



Domestic Violence Coordinating Council

2003 ANNUAL REPORT



to

Honorable Ruth Ann Minner
Governor, State of Delaware

Honorable E. Norman Veasey
Chief Justice, Supreme Court
of the State of Delaware

Members, General Assembly

Council Members



Front Row Left to Right: Honorable M. Jane Brady, Delaware Attorney General; Vincent J. Poppiti, Esq., Blank Rome, LLP; Honorable Patricia M. Blevins, Acting Chair, Delaware State Senator; Honorable Deborah Hudson, Delaware House of Representatives; Geraldine Lewis-Loper, Director, Elderly Victim Services Program, Delaware Center for Justice

Back Row Left to Right: Mary W. Davis, Chair, Domestic Violence Task Force; Honorable Cari DeSantis, Secretary, Dept. of Services for Children, Youth, & Their Families; Honorable Henry duPont Ridgely, President Judge, Superior Court; Cynthia M. Boehmer, Program Director, Families In Transition; Honorable James L. Ford, Secretary, Dept. of Safety and Homeland Security; Maria Picazo, Executive Director, Abriendo Puertas; Dr. Rhoslyn J. Bishoff (Retired June 2003)

Absent From Photo: Colonel John L. Cunningham (Retired June 2003); Chief Jeffrey Horvath, Dover Police Department; Dr. Matthew Hoffman, M.D., Board of Medical Practice Representative; Honorable Chandlee Johnson Kuhn, Chief Judge, Family Court; Honorable Liane Sorenson, Commission on Family Law Representative; Honorable Lawrence M. Sullivan, Delaware Public Defender; Honorable Stanley W. Taylor, Commissioner, Department of Correction

DVCC Staff

Ronald T. Keen, Executive Director
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A Letter From The Chair

Dear Colleagues:

This fall marks the ten-year anniversary of the founding of Delaware's Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC). The idea of bringing together key stakeholders and policy makers to address the crucial issue of domestic violence grew out of a March 1993 conference on domestic violence sponsored by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

In the ten years that have passed since the creation of the DVCC, attitudes changed significantly toward domestic violence in Delaware. We have seen significant progress in how agencies respond to domestic violence, legislative changes, the creation of standards for perpetrator treatment, the creation of guidelines for medical personnel, and the implementation of standards for law enforcement officers. The Delaware Police Chief's Council adopted a Model Policy prescribing the manner to handle incidents of domestic violence where the perpetrator is a police officer. Also, the DVCC conducted comprehensive training over the past ten years either as a sole sponsor or as a collaborator.

The most significant piece of legislation written by the DVCC is the Protection From Abuse Statute which provides a civil remedy for victims of domestic abuse. Although Delaware was the last state to institute civil orders of protection, our law is regarded as model legislation for the nation. Another critical law enacted was the statute that authorizes and requires the DVCC to conduct domestic violence Fatal Incident Reviews. These reviews help us to learn from these tragedies so as to prevent them in the future.

The DVCC Treatment Subcommittee developed *Intervention Standards* for perpetrator treatment. The DVCC certification panel uses the standards as a basis for awarding certification for treatment providers. The standards ensure consistency in perpetrator treatment and provide a level of confidence to judicial officers that perpetrators are receiving quality intervention when it is included in a judicial order.

In the late 1990s, the DVCC in conjunction with the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the medical community developed *Domestic Violence, A Resource Manual for Healthcare Providers for the State of Delaware*. In addition, the DVCC provided training on domestic violence in hospitals and clinics statewide.

Numerous changes have occurred in law enforcement's approach to domestic violence in the past ten years. Police departments have adopted procedures on how to respond to domestic incidents and provided training with respect to implementation. As noted above, the Police Chief's Council adopted a Model Policy concerning how police departments should respond when the perpetrator of domestic violence is a police officer. Also, a standard form is used by each police department in the State when reporting a domestic incident. Statistically, information is tabulated on domestic incidents and reports are routinely generated. Police officers are now able to generate computer reports from their vehicles so that appropriate documentation can be given to victims. The DVCC, through its subcommittees, has been actively involved in these improvements.

The DVCC has been very active in the past ten years in providing training to those both inside and outside of the domestic violence community, including training for police officers, prosecutors, judicial

officers, court personnel, executives, faith-based personnel, social workers, advocates, probation officers, therapists, and medical personnel.

In the past ten years significant improvements have been made in how Delaware responds to domestic violence and the DVCC has been instrumental in these improvements. However, much remains to be done as victims continue to be abused and killed. Services still need to be enhanced, agency responses need to be improved, and procedures already in place need to be monitored continually . The DVCC will continue to be as diligent in improving services for victims and improving the accountability of perpetrators as it has been over the past decade.



Senator Patricia M. Blevins
Acting Chair

Membership Changes

In the past year there have been some changes in the membership of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council.

Vincent J. Poppiti

Former Chief Judge Vincent J. Poppiti of Family Court left the bench to go into private practice at the end of March 2003. He is currently a practicing attorney for the law firm Blank Rome. When he left Family Court, Judge Poppiti vacated his seat on the DVCC. In June 2003, the General Assembly passed legislation creating an additional at-large seat. At the Quarterly Meeting in July 2003, Judge Poppiti was elected to fill the new at-large seat.

The DVCC welcomes back former Chief Judge Poppiti in his new role.

Dr. Rhoslyn J. Bishoff

Dr. Rhoslyn J. Bishoff announced his retirement from the DVCC at the April 2003 Quarterly Meeting. Dr. Bishoff served on the DVCC from its inception and was the original appointment of the Family Law Commission. Dr. Bishoff is a retired Family Practice physician who served Kent County in that capacity from October 2, 1950, until January 1995. Although practicing primarily in Dover, he had patients throughout Kent County. Dr. Bishoff made house calls as much as 20 miles outside of Dover until his retirement in 1995. Dr. Bishoff has been a member of the Family Law Commission since the early 1950s. He is proud of having represented the Commission on the DVCC. Dr. Bishoff strongly emphasized prevention to the DVCC and he is hoping that in his absence someone picks up that focus.

The DVCC respects and appreciates Dr. Bishoff's contributions over the years and wishes him well in his retirement.

Colonel John L. Cunningham

After twenty-seven years of distinguished service, Colonel John L. Cunningham resigned from the New Castle County Police Department to pursue an innovative career as the new Director of Public Safety and Assistant Professor of Business at Wilmington College. Along with his new position at Wilmington College, Colonel Cunningham also takes pleasure in working as a “Media Service Game Day Employee” for the Philadelphia Eagles.

For five years Colonel Cunningham served as a member of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, Delaware Criminal Justice Council, Delaware Police Chief’s Foundation, the Delaware Police Chief’s Association, Police Executive Research Forum, International Association of Chiefs of Police, and Operation Smile Delaware. Furthermore, in 1983 Colonel Cunningham became a Co-Founder of the New Castle County Police Athletic League (PAL). Since 1997, Colonel Cunningham has served as the Chairman of the Board of PAL.

Beyond the professional domain, for the past four years, Colonel Cunningham has been playing baseball for the Landenberg Cutters, playing second base.

The DVCC would like to extend our appreciation to Colonel Cunningham for his prosperous tenure and wishes him well in new his professional endeavors.

Chief Jeffrey Horvath

Chief Jeffrey Horvath of the Dover Police Department was appointed to the DVCC in July 2003 by the Secretary of Public Safety, James Ford. Chief Horvath has been a police officer with Dover PD since 1984. He is a member of the Executive Board of the Delaware Police Chiefs' Council, an Executive Board Member of the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Dover, and the Vice Chairperson of the Delaware Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics. Chief Horvath has been Chief of Dover PD since March 4, 2001.

The DVCC welcomes Chief Jeffrey Horvath and looks forward to his contributions.

