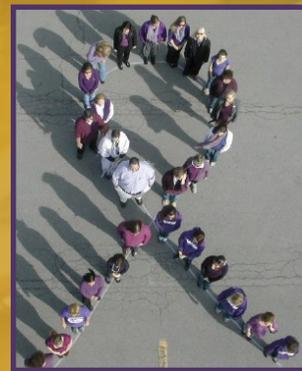


NEW YORK STATE OFFICE FOR THE  
PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ANNUAL REPORT 2012





## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....	2
NYS Executive Branch Activities .....	3
Public Education & Awareness.....	3
Publications .....	6
Policies, Projects & Programs .....	8
2012 Services .....	24
Training .....	28
Appointed Council-Member Activities.....	34
Legislation.....	37
Leading the Field .....	40
Plans for 2013 .....	42

## INTRODUCTION

**F**or the fifth year, OPDV brings to you the Annual New York State Domestic Violence Report. It is our goal to publish a report that provides a place for you, the reader, to see the efforts being made around the State by OPDV and our many partners. We want this to also serve as recognition to our colleagues in state and local government, as well as local nonprofit agencies and individuals for their tireless work in improving the lives of survivors of domestic violence, their families and their communities. Without their commitment and dedication we would be unable to accomplish all that we have.

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 impact anyone that comes into contact with the states' various systems and is affected by domestic violence. The appointed members range from concerned individuals to prosecutors, advocates, civil attorneys and others who work outside of the state system. Together, this group allows 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.

This year New York State passed a comprehensive package of legislation geared to enhance safety, foster system accountability and improve the lives of victims and their families. In addition, under the leadership of the Advisory Council, many state agencies have reviewed screening opportunities and made changes to existing screening tools and procedures which, in turn, improved identification and response to domestic violence. We launched an initiative to provide information to senior centers and increase awareness of domestic violence among our older citizens. With the merger and consolidation of state agencies, 42 executive agencies and authorities or corporations were required to comply with Executive Order 19 and develop domestic violence policies covering NYS employees. Finally, professional training continued to focus on skill development for personnel in child welfare, law enforcement, courts and victim service programs, among others.

We at OPDV are proud of the outstanding work being done in New York to reduce the impact of domestic violence on individuals and communities, but we would not be able to do this without the continued support from public and private partners. The families whose lives are most affected by this terrible and often tragic problem bear witness to your work.

## 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 norms and behaviors that allow domestic violence to continue. Here are some ways in which OPDV raised awareness in 2012:

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

Two thousand twelve was the fifth year of OPDV’s public awareness initiative that aims to turn the State purple during October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Purple is the color used to spread awareness of domestic violence and in 2012, Niagara Falls, Times Square, city halls and county court houses turned purple. Participants included non-profit and domestic violence service providers, private businesses, elected officials, universities, chambers of commerce, government agencies, law enforcement agencies, faith communities and individuals. Some creative ideas included purple pumpkins carved with domestic violence messages, a human purple ribbon, and a purple scavenger hunt. New resources provided by OPDV included wallet cards, talking points and activities for book clubs.

The “Shine the Light on Domestic Violence” campaign continues to grow and has become self-sustaining as organizations are incorporating these activities into their annual calendars. Though smaller in scale than “pink for breast cancer,” the campaign has similarly taken on a life of its own, with participants spearheading their own activities at a grassroots level. While OPDV will continue to support and promote the campaign, counting the number of participants is no longer feasible or reflective of the actual amount of participation. OPDV will continue to list on its website those participants who submit information as well as feature their photos on the OPDV Facebook page.

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

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

OPDV published three\* issues of its e-Bulletin covering substantive topics such as Gendered Violence in Schools, Family Engagement, the Criminal Histories of Batterers, Strangulation, the Dignity for All Students Act, SAVIN-NY: Order of Protection Notification Project, Health Care and Domestic Violence, and Immigration Remedies for Domestic Violence Victims. 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.

\*Due to unforeseen circumstances, publication of the Summer Bulletin was postponed and the issue was combined with the Fall Bulletin. The content was not lost, however, as the featured article and the Q&A for both issues appeared in the combined Summer/Fall issue.

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

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

OPDV participated in several press events in 2012, often in partnership with other agencies. OPDV joined the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services and the NYS Sheriff's Association at a press conference to announce SAVIN-NY, the Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification Network-New York system, which allows victims to register through NY-ALERT to receive notifications of service. Verizon Wireless announced an expansion of the entrepreneurship program originally developed in conjunction with OPDV.

OPDV contributed to the press effort related to the passage of the "omnibus bill," a comprehensive package of legislation addressing repeat offenders, bail determination and a statewide Fatality Review Team, among others.

OPDV joined with the Manhattan Borough President's office for the second time 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.

Governor Cuomo wrote a letter to the Speaker of the House supporting passage of the revised Violence Against Women Act.

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

### ***OPDV Websites***

The total number of OPDV website pages viewed in 2012 was 308,520. The website is OPDV's primary means for disseminating information to professionals, victims, systems, constituents, and the media. The homepage is regularly updated, often featuring web-banners that proclaim awareness events including Stalking Awareness Month, Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, and Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Major content additions to the website in 2012 include two new comprehensive sections for victims of domestic violence: "What Help is Available for Victims of Domestic Violence?" and "Social Service Information for Domestic Violence Victims." Another new section is "Enhancing Victim Advocacy – Traumatic Brain Injury." The Mental

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2012

### *Public Education & Awareness*

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Health section was completely updated and there were additions to the “Shine the Light on Domestic Violence” campaign page. The website was utilized to disseminate the following items: New York State Domestic Violence Dashboard, Project – 2011 Data, the 2011 Domestic Violence Annual Report, and the 2011 National Domestic Violence Data Sheet. OPDV also complied with Executive Order 26, which added a Statewide Language Access Policy Page, homepage links, and a footer link throughout the website. The website is regularly updated with new, topical information.

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

OPDV also maintains “Respect Love, Love Respect,” a separate website with corresponding Facebook and Twitter pages dedicated to teen dating violence and dating abuse. The total number of Respect Love website pages viewed in 2012 was 18,114.

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 2,003 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 maintains a social media presence for its “Respect Love, Love Respect” audience. The Facebook page features regular posts, which also appear on a Twitter feed, covering information of interest to young people and their friends and families. Posts also include news stories, ideas for getting involved, links to resources and links to the “Respect Love” website. By the end of the year, there were 811 fans of the page.

Respect Love, Love Respect’s page on Facebook is: [www.facebook.com/respectlovenys](http://www.facebook.com/respectlovenys)

Respect Love, Love Respect’s Twitter is: [www.twitter.com/respectlovenys](http://www.twitter.com/respectlovenys)

### ***e-Alerts***

OPDV gathers news of available grants, upcoming conferences, and resources of potential interest to domestic violence service providers and consolidates them into a monthly e-mail called OPDV e-alert. The e-Alerts are distributed to nearly 1,700 recipients and are designed to share information that is more time-sensitive than what is typically covered in OPDV’s quarterly e-newsletter, the OPDV Bulletin. On occasion, a news item of great significance warrants a special e-Alert be sent in addition to the regularly scheduled monthly e-mail, such as announcing the passing of new legislation. In 2012, thirteen e-Alerts were issued.

