



Domestic Violence Coordinating Council

2005 ANNUAL REPORT



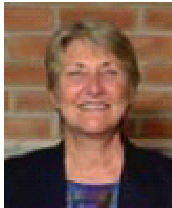
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Council Chair



Hon. Chandlee Johnson Kuhn
Chief Judge Family Court
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Families In Transition
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Ms. Mary Davis
Chair, Domestic
Violence Task Force



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Secretary, The Dept. of Services for
Children, Youth, and Their Families



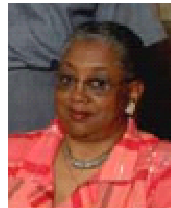
Dr. Matthew Hoffman
Christiana Hospital
Medical Board Appointee



Chief Jeffrey Horvath
Dover Police Department
Law Enforcement Representative



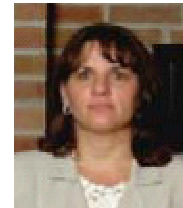
Hon. Deborah Hudson
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Ms. Geraldine Lewis-Loper
Delaware Center for Justice
Member at Large



Hon. David B. Mitchell
Secretary, Dept. of Safety and
Homeland Security



Ms. Maria Picazo
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Hon. Lawrence M. Sullivan
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Dept. of Correction



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Ronald T. Keen
Executive Director



Bridget V. Poule
Project Coordinator



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VAWA Planner



Eileen Ondra
Trainer/Educator



Kenzel V. Messick
Senior Secretary

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Membership Changes

On July 22, 2004, President Judge Henry duPont Ridgely was appointed to the Delaware Supreme Court, thus vacating his seat on the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council. Superior Court Judge James T. Vaughn, Jr., was appointed President Judge of Superior Court and took office on October 12, 2004. The DVCC welcomes the perspective that President Judge Vaughn brings to domestic violence and looks forward to his contributions to the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council.

A Letter From The Chairs

Dear Colleagues:

We are proud to present the 2005 Annual Report of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council. As a new fiscal year begins and as we approach October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we reflect on the work that we have accomplished as a community to reduce and respond to domestic violence, thereby making Delaware safer for the next generation.

The Coordinating Council works to coordinate the community response to domestic violence in conjunction with cabinet level state partners, community leaders and domestic violence advocates.

The courts are working with police agencies to reduce gun violence against victims of domestic violence; Family Court is working with Visitation Center employees to reduce the amount of time their employees spend in court; the Violent Crimes Compensation Board is working with domestic violence advocates to ensure that victims are able to access all available resources to aid in their recovery; and the Attorney General, the Children's Department, the law enforcement community, the Chief Magistrate, and many others, work diligently to review fatal domestic violence incidents to help prevent these tragedies in the future.

These are just a few examples of what the coordinated response of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council does each and every year. As we start a new fiscal year, we are excited to continue efforts that began last year including engaging the medical community, studying ways to integrate information so as to better serve the needs of victims and hold offenders accountable, and developing a system for the coordinated and integrated system of services delivery to victims. We also are beginning the planning of new and even more creative and inclusive trainings, to begin to coordinate

A Letter From The Chairs

our fatal incident reviews with the Child Death Review Commission, and to find new ways to address the unique needs of Delaware's immigrant families, Delaware's children who witness domestic violence, and all of the victims of domestic violence in Delaware. Finally, we are enthusiastically anticipating the work of our Public Awareness Subcommittee which begins its efforts this year.

Thank you for your continued support.



Senator Patricia M. Blevins
Chair



Chief Judge Chandlee Johnson Kuhn
Vice Chair

Preface

The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) was created by the General Assembly in 1993. The full Council holds public meetings on a Quarterly basis. Much of the work of the Council is accomplished through eight subcommittees, the Fatal Incident Review Team (FIRT), and through various workgroups managed by DVCC staff. Subcommittee summaries are included in this report.

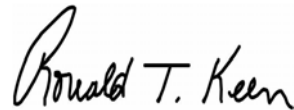
In the past year, the DVCC responded to recommendations made by the Violence Against Women Act Consortium and by the Fatal Incident Review Team that more needs to be done in making the public aware of domestic violence by creating the Public Awareness/Education Subcommittee. This subcommittee, which began its work in the summer of 2005, will strive to make the public more aware of domestic violence and victims more aware of resources that are available to them. Also, two DVCC subcommittees, Corrections and Intervention and Treatment, were combined to form the Corrections and Treatment Subcommittee.