Chief Judge Chandlee Johnson Kuhn

Chandlee Johnson Kuhn, new Chief Judge of Family Court, was appointed Chief Judge of Family Court by Governor Ruth Ann Minner and was confirmed by the Delaware State Senate on June 4, 2003. Judge Kuhn served as an Associate Judge in Family Court from 1998 until June 2003. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she was in private practice and prior to that she clerked for Justice Walsh of the Delaware Supreme Court. Judge Kuhn is the Immediate Past President of The Melson-Arsht American Inn of Court and is a member of the VAWA Implementation Committee. She is involved with the Girl Scouts of America and the YMCA Youth Basketball Program.

The DVCC welcomes Chief Judge Kuhn and looks forward to her contributions.

Senator Liane Sorenson

Senator Liane Sorenson is a returning member of the DVCC, having served previously in the 1990s. This time she represents the Family Law Commission to the DVCC, replacing Dr. Rhoslyn Bishoff. In the past, Senator Sorenson has sponsored domestic violence legislation and been an advocate on domestic violence issues. Senator Sorenson has been a member of the State Senate since 1995 and has been the Minority Whip since 1999. She served as a State Representative from 1992 to 1994.

The DVCC welcomes back Senator Sorenson and looks forward to her contributions.

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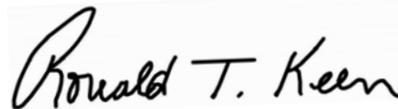
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Preface

The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council was created by legislative initiative in 1993. The full Council holds public meetings on a quarterly basis. Much of the work of the Council is done through its eight formal subcommittees chaired by DVCC members, the Fatal Incident Review Team (FIRT), and through various workgroups managed by DVCC staff. Subcommittee summaries are included in this report.

Traditionally, the Annual Report has included substantial background information on the subject of domestic violence. It has included statewide domestic violence statistics in the criminal and civil categories and shelter information.

In the early months of 2002, the DVCC activated its website, dvcc.state.de.us. A number of reports and manuals are included on the website, including the 2001 and 2003 FIRT reports, Intervention Standards for Domestic Violence Perpetrators, and the Model Policy on Domestic Violence in the Workplace. The DVCC Annual Reports from 2001, 2002, and 2003 can be accessed through the website.



Ronald T. Keen
Executive Director

Mission Statement and Goals _____

The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council has as its mission statement and goals the following:

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council is to reduce the incidence of domestic violence and abuse in all of its forms.

GOALS

- To continuously study court services and procedures, law enforcement procedures and protocol, and criminal justice data collection and analysis as they relate to domestic violence.
- To effectuate coordination among agencies, departments, and the courts with victims of domestic violence and abuse.
- To promote effective prevention, intervention, and treatment techniques which will be developed based upon research and data collection.
- To recommend standards for treatment programs for perpetrators of domestic violence to the Department of Health and Social Services, Department of Services for Children, Youth, and Their Families, and the Department of Correction.
- To review and comment upon legislation relating to domestic violence introduced in the General Assembly or on its own initiative.
- To improve the response to domestic violence and abuse.

Introduction

DEFINITION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

There is no one definition of domestic violence that applies to all incidents of family abuse. Instead, different agencies and organizations have developed different working definitions. Relevant legislation defines domestic violence differently as well. The Attorney General's Office defines family violence as follows:

The defendant or victim in a family violence case may be male or female, child or adult, or may be of the same sex. Family violence is any criminal offense or violation involving the threat of physical injury or harm; act of physical injury; homicide; sexual contact; penetration or intercourse; property damage; intimidation; endangerment; and unlawful restraint. The victim and defendant may be family members (10 Del. C. Section 901(a)), ex-husband/wife, intimate cohabitants or former intimate cohabitants, boyfriend and girlfriend or ex-boyfriend and girlfriend. Family violence shall also include specific, enumerated criminal offenses and violations in which the defendant victimizes the individual who has a relationship with the defendant's significant other.

Delaware's Protection From Abuse Act defines domestic violence in a more limited fashion. Under this legislation, domestic violence is defined as acts of abuse between family members as defined in 10 Del. C. Section 901(9), former spouses, a man and woman living together with or without a child in common, or a man and woman living apart who have a child in common. Abuse is defined under the statute to include: causing or attempting to cause physical injury; threatening to cause physical injury; destroying property; trespassing; child abuse; unlawful imprisonment; or

certain serious emotional abuse. This definition, however, does not cover many serious domestic violence cases.

Generally, domestic violence involves parties who are related by blood, marriage, or by some other intimate relationship. The parties can be brother and sister, parent and child, grandparent and grandchild, couples who have ended their relationship, boyfriends and girlfriends, and same sex couples.

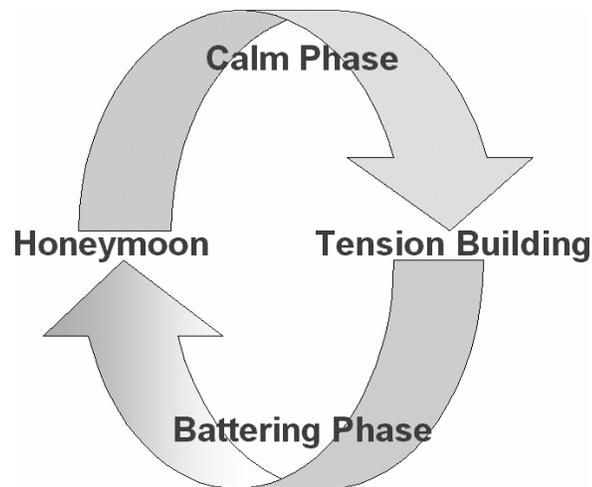
Domestic violence also includes a wide range of behaviors. Some acts of domestic violence are criminal offenses under Title 11 of the Delaware Code, such as assault, terroristic threatening, destruction of property, or sexual offenses. Other forms of domestic violence may not constitute criminal conduct, such as repeated insults and degradation, threats of suicide, or controlling access to the family's financial resources. Whether or not there has been a criminal offense, evidence of these behaviors indicates a pattern of abusive control. Even these noncriminal acts may have a devastating effect on the family.

Understanding Domestic Violence: _____

The Dynamics of An Abusive Relationship

The Cycle Of Violence

In her seminal work in 1979, *The Battered Woman*, Lenore Walker, described a pattern of abuse that many couples with a history of violence followed over time. This pattern is commonly referred to as the cycle of violence. Although not all abusive relationships follow this pattern, understanding the cycle of violence can help explain the unique nature of abusive relationships and assist in the process of ending the abuse. The cycle typically follows three primary phases:



A. Tension Building Stage

In the tension building stage, minor conflicts gradually build in intensity. The perpetrator of domestic violence will begin to respond toward the victim with increasing hostility. The tension between the couple continues to increase. As the tension builds, more frequent arguments occur between the couple and there may be numerous incidents of limited violence.

B. Acute Battering Incident

After the tension has risen to a level that can no longer be tolerated, there will often be an acute battering incident where the perpetrator of domestic violence explodes with rage. It is the force of this incident, in which the batterer often seems to lose all control, which distinguishes this attack from less serious incidents during the tension building stage. It is often during this stage that the batterer will cause the most serious injuries.

It is not uncommon for the severity and the frequency of the abuse to increase over time. Therefore, the seriousness of this incident will often depend upon how long the couple has been together and how often they have gone through this cycle. This incident of abuse is often followed by a short period of shock and denial. Victims of violence may, over time, come to understand on some level the cycle of violence that affects the parties.

As a result, victims may subconsciously try to provoke an acute battering incident, because the fear of the acute battering incident is so great, because the tension becomes simply unbearable, or because they hope to have some control over when the battering will occur (for example, victims may try to bring on the battering incident at times when the parties' children are not around). Also, parties may learn that once they survive an acute battering incident, they will spend some period of time in the next stage, the honeymoon stage.