## Publications

The following members of the NYS DV Advisory Council developed new publications for 2012:

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

OASAS revised on outdated [Local Services Bulletin for Providers](#). This bulletin also has a new emphasis on standardized screening tools.

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

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

DCJS published an [annual report](#) that looks at the incidence of domestic violence homicide in New York State. That report has a special focus on intimate partner relationship homicide, which includes spouse, ex-spouse, heterosexual or same –sex partner as well as ex-partners, whether or not the victim and offender resided together at the time of the incident or had lived together previously. It also explores the instances of homicides among family members, such as the killing of a child by a parent.

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

OPDV developed new materials for the “Shine the Light on Domestic Violence” campaign:

- [Wallet cards](#)
- [Talking points](#) about the campaign
- Activities for [book clubs](#)

OPDV reviewed the wallet card and collateral materials produced by the NYS Sheriff’s Association and NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services:

- [SAVIN-NY](#): Order of Protection Notification System wallet card

OPDV produced an Information Guide:

- [An Overview of a Valuable No-Cost Tool for Law Enforcement: The DIR Repository](#)

# Domestic Violence Annual Report 2012

## *Publications*

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OPDV produced and distributed the follow reports:

- [New York State Domestic Violence Dashboard Project – 2011 Data](#)
- [2011 New York State Domestic Violence Annual Report](#)

## **Policies, Projects & Programs**

**D**uring 2012, 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)***

- NYSOFA received a Federal Elder Abuse Preventions Interventions Grant from the Administration on Community Living, which intends to draw on existing research and promising practices to pilot test interventions that can help reduce and prevent incidents of elder abuse.
- Participated in Domestic Violence Awareness Month and encouraged staff to wear purple on 10/17/12.
- Maintained Domestic Violence and the Workplace Policy and submitted bi-annual reports to OPDV.

For more information visit the [NYSOFA 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). This year OASAS also added the rate of identification of significant others into our data set. In 2012 with 204,409 treatment recipients reporting the following:

#### Identification of Victims

- The percentage of primary clients who identified as victims increased from 11.3% to 12.1%
- The percentage of significant other who identified as victims was 23.2%.
- The percentage of all clients who identified as victims is 12.7%.

#### Identification of Perpetrators

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2012

### *Policies, Projects & Programs*

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- The percentage of primary clients who identified as perpetrators increased from 5% to 5.8%.
- The percentage of significant other who identified as perpetrators is 6.2%.
- The percentage of all clients who identified as perpetrators is 5.8%.

#### Overall Rates

- 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 by surveying providers and finding out more about their practices and areas where identification efforts by providers could be improved.
- As a follow-up to the 2011 provider survey, OASAS conducted a second survey in 2012 seeking additional information related to the 2012 NYS Domestic Violence Advisory Council focus area of screening. Providers were asked when they screen for domestic violence victimization and perpetration, what tools they use, and what services they provide. Statewide, 95% of OASAS treatment programs (954) responded to the survey.
  - Ninety percent of programs responding to the survey reported screening their clients for DV/IPV at some point during their treatment episode. 76.8% reported screening at admission, 10.8% at discharge and 52.1% at any time during treatment.
  - Screening is most likely to occur at intake in inpatient rehabilitation and outpatient programs, fewer crisis and methadone programs report screening at intake. Outpatient and residential programs are twice as likely as other services to screen at discharge.
  - OASAS surveyed providers to determine whether or not they use a standardized screening tool to screen their clients. 16.4% reported using a standardized tool but then described that tool as questions on their bio-psycho-social which does not qualify as a validated screening tool. OASAS did provide a list of standardized screening tools to choose from but 77% reported they used a tool not on the list and no more than 5% of respondents reported using one of the validated tools on the list. Hence, indicating that the tools used to screen clients may not be as effective as they could be.
  - 8.8% of those screening for DV/IPV perpetration reported using a standardized screening or assessment tool. Outpatient programs were most likely to utilize a screening tool. 12% of all programs using a standardized screening tool reported using the Abusive Behavior

Inventory and this was the only tool reported by more than 5% of respondents. Most programs reported using a screening tool not on the list and most of them indicated they used questions on the bio-psycho-social. This again indicates that the tools used to screen are not validated and may not be as effective as they could be.

- When asked what services were provided the vast majority indicated they provided referrals to DV or mental health services. Providers also reported providing individuals counseling, safety planning and educational and group counseling services related to IPV/DV within their services. The percentages of providers providing each of the services varied by program type and 9% of services reported providing no DV services within their programs but rather referred clients in need of services to local DV programs.
- Based on the survey results OASAS revised their website to feature [standardized screening tools and IPV/DV screening tools for providers](#).
- Provided on-going IPV/DV education and awareness to inpatient clients.
- Sustained an ongoing cross-sectional employee workgroup that addresses issues related to IPV/DV services for employees as well as services for clients.
- Contributed to [“Guiding Principles for Community Domestic Violence Policy.”](#)
- Maintained the Domestic Violence and the Workplace Policy and filed the bi-annual reports with OPDV.

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

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

- OCFS approved the first ever State Administrative Procedures Act request. Erie County Department of Social Services requested relief from some of the core regulatory requirements for DV non-residential programs. The plan consolidated some of the DV services with the goal of better service provision for victims while minimizing costs. Erie County began implementation of the plan in January 2012 and has a two year timeframe within which they will conduct an evaluation of the effectiveness of the plan from a service delivery and cost benefit perspective.
- On October 17 2012, OCFS participated in New York State’s “Shine the Light on Domestic Violence” day in recognition of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The 5th annual OCFS “Purple Day” was conducted. All OCFS

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2012

### *Policies, Projects & Programs*

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employees were encouraged to support domestic violence awareness by wearing purple to work and lobby lights in the OCFS buildings were purple for the week. Staff from the Domestic Violence Unit manned display tables, answered questions, and disseminated literature.

- OCFS developed a DV Licensing Manual for use by the Regional Office licensing staff. This was accomplished by a workgroup consisting of representatives from all of the regions. The goal of the workgroup was to create a manual that will lead to more consistency of practice across the state as well as be useful as a training tool for staff new to DV licensing.
- 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 rates and length of stay.
- Eleven Child Protective/Domestic Violence (CPS/DV) collaboration projects continued to be funded. 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 of domestic violence and their children. In 2012, approximately 1,800 families received specialized services through the collaboration projects. In 90% of the indicated CPS reports in the project, the children remained safely with the non-offending parent. In 91% of the unfounded reports, families were able to access necessary supports and services.
- OCFS worked 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. The results of this study and more information are available on the [University at Albany website](#).
- OCFS released a Children and Family Trust Fund Request for Proposals in December 2012. Priorities for funding include supervised visitation for families affected by domestic violence and child protective services and domestic violence collaborations.
- Maintained the Domestic Violence and Workplace Policy and filed the bi-annual reports with OPDV.