Traditionally, the Annual Report includes substantial background information on the subject of domestic violence. It also includes statewide domestic violence statistics in the criminal and civil categories and shelter information. In early 2002, the DVCC activated its website, www.dvcc.state.de.us. A number of reports and manuals are included on the website, including the FIRT reports issued in 2001, 2003, 2004, and 2005, Intervention Standards for Domestic Violence Perpetrators, the Model Policy on Domestic Violence in the Workplace, and Violence Against Women Act-funded reports on Risk Assessment (a form which is attached to the Domestic Incident Report used by police officers) and the need for domestic violence services in rural communities. Additionally, every Annual Report from 2001 to the present can be accessed through the website. The DVCC is very proud of

Preface

the website as it gives Delaware an opportunity to share with others what is happening in the domestic violence community in Delaware.

In late 2003, the DVCC published the first issue of *DV News* a Quarterly newsletter. Since then, the DVCC has endeavored to communicate through the *DV News* important events in domestic violence to the domestic violence community in Delaware.



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.

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:

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.

C. 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 feel 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 his/her 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 also 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 submissive and amenable to the other power and control techniques.

Common Power and Control Techniques	
Economic Abuse	Isolation
Coercion and Threats	Minimizing, Denying, Blaming
Emotional Abuse	Using Children
Intimidation	

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:

Understanding Domestic Violence: The Dynamics of An Abusive Relationship

Situational Factors	
Economic dependence	Lack of job skills
Fear of emotional damage to children	Social isolation resulting in lack of support from family or friends
Fear of greater physical danger to themselves and their children if they attempt to leave	Lack of information regarding alternatives
Fear of losing custody of children	Fear of involvement in court processes
Lack of alternative housing	Cultural and religious constraints
Fear of retaliation	

Emotional Factors	
Fear of feeling lonely	Fear that husband is not able to survive alone
Insecurity over potential independence and lack of emotional support	Ambivalence and fear over making formidable life changes
Guilt over failure of marriage	Belief that husband will change

Understanding Domestic Violence: The Dynamics of An Abusive Relationship

Notwithstanding many of these 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 the person responsible for the abuse - the abusive partner. Instead of asking why the victim will not leave, it is time that we ask 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.

Hart, Esq., Barbara J., (1990). *Why She Stays, When She Leaves*, © PCADV
See Copy of Article, Appendix I, DVCC 2005 Annual Report.

Domestic Violence Criminal Data _____

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATISTICS

Delaware has seven years of domestic violence statistics (1998-2004). A review of the statistics published by the State Bureau of Identification for calendar years 1998 through 2004 reveals some interesting information and trends.

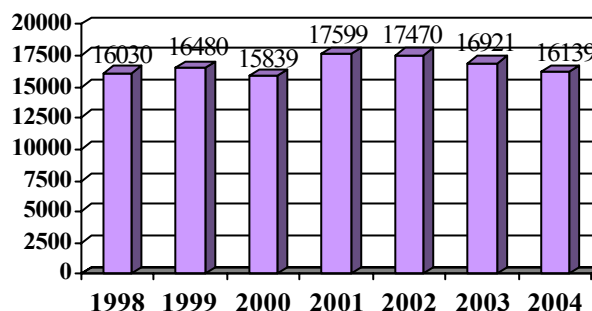
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INCIDENTS

In calendar year 2004, as reported by the State Bureau of Identification, the total number of domestic violence incidents in Delaware (combined criminal and non-criminal) was 27,477. This number represents the police response to domestic violence related activities. The average for the seven-year period is 27,427. The total number has decreased slightly each of the past two years. While the number is certainly higher than we would like, we hope it will continue to decrease creating a downward trend.