Honeymoon Stage

This stage is characterized by calm between the parties. The batterer may be kind and loving during this stage. The perpetrator of the domestic violence will be especially nice to the victim in an attempt to win him or her back. Also, the perpetrator of the violence may believe and attempt to assure the victim that the violence will not occur again. During this stage, the perpetrator may feel particularly insecure and may be most dangerous, willing to do anything to keep the victim from leaving the relationship.

Unfortunately, the honeymoon stage does not last forever. After time, tension will again begin to build and the couple will reenter the tension-building phase. At this point, the couple has begun the cycle again. For some couples, the honeymoon stage may over time disappear completely after the couple has repeatedly gone through the cycle of violence.



The Effects of the Cycle of Violence

Not every couple will go through the cycle exactly as described above. Nevertheless, enough couples do experience a similar pattern to make an understanding of this cycle very important, particularly for those individuals who work with these cases. Many victims enter the criminal justice system immediately after an acute battering incident.

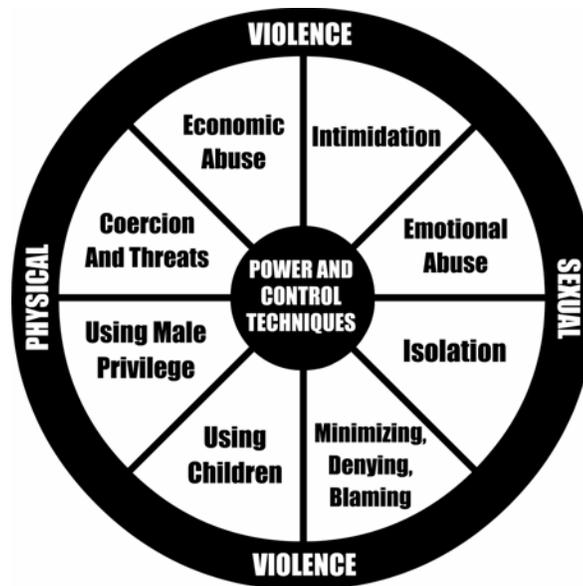
The victim has just gone through a physically and emotionally difficult experience. The victim may have been injured and deeply betrayed by the spouse or partner. Victims at this time are often described as "hysterical" - they are extremely emotional and may be unable at that time to present an organized and cohesive account of the abusive incident or incidents.

In contrast, the batterer has just gone through a long tension building stage and has had an explosive release. After the battering, the perpetrator may be very calm and collected. They may be able to clearly discuss the accusations and may seem more credible than the victim.

Unfortunately, the parties often enter the criminal justice system at the time the victim is least able to present their story and the batterer is most able to argue compellingly on his or her behalf. Only through an understanding of these dynamics can we hope to better uncover the truth and better serve these parties.

Power And Control Techniques

Perpetrators often use violence as just one means of gaining and maintaining power and control over their partners. Perpetrators of domestic violence commonly resort to a number of power and control techniques to keep their control. Once these power and control techniques begin to lose their effectiveness, the batterer may resort to physical or sexual assaults in order to make the victim again submissive and amenable to the other power and control techniques.



The most common power and control techniques may include:

- Economic Abuse
- Coercion and Threats
- Emotional Abuse
- Intimidation
- Isolation
- Minimizing, Denying, Blaming
- Using Children

Why Victims Stay in Abusive Relationships

People often ask why victims do not leave. The reality is that most victims eventually will seek help or escape from a violent relationship. The fact that so many victims do leave or seek help is truly remarkable in light of the many obstacles that make it difficult and dangerous for a victim of domestic violence to leave the abusive relationship. Some of these obstacles include:

- Threats to kill if the victim leaves
- Lack of resources
- Fear of losing custody of the children
- Shame
- Religious and societal pressures
- Response of authorities

Notwithstanding these many obstacles, people continue to ask why victims do not leave. It is time for us to change the dialogue. Instead of placing the burden on the victim to get out of the abusive relationship, it is time that we shift the focus to that person who is responsible for the abuse - the abusive partner. Instead of asking why the victim will not leave, it is time that we ask instead why the perpetrator batters. Instead of expecting the victim to extricate him or herself from this difficult and dangerous situation, it is time we expect the perpetrator to stop the abuse.

Domestic Violence Data

Domestic Violence Data

Delaware has five years of annual Domestic Violence statistics (1998-2002). A review of the State Bureau of Identification's Domestic Violence Statistics for calendar years 1998 through 2002 reveals some interesting information.

Domestic Violence Incidents

In calendar year 2002, as reported by the State Bureau of Identification, the total number of domestic violence incidents (combined criminal and non-criminal) was 28,264, which is an increase of 3.8% over the 27,212 domestic violence incidents in 2001. The total for 2002 also represents an increase of 7.7% over the 26,250 domestic violence incidents in 2000 and an increase of 5.1% over the 26,884 reported in 1998, which was the first year that these statistics were tabulated statewide.

The total number of domestic violence criminal incidents in 2002 was 17,470, which is a decrease of 1% from the 17,599 that were reported in 2001. The total for 2002 was an increase of 10.3% over the 15,839 that were reported in 2000. The total in 1999 was 16,480 and the total in 1998 was 16,030. The increase in 2002 from the total reported in 1998 was 9%.

In 2002, 70 (0.4%) of the criminal domestic incidents resulted in a dual arrest. This compares with 1.3% reported in 2001, 0.8% reported in 2000, 2.5% in 1999, and 3.5% reported in 1998. This is a statistic that has decreased dramatically over the past five years.

In 2002, the number of criminal domestic incidents in which an individual was injured was 2,968, representing 17% of the total number of criminal domestic incidents. In 2001, 19% of the incidents included physical injury compared to 19.9% in 2000, 22% in 1999, and 21% in 1998.

Intimate Partner Report

The State Bureau of Identification initiated a new report in 2002, the Intimate Partner Report. This report breaks out the cases involving intimate partners from the Domestic Incident Report. A trial run was conducted for one month in 2002. In 2003 the report has run on a monthly basis. The first year-end report, for year 2003, will be completed in early 2004.



Protection From Abuse Statistics —

Family Court processed 2,860 Protection From Abuse petitions in 2002, compared to 2,547 petitions in 2001. This is a 12.3% increase in filings. The number of petitions filed by women increased by 10.7% and the number of petitions filed by men increased by 18.2%.

In calendar year 2002, a total of 2,725 Protection From Abuse Orders were issued in Delaware, consisting of 1,220 Ex Parte Orders and 1,505 “Final Orders.”

The 1,505 “Final Orders” represents an increase of 115, or 8%, from the 1,390 issued in 2001. It is also an increase of 17% over the “Final Orders” issued in 2000. From 1998 to 2002, the number of “Final Orders” issued has increased 1.6%.

The Ex Parte total of 1,220 represents an increase of 263, or 27%, over the 957 that were issued in 2001. Looking back at Ex Parte Orders is a bit problematic. In late 2002 Family Court discovered a flaw in their automated counting procedure and made a significant upwards adjustment for the Ex Parte totals for calendar year 2001. Once the adjustment was made, the Ex Parte Orders issued increased from the 584 previously reported to the 957 currently reported for 2001. It is not known if the counting error was in place for the previous years, but the total number of Ex Parte Orders issued ranged from 479 in 1998 to 568 in 2000. Family Court is confident that the error has been corrected and that the totals for 2001 and 2002 are accurate.

In 2002, 435 cases went to trial - that is an increase of 6% over the 410 cases that went to trial in 2001. Abuse was found in 70% of the trials, compared to 71% in 2001. In 2000, 569 cases went to trial and abuse

was found in 56% of the cases, while in 1999 abuse was found in 68% of the trials conducted. In 1998, abuse was found in 66% of the 545 trials.

In 2002, “consents” accounted for 65% (973) of the “Final Orders” issued, compared to 64% in 2001, 60% in 2000, 57% in 1999, and 61% in 1998.