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

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

- Work to gain access to the DIR system was begun so that correctional facility staff will have accurate information about Orders of Protection. This information will allow the correctional facility staff to negate correspondence and telephone contact by the offender while they are in custody. Although not fully operational in 2012, work is ongoing on this important information sharing endeavor.
- Participated in October's Domestic Violence Awareness Month by posting domestic violence information throughout both correctional facility and community reporting sites.
- Bake sales were held at several correctional facilities with resulting funds forwarded to local domestic violence service providers.

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

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

- NYS domestic violence courts, each staffed by a designated judge, heard 28,365 new cases.
- NYS 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 disputes for families where domestic violence is an underlying issue. In 2012, more than 2,696 new families and 14,799 new cases entered the 45 IDV courts around the state.
- Unlike IDV courts, the integrated domestic violence initiative courts (IDVI) do not involve the transfer of cases to one court; the cases remain where they are, however the IDVI's bring many of the IDV court benefits – 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 – to counties that do not have IDV courts. In 2012, the IDVI's served 23 new families and took in 201 new cases.
- Continued operation of three youthful offender domestic violence courts (YODVCs) in Brooklyn, the Bronx, and Yonkers. The YODVCs handle cases involving teen defendants charged with crimes of domestic violence. Responses and sentences imposed are tailored 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.

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2012

### *Policies, Projects & Programs*

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- Developed and deployed a Court Self-assessment tool to IDV courts to assist them in planning and in identifying technical assistance needs.
- Initiated a Risk Assessment Working Group in Erie County to review other court-based risk assessment projects and to explore the implementation of various assessment tools.
- Began the testing phase of a Do-It-Yourself Family Offense Petition that will allow petitioners to use an online tool to draft family offense petitions at Family Justice Center sites that can be sent to the court clerk electronically. While this will not eliminate the need for the petitioner to appear before the court, it will result in fewer errors and more complete petitions.
- Commenced drafting a Spanish translation of the order of protection to be piloted in 2013.
- Continued implementation of the Domestic Violence and the Workplace Policy, offered work/life assistance, domestic violence and sexual assault hotline and contact information for all 62 counties.

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

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

- Maintained the state's electronic Domestic Incident Report (DIR) Repository, which provides law enforcement agencies with cross-jurisdictional access to DIRs, allowing them to more effectively respond to incidents of domestic violence and enhancing officer and victim safety. DIRs are completed whenever the police respond to a domestic incident-related call for service; those paper documents are sent to DCJS, which captures the data contained in them electronically. The repository allows the reports to be searched by victim or offender name, incident address or document number. DIRs are filed by more than 550 police agencies in the 57 counties outside of New York City. During 2012, DCJS processed 313,695 DIRs, and there were 579,241 DIRs in the repository as of Dec. 31, 2012. More than 200 police agencies had access to the repository at the end of last year.
- Worked with agencies participating in Operation IMPACT, which targets the 17 jurisdictions outside of New York City that report 80 percent of the crime in the state, to encourage those agencies to develop strategies to better target domestic violence. The following counties participate in IMPACT – Albany, Broome, Chautauqua, Dutchess, Erie, Monroe, Nassau, Niagara, Oneida, Onondaga,

Orange, Rensselaer, Rockland, Schenectady, Suffolk, Ulster and Westchester – and the following activities occurred in 2012:

- In the 2012-13 Request for Assistance cycle, all IMPACT jurisdictions were strongly encouraged to design a domestic violence reduction strategy, required to participate in the Domestic Incident Report Repository, and submit the Domestic Incident Report flag on arrest cards.
- Two jurisdictions – Albany and Syracuse – were specifically identified to develop a domestic violence reduction strategy. Twelve of the 17 jurisdictions also opted to identify a domestic violence reduction strategy. OPDV reviewed and provided input to DCJS on the content of all of the proposals, and has provided support to all jurisdictions through technical assistance and training.
- During 2012, as part of a Grant to Encourage Arrest Program (GTEAP), OPDV partnered with the Battered Women’s Justice Project (BWJP) to provide training and technical assistance in March 2012 to four IMPACT sites: Albany, Nassau, Dutchess and Orange. OPDV, along with BWJP, worked with the communities to assess local needs and design training specific to those needs. The trainings focused on operating within a Coordinated Community Response (CCR) framework, primary aggressor analysis and risk assessment. The trainings were held on three different dates and were attended by law enforcement, advocates, and prosecutors.
- In addition, 295 law enforcement officials in four of the 17 IMPACT jurisdictions attended 17 training sessions by OPDV in 2012.
- Maintained the Domestic Violence and the Workplace Policy and filed the bi-annual reports with OPDV.

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

- Required all New York State Counties to include in their annual probation plan, a goal to have at least one individual registered to access the DIR. NYS County Probation Departments were responsible for 2,171 DIR searches, about 25% of all searches made in 2012.
- Issued State Directors Memo 2012-15: Training Curriculum Availability – Probation Interview Techniques and Offender Accountability for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, regarding new curriculum for probation officers to assist with interviewing domestic violence and sexual assault offenders. The four hour training is available to all probation officers through the eJusticeNY probation services suite.

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2012

### *Policies, Projects & Programs*

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- OPCA continued to grant access to and encouraged users in the field to utilize the order of protection registry on the integrated portal as well as the DIR.
- The New York State Interstate Compact Office was granted access to the DIR and are using the repository to assist in the monitoring of incoming DV offenders and to increase victim safety.
- Contributed to [“Guiding Principles for Community Domestic Violence Policy.”](#)

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

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

- Developed and issued an HR Newsletter on Domestic Violence to all employees.

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

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

- Contracted with OPDV to provide training for health care practitioners and other staff at programs serving women and children. Audience includes hospitals, prenatal care providers, family planning providers, community health worker programs, and comprehensive prenatal/perinatal services programs.
- The Community Health Worker Program (CHWP) is an outreach, home visiting, information, and referral program serving approximately 3,500 high-risk pregnant and postpartum women and their families each year. CHW's provide information, education and referrals on a variety of topics which may impact maternal, infant, and child health outcomes, including domestic violence. CHW's are not required to screen for domestic violence however they are required to educate clients and make referrals for domestic violence as follows:
  - Inform and educate clients about domestic violence and its risk factors.
  - Address safety issues.
  - Provide contact information for local resources and local DV hotlines.
  - Make an assessment for DV through observation for physical signs of abuse and assessment of behavior, discussion, and by asking questions, based on their rapport with their clients.
  - Make any needed referrals for counseling and supportive services.

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.