Domestic Violence Criminal Incidents

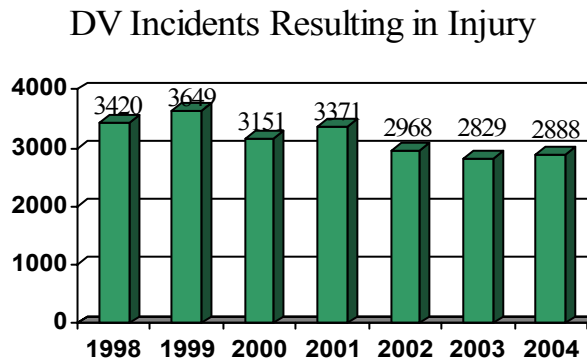
In calendar year 2004, the total number of domestic violence criminal incidents was 16,139, representing the lowest total since 2000. The average for the seven-year period is 16,639. The total has continually decreased each of the past three years.

DV Criminal Incidents



Domestic Violence Incidents Resulting in Injury

In 2004, someone was injured in 18% of all criminal domestic incidents. The good news, however, is that over the past seven years, the number of people injured has decreased from more than 3,600 injuries in 1999. The total has been lower than 3,000 for each of the past three years.



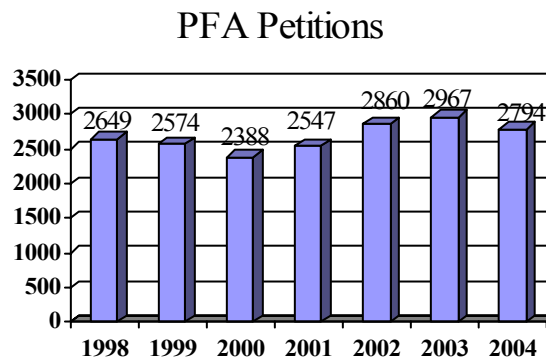
INTIMATE PARTNER REPORT

In 2003, Delaware began keeping statistics on domestic violence between intimate partners. For 2004, 7,819 criminal domestic violence incidents were between intimate partners. This number represents 48% of the total criminal domestic violence incidents. 76% of the reported victims were female and 24% were male. 20% of the incidents involved injuries.

Protection From Abuse Statistics

Protection From Abuse Petitions

Family Court processed 2,794 Protection From Abuse Petitions statewide in 2004. This total represents the first decrease since 2000. Since the DVCC began tracking PFA data in 1998, the highest number of annual filings was 2,967 in 2003 and the lowest number was 2,388 reported in 2000. The average for the seven-year period is 2,683. These totals indicate that citizens are attempting to use this potential remedy on a consistent basis.

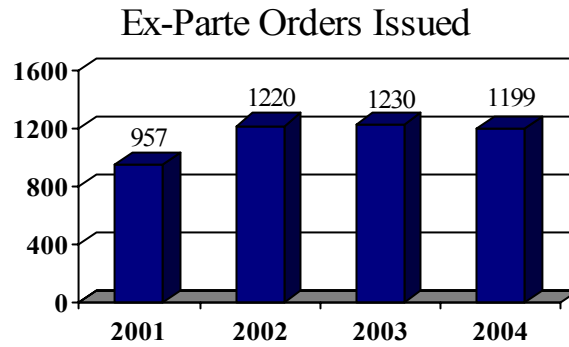


Ex-Parte Orders Issued

An Ex-Parte Order is a temporary order issued by the court when the Court determines that the petitioner is in immediate danger. The temporary order remains in effect for ten days until the regular hearing is held.

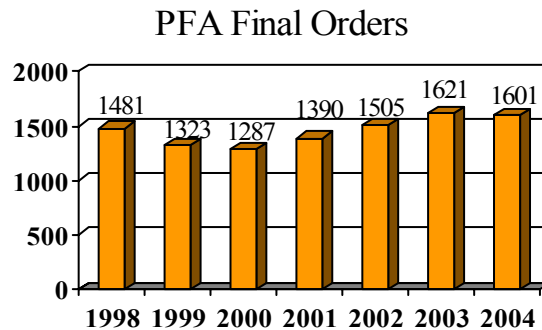
In 2004, Family Court issued 1,199 Ex-Parte or Emergency Orders. These orders last no more than ten days. From 2001 through 2004, the average number of ex-parte orders issued was 1,152 (PFA Orders issued include Ex-Parte Orders and Final Orders).