In 2002, 168 cases were returned to court for civil contempt and contempt was found 54 times (32%). This compares with 88 filings and 38 (43%) findings of contempt in 2001. In 2000, 138 cases were brought back for civil contempt and it was found in 99 cases (72%). In 1999, civil contempt hearings were held on 122 occasions, with guilt being found 103 times (84%). In 1998, civil contempt trials were held 184 times and guilt was found on 137 occasions (65%).

It is clear that Delaware citizens often seek protection through the PFA process. The process is viewed by victims and advocates as a valuable tool in the safety of victims. The statistics over the past five years are fairly consistent. Family Court continues to track these statistics and review any statistical anomalies.



Shelter Statistics

In 2002, there were 4,216 hotline calls statewide; representing an increase of 3% from the 4,084 calls received in 2001. Since 1998, the calls have increased 17%.

In New Castle County, the hotline calls totaled 3,186, representing an increase of 7% from 2001 when 2,978 calls were received. Since 1998, the number of hotline calls in New Castle County has increased 21%.

In Kent and Sussex Counties (including Abriendo Puertas), the total number of hotline calls in 2002 was 1,118, representing an increase of 1% from the 1,106 calls that were received in 2001. In 1998, there were 1,092 hotline calls, an increase of 2% over the past five years.

In 2002, the total number of individuals sheltered in Delaware was 656, that is an increase of 29% from the 508 individuals who were sheltered in 2001. The total number of individuals sheltered has varied fairly dramatically over the past few years, but overall there has been an increase of 17% over the 561 individuals who were sheltered in 1998. It is interesting to note that 70% of the increase is represented by the individuals given shelter at Abriendo Puertas in 2002.

In New Castle County, shelter was provided to 389 individuals, that is an increase of 52% over the 256 who were given shelter in 2001. The number of individuals sheltered has varied significantly since 1998 with the high being 463 in 1999 and the low being 256 in 2001. Overall the increase has been 5% from the 360 who were sheltered in 1998.

In Kent and Sussex Counties, the total number of individuals sheltered in 2002 was 267, that is an increase of 6% over the 252 who were sheltered in 2001. Abriendo Puertas increased by 26%, while for the other shelters the total was 194, that is the same as the number given shelter in

2001. Overall the number given shelter in Kent and Sussex Counties has increased 39% since 1998.

Directory for Statewide Domestic Violence Services: New Castle County

24-Hour Hotlines

Provide around the clock contact for victims of domestic violence 365 days a year and refer those seeking services to appropriate service providers.

Domestic Violence Hotline 762-6110

Rape Crisis Contact 761-9100

Mobile Crisis Unit (18+ yrs. of age) 1-800-652-2929/577-2484

Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-292-9582

Battered Women's Shelter

Provides shelter to victims of domestic violence and their children, in a confidential manner.

Battered Women's Shelter 762-6110

Treatment and Counseling Services

Provide treatment and counseling services for persons experiencing domestic violence.

Child, Inc. 762-8989

Catholic Charities 655-9624

YWCA - Helping Hearts 658-7161

Latin American Community Center 655-7338

Delaware Center for Justice (50+ Yrs. of Age) - 658-7174, Ext. 12

Police Victim Services

Provide support services to victims of domestic violence as they negotiate the criminal justice system.

Delaware State Police Victim Services (24 hours) 1-800-842-8461

New Castle County Police Department 571-7910/571-7379

Wilmington Police Department 576-3622/576-3648

Prosecution Services

Coordinate with and support victims and witnesses in domestic violence prosecutions by the State of Delaware.

Department of Justice 577-8500

Court Services

Provides information on Family Court proceedings, forms, policies and procedures.

Family Court 255-0300

Offender Supervision

Provides offender supervision and tracking.

Probation/Parole 323-6050 577-3443 (Wilmington)

Assistance for Victims of Violent Crime

Provides monetary assistance and relief to victims of violent crime including domestic violence victims.

Violent Crimes Compensation Board 995-8383

Court Advocacy

Provides advocacy and support services for victims of domestic violence going through the court processes.

Victim Advocacy Program 255-0420/255-0422

Legal Services

Provides free legal representation for victims meeting the financial criteria.

Legal Helplink 478-8850

Information/Referral

Provides system-wide information on domestic violence programs, policies and procedures.

Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence 658-2958

Kent/Sussex: 1-800-701-0456

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council 255-0405

Directory for Statewide Domestic Violence Services: Kent/Sussex Counties

24-Hour Hotlines

Provide around the clock contact for victims of domestic violence 365 days a year and refer those seeking services to appropriate service providers.

Northern Kent 678-3886 Kent and Sussex 422-8058

Abriendo Puertas 745-9874

Rape Crisis Contact 1-800-262-9800

Mobile Crisis Unit (18+ Yrs. of Age) 1-800-652-2929

Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-292-9582

Battered Women's Shelter

Provide shelter to victims of domestic violence and their children, in a confidential manner.

Northern Kent 678-3886

Kent and Sussex 422-8058

Latino/a Population 1-302-745-9874 or 855-9515

Treatment & Counseling Services

Provide treatment and counseling services for persons experiencing domestic violence.

Turning Point at People's Place 424-2420

DAFB Family Advocacy Program 677-2711

Police Victim Services

Provide support services to victims of domestic violence as they negotiate the criminal justice system.

Dover Police Department 736-7134

Delaware State Police Victim Services (24 hrs.) 1-800-842-8461

Prosecution Services

Coordinates with and supports victims and witnesses in domestic violence prosecutions by the State of Delaware.

Department of Justice

Kent 739-4211

Sussex 856-5353

Court Services

Provides information on Family Court proceedings, forms, policies and procedures.

Family Court, Kent 739-6545

Family Court, Sussex 855-7400

Offender Supervision

Provides offender supervision and tracking.

Probation/Parole

Kent 739-5387

Sussex 856-5243

Assistance for Victims of Violent Crime

Provides monetary assistance and relief to victims of violent crime including domestic violence victims.

Violent Crimes Compensation Board: 1-302-995-8383

Court Advocacy

Provides advocacy and support services for victims of domestic violence going through the court processes.

Domestic Violence Advocacy Center

Kent 739-6552

Sussex 856-5843

Legal Services

Provides free legal representation for victims meeting the financial criteria.

Community Legal Aid

Kent 674-8500

Sussex 856-0038

Legal Helplink 1-800-773-0606

Information/Referral

Provides system-wide information on domestic violence programs, policies and procedures.

Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Kent/Sussex 1-800-701-0456

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council 1-302-255-0405

Committee Reports

Children and Domestic Violence Subcommittee

Children and Domestic Violence became a subcommittee of the DVCC in October 2002. The co-chairs are Representative Deborah Hudson and Secretary Cari DeSantis. In the Fall of 2002, the following Goals and Objectives were established:

1. Complete system review.
2. Identify and prioritize system issues.
3. Develop plans/goals for addressing issues.

This Subcommittee met regularly throughout the year. The Subcommittee reviewed the Goals and Recommendations that had been formulated by the Subcommittee's predecessor, the Children and DV Work Group. The Subcommittee updated the list and categorized the issues as high, medium, or low priority. The issues determined to have a "high priority" include: child safety versus re-victimizing the adult victim; children who witness domestic violence are at risk of becoming domestic violence victims and/or perpetrators; how does the "system" respond to child victims of domestic violence; examine why referrals are not made to existing services and why services are not accessed.

One issue that the Subcommittee is addressing is the confusion that exists concerning the types of services that are provided by various Domestic Violence programs. A "user friendly" menu of treatment services is being developed for judges, prosecutors, probation officers, and child welfare workers as an aid in making referrals. The idea is to provide a level of detail about programs so that referrals can be made more knowledgeably.

