was funded for 2 years through a contract with OCFS.

- **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 408 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. Three 3 day mandatory institutes provided 31 participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to fulfill the job responsibilities of the Domestic Violence Liaison position, as required by law.
- **Homeless Shelter Training**  
OPDV conducted seven 1 day training sessions for 144 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.
- **Domestic Violence and the Workplace**  
Nine full-day and seven half-day Domestic Violence trainings were offered, including 3 webcasts with more than 540 NYS employees trained. Twelve participants then completed one of the 2 follow-up ½ day Train-the-Trainer programs. In addition, fourteen shorter Domestic Violence and the Workplace presentations were provided for state agencies.
- **Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)**  
OPDV provided training on TBI and DV to students at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and to judges and court clerks in the Albany area. Staff also presented a workshop on Helping Crime Victims with TBI for 35 crime victim advocates at the National Center for Victims of Crime national conference.
- **Domestic Violence Mental Health & Substance Abuse**  
OPDV provided training on substance abuse and mental health issues in domestic violence, for treatment providers, court personnel and attorneys in Staten Island and Binghamton, and a basic DV presentation for attorneys in Albany.
- **LGBT Domestic Violence Curriculum**  
OPDV's curriculum on Domestic Violence in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Communities continues to be available on VAWnet.
- **NYS Victim Assistance Academy (NYSVAA)**  
OPDV serves on the advisory and curriculum committees of NYSVAA, a project of Buffalo State College. NYSVAA presented three 1 day conferences for crime victim service providers: Responding to Sexual Assault held at Buffalo State

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College, and Advocates in Court: An Interdisciplinary Toolkit, offered twice in New York City.

- **Center for Court Innovation (CCI)**  
OPDV and CCI co-sponsored a day-long conference called “Enhancing Victim Advocacy in the Courts” attended by 30 advocates. Materials and videos of presentations are available on the OPDV website.
- **Expanded Access Law**  
OPDV offered two webinars on the Expanded Access law for advocates, legal services providers and others. The NYS Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Empire Justice Center provided an overview of the law, discussed its benefits and attempted to ascertain what challenges had arisen in its implementation.
- **Law Enforcement**  
42 trainings were conducted for 1,373 participants. Trainings included:
  - Nine two-day training sessions throughout the state on the revised, Municipal Police Training Council (MPTC) approved, curriculum. Through these sessions more than 200 DCJS-approved police instructors were certified to provide the curriculum to police recruits in New York’s law enforcement training academies.
  - Three webinars on New York’s Strangulation Law presented to more than 200 registered participants.
  - One webinar conducted as joint effort with the Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives on revisions to the NYS Domestic Incident Report (DIR) to more than 100 registered participants.
  - One half-day event facilitated by OPDV to bring together police officers and victim services personnel from all jurisdictions involved in grant-funded home visit programs.
- **Health Care – NYC Program**  
OPDV continued to raise awareness among health care providers on the issue of domestic violence, screening and the role of health care providers. The focus was on universal screening, assessing and interviewing for all female patients. The following trainings and presentations were provided:
  - 5 trainings for 45 providers on screening female patients.
  - 20 general awareness presentations for 647 providers within the Maternal and Child health system.

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2011

### *Training*

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- 35 presentations on domestic violence as a public health issue for 664 providers.
- 28 presentations on cultural competency and immigrant women for 664 providers.
- In partnership with Futures without Violence and the National Council on Juvenile and Family Court Judges on the National Judicial Institute on Domestic Violence, OPDV provided 4 trainings to a national audience of 200 judges.
- **Health Care – Upstate Program**  
Provided three trainings at Albany Medical Center College - 2 for medical students with a total of 227 participants, and one for 34 physician's assistant students. In addition, OPDV also spoke at Albany Medical Center Grand Rounds to 68 providers.
- **Naval Trainings**  
OPDV in collaboration with Naval Support at Saratoga Springs Fleet & Family Support Center provided six domestic violence trainings. These sessions were provided to 233 naval officers and enlisted military personnel in leadership positions.

For more information please visit the [OPDV website](#).

### ***NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA)***

- A domestic violence awareness video has been made available to all OTDA staff through our intranet.

For more information visit the [OTDA website](#).

### ***NYS Office of Victim Services (OVS)***

- On November 17, 2011, OVS held Advanced Training on Domestic Violence for staff, viewed live in all three offices. The trainers were Cecilia Gaston, Executive Director of Violence Intervention Program and Quentin Walcott, the Director of CONNECT's prevention program and training institute. Participants from OVS included the investigators, the advocates and grants staff.

For more information visit the [OVS website](#).