Ex-Parte Orders Issued (continued)



Protection From Abuse Final Orders Issued

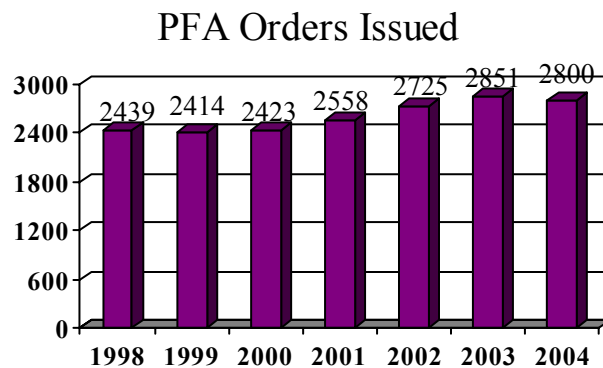
In 2004, there were 1,601 Final Protection From Abuse Orders issued statewide. The average annual number of Final Protection From Abuse Orders issued during the seven-year period, from 1998 to 2004, was 1,458.



Protection From Abuse Orders Issued (Total)

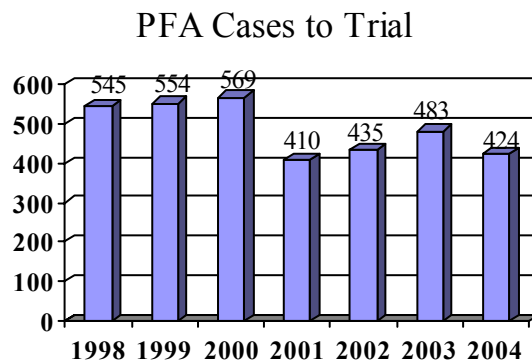
(The totals include Ex-Parte Orders and Protection From Abuse Final Orders)

In 2004, a total of 2,800 Protection From Abuse Orders were issued in Delaware. For the seven-year period beginning in 1998, the highest annual number of Protection From Abuse Orders was the 2,851 issued in 2003 and the lowest number was the 2,414 in 1999. The average for the seven-year period was 2,601.



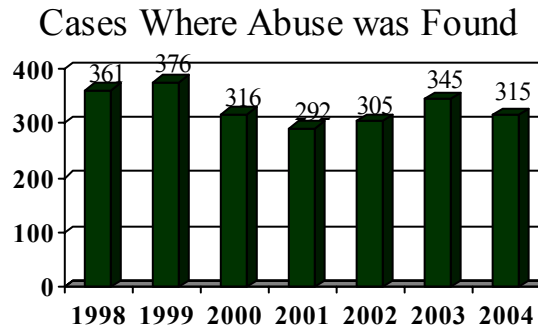
Protection From Abuse Cases to Trial

In 2004, a total of 424 Protection From Abuse Petitions were taken to trial. The remainder settled out of court. Over the seven-year period beginning in 1998, the number of Protection From Abuse Petitions that were tried has decreased.



Cases Where Abuse Was Found

In 2004, abuse was found in 315 cases, which is 75% of the cases that went to trial. The average number of cases with a finding of abuse for the seven-year period was 67.5%.



Civil Contempt

In 2004, 129 cases were returned to Family Court on a charge of Civil Contempt of a PFA. The average for the six-year period was 139. The number of findings by the court that the civil contempt was warranted has varied widely over the years, from 32% in 2002 to 84% in 1999. Based upon what appears to be a significant variance in dispositional outcome, it is recommended that the DVCC and the Family Court review this data.

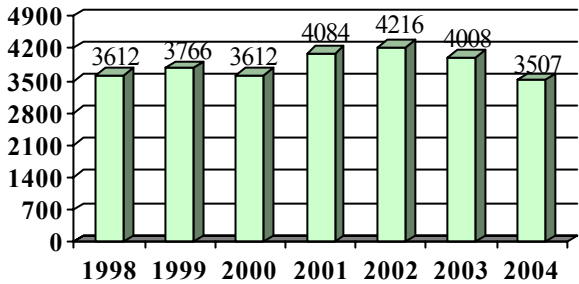
Civil contempt is a remedy available to victims when they believe the respondent has not complied with the conditions of the PFA. This action is one that the victim files with Family Court. The other remedy for victims is Criminal Contempt of a PFA which a victim files with the police. Statistical data on criminal contempt of a PFA is not maintained by Family Court.