Corrections Subcommittee

The Corrections Subcommittee is co-chaired by Commissioner Stanley Taylor and Geri Lewis-Loper. Goals and Objectives for the group that were established in the Fall of 2002 are:

1. Look at victim notification practices.
2. Develop relationship between the Department of Correction (DOC) and the domestic violence community.
3. Ongoing training for DOC professional staff.
4. Encourage domestic violence cases be assigned to domestic violence probation officers.

The Corrections Subcommittee met throughout the year. Historically this Subcommittee has had difficulty generating interest from the domestic violence community. Interest has increased in the past year as is evidenced by increased attendance and participation at Subcommittee meetings. The increased attendance has been particularly noticeable at meetings held in Sussex County.

A new development for Corrections is the hiring of a full-time victim services worker for Probation and Parole in New Castle County. The position is funded through a VAWA grant and is the first such position dedicated to providing services for victims of active domestic violence probationers.

An ongoing issue for Corrections has been the probation supervision of domestic violence offenders. Specifically, the criterion for assignment and supervision varies among the three counties. The management staff at

Probation and Parole is considering ways to standardize assignment and supervision.

Due to budget considerations, the DOC was forced to eliminate the DV Pager System. This was a program that placed a domestic violence probation officer on call during all off hours for the purpose of providing an immediate response to probationers who incur a new domestic violence arrest. The DOC submitted a VAWA grant request for funding to re-implement the program. Near the end of the fiscal year, the VAWA Implementation Committee approved the request.

In May 2003 Governor Minner signed into law SB50. The purpose of this bill is to halt or at least slow the growth of the prison population through making substantive changes to elements of probation supervision. Shortening the overall length of probation terms is a significant change, as well as is the fact that Probation and Parole has the authority to move offenders administratively between SENTAC Levels 1, 2, and 3. Efforts at implementing the bill are underway. It will be a while before impact of the bill can be measured.

Courts Subcommittee

This Subcommittee was co-chaired by Chief Judge Vincent J. Poppiti and Chief John L. Cunningham from the Fall of 2002 until early 2003, when they left the DVCC. In July 2003, new DVCC members, Chief Judge Chandlee Johnson Kuhn and Senator Liane Sorenson, became co-chairs of this Subcommittee. Goals and Objectives for the group that were established in the Fall of 2002 are:

1. Ongoing training for judicial officers and other court personnel.

2. Develop outcome measures for domestic violence cases by court and by county.
3. Look at court practices with litigants.
4. Work to resolve weapons relinquishment issues.

The Courts Subcommittee met regularly throughout the year. An early issue was the need for judicial officers to make a distinction between Anger Management and Domestic Violence Counseling as a special condition of probation or as a requirement of a PFA. The DVCC sent a letter to courts outlining the differences between Anger Management and Domestic Violence Counseling. The Department of Justice asked Deputy Attorney's General to make Domestic Violence Counseling a requirement in plea agreements on domestic violence cases.

The Courts Subcommittee considered the issue of bail guidelines for domestic violence offenders important to the point of creating an *Ad Hoc* group to study the issue. The Bail Guidelines group has been meeting monthly since November 2002. It has been looking at bail guidelines of the various courts for domestic violence cases. It has also been looking at the idea of standardizing bail forms for all the courts and improving the flow of information concerning domestic violence cases between courts. Specifically, recently the group has been working with DELJIS to improve the availability of CJIS information to judicial officers in the bail-decision process.

The New Castle County Family Court, in collaboration with the New Castle County Superior Court and the Court of Common Pleas in New Castle County, obtained a VAWA grant establishing a Pre-trial position for

domestic violence cases. The position is shared by the three courts and conducts pre-trial supervision of assigned defendants.

Immigration Subcommittee

The Immigration Subcommittee is co-chaired by Mary Davis and Maria Picazo. Goals and Objectives for the group that were established in the Fall of 2002 are:

1. Provide a forum for Delaware immigrant providers, advocates, court workers, and victims to voice needs concerning domestic violence.
2. Develop new resources and identify existing resources for immigrant providers, advocates, court personnel, and victims concerning domestic violence.
3. Create and translate training materials for internet and statewide training programs.
4. Conduct annual domestic violence and immigration events during the month of October.

The Immigration Subcommittee met throughout the year. This committee holds half of its meetings in New Castle County and the other half in Sussex County. In each meeting the focus is on immigrant domestic violence needs specific to that area. In New Castle County the focus has been to identify key leaders in the immigrant community. In southern Delaware, the focus has been on the extremely rapid growth in Sussex County in the immigrant community and what this means for victims and the services they need.

An accomplishment for this group was the translation of the DVCC “Personalized Safety Plan” into Spanish. It is currently distributed throughout the State.

There is a significant need for certified translators throughout the State. The Administrative Office of the Courts has met with the Immigration Subcommittee and educated the group concerning certification requirements and the certification process.

There has been an ongoing effort to educate the immigrant community on court procedures. Courthouse tours have been conducted and training on court processes has been provided.

Law Enforcement Subcommittee

The Law Enforcement Subcommittee is co-chaired by Secretary James L. Ford, Jr., and President Judge Henry duPont Ridgely. Goals and Objectives established in the Fall of 2002 are:

1. Address PFA weapons relinquishment issue.
2. Work with DELJIS to implement the new Intimate Partner Report.
3. Review Risk Assessment.
4. Develop training on proper use of Domestic Incident Report and Risk Assessment.
5. Work with Police Chief’s Council to implement Model Policy on Police Officer Domestic Violence.
6. Monitor Implementation of LEISS (Law Enforcement Investigative Support System).

The Law Enforcement Subcommittee met regularly throughout the year. Among the advances made in law enforcement was the development and implementation of the new Intimate Partner Report (IP Report). The current Domestic Incident Statistics Report collects data on all domestic incidents reported to law enforcement agencies in the State, including parent/child incidents and sibling incidents. The new Intimate Partner Report was developed by the Law Enforcement Subcommittee in cooperation with DELJIS to track data specific to intimate partner violence.

The source of the data listed in the IP Report is the Victim Offender Relationship (VOR) data collected in the existing Domestic Incident Statistics Report. The five types of Victim Offender Relationships tracked by the Intimate Partner Report are: 1) spouse, 2) ex-spouse, 3) boyfriend/girlfriend, 4) ex-boyfriend/girlfriend, and 5) homosexual.

The new IP Report does not replace the Domestic Incident Statistics Report, but is a companion report produced in addition to the existing Domestic Incident Statistics.

The Law Enforcement Subcommittee also monitored the implementation of the Law Enforcement Investigative Support System (LEISS). The new automated report system developed by DELJIS allows police officers to create complaints and warrants in the same personal computer environment thereby reducing the amount of time required to issue warrants online. This system replaces the Enhanced Police Complaint system.

Computer access to PFA weapons relinquishment information has been improved for law enforcement. An issue had developed that tracking whether respondents turned in weapons as required by a PFA was

problematic. DELJIS developed a system so that each police department could access the list of respondents within their jurisdiction who had gun relinquishment requirements. The departments can also quickly determine whether the orders have been complied with or whether additional action needs to be taken.

The Risk Assessment portion of the Domestic Incident Report remains an issue for law enforcement. One problem with the Risk Assessment is that it is not used consistently throughout the State. There are also questions concerning how the answers obtained via the risk assessment are used. There is also a question if the answers measure risk. There is also the question of merit discussion in the upcoming year.

Legislative Subcommittee

The Legislative Subcommittee is co-chaired by Senator Patricia M. Blevins and Attorney General M. Jane Brady. Goals and Objectives established in the Fall of 2002 are:

1. Work on passage of the Crime Victims' Ombudsman legislation.
2. Coordinate efforts with the SAND Legislative Committee.
3. Assess the need for new or revised legislation in the domestic violence and/or sexual assault area.
4. Review legislation as it relates to domestic violence.