## APPOINTED COUNCIL-MEMBER ACTIVITIES

**M**any nonprofits and DA's offices do tireless work across the state; their voices and work are represented by the nine (9) appointed members of the Council, and some of their contributions are outlined below.

### ***New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NYSCADV)***

- NYS Domestic Violence Prevention Enhancement and Leadership Through Alliances Program (DELTA) is a collaboration between NYSCADV, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) thirteen state domestic violence coalitions throughout the country and over fifty local domestic violence programs. Local DELTA Projects continued their focus on prevention strategies with youth, men and boys, faith-based communities, and workplace settings as well as traditionally marginalized groups like LGBTQ youth. NYSCADV and local DELTA partners are engaging in community based evaluation of their prevention strategies and expect to publish evidence of effective preventive strategies in 2012.
- Participated in “Shine the Light on Domestic Violence” campaign engaging domestic violence advocates around the state to commemorate Domestic Violence Awareness Month.
- NYSCADV participated in the re-launch of the Regional Multicultural Advisory Committee to promote domestic violence sensitivity with regard to language, access, and cultural competency.
- NYSCADV Training Team completed two offerings of the “Foundations” training. This five-day training is a broad exploration of the historical context and social justice scaffolding that informs the work of NYSCADV and provides a basis for novice advocates.
- The Domestic Violence Prevention enhancement and Leadership Through Alliances Programs (DELTA) provided numerous trainings, coaching's and key-note presentations in NYS, including:
  - A ten-session evaluation Webinar series presented by the DELTA Project Empowerment Evaluator, Marguerite Grabarek.

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2011

### *Appointed Council-Member Activities*

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- Training for business and county leaders on their role and responsibility in creating environments that are equitable, respectful and committed to DELTA's prevention work. (Rockland Family Shelter & Key Bank)
- Domestic Violence and the Workplace training initiatives. (Tioga County & Warren and Washington County)

For more information visit the [NYSCADV website](#).

### ***Saratoga County Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Services (DVRC)***

- Emergency Shelter – Provided 2,021 bed nights of emergency shelter for a total of 76 women and children.
- Supportive Housing – Provided 40 women and children with safe housing in independent apartments through our New View housing programs (a total of 10,492 bed nights of housing).
- Hotline Crisis Response – Responded to 1,890 hotline calls.
- Supportive Victim-Assistance Services – Provided in-person support services to 700 persons through direct counseling, legal, shelter and economic stability services.
- Legal Advocacy – Provided legal advocacy to 136 persons, including assistance with 116 petitions for orders of protection, temporary custody or temporary support and legal clinics to provide pro bono legal services to 53 abuse survivors.
- Employment Assistance - Assisted 31 unemployed women to find jobs and another 9 with career advancements that increased household financial independence
- Housing Assistance – Helped 48 families to exit abuse and start over in violence-free home.
- Economic Empowerment – Provided Project Hope and Power, our 8-week financial literacy program to 61 women.
- Financial Assistance – Provided over \$7,000 in emergency financial assistance.
- Rape Crisis Services – Provided advocacy and follow-up services to 26 sexual assault victim accessing forensic examinations, as well as counseling and support services to assist 78 primary and secondary victims of sexual assault.

- Launched an innovative community mobilization program to address create environmental change to reduce relationship violence.
- Teen Dating Violence Prevention – Provided prevention education programs to 2,310 youth.

For more information visit the [DVRC website](#).

### ***Saratoga County District Attorney***

- Vigorously prosecuted more than 1,100 domestic violence cases including violations, misdemeanor and felony crimes.
- Continued to work closely with victims through the DA Crime Victim Unit to help connect them to local domestic violence outreach programs.
- Trained roughly 250 state and municipal officers within the county regarding prevention of domestic violence and instituted “best practices” protocols regarding what to do when they encounter domestic violence as well as the importance of the Domestic Incident Report as a preventative tool.
- The DA’s office spoke to more than 10,000 students at high schools and middle school within the county educating the county’s youth on dating violence, how to recognize its tell-tale signs, and how to identify and seek assistance from those who can help.

For more information visit the [Saratoga County DA’s website](#).

### ***Sanctuary for Families (NYC)***

Provided:

- Crisis shelter to 72 mothers and their 159 children.
- Transitional shelter to 155 mothers and their 219 children.
- Crisis intervention: safety planning, legal screening and advice and referrals for 5,000 victims.
- Legal representation, advocacy and advice to over 6,000 clients.
- Individual counseling, support groups and psychiatric services for more than 750 adults and more than 450 children/teens.