Shelter Statistics

Statewide Hotline Calls

In 2004, there were 3,507 calls statewide to the domestic violence hotlines. Since the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council began tracking this data in 1998, the average annual total is 3,829. The total for 2004 represents the lowest total of the seven-year period and a decrease of 12.5% from 2003. The decrease is particularly noticeable in Kent and Sussex Counties. The DVCC Public Awareness Subcommittee will review this data in upcoming months.

Statewide Hotline Calls

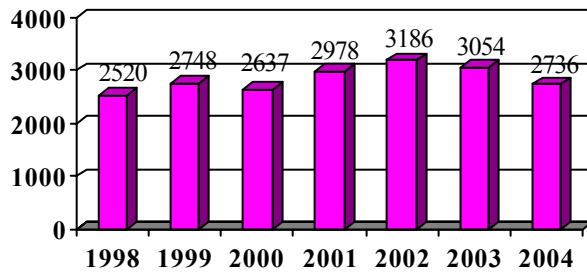


New Castle County Hotline Calls

In 2004, there were 2,736 calls to the domestic violence hotline in New Castle County. This represents a decrease of 10.4% from the 3,054 that were received in 2003. The average for the seven-year period beginning in 1998 is 2,837 calls.

New Castle County Hotline Calls (continued)

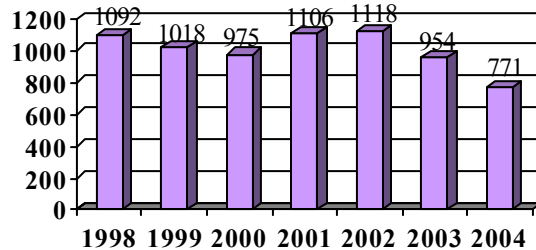
New Castle County Hotline Calls



Kent & Sussex County Hotline Calls

In Kent and Sussex Counties (including Abriendo Puertas), the total number of hotline calls in 2004 was 771, a decrease of 19.1% from the 954 calls that were received in 2003. The total of 771 hotline calls received is the lowest annual number since the DVCC began tracking the total in 1998. Even more surprising is that the 2004 total reflects a decrease of 31% from the 1,118 calls in 2002.

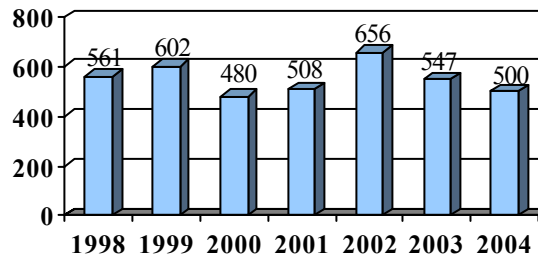
Kent & Sussex County Hotline Calls



Number of Individuals Sheltered Statewide

In Delaware, 500 individuals received shelter in a domestic violence shelter in 2004. The average number of individuals sheltered in Delaware's domestic violence shelters since 1998 is 550. This total has been highly variable over the past seven years. Some shelters have responded to bed availability by increasing the length of stay for residents, when it is appropriate.

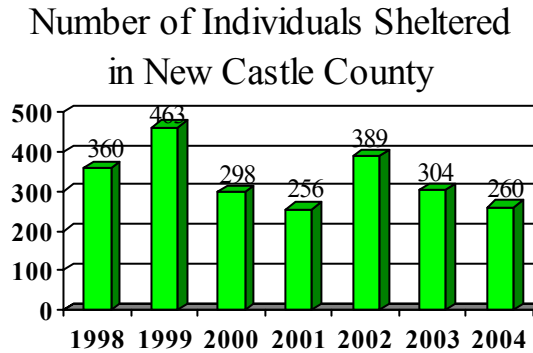
Number of Individuals Sheltered
Statewide



Number of Individuals Sheltered in New Castle County

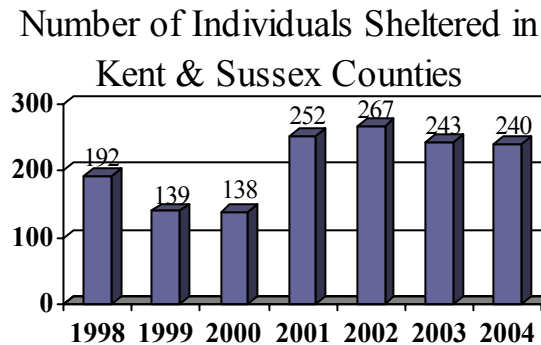
In New Castle County, 260 individuals were provided shelter in 2004. Again, this is a highly variable number, a high in the last seven years of 463 in 1999 and a low of 256 individuals sheltered in 2001. The average number of individuals sheltered annually in New Castle County since 1998 is 332.