- [Are You and Your Baby Safe?](#) is a NYSDOH publication (#465) which is designed to help women who are pregnant or parenting identify whether they are victims of domestic violence, and, if so, how to access help.
- The Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Health Home Visitation (MIECHV) initiative supports Nurse Family Partnership programs in Monroe and Bronx counties and Health Families New York programs in Erie and Bronx counties. Funded programs are required to screen for domestic violence, refer for relevant services, and assist clients with completing a safety plan as appropriate. From 4/1/12 – 9/30/12, 496 women were enrolled in the MIECHV program, of those, 370 were screened for domestic violence at intake.
- The Family Planning Program contracts with 50 providers with 200 clinic sites. These programs have operating certificates authorized by DOH to operate as an Article 28 facility of a Diagnostic and Treatment Center, so they are required to screen for domestic violence. Each of these family planning programs must also provide annual training to staff on domestic violence, develop policies and procedures for domestic violence screening, and provide a narrative response regarding their efforts to identify domestic violence in their annual report.
- The Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) is an ongoing mail and telephone survey of mothers who have recently given birth to a live born infant. Mothers are asked about behaviors and experiences before, during and after pregnancy to learn more about how to reduce infant deaths and the number of babies who are born with low birth weight (<2500 grams). Questions related to domestic violence have been included on the questionnaire beginning in 2000.

The most recent questionnaire (Phase 6: 2009) asks the following question:

- 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?

For the years 2004-2010, 4% of women responding to the PRAMS survey reported experiencing domestic violence in the 12 months before pregnancy and 3.2% report experiencing domestic violence during their pregnancy.

- New York State hospitals are required to provide for the identification, assessment, treatment and appropriate referral of cases of suspected or confirmed domestic violence victims. Hospitals are also required to develop and implement

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2012

### *Policies, Projects & Programs*

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policies and procedures which provide for the management of cases of suspected or confirmed domestic violence victims.

- The NYSDOH funds fifty Rape Crisis and Sexual Violence Prevention Programs (RCSVPPs) at 70 sites throughout NYS. RCSVPPs provide services to victims of rape/sexual violence to help alleviate the long term effects of these crimes; and address the prevention of sexual violence through primary prevention education, with many providing curricula focusing on defining healthy relationships to prevent teen dating violence. It is estimated that in 2012 all clients served by RCSVPPs is 29,928.
- The Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE) Program at the NYSDOH approves SAFE training programs, SAFE hospitals and specialty trained health professionals as SAFE Examiners work to ensure that victims of sexual violence are provided with competent, compassionate and prompt care, while providing the most advanced technology associated with DNA and other sexual assault forensic evidence collection and preservation. There are 40 SAFE Centers of Excellence in New York State, approximately 276 SAFE Examiners and 10 DOH approved SAFE training programs. In 2012, the SAFE program proved services for 2,804 acute cases that presented within 96 hours of the assault.
- The NYSDOH has an MOU with the Child Abuse Referral and Evaluation (CARE) program of the University Health Care Center in Syracuse to establish the Child Abuse Medical Provider (CHAMP) program, a network of medical providers specially trained to examine pediatric patients suspected of being sexually abused. The goal of the CHAMP network is to improve access to quality medical care for suspected child sexual abuse victims through the provision of training webinars and on on-line education.
- The Comprehensive Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention initiative and the Personal Responsibility Education Program fund 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, and to communicate with parents and other trusted adults. Referrals are made for adolescents to domestic violence services within their communities, if indicated. Information on the Respect Love, Love Respect webpage on the OPDV website serves as a resource for funded programs. The NYSDOH funded ACT for Youth Center of Excellence has developed a [youth focused website](#) that includes information on healthy relationships and other teen related topics.
- Screening of protected individuals (i.e., individuals who are HIV-infected) and their partners/contacts for risk of domestic violence related to HIV partner notification is a required component of posttest counseling for an HIV-infected

individual and of notification of partners/contacts. The NYSDOH has developed a protocol for this process entitled [the NYSDOH Protocol - Domestic Violence Screening in Relation to HIV Counseling, Testing, Referral & Partner Notification](#)

- The Department has developed guidelines for the Partner Notification Assistance Program and C Notification Assistance Program emphasizing the critical importance of careful documentation and communication of any deferrals to assure that public health follow-up does not inadvertently put individuals at risk for domestic violence. These guidelines can be found at the Department's web site under the heading [When Documentation of Domestic Violence Screening is Missing](#).
- Maintained the Domestic Violence and the Workplace Policy and filed the bi-annual reports with OPDV.

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

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

- Collaborated with OPDV to refine the Department wide as well as Unemployment Insurance Division and Division of Employment and Workforce Solution modules on Domestic Violence training.
- The New York State Department of Labor computer system is archaic and inflexible. When an Unemployment Insurance claimant reports to the agency that they are a victim of domestic violence, the current system will automatically generate reports containing the name and address that are sent to former employers containing the claimant's address. Work is progressing with the Department of State and OPDV to ensure that our process and procedures are in conformity with recent legislation on the use of post office box numbers. In addition, we try to ensure that waivers to time requirements are considered as appropriate for victims of domestic violence who opt to use the post office box process.
- Victims of domestic violence can apply for a new social security number as a way to lessen the likelihood of being tracked by an abuser. The Department of Labor identification records use social security numbers to account for past wages and future unemployment insurance claims. Our challenge is to develop a procedure to identify new social security numbers related to recent wages while redacting the new social security information on all external documentation as well as in hearing case files to protect the anonymity of the domestic violence victim. Currently hearing case files are viewable by employers and third party agents.

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2012

### *Policies, Projects & Programs*

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

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

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

- Participated in Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the following ways:
  - Domestic violence support staff displaying and disseminating information.
  - Encouraging employees to wear purple on October 17<sup>th</sup>.
  - Collecting personal care items for donation to area shelters.
  - Collecting cell phones for donation to be used by victims of domestic violence.
  - Lighting a gazebo purple of the month.
  - Playing domestic violence themed movies for brown bag discussion in October.
- 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 2012 providing domestic violence information and updates from member agencies and systems.
  - Council Members reported out on the 2012 focus topic of “Screening.”
  - Released the [2011 New York State Domestic Violence Annual Report](#).
  - Identified “Domestic Violence and the Workplace” as the Council’s topic of focus for 2013.
- ***Domestic Violence and the Workplace***

- **Capstone Team.** Supervised a team of graduate students from NYU Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. Their project includes researching and analyzing the efficacy of the NYS Domestic Violence and the Workplace program, conducting a literature review evaluating the comprehensiveness of the NYS program versus other states, and making recommendations of action steps that OPDV could take to improve the program and/or reporting in order to make the state workplace safer for victims of domestic violence and their colleagues. Project will be complete mid-2013.
- **Domestic Violence and the Workplace Policy.** The current administration identified 42 new agencies/authorities/corporations that needed to comply with Executive Order #19. OPDV worked with them to begin policy development and identify a Liaison at each site to coordinate the initiative.
- **2012 Bi-Annual Domestic Violence and the Workplace Report.** All 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 report by NYS agencies for 2012:
  - 69 incidents of DV occurring in the workplace.
  - 213 employees reporting that they were involved (victim or perpetrator) of DV.
  - 154 employees reporting that others were victims of DV.
  - 107 employees requesting DV information. (#'s not available for 7/1/12-12/31/12)
  - 231 referrals made to NYS DV service providers.
  - 132 orders of protection disclosed to agencies.
- ***Elder Initiative***

The 2011 senior center law added a requirement to the list of OPDV's mandated activities listed in Executive law: "Developing and promoting senior center based prevention programs." In 2012, OPDV began addressing that requirement by:

- Collaborating with various stakeholders in the community: the New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA), the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) Protective Services for Adults division (PSA) and Lifespan of Greater Rochester, Inc.
- Development was started on a brochure entitled, "Understanding and Preventing Mistreatment of Seniors." The intent of the brochure is a preventive measure to bring awareness to the senior population in New

York State about how they might be mistreated and by whom. In addition, referral information will be included so they know who to contact for assistance.