The Legislative Subcommittee met throughout the year. A primary issue was whether to proceed with the Crime Victims' Ombudsman bill that had passed the Senate in 2002 but had not been voted on in the House. As the bill proposed using the Violent Crimes Compensation Board (VCCB) funds for its annual budget, it was critical to review the financial status of

the VCCB. After some scheduling difficulties, a meeting was held in May 2003 during which the VCCB outlined its financial situation. The VCCB indicated that the State had tapped into its financial resources significantly and that it had established a cap as to how high the reserves can go. After much discussion it was decided not to proceed with the Ombudsman bill because of the funding status of the VCCB and the fact that the poor budget climate in the State makes proposing general funds as a budget source problematic.

The Legislative Subcommittee also considered other issues related to the VCCB. Namely those issues are how the VCCB interprets Title 11 Sections 9005 and 9006 in denying the claims of victims, principally victims of sexual assault. The Legislative Subcommittee began looking at revising the existing legislation but was unable to introduce anything prior to the legislative session ending on June 30, 2003. It is anticipated that the Legislative Subcommittee will review the legislation in detail in the Fall of 2003.

The DVCC initiated legislation to create an additional at-large seat on the Council. The legislation passed the General Assembly and was signed into law by Governor Minner. This legislation brings to seventeen the number of seats on the Council, including four at-large seats. At the July Quarterly Meeting the DVCC nominated and voted former Chief Judge Vincent J. Poppiti as the new at-large member.

Medical Subcommittee

The Medical Subcommittee was co-chaired by Dr. Matthew Hoffman and Dr. Rhoslyn J. Bishoff. Dr. Bishoff has left the DVCC and his co-chairmanship is vacant. Goals and Objectives established in the Fall of 2002 are:

1. Reconvene the Subcommittee.
2. Determine priorities in the medical community.
3. Expand the scope of the medical community; e.g., include nurses, dentists, mental health, public health, and long-term care professionals, etc.

The Medical Subcommittee did not meet regularly in the past year. It did meet in January 2003. It was determined that a strategy for following up on the training of medical personnel that occurred in 2001 needs to be developed. The Subcommittee decided to submit an article on Domestic Violence to the Medical Journal. It was also determined to follow the article with a mailing concerning domestic violence to medical personnel. The content and focus of the mailing is to be determined after the article has been published.

Treatment Subcommittee

The Treatment Subcommittee is co-chaired by Cynthia M. Boehmer and Public Defender Lawrence M. Sullivan. Goals and Objectives established in the Fall of 2002 are:

1. Examine and review intervention issues in the provider community.

2. Work on developing a “certified” intervention program for Spanish-speaking perpetrators in New Castle County.
3. Determine if there are other protocols that need to be developed or if revisions are needed to the current protocol.

The Treatment Subcommittee met regularly throughout the year. One issue that this group dealt with was the creation of a PFA Special Notice. This form is an information sheet detailing for respondents certified treatment programs that are available in Delaware. This form accompanies the PFA form when it is issued and is given to petitioners and respondents in each of the three Family Court facilities.

An ongoing issue for the Treatment Subcommittee has been the lack of certified treatment services in New Castle County for Spanish-speaking offenders. The only Spanish-speaking treatment services available in New Castle County are through the Latin American Community Center and they are not certified. The certified providers have indicated that they will consider the possibility of developing a program for Spanish-speaking offenders.

Another ongoing issue is the question of mental health evaluations. Courts routinely issue orders requiring “mental health evaluations.” The problem for providers is that there are several types of evaluations and that “mental health” evaluation does not specify what type of evaluation the court is requesting. The Treatment Subcommittee will work on developing a catalog of available services for the judiciary.

The Children and Domestic Violence Subcommittee asked the Treatment Subcommittee to consider developing a protocol for children who witness domestic violence. The Treatment Subcommittee discussed the

issue and determined that a protocol was not necessary. It was felt that children face a number of different issues and focusing on the single issue of domestic violence would be inappropriate.

Domestic Violence

Coordinating Council Activities

Batterers' Intervention Certification Panel

The Goals and Objectives for the Certification Panel are:

1. Revise application materials to correspond to new Intervention Standards.
2. Finalize re-certification process.
3. Implement re-certification process.
4. Identify gaps in delivery of treatment services.

This group met as needed throughout the year. There were several obstacles with treatment providers over the past year. New Path Consultants, a certified provider in Sussex County, went out of business because the owner/therapist, John Haddaway, moved to Virginia. Also, Children and Families First, the first provider to have a bi-lingual program certified, lost their certification due to the tragic death of their therapist.

Currently there are four certified providers in Delaware. In FY 2003 only one application for certification was received. That application did not meet certification standards and was denied.

DVCC Website

The DVCC website, www.dvcc.state.de.us, has been operational since January 2002. The site is interactive and stresses a coordinated community response to domestic violence. Among the features of the website are a calendar of upcoming events involving the DVCC or other agencies, domestic violence legislation, DVCC reports, upcoming training, listings of offender and victim services, and links to other agencies. When searching the internet through Yahoo and using the words Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, the DVCC is the first of 73,800 listings.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

As in the past, the DVCC co-sponsored and was involved in events commemorating Domestic Violence Awareness Month held in October each year. The DVCC and the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence co-sponsored a press conference at 10:00 a.m. on October 1 “kicking off” Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The featured speaker was Governor Ruth Ann Minner who signed a proclamation declaring October Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Other speakers included Senator Patricia M. Blevins, Representative Deborah Hudson, and Carol Post, Executive Director of the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The speakers emphasized the effect of domestic violence on children and the prevalence of domestic violence in dating relationships.

Among the activities was A Week Without Violence sponsored by the YWCA. Another activity that the DVCC coordinated was the all day 2002 Regional Domestic Violence Conference sponsored by Delaware Technical and Community College.

Fatal Incident Review Team

On June 30, 2003, the DVCC issued the second Fatal Incident Review Team report. The initial report was issued October 1, 2001. The second report cited aggregate information on 30 deaths (including the 16 covered in the initial report).

The report included a number of "Findings," including that only 20% (6) of the victims had contact with victim services. This is surprising as 57% of the victims had prior contact with law enforcement. Another "Finding" was that in 37% of the cases the decedents left minor children. This is important because these children will have immediate special needs as a result of the fatal incident lasting well into their future.

Only 13% (4) of the victims had a Protection From Abuse Order either active or in the past. Of the 30 cases cited, 70% of the victims were the spouse or intimate partner of the perpetrator.

The report lists the "Recommendations" made in the 2001 Report and the responses agencies made to those recommendations. The report also gives recommendations based on the "Findings" of the 2003 Report. The DVCC staff is responsible for communicating "Recommendations" to agencies and collaborating with the agencies in the implementation of the recommendations.

Law Enforcement Training Working Group

The Law Enforcement Training Working Group was very active through FY2003. They finished planning and subsequently coordinated the Annual Training Conference that was held on November 13-14, 2002. Approximately 400 individuals attended the event and it was very well

received. Although some of the material was very sensitive, the speakers were outstanding and the evaluations were very positive.

The VAWA grant for FY03 is different than in previous years in that instead of a two-day event, the plan is to have a one-day statewide event and regional events in each of the three counties. The dates for the trainings have not been established and the planning is ongoing. It is anticipated that the training will be linked with a Department of Justice VAWA grant to fund evidence-based prosecution.

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Implementation Committee

(Judge Vincent J. Poppiti (Chair), Patricia M. Blevins (Vice Chair), Judge Richard S. Gebelein, Jennifer Barber-Ranji, and Diane Glenn)

Fiscal year 2002 was a very productive year for the VAWA Implementation Committee. The Violence Against Women Office funded two significant research projects completed in the State of Delaware, "An Analysis of the Domestic Violence Risk Assessment," and "Delaware Rural Domestic Violence Needs Assessment." In addition, the VAWA Implementation Committee met on several occasions to discuss funding allocations for FY 2002 S.T.O.P. Formula Grant Programs, discretionary funding opportunities, and planning for FY 2003 funding.