Number of Individuals Sheltered in New Castle County
(continued)



Number of Individuals Sheltered in Kent & Sussex Counties

In Kent and Sussex Counties, the total number of individuals sheltered in 2004 was 240, which is practically identical to the 243 sheltered in 2003. The average number of individuals sheltered annually in Kent and Sussex Counties is 210. The range has been from a low of 138 in 2000 to a high of 267 in 2003.



Domestic Violence Advocate Pilot Project

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVOCATE PILOT PROJECT

In Fiscal Year 2001, People's Place II, Inc., received a grant, by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to collaborate with the Delaware Division of Family Services (DFS) in Sussex County to provide advocacy, support, and referrals to domestic violence victims involved with DFS.

Due to the success of this collaboration between advocates and DFS workers, Child, Inc., also received a grant for advocacy support. This grant was from the Office for the Victims of Crime. In Fiscal Year 2003, People's Place II, Inc., expanded the initiative to Kent County through further funding from the Office for the Victims of Crime. This project now is statewide.

Since 2001, services have been provided to hundreds of victims through this effort. In addition to the services provided, the participating workers and agencies have been able to make better informed decisions when working with clients. This program has received attention across the country and workers have given presentations highlighting the effort.

The overarching goal of the Domestic Violence Advocate Pilot Project is to improve quality of services provided to families experiencing domestic violence. Once cases are opened by the Division of Family Services, workers screen for domestic violence risk factors and refer appropriate cases to the advocates. Advocates assist clients with safety planning, provide referrals to shelter and counseling services, accompany clients to court proceedings, assist them in filing forms and court documents, and support clients throughout the legal process. In information obtained from client focus groups, clients unanimously reported that the advocate's services were helpful both in increasing their individual safety and that of their children.

Winter, S., Domestic Violence Advocate Pilot Project, 2004 , See Appendix II

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 Intervention Services

Provide treatment and counseling services for persons experiencing domestic violence.

Child, Inc. 762-8989

Catholic Charities 655-9624

Children and Families First 1-800-734-2388

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

Latin American Community Center 655-7338

YWCA - Helping Hearts 658-7161

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 395-8139/395-8135

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

Provide 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)

Victim Service Representative: 323-6050, Ext. 220

Assistance for Victims of Violent Crime

Provides monetary assistance and relief to victims of violent crimes, 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 Representation

Provides free legal representation for victims meeting the financial criteria.

Legal Helplink 478-8850

Provides legal representation to indigent persons charged with criminal offenses.

Public Defender's Office 255-0130

Information/Referral

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

CONTACT Delaware 761-9800

Website: contactdelaware.org

Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence 658-2958

Website: www.dcadv.org

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council 255-0405

Website: www.dvcc.state.de.us

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 or
1-800-345-6785

Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-292-9582

Battered Women's Shelters

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 745-9874 or 855-9515

Treatment & Intervention Services

Provide treatment and counseling services for persons experiencing domestic violence.

Children & Families First 1-800-734-2388

DAFB Family Advocacy Program 677-2711

Turning Point at People's Place 424-2420

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

Georgetown Police Department 856-6613

Prosecution Services

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

Department of Justice

Kent 739-4211/Sussex 856-5353

Court Services

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

Family Court: Kent 672-1000/Sussex 855-7468

Offender Supervision

Provides offender supervision and tracking.

Probation/Parole

Kent 674-7200/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 672-1075/Sussex 856-5843

Legal Representation

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

Provides legal representation to indigent persons charged with criminal offenses.

Public Defender's Office: Kent 739-4476; Sussex 856-5840

Information/Referral

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

Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence 1-302-658-2958
Kent/Sussex 1-800-701-0456
Website: www.dcadv.org
Domestic Violence Coordinating Council 1-302-255-0405
Website: www.dvcc.state.de.us

Certified Batterers' Intervention Programs

The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council staffs a panel of intervention practitioners and relevant agency representatives who evaluate certification applicants based on a protocol developed by the Intervention and Treatment Subcommittee and approved by the full Council. Upon the recommendation of the Certification Panel, the full Council votes to certify programs. The Panel bases its certification decisions upon the application completed and signed by the program director, the documentation submitted by the program, and, in some instances, meetings with program representatives. Following is the list of Delaware-certified Domestic Violence Intervention Programs:

Catholic Charities, Inc.