- Development was started on a desk guide for the staff working in senior citizen centers. It will offer important information regarding the signs of abuse, mistreatment and/or financial exploitation, as well as referral information.

- ***Guiding Principles of Community Domestic Violence Policy***

In 2012, OPDV received a Byrne Justice Assistance Grant – American Recovery and Reinvestment Grant, to update the 1997 Model Policy for Counties. This web document is a collaborative effort between OPDV, the Empire Justice Center and subject matter experts across the state. It provides valuable information for community systems and organizations who are thinking about developing a domestic violence policy. In addition to General Guiding Principles that would apply to all systems and organizations, there is detailed information for:

- Law Enforcement
- Community Corrections
- Prosecutors/Civil Attorneys
- Courts
- Child Welfare
- Education
- Health Care
- Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder
- Workplace
- Public Assistance & Public Housing.

- ***2012 Home Visiting Program***

In 2010, the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services partnered with OPDV to develop and implement a Home Visiting Program in eleven law enforcement agencies throughout New York State. Each of these agencies were required to develop the criteria and protocols for follow up contacts with victims of domestic incidents, and prove and document these targeted, follow up contacts.

In 2012, DCJS funded OPDV to partner with one of the 11 pilot jurisdictions for the purposes of developing a written police Home Visiting policy. OPDV selected Rome Police Department, based on Rome's development of written materials during the 2010 pilot and because of their strong collaborative relationships with Oneida County Probation, and the YWCA of Mohawk Valley.

The program is structured similar to the pilot, so that police (and where appropriate, advocates and/or probation) plan and coordinate follow-up visits to

homes where at least one recent domestic incident has occurred. Designated home visiting police officers are now able to collect additional evidence that is often not readily available at the time of a domestic incident. Additionally, the ongoing presence of home visiting officers enforces offender accountability while allowing police to maintain contact and establish rapport with victims. A longer-term goal of the program involves the closing of system-wide gaps between police, DA, probation/parole, and advocates to allow for a more coordinated approach to domestic violence.

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

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

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

- Continued supervision of social service districts' implementation of the Family Violence Option (FVO) including screening applicants of Temporary Assistance (TA) for domestic violence and if appropriate, the referral of TA applicants or recipients to district Domestic Violence Liaisons (DVLs). DVLs provide waivers from TA program requirements (i.e., employment, child support) to prevent endangering a victim of domestic violence. In 2012, more than 21,700 applicants indicated current danger and nearly 11,600 waivers were granted.
- Continued to provide training on the FVO through contracts with the Professional Development Program (PDP) and OPDV.
- Encouraged employees of OTDA to participate in Domestic Violence Awareness Month by wearing purple to work on October 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Contributed to "[Guiding Principles for Community Domestic Violence Policy.](#)"
- 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)***

- During National Crime Victims Rights Week, April 22 to April 28, 2012, numerous domestic violence awareness events were posted on the OVS website calendar.

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2012

### *Policies, Projects & Programs*

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- During Domestic Violence Awareness Month, October 2012, OVS worked with the OGS Building Manager of the Shirley A. Chisholm State Office Building located at 55 Hudson Place, Brooklyn, NY, 12217 to turn the building façade purple. State employees at that office and at 1 Columbia Circle in Albany and 65 Court Street in Buffalo were encouraged to wear purple on October 17, 2012 to enhance awareness and display solidarity in opposition to domestic violence in all its forms.
- As part of an agency effort to address the Advisory Council 2012 topic of Screening, OVS reviewed the compensation process and added a section to letters that are sent to all claimants. This new section gives claimants the OPDV website address as well as the 24/7 domestic violence and sexual assault hotline numbers.
- Maintained the Domestic Violence and the Workplace Policy and submitted bi-annual reports to OPDV.

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

## 2012 Services

**D**irect services were provided by some members of the NYS Advisory Council. Below is a snapshot of those services for 2012:

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

- The Bronx Addiction Treatment Center (ACT) Domestic Violence Program provided services to 641 clients, 98 women and 543 men. Services included intimate partner groups, domestic violence groups and individual counseling sessions.
  - 98 Women
    - 60% identified as victims of domestic violence.
    - 20% identified a history of being in multiple abusive relationships.
    - 10% identified as being in currently abusive relationship.
    - 10% admitted to being the abusive partner.
  - 543 Men
    - 30% identified as being in abusive relationships in which the role of perpetrator/victim was not clearly defined.
    - 35% identified as perpetrators.
    - 20% identified as victims.
    - 15% denied being in an abusive relationship.
  - 44 LGBTQ
    - 40% identified as victims.
    - 30% identified as being in abusive relationships in which the role of perpetrator/victim was not clearly defined.
    - 10% identified as perpetrators.
    - 20% 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 87 approved non-residential programs. These programs provided residential

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2012

### *2012 Services*

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services to 16,563 adults and children and non-residential services to approximately 46,000 adults and children. 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.

- 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 94 applicants was eligible to receive an award of up to \$35,319 to support general operating expenses, health and safety improvements and/or program enhancements.
- New York State Children and Family Trust Fund supported three domestic violence programs in 2012.
  - Cattaraugus Community Action, Inc.: Agency has been supported with \$72,052 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 current funding stays the same.
  - Oswego County Opportunities: Agency has been supported with \$66,445 in the past year for the supervised visitation program delivered at the City of Fulton and the rural area of Richland. The program has strong collaboration with the 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 current finding stays the same.

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

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

- NYS OMH has a large, multi-faceted mental health system that serves more than 700,000 individuals each year. Inherent in the mental health treatment work and in line with oversight requirements and best practice suggestion is the comprehensive assessment of consumers for strengths and needs. Incorporated into this assessment is the identification of those who may be experiencing abuse.

The results of this assessment drive the plan of treatment and may include referral to a community service provider.

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

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

- ***Victim Resource Services***

Provided through a partnership with OVS 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 158 callers and 306 emails and written correspondence in 2012. 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).

- ***Hotline***

New York State supports a statewide victim hotline providing English and Spanish language crisis and referral services. In 2012, the Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline responded to 10,882 Domestic Violence calls and 352 Sexual Assault calls.

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

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

- Made payments on 1,933 domestic violence claims for reimbursement.
- Paid \$3,191,279.71 in compensation to domestic violence claimants to cover costs such as medical, counseling, loss of wages, essential personal property and funerals.
- Made 45 payments to DV victims for Moving/Storage expenses totaling \$31,872.
- Made 9 payments to DV victims for Security Device expenses totaling \$12,597.
- Made 6 payments to DV victims for Shelter expenses totaling \$7,696.
- Provided \$7,972,681 in federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds and \$1,594,536 in state Criminal Justice Improvement Act (CJIA) funds to victim assistance programs that serve domestic violence victims.