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2011

### *Appointed Council-Member Activities*

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- Educational advocacy, tutoring, childcare, recreational activities and other services for 2,500 children.
- Job training to 70 clients.
- Job placement assistance, housing and public benefits assistance, personal finance education, economic advocacy and referrals for 600 clients.
- Conducted professional trainings reaching thousands of judges, district attorney's, police, social service workers, pro bono lawyers, immigrant service providers and many others.

For more information visit the [Sanctuary for Families website](#).

## LEGISLATION

**S**everal laws were enacted in 2011 that will provide greater protections for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, including laws addressing firearms, orders of protection, address confidentiality and sexual abuse of minors. Additional laws enhanced the state's response to domestic violence and sexual assault by expanding training requirements and extending eligibility for compensation.

### **Domestic Violence Firearm Protection**

This law establishes which offenses and what types of relationships meet the federal definition of "misdemeanor crime of domestic violence" in federal firearms prohibition law, allowing NYS to report matching convictions to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). Individuals whose names are in the NICS database are barred from purchasing guns, including rifles and shotguns.

### **Law Enforcement Policies and Judicial Training on Sexual Assault Crimes**

The NYS Municipal Police Training Council, in consultation with rape crisis centers, is now required to develop and disseminate policies and procedures for new and veteran police officers on the investigation of, and intervention in, sexual assault crimes. Education and training in specific areas related to enforcement of sexual assault laws will be included. The law also requires the Office of Court Administration to provide training for judges on sexual assault crimes.

### **Address Confidentiality Program**

A substitute address program will be established within the NYS Department of State (DOS) to allow domestic violence victims, who meet certification requirements, to designate the Secretary of State as their agent for receiving mail and service of process. Under the program, the DOS will forward first class mail to a participant for four years. The law also establishes under what conditions the DOS may grant a waiver to a state or local agency that can demonstrate the need to be exempted from the requirement to accept a substitute address. (The program will not become effective until June 23, 2012.)

### **Crime Victim Awards for Victims of Criminal Obstruction of Breathing or Blood Circulation**

This law allows the NYS Office of Victim Services (OVS) to make awards to victims of the crime of criminal obstruction of breathing or blood circulation, even if the victim did not sustain a physical injury. Victims of the physical injury crimes of strangulation, first and second degree, were already eligible for crime victim compensation.

**Final Order of Protection at Sentencing**

This law amends the criminal procedure law to clarify that a final order of protection will be issued at sentencing, rather than conviction. Any temporary order issued will remain in effect until the final order is issued at sentencing.

**Employee Sexual Contact With Inmates/Parolees**

The penal law was amended to strengthen the lack of consent provision in certain sex offense cases, clarifying that criminal liability for engaging in sexual conduct with an inmate or parolee applies to anyone who is a Department of Corrections and Community Supervision employee (including Parole) or an employee of a state agency that frequently provides services to inmates within correctional facilities, including the Office of Mental Health. The law also applies to certain employees of the Office of Children and Family Services who work in an OCFS residential facility.

**Social Services Definition of Victim**

The Social Services definition of “victim of domestic violence” was amended to include the category of “intimate partner,” which was established in the criminal procedure law and the Family Court Act in 2008 (Chapter 326). The social services law definition has always applied to a victim of *any* violation of the penal law, but has listed examples of possible offenses. This new law explicitly adds sexual misconduct, forcible touching, sexual abuse, stalking, criminal mischief, strangulation and criminal obstruction of breathing or blood circulation as additional examples.

**Interagency Task Force on Human Trafficking**

The Interagency Task Force on Human Trafficking was extended for two years, until September 1, 2013. The Task Force, co-chaired by the Division of Criminal Justice Services and the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, was established to determine human trafficking prevalence, identify services available to victims, develop recommendations to strengthen prevention, improve both prosecution of traffickers and assistance to victims, establish interagency protocols and collaboration, evaluate and make recommendations on the effectiveness of training for police, prosecutors, defense attorneys and service providers and evaluate the State’s progress in preventing human trafficking and protecting victims.

**Sexual Abuse, First Degree**

This bill amended the crime of sexual abuse in the first degree to include acts where a person is twenty-one years old or older and subjects another person who is less than thirteen years old to sexual contact.

**Mandatory Arrest Extension**

Once again, the mandatory arrest provision for family offenses was extended for two more years, until September 1, 2013.

**Judicial Hearing Officer Pilot Program Extension**

The use of judicial hearing officers for ex-parte orders of protection and orders of protection where the respondent has defaulted in the Family Courts was extended for an additional three years in the seventh and eighth judicial districts.

**Senior Center-based Domestic Violence Prevention**

This bill directs the Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence to develop and promote senior center-based domestic violence prevention programs.