Domestic Violence Program
4th Street and Greenhill Avenue
Wilmington, DE 19805
Phone: 302/655-9624

CHILD, Inc.

Domestic Violence Treatment Program
507 Philadelphia Pike
Wilmington, DE 19809
Phone: 302/762-8989

Children & Families First

410 S. Bedford Street
Georgetown, DE 19947
Phone: 302/856-2388

People's Place II, Inc.

Family Violence Treatment Unit
1129 Airport Road
Milford, DE 19963-6418
Phone: 302/424-2420

Family Advocacy Program

263 Chad Street
Dover Air Force Base, DE 19902
Phone: 302/677-2711

CHILDREN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUBCOMMITTEE

The Children and Domestic Violence Subcommittee is co-chaired by Representative Deborah Hudson and Secretary Cari DeSantis of the Department of Services for Children, Youth, and Their Families. This Subcommittee met regularly over the past year.

The Subcommittee was actively involved with the Domestic Violence Pilot Project. The Project was the result of the Children and Domestic Violence Subcommittee efforts to improve services to victims and children of families experiencing domestic violence. Originally a pilot project in Sussex County, it has expanded to all three counties. For a report on the first year of the project, see Appendix II.

This group has also worked diligently to apply for a grant to provide services for children who witness domestic violence. The application, which was a collaboration of numerous agencies, was submitted near the end of the fiscal year. We are hopeful that the grant will be awarded.

CORRECTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Stan Taylor, Department of Correction Commissioner, and Geri Lewis-Loper, Delaware Center for Justice, co-chair the Corrections Subcommittee. The Subcommittee met Quarterly throughout the year and continues to review issues related to victim notification and perpetrator treatment. Over the past year, members of this Subcommittee have worked with treatment providers and the Department of Correction to possibly begin intervention while an inmate is incarcerated and then continue it upon his/her release. Logistical and funding questions will need to be resolved before this idea can be implemented.

Following the success of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Probation and Parole Victim Services Agent (New Castle County) in 2004, the program was expanded to include a Victim Services Agent for Probation and Parole in Kent County. This program is unique and is receiving favorable attention from the Violence Against Women Office. The Victim Services Agent is a resource for domestic violence victims of probationers.

In the past year, the Department of Correction continued to operate its Domestic Violence Pager System, funded by a Violence Against Women Act grant, which allows police officers to call Probation and Parole any time they arrest a probationer for a new domestic violence offense. Probation and Parole, when appropriate, issues an Administrative Warrant charging the probationer with Violation of Probation and requests cash bail. The net effect is an immediate sanction for the offender and an immediate period of relief for the victim.

Also using VAWA funds, the Department of Correction and the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council collaborated in offering domestic violence training specific to probation officers. In May 2005, a trainer from the Domestic Violence Project of Duluth, Minnesota, was brought to Delaware to train on a risk assessment as part of an offender supervision matrix.

COURTS SUBCOMMITTEE

The Courts Subcommittee is co-chaired by Family Court Chief Judge Chandlee Johnson Kuhn and President Judge of Superior Court, James T. Vaughn, Jr. As noted in the 2004 Annual Report, the workload in Family Court has been high for a number of years and the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council wrote a letter in support of Family Court's budgetary

request for two additional judges. We are pleased to report that Family Court is receiving two additional judges in the FY06 budget.

Another initiative being worked on collaboratively with law enforcement is the Gun Relinquishment Project. The idea behind this effort is to confiscate firearms from PFA respondents earlier in the PFA process in order to provide victims an additional period of safety. Legal and logistical issues are being resolved prior to the program becoming operational.

Family Court is also working to develop a Domestic Violence Court. Although logistical details are still being refined, it is anticipated that the pilot court will be initiated in Sussex County.