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2012

### *2012 Services*

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- Funded 46 domestic violence programs, 28 sexual assault programs, 19 dual domestic violence and rape crisis programs and 85 comprehensive programs that service both victims of domestic violence and sexual assault victims for a total of 178 programs across the state.
- Funded victim assistance programs that served 106,395 primary and 6,622 secondary domestic violence victims.

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

## Training

The following training were provided by NYS Advisory Council Members:

### ***NYS Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services***

- In September 2012, OASAS hosted a Learning Thursday that focused on general information pertaining to substance use disorders and IPV/DV. There was a special focus on standardized screening tools and benefits of implementing them as a means to more effectively identify victims and perpetrators of DV. 640 providers and 1,544 clinicians were registered statewide to view the webcast.

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

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

- OCFS presented six regional forums for child welfare, local district and voluntary agency caseworkers, supervisors and staff from approved domestic violence programs. Nationally recognized consultants, with expertise in domestic violence and child welfare, described a range of strategies for building capacity within child welfare to work effectively with and provide appropriate services for, each member of a family affected by domestic violence. Child welfare workers were also given strategies to promote effective collaboration with the domestic violence community. David Mandel and Kristen Selleck of “Safe and Together” and Shellie Taggart for the National Resource Center for Child Protection Services co-presented. Please visit the OCFS website to obtain [child welfare domestic violence guidance documents](#).

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

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

- The Unified Court System offered the following domestic violence related training statewide to judges, court staff, and attorneys for the children:
  - National Judicial Institute on Domestic Violence Enhancing Judicial Skills
  - Domestic Violence and Veterans Courts

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2012

### *Training*

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- Managing Domestic Violence Courts: New Ideas for a New Era
- The Batterer As Parent
- Seminar for Attorneys Representing Children
- Matrimonial Seminar: Domestic Violence and Order of Protection Hearings
- Domestic Violence and Family Law Legislative Update
- Common Issues in Family and Landlord/Tenant Law
- Social Media and the New Cyber-landscape of Criminal and Family Law
- Domestic Violence Awareness for Town & Village Courts
- Domestic Violence Procedures for Town & Village Court Clerks

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

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

- DCJS offered the following training:
  - Basic Course for Police officers: 27 trainings, 507 participants.
  - Pre-Employment Police Basic Training: 12 trainings, 81 participants.
  - Course in Police Supervision: 20 trainings, 326 officers.
- **DCJS Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA)**
  - Conducted Domestic Violence training for 25 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 3 Regional Motivational Interviewing Trainings: 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 Education (SED)***

- Conducted Domestic Violence and the Workplace training open to all employees in March, 2012.

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

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

- A full-day Domestic Violence and the Workplace training was conducted in January 2012 and webcast to various facilities around the state.

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

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

- **Child Protective Services (CPS)**  
309 CPS workers completed the two-day state mandated “Domestic Violence Training for CPS Workers” training. These 18 skills-based, interactive trainings help CPS workers better understand how domestic violence impacts families they work with and assist them in their case work practice.
- **Child Welfare (CW)**  
287 CW workers completed the voluntary two-day “Domestic Violence Training for Child Welfare Workers” conducted by OPDV. These 15 trainings were skill based and highly interactive providing an understanding of how domestic violence impacts families.
- **Local District Social Services (LDSS)**  
OTDA provided funding to OPDV to provide 28 one-day domestic violence training sessions for LDSS staff. This course trained 423 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 three-day mandatory institutes provided 42 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 five one-day training sessions for 94 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**  
Eleven full-day Domestic Violence and the Workplace trainings were offered including two web casts with more than 515 state employees trained. In addition, sixteen shorter Domestic Violence and the Workplace presentations were provided for state agencies.
  
- **Law Enforcement**  
36 trainings were conducted for 763 participants. Training included:
  - Port Authority New York/New Jersey Police Academy training officers.
  - Intensive Trial Skills Training for the Effective Representation of Battered Women on Custody Proceedings at Albany Law School.
  - Conference on officer-involved domestic violence for St. Lawrence County police supervisors and administrators.
  - DCJS Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives Probation Officers' Fundamentals Class.
  - Conference of Law Enforcement Training Directors Association of New York State.
  - Eastern Correctional Facility staff, with the DOCCS' Director of Office of Victim Assistance.
  - Annual conference of Rensselaer County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART).
  - Naval Support Activity staff in Wilton.
  
- **Health Care – NYC Program**  
Under contract with DOH, in 2012 began the process of converting classroom training into web-based training modules. The webinars cover 1) general awareness of domestic violence within the health care setting 2) domestic violence with the maternal and child health care system and 3) the ABCs of screening. In 2013, a pilot webinar will be provided to DOH followed by 8-10 during the year.

In NYC, 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:

- Two trainings for 60 providers on screening female patients.
  - Ten presentations on cultural competency and immigrant women for 200 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.
  - OPDV was also represented on the steering committee of the bi-annual Health Care and Domestic Violence conference hosted by Futures Without Violence and worked on developing some of the plenaries as well as moderating various workshops.
- **Health Care – Upstate Program**  
Provided a one-hour training on Domestic Violence as a Maternal and Child Health Care Issue for 30 Albany Medical Center students. This training was requested under their Behavioral Science theme and was taped so that students who could not attend the session could listen at their convenience.

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

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

- Provided Family Violence Option (FVO) training to staff from all 58 social services districts. The FVO training included screening, TA worker responsibilities, DVL responsibilities, district's financial responsibility, Title XX eligibility and the role of the Office of Children and Family Services through a contract with OPDV.
- A domestic violence awareness video is available to all OTDA staff through the OTDA internet.

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

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

- OVS hosted 90-minute Domestic Violence and the Workplace trainings provided by OPDV for all staff on July 10, July 24, and September 17, 2012.

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2012

### *Training*

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- On May 9, 2012, the Director and one other OVS employee attended the full day OPDV Domestic Violence and the Workplace training.

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

## APPOINTED COUNCIL-MEMBER ACTIVITIES

**M**any nonprofits and local government entities 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.

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

- Emergency Shelter – Provided 2,754 bed nights (up 36% from 2011) of emergency shelter for a total of 91 women and children.
- Supportive Housing – Provided 33 women and children with safe housing in independent apartments through our New View Housing programs, a total of 8,935 bed nights of housing.
- Hotline Crisis Response – Responded to 1,701 hotline calls.
- Supportive Victim-Assistance Services – Provided in-person support services to 803 persons through direct counseling, legal, shelter and economic stability services.
- Legal Advocacy – Provided legal advocacy to 176 persons, including assistance with 74 petitions for orders of protection, temporary custody or temporary support and legal clinics to provide pro bono legal services to 39 abuse survivors.
- Employment Assistance – Assisted 32 unemployed women to find jobs and another 8 with career advancements that increased household financial independence.
- Economic Empowerment – Provided Project Hope and Power, our 8 week financial literacy program to 62 women.
- Financial Assistance – Provided over \$7,000 in emergency financial assistance.
- Rape Crisis Services – Provided advocacy and follow-up services to 28 sexual assault victims accessing forensic examinations, as well as counseling and support services to assist 121 primary and secondary victims of sexual assault.
- Sustained our Community Allies Program, an innovative community mobilization program to create social change to reduce relationship violence.