In January 2002, the VAWA Implementation Committee approved funding to have the Risk Assessment of the Domestic Violence Incident Report analyzed for its usage and effectiveness. Therefore, in April 2002, Drs. Neil Websdale and Byron Johnson conducted approximately 80 interviews with law enforcement officers, court personnel, judicial officers, police-based victim service representatives, shelter staff, and batterer

treatment providers throughout the State. Their final analysis was submitted to the VAWA Implementation Committee in July 2002. Subsequent to the July 2002 meeting, the report was forwarded to the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council. In October 2002, the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council facilitated a discussion between representatives from several law enforcement agencies and the researchers to review the findings of the "Analysis of the Domestic Violence Risk Assessment."

Also, a primary function of the VAWA Implementation Committee is to prepare a comprehensive plan to obtain and use federal funds available under the Violence Against Women Act. The plan must be in compliance with federal legislation and related regulations. Input must be solicited from interested individuals, State and Federal agencies, and private organizations, including nonprofit, nongovernmental victim services programs, about needs and gaps in Delaware services for female victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Therefore, on April 26, 2002, the VAWA Implementation Committee held its annual strategic planning day. Based on the priorities identified and recommendations made by the participants, the VAWA Implementation Committee solicited concept papers to address the following needs: 1) Prosecution: Update the Sex Crimes Unit System (SCUS) to accumulate data to determine outcomes specific to sexual assault and domestic violence cases; and 2) Law Enforcement: Fund equipment needs and a victim advocate within Probation and Parole. On August 29, 2002, the VAWA Implementation Committee finalized its allocation decisions for the utilization of FY 02 S.T.O.P. Formula Block Grant Programs (see attached chart).

Another major project completed by the VAWA Implementation Committee was “Delaware Rural Domestic Violence Needs Assessment.” During the months of October through December 2002, researchers Drs. Neil Websdale and Byron Johnson completed a comprehensive needs assessment in Kent and Sussex Counties, via field interviews as well as telephone interviews with knowledgeable professionals who provide services to domestic violence victims. The goal was to identify the gaps in services and needs in order to enhance the delivery of services to victims of domestic violence. The VAWA Implementation Committee accepted the Rural Needs Assessment on August 6, 2003. A working group has been established to review the findings and recommendations made by the researchers. An implementation plan is to be completed by November 2003.

In addition, the VAWA Implementation Committee put together a working group to formulate a discretionary grant application to be submitted to the Violence Against Women Office, under the Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program. Consequently, on January 24, 2003, the VAWA Implementation Committee submitted an application in the amount of \$255,148 to create an integrated system that would network Criminal Justice agencies and nonprofit agencies to ensure compliance with conditions of Protection from Abuse Orders, special conditions of probation and/or bail conditions. The success of this grant application is not yet known.

Finally, on May 1, 2003, the VAWA Implementation Committee began the planning process to allocate FY 2003 funding from the Violence Against Women Office, S.T.O.P. Formula Grant Program. In total, there were 59 attendees. The participants included Domestic Violence Coordinating Council members, law enforcement personnel, court personnel, and victim

advocates. On May 29, 2003, the VAWA Implementation Committee met to discuss the funding cycle for FY 2003. As a result of this meeting, the Committee solicited concept papers for new programs. The total amount of funds available for new programs is \$114,006 (\$27,705.50 in victim services and \$86,300.50 in law enforcement). Based on the Strategic Planning Session, the priorities to be addressed in the concept papers were as follows (**Note: FY 2003 funding allocations will be made in July and August 2003**):

- **Training:** Domestic Violence and/or Sexual Assault training for officers in small police municipalities. Training for victimless prosecution. Training for pro-bono attorneys and mental health professionals.
- Legal Services
- Probation and Parole Pager System
- **Prosecution:** Additional domestic violence prosecutors and social workers at the misdemeanor level and Justice of the Peace Courts.
- Transitional housing.

GRANT PROGRAM S.T.O.P FORMULA BLOCK GRANT

Fiscal Year: 2002

AMOUNT: \$874,000

FY 02 CONTINUATION PROGRAMS			
Applicant Agency	Concept Title	Description	Committee Recommendation
CJC/DVCC	VAWA Administration	Grant Administration	43,700
Family Court	D.V. Investigative Pre-sentence	To provide pre-sentence reports to judicial officers in NCC Family Court, CCP, & Superior Court	45,000
CJC/DVCC	L.E. Training	To continue to provide Law Enforcement training on new legislative issues, evidence collection, assessing lethality, and intervention measures. Training will include the following: 1- day conference to 350-400 law enforcement professionals; and 6 mini law enforcement trainings on specific topics.	35,437
Dover Police Dept.	Victim Service Representative	To employ a P/T D.V. Advocate within the Dover Police Dept.	22,975
Wilmington Police Dept.	Elderly Victims Contract	To contract with the Delaware Center for Justice to provide direct services, including intensive case management to elderly victims of domestic violence.	20,000
D.O.J.	Kent & Sussex Counties – Prosecuting Attorney's	To strengthen the prosecutorial response to domestic violence in Kent & Sussex Counties.	207,575
LACC	Families in Control	Continue to provide bilingual and bi-culture victims' education and counseling services to Latina women victims of domestic violence.	57,753
YWCA of NCC	Helping Hearts	Continue to provide community outreach and comprehensive case management services to domestic violence victims.	42,000
CLASI	D.V. Legal Services Kent & Sussex Counties	To provide legal representation for low-income victims of domestic violence to obtain Protection from Abuse Orders and ancillary matters (custody and visitation).	75,000
CONTACT, DE	SSAAV Program	To provide intervention services to adolescent and young women who have been sexually assaulted in rural Delaware.	51,160
Domestic Violence Advocacy Center	DVAC	To provide court based advocacy services to victims of domestic violence who reside in Kent & Sussex Counties.	65,377
Christiana Care Health Services	S.A.N.E. Nurse Coordinator	Continue to provide part-time nursing coordinator position.	30,000

GRANT PROGRAM S.T.O.P FORMULA BLOCK GRANT

Fiscal Year: 2002

AMOUNT: \$874,000

FY 02 NEW PROGRAMS			
Applicant Agency	Concept Title	Description	Committee Recommendation
Diocesan Council	Abriendo Puertas Client Support Services	To provide support services to victims of domestic violence residing at Abriendo Puertas (including transportation, support group and child care, and data management.	29,130
Wilmington Police Dept.	Equipment	To purchase a printer to enhance communication pertaining to gun relinquishment between the Wilmington Police Department, DELJIS, and Family Court.	1,913
DSPD	Polaroid Camera Initiative	To purchase Polaroid law enforcement spectra kits and sufficient film for every responding patrol officer in Kent County. To establish training for the use of the Polaroid Cameras.	26,000
Probation & Parole	D.V. Victim Service	To contract with an agency to provide outreach services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault –where the perpetrator is active on probation and parole.	42,150
DSPD	Colposcope	Collaborative effort to enhance and expand the existing Sexual Assault Response Team efforts by S.A.N.E.'s by purchasing state of the art colposcopic equipment for Christiana Care and Nanticoke Memorial Hospital.	59,100
CONTACT, DE	Rape Crisis Intervention & S.A. Support Services	To provide crisis intervention and group based treatment services to victims of sexual assault.	19,730