## LEADING THE FIELD

**T**he NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence is seen as a reliable resource for information on domestic violence. In 2011, OPDV was contacted by state and national media for interviews, background, and opinions. OPDV's Executive Director and senior staff were interviewed and quoted on television, radio, and in newspapers. The Executive Director and Counsel co-authored an article published in the *New York Law Journal* and had letters published in the *New York Times*. The Executive Director participated in Liz Claiborne's by-invitation-only national radio broadcast event, "It's Time to Talk Day" Talk Radio Row.

OPDV staff members provided guidance to government and advocacy groups throughout the United States. The Executive Director was asked to chair the advisory board of a National Institutes of Justice (NIJ)-funded grant investigating whether orders of protection are effective safety tools for juveniles. Director of NYC Office served on the National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women, assembled by the US Attorney General. She is also on the national steering committee of the National Conference on Health and Domestic Violence. OPDV was solicited by The Office of United Nations Women to participate in an Expert Group Meeting on Gender-Based Violence and the Workplace, producing a draft workplace policy to be used throughout the United Nations system. OPDV staff also served as panelists, faculty and panel moderators at conferences, webinars and legal symposia, and provided testimony at hearings. Events included Fordham University's Annual Domestic Violence Conference; the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts' symposium; NYS Minorities in Criminal Justice Annual Symposium; and the NYS Bar Association hearing on the NYS Family Courts, National Elder Abuse and NYS Adult Abuse Training Institute.

The NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence released "Respect Love, Love Respect," a group of new online dating abuse resources for teens and young adults, designed with significant input from the target audience. The Division of Criminal Justice Services (DJCS) and OPDV worked together to launch the Domestic Incident Report (DIR) Repository, providing law enforcement officers throughout the state access to DIR's. DCJS and OPDV also ensured that police departments across the state were prepared to train all police officers on the new Model Domestic Incident Policy for Law Enforcement.

## PLANS FOR 2012

**L**ast year many important initiatives were launched, and in 2012 we will be involved in ensuring the efficacy and sustainability of those initiatives. For example, the new Domestic Incident Repository has the potential to significantly increase the ability of police to respond appropriately and safely to domestic incidents, and for probation and parole to become aware immediately when the individuals they supervise pose a risk to their partners. In 2012 we will work to ensure that all eligible organizations have enrolled for access to this resource, and have been trained on the most effective way to use it.

In addition, the state has several new goals and projects for 2012 as well, which include:

- Further enhancing our Shine the Light effort in its fifth year of implementation;
- In-depth work with one police department and domestic violence program to develop a tool kit for a post-incident follow up program for police departments, based on 11 pilot sites in 2011.
- Holding of an invitation-only round-table regarding working with people who have abused their partners, to develop a white paper that can guide collaborative and innovative approaches in this area.
- Revision of OPDV's 1998 Model Policy for Counties, in partnership with the Empire Justice Center, for release in early 2013.
- Continue the NYS Domestic Violence and the Workplace Program that provides technical assistance to all state agencies; generates a bi-annual report on the incidence of domestic violence and the workplace; provides policy development and training to NYS municipalities.
- Provision of training by national experts to four jurisdictions through a federal grant.
- Work with NYSOFA on their commitment to better identifying the occurrence of domestic violence within their service population.
- Development with the Association of Chiefs of Police; the Sheriffs' Association; the New York State Police; and the Division of Criminal Justice Services, of a guide to police officers about the legality of when and how firearms can and should be removed following domestic violence incidents.

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2011

### *Plans for 2012*

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- Support OASAS as they further refine their domestic violence screening system.
- Continued support of the statewide domestic violence and sexual assault hotline.
- Ongoing training of governmental staff in child protective services, child welfare, public assistance, health, and police on the intersection of domestic violence with their work.
- Collaboration with OCFS on improved response to domestic violence by child welfare caseworkers and implementation of family engagement strategies.
- Issuance of 2011 dashboard, annual report, and domestic homicide report.
- Completion of roll call video trainings for police on best practice regarding the completion of domestic incident reports.
- Release of a web-based training tool for police and supervising agencies on the topics of mandatory arrest and expanded access to family court, and interview techniques for victims and perpetrators of domestic violence and/or sexual assault.
- Development of web based and e-learning tools for health care providers.



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.

The NYS Domestic Violence Advisory Council is coordinated by OPDV. Its members:

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

*Anne Paille, Executive Director*  
*Seny Taveras, Consultant*

*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 Office of Victim Services*  
*NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision*  
*NYS Department of Health*  
*NYS Department of Labor*  
*NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services*  
*NYS Office 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*