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2012

### *Appointed Council-Member Activities*

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- Teen Dating Violence Prevention – Provided prevention education programs to 2,005 youth.

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

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

Sanctuary for Families is the largest non-profit provider dedicated exclusively to serving domestic violence victims, sex trafficking victims, and their children in New York State. Sanctuary has 134 staff working out of nine office and shelter locations in Manhattan, Brooklyn, the Bronx, and Queens. Through active recruitment of multilingual staff, Sanctuary is able to offer services to clients in 34 languages; many more languages are represented by our roster of over 500 pro bono attorneys and hundreds of volunteers. Last year, Sanctuary provided services to 10,505 women, men, and children out of nine offices and shelter citywide.

- Shelter – Provided safe, confidential housing and supportive services to 550 women and children at five shelters (approximately 200 each night).
- Crisis Intervention – Provided safety planning, counseling/shelter screening and clinical referrals for 2,400 clients.
- Counseling – Provided individual counseling, support groups, and psychiatric services in multiple languages for 750 adults and 400 children/teens.
- Legal Services – Provided representation and advocacy for 2,650 clients in family law, immigration, matrimonial, public benefits, and other specialties; legal advice, screenings and referrals to an additional 2,400 clients.
- Children Services – Provided educational advocacy, tutoring, childcare, recreational activities, and other services for 2,400 children.
- Career Training – Provided new in-house job readiness and hard skills training workshops, including MS Word and Excel, typing and basic literacy, preparing 125 clients for living-wage, service sector jobs.
- Economic Empowerment – Provided career planning, job placement assistance, housing and public benefits assistance, personal finance education, economic advocacy, and referrals for 500 clients.
- Financial Assistance – Provided over \$336,000 in carefully screened, need-based emergency and stability grants for 275 clients, including rent for eviction prevention, college tuition, and furniture for new apartments.

- Public Education and Awareness – Sanctuary connected with a wide range of professional and lay audiences, including victims or potential victims who may come forward for assistance as a result of effective outreach.
  - Community outreach to children, parents, religious groups, potential victims and many others, educating them about the crime of domestic violence and what they can do to help.
  - Professional trainings reaching thousands of judges, district attorneys, police, social service workers, pro bono lawyers, immigrant services providers, and many others.

## LEGISLATION

**S**ignificant changes were enacted with the 2012 Domestic Violence Omnibus Bill and several other laws designed to enhance protections and services for domestic violence, sexual assault and cyberbullying victims. The new laws will also hold offenders more accountable through increased penalties, bail limitations and enhanced DNA collection.

### ***Domestic Violence Omnibus Bill***

The 2012 Domestic Violence Omnibus Bill enacts substantial changes that will provide greater safeguards for victims and increase accountability for offenders. The new law increases penalties for certain domestic-violence related actions and repeat offenses, establishes a state-level fatality review team within OPDV, expands the factors that courts can consider when considering bail, and provides increased confidentiality of medical and mental health services used by domestic violence victims and their children:

- Establishes the crime of “aggravated family offense” for offenders who commit certain misdemeanor-level offenses and have a previous conviction for a specified misdemeanor or felony against a family or household member within the past five years (class E felony).
- Establishes a new subdivision of “aggravated harassment in the second degree” for offenders who, with intent to harass, annoy, threaten or alarm, cause physical injury to a family or household member (A misdemeanor).
- Establishes a state-level domestic violence fatality review team within the NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence which will bring together state and local domestic violence-related professionals to do in-depth reviews of select intimate partner homicides and periodically report aggregate data and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature.
- Allows the court to consider two new factors when determining bail in family offense cases: any violations of an order of protection and the defendant’s history of possession of a firearm.
- Allows victims of domestic violence to have their insurance claims, forms, or billing correspondence for medical and mental health services sent to a confidential address, protecting both the details of such services and the address of the victim from the abuser who is also the insurance policyholder.

- Prevents individuals charged with causing the death of a victim, or who were the subject of an order protecting the deceased, from being able to exercise control over disposition of the deceased victim's remains, allowing family members to make these decisions and proceed with funeral and burial arrangements.

### ***DNA Testing and Databank Expansion***

This law expands the DNA databank by requiring DNA sample collection from anyone convicted of a felony or penal law misdemeanor. In addition, the law expands defendants' access to DNA testing and databank comparisons both before and after conviction in appropriate circumstances, as well as access to discovery of property and materials after conviction to demonstrate their innocence. This new law will better protect all victims of crime, including domestic violence and sexual assault victims.

### ***Student Cyberbullying Prevention***

Under this law, school districts are required to establish policies and procedures to respond to Cyberbullying, harassment, bullying and discrimination. The new law provides a detailed definition of Cyberbullying that includes the use of electronic communication, either on or off school property, to intimidate, threaten or abuse another student. Districts must designate a school official to investigate reports made by students or parents, notify law enforcement, where appropriate, and take prompt responsive action. Schools must develop a bullying prevention strategy, advise all school community members of the school's policies and post the policies on the school's website. The law also establishes training requirements for current and new school employees on harassment, cyber/bullying and discrimination.

### ***HIV Prevention***

This law allows NYS Office of Victim Services reimbursement for sexual assault victims to receive a 7-day starter pack of HIV post-exposure prevention treatment, rather than the current coverage for a 3-day pack. Hospitals and sexual assault nurse examiners will be reimbursed directly, eliminating the need for victims to negotiate payment for this additional care. The law also requires hospitals and sexual assault examiners to provide, or refer victims for, medical follow-up, with the victim's permission to schedule. The law provides immediate and more effective treatment for all sexual assault victims, who may face HIV exposure as a result of their assault.

### ***Counseling for Relatives of Homicide Victims***

Under this law, additional relatives of homicide victims will be eligible to receive awards from the Office of Victim Services. Guardians, siblings and step-siblings of a victim who died as a direct result of a crime will now be eligible to receive an award for counseling expenses.

### ***Extended Length of Shelter Stay***

This law codifies in Social Services Law the ninety day limit on shelter stays that has been in regulation since 1987. It allows local districts to provide two forty-five day

extensions beyond the ninety days for shelter residents who continue to be in need of emergency services and temporary shelter. This change in the law will provide shelters with the flexibility to extend a victim's stay if additional services are required or if additional time is needed to transition to more permanent housing.

***Referee Authority Extended***

This law extends, until September 1, 2014, the current use of referees to make determinations about ex-parte order of protection petitions, or petitions where all parties except the applying party failed to appear, during or after established business hours. By allowing referees, in addition to judges, to hear order of protection petitions, and by allowing flexible court hours, this law helps to ensure that victims can obtain orders in a timely fashion.