Conferences Attended

10/27/02-10/31/02	12th Annual Nat'l Conference on DV, Hyatt Regency, Chicago, IL (Bridget Poule)
10/29/02-10/30/02	Crime Victim Services Conference, "Learning from Programs that Make a Difference", University of Delaware, Clayton Hall, Newark, DE (Eileen Ondra)
11/05/02	DV and Court Advocacy Conference & Training, Aldersgate UMC, Fairfax
11/14/02-11/15/02	Annual Law Enforcement Conference: Stalking/Risk Assessment/Strangulation/Elder Abuse Sheraton Conference Center, Dover, DE (DVCC Staff)
1/27/2003-1/29/03	Leadership Training: Religious Resources & Roadblocks to Ending Violence Against Women, Center for Prevention of Sexual & DV Conference, El Caribe Resort, Daytona Beach, FL (Eileen Ondra)
2/17/03-2/21/03	NOVA's National Basic Crisis Response Team Training, Wyndham, Washington, D.C. (Maureen Querey)
3/6/03-3/7/03	Center for Court Innovation, DV Courts, New York (Maureen Querey)
3/19/03	DELJIS Training, DE (Maureen Querey)
3/21/2003	State Training Advisory Network of Delaware Conference, "Pooling Our Resources", Polytech Conference Center, Woodside, DE (Eileen Ondra)
5/01/03	VAWA Strategic Planning Day, Dover Police Department, Dover, DE (DVCC Staff)
5/5/2003 and 5/6/2003	DCADV Annual Advocates Retreat: DV Advocacy/Recognizing Differences While Working Together, Atlantic Sands Hotel & Conference Center, Rehoboth Beach, DE (Eileen Ondra)
6/20/2003	Family Violence Conference, "Faith Communities are Safe Communities", Polytech Conference Center, Woodside, DE (Eileen Ondra)
7/28/03-7/30/03	NOVA Crisis Response Training (Advanced), DPH Training Center, Dover, DE (Maureen Querey)

Training/Presentations

Date	Type	Training/Workshops/Fairs	Number Attended
10/11/2002	Collaboration: Child, Inc.	Professional Development Day/Dept. of Education at Delaware State University Dover, DE	4
10/18/2002	Collaboration: Del-Tech Criminal Justice Department/ Lambda Omega Fraternity	Delaware Technical Fraternity Training Embassy Suites, Newark, DE	120
10/25/2002	Speaker: Eileen Ondra	Adult Education Civics Curriculum Planning Group, Delaware State Board of Education, Civics Planning Group Dover, DE	10
11/13/02 - 11/14/02	DVCC Law Enforcement Training Working Group	2002 Law Enforcement Conference Sheraton Conference Center Dover, DE	375
11/18/2002	Speaker/Designer/PowerPoint Development: Eileen Ondra	DV 101 Training Endoscopy Center of Delaware Rt. 4, Wilmington, DE	35
11/21/2002	Trainer/Designer	Judicial Training, One magistrate 4-hour training	1
12/4/2002	Speaker/Designer	CASA Training, St. Joseph's on the Brandywine Wilmington, DE	20
3/3/2003	Collaboration: Delaware Family Court Mediation Department/DVCC	Mediation Training Dover Police Department Dover, DE	27
3/11/2003	Speaker: Elaine Aviola New Castle County Police Department, Coordinator: Eileen Ondra	CASA Training St. Joseph's on the Brandywine Wilmington, DE	20
3/11/2003	Speaker/Translator: Maria Martinez, Child, Inc.; Translator: Maria Picazo; Design/PowerPoint Development, Eileen Ondra, DVCC	Foster Grandparents Training, State of Delaware, Spanish Curriculum, "Children & Domestic Violence", Wyndham Hotel Wilmington, DE	75
3/12/2003	Speaker/Designer/PowerPoint Development: Eileen Ondra	Foster Grandparents Training, State of Delaware, English Curriculum, "Children & Domestic Violence", Wyndham Hotel Wilmington, DE	80
3/29/2003	Speaker/Design/PowerPoint Development;; Eileen Ondra	D.A.C.E. Conference, State Board of Education, Dewey Beach, DE, "Integration of Domestic Violence Information Into Adult Education Programs"	15

Training/Presentations

Date	Type	Training/Workshops/Fairs	Number Attended
4/1/2003	Collaboration: CONTACT, Delaware; Involvement: Audiovisual/Planning	Sexual Assault Response Team Conference Dover Downs, Dover, DE	175
4/9/2003	Booth	Del-Castle High School Wellness Fair Del-Castle High School	85
4/15/2003	Booth	The Abuse Intervention Consortium's First Annual Conference: "Putting the Pieces Together: Working Together for Delaware's Children and Families" Dover Downs, Dover, DE	45
5/12/2003	Speaker: Ronald T. Keen, Executive Director; AV: Eileen Ondra	Family Law Fundamentals Seminar Delaware State Bar Association Wilmington, DE	45
6/3/2003	Collaboration: University of Delaware Police, DVCC (Eileen Ondra, Lt. Joseph Evans - Coordination) Speakers: Gerry Donovan, New Castle County Police Department; Deborah Holbrook, Nanticoke Memorial Hospital; Dawn Schatz, Child, Inc.; Shelly O'Connell, CONTACT Delaware	Domestic Violence Training: Medical Collection of Evidence/Drug-Facilitated Rape/Dynamics of Dating Violence	35
6/10/2003	Collaboration: University of Delaware Police, DVCC (Eileen Ondra, Lt. Joseph Evans - Coordination) Speakers: Deborah Holbrook, Nanticoke Memorial Hospital; Dawn Schatz, Child, Inc.; Shelly O'Connell, CONTACT Delaware	Domestic Violence Training: Medical Collection of Evidence/Drug-Facilitated Rape/Dynamics of Dating Violence	35
6/20/2003	Collaboration: DE Ecumenical Council on Children and Families, Inc./ DVCC/Other State of Delaware collaborators Grant No. 90E0267/01	Delaware Collaborative Project on Family Violence presents, "Faith Communities Are Safe Communities", Polytech Conference Center, Woodside, Delaware	75
6/24/2003	Trainer: Eileen Ondra PowerPoint and Curriculum Design	Judicial Training - one magistrate - 4 hour training	1

Conclusion

Conclusion

FY 2003 was an eventful and productive year for the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC). It began tragically with a series of domestic violence homicides, some very public, that grabbed media and public attention. The DVCC responded by aggressively promoting victim safety through the newspapers, radio, and television. The DVCC circulated more broadly its Personalized Safety Plan for victims. Even though the public attention to domestic violence has faded along with the media's attention, the DVCC has continued to promote victim safety aggressively .

The DVCC has also witnessed the impact of budget shortages. Positions in domestic violence service agencies have been cut and the effected agencies have not been able to fill them. Nonprofit agencies have seen funding dry up and they have had to cut back on services.

The DVCC has seen significant changes in membership and leadership over the past year. Chief John L. Cunningham and Dr. Rhoslyn J. Bishoff have left the DVCC and have been replaced by Chief Jeffrey Horvath and Senator Liane Sorenson. Chief Judge Vincent Poppiti left the bench and the chairmanship of the DVCC, but returned to the DVCC as an at-large member. Chief Judge Chandlee Johnson Kuhn replaced Judge Poppiti as Chief Judge of Family Court and assumed her position on the DVCC.

Through the Violence Against Women Act, research in two areas was conducted in FY03. An analysis of the Risk Assessment (which is a component of the Domestic Incident Report) which began in FY02 was completed in FY03. It has been presented to police chiefs and will soon be presented publicly. Also, an analysis of the needs of rural communities in Kent and Sussex Counties was recently completed. Work on both of these efforts will continue into FY04 and beyond.

Conclusion

The DVCC goals for 2004 remain generally what they have been in recent years. The DVCC remains committed to working to eliminate domestic violence in Delaware in all its forms.

Legislation

SPONSOR: Sen. Blevins & Rep. Hudson

DELAWARE STATE SENATE

142nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE BILL NO. 45

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 13 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:

Section 1. Amend §2102, Title 13, Delaware Code by deleting the number "16", as found in the introductory sentence, and substituting in lieu thereof the number "17".

Section 2. Amend §2102(14), Title 13, Delaware Code by deleting the word "Three" as found therein, and substituting in lieu thereof the word "Four".

SYNOPSIS

This Bill adds another at-large member to the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council.

Author: Senator Blevins