IMMIGRATION SUBCOMMITTEE

The Immigration Subcommittee is co-chaired by Mary Davis and Maria Picazo. This Subcommittee has chapters in New Castle County and Sussex County and each meets on a regular basis. The New Castle County group, chaired by Mary Davis, is developing a list of services available to immigrants as a reference that may be used by judicial officers, court workers, and other professionals statewide. This resource list is in the final editing phase and it is anticipated that it will go to print soon. The Sussex County group, chaired by Maria Picazo, is focusing primarily on collaborating with the DELTA project which is discussed in detail in "The Activities" section of this report.

In August of 2004, some of the Subcommittee members traveled to Siler City, North Carolina, to visit a program that is seen as a model for communities, such as Sussex County, looking to establish or improve their efforts to prevent domestic violence in immigrant populations.

The group learned a great deal about community collaboration in the absence of extensive resources.

INTERVENTION AND TREATMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

Cynthia Boehmer and Public Defender Lawrence M. Sullivan co-chair the Intervention and Treatment Subcommittee, which met throughout the year. A major effort of this group was to complete development of a brochure about children who witness domestic violence. The brochure has been printed and is being distributed to police officers, victim services providers, prosecutors, Division of Family Services' staff, and/or guardians to use as a guide when working with children who have witnessed domestic violence. The brochure provides information on how witnessing domestic violence may affect children and will include referral phone numbers. It is also available at www.dvcc.state.de.us.

A highlight of the past year was the development of a Spanish-speaking intervention program for New Castle County. Child, Inc., and the Latin American Community Center are collaborating on a program for Spanish-speaking offenders. The program held its first group sessions in May 2005.

Members of the Subcommittee are working collaboratively with the Department of Correction on the development of an intervention program for offenders while they are incarcerated. The program is intended to be consistent with the certified programs for non-incarcerated offenders. By attending the inmate program, the offenders will have a head start on what is required upon their release on probation. Much work in programming, logistics, and funding resources needs to be done before this becomes a reality.

LAW ENFORCEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

The Law Enforcement Subcommittee is co-chaired by Dover Chief of Police, Jeffrey Horvath, Secretary of Safety and Homeland Security, David B. Mitchell, and Senator Liane Sorenson.

Much of the emphasis in law enforcement over the past year was on training. The DVCC, through the Law Enforcement Training Working Group, collaborated very closely with the law enforcement community in focusing domestic violence training efforts on issues specific to law enforcement.

The training efforts included:

1. In December 2004, a Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) funded joint training with prosecutors in December 2004. The training, which was provided by the American Prosecutors' Research Institute, was well attended and very well received.
2. In February 2005, police trainers from the National Training Project of Duluth, Minnesota, trained Delaware law enforcement officers on a variety of topics, including "Determining the Predominant Aggressor and Interviewing Suspects, Victims, and Children." The training event was funded with VAWA monies.
3. In May 2005, VAWA funds were used to bring a Probation Officer trainer from the National Training Project, Duluth, Minnesota, to train Domestic Violence Probation Officers on risk assessment for probationers and how to incorporate it into the supervision of domestic violence offenders.

4. In June 2005, Dee Dee Wilson, a national trainer for police dispatchers, came from Eureka, California to train police dispatchers in Delaware on effective ways to process domestic violence calls. The training event, which was funded by VAWA, was filmed and it is hoped that the film will be used in the future to train dispatchers Statewide.

LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE

Senator Patricia M. Blevins and Attorney General M. Jane Brady co-chair the Legislative Subcommittee. This Subcommittee looked at a number of issues during the past year.

The group considered expanding civil protection remedies to dating and same sex couples who currently are not covered under Delaware law. After an analysis by Family Court of resource needs due to an increased caseload, it was determined that the effort was too costly to pursue legislatively. In the fall, the group will review the possibility of Peace Bond legislation as a possible remedy for these populations.

Consideration was given to crafting legislation to provide immunity for sexual assault advocates and Visitation Center workers. Rather than proposing legislation, it was determined that the Department of Justice will work with sexual assault agencies on this issue. Family Court will work with Visitation Centers on immunity of sexual assault advocates.

Victim eligibility for benefits under the Violent Crimes Compensation Board statutes continue to be a concern. Although legislative changes were not proposed by the group this past year, they continue to work closely with the Sexual Assault Network of Delaware and the Victims Rights Task Force on the subject.

The Legislative