***Membership Camping Contracts***

Under this law, individuals with membership camping contracts are allowed to cancel their part of a contract under certain conditions, including domestic violence. If a victim can provide documentation that the other signee of the contract perpetrated domestic violence against them, they can be released from the contract. This law will help reduce a victim's risk of unsafe contact with an abuser and remove the financial connections that could foster continued economic control or harassment.

***Probation Transfer***

This law amends a 2011 provision that changed the transfer of probation in cases where the probationer moves to a different county. Under the new law, in family offense and child support cases, the court now has the discretion to keep the case in the original county or transfer the court case to the county where the probationer has moved. This will allow future court actions, such as a violation of an order of protection, to be heard in either county, eliminating the need for the victim petitioner to travel to the respondent probationer's new county of residence.

For more information and a complete list of domestic violence-related laws passed in 2012, please visit OPDV [2012 Legislative Summary](#).

## LEADING THE FIELD

The NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence is seen as a reliable resource for information on domestic violence. In 2012, OPDV was contacted by media for interviews, background, and opinions, frequently following major national or local news events. OPDV's Executive Director, Acting Executive Director and senior staff were interviewed and quoted on television, radio, and in newspapers. An article about the Executive Director was published in the New York Law Journal.

OPDV officials provided guidance to government and advocacy groups throughout the United States. The Executive Director chaired the advisory board of a National Institutes of Justice (NIJ)-funded grant investigating whether orders of protection are effective safety tools for adolescents. Executive staff served on the National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women, assembled by the US Attorney General and on the national steering committee of the National Conference on Health and Domestic Violence. OPDV was represented as panelist, faculty and panel moderators at conferences, webinars, and legal symposia. Events included: the federal Office of Personnel Management's session on domestic violence and the workplace to comply with President Obama's directive regarding agency-specific policies addressing the issue; and trainings hosted by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and Futures without Violence, funded by the Federal Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women.

Many initiatives took place during 2012. OPDV created an online domestic violence training program for law enforcement, accessible to police departments statewide through e-Justice. The agency also convened a roundtable called "Working with Individuals who Abuse Their Partners: Recommendations for Practice" in collaboration with the Center for Women in Government and Civil Society, State University of New York at Albany and the Center for Court Innovation, featuring an introduction by the Acting Director of the US Office of Violence Against Women. Troy City Council adopted the Domestic Violence and the Workplace policy, making it the third municipality in the State to do so. The 22 members of the newly-formed Fatality Review Team were announced. OPDV and the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) completed a home visiting program in 11 regions and issued an evaluation done by SUNY Albany Human Services Research Center; results will inform development of a Model Policy.

OPDV frequently provides support to other state agencies to assist them with development of new publications and projects. In 2012, OPDV worked with NYS Department of State on the Address Confidentiality Program, the NYS Office of Children and Family Services on Family Engagement strategies, the NYS Office of Victim Services on the "victim portal," the NYS Department of Health on the federally-funded Healthy Families initiative, DCJS on promoting stakeholder use of the DIR Registry, and the NYS Department of Financial Services on insurance regulations related to portions of

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2012

### *Leading the Field*

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the omnibus bill. Staff also provided support regarding the DNA bill. OPDV staff are members of the NYS Injury Prevention Work Group, the Interagency Task Force on HIV/AIDS and the Interagency Task Force on Human Trafficking.

OPDV contracts with two law schools and other organizations to develop creative initiatives. In 2012, the SUNY Buffalo Law School began the Animal Shelter Options for Domestic Violence Victims which will address the barriers to leaving faced by victims of domestic violence who have animals. Albany Law School launched the Immigration Project, which will offer legal services to domestic violence victims with unclear or undocumented immigration status. OPDV and the City of Rome Police Department will be developing a Model Policy based on results of the Home Visiting Program conducted during 2012. A contract with Schenectady Police, Probation and YWCA to conduct a High Risk Team project is underway.

OPDV granted requests from other states to reproduce OPDV publications, gave permission for OPDV materials to be used in college textbooks, and provided assistance to undergraduate and graduate students from colleges, universities, and law schools.

## PLANS FOR 2013

**W**ith the passage of the Domestic Violence Omnibus Bill, several important initiatives will be launched in 2013. In addition, the shifting of resources will allow for much needed focus in areas that have gone unaddressed. Strengthened relationships across systems will foster new relationships and enhance others.

We look forward to working on the following projects in 2013:

- Launching the newly formed Fatality Review Team and conducting a minimum of 2 reviews;
- Collaborate with Empire Justice Center to publish the Guiding Principles for Community Domestic Violence Policy and post on the OPDV website;
- Complete supervision of Capstone Team from NYU Graduate School of Public Service on their comparative analysis of the NYS Domestic Violence and the Workplace Program;
- Collaborate with OCFS, OFA and LifeSpan of Rochester on the development of a brochure and desk aid for senior centers;
- Issuance of 2012 Dashboard, Annual Report and quarterly Bulletin;
- Creation of Information Guides on relevant topics;
- Work with Department of Correctional Services, Division of Parole Services to revise the Supervising Domestic Violence Alert Cases directive;
- Publish a comprehensive report on long-term housing needs for domestic violence survivors;
- Continue to partner with OCFS to bring state of the art training to local child protection agencies on domestic violence and family engagement;
- Develop webinars for family planning and adolescent pregnancy prevention providers on domestic violence topics such as, cultural competency, screening protocols, and general dynamics;

## Domestic Violence Annual Report 2012

### *Plans for 2013*

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- Promote a fellowship program that would enhance capacity for local domestic violence programs and improve the state's response to local needs;
- Provide webinars for law enforcement on such topics as strangulation and enforcing orders of protection;
- Fund a pilot program in one jurisdiction to implement the High Risk Model of community policing;
- Assist OCA on the translation of orders of protection into Spanish;
- Seamlessly combine the 25 year language specific domestic violence hotline into a single number accessible to all callers;
- Work within and across state agencies to improve response to employees who have orders of protection and increase workplace safety options;
- Revise and update Finding Safety and Support to reflect changes in law and policy; and
- 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.

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:

*Harry Bronson*

*NYS Assembly*

*Maggie Fronk, Executive Director*

*Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Services of Saratoga County*

*James Murphy III, District Attorney*

*Saratoga County District Attorney's Office*

*Anne Paulle*

*Seny Taveras,*

*Sharon Townsend, Vice Dean for Family and Matrimonial Law,*

*New York State Judicial Institute*

*Jeanne Walton, Executive Director*

*YWCA of Genesee County, Inc.*

*Helene Weinstein, Assemblywoman*

*Angela Yeboah, Attorney*

*Sanctuary for Families*

*NYS Office for the Aging*

*NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services*

*NYS Office of Children and Family Services*

*NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision*

*NYS Office of Court Administration*

*NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services*

*NYS Education Department*

*NYS Department of Health*

*NYS Department of Labor*

*NYS Office of Mental Health*

*NYS Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives*

*NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance*

*NYS Office of Victim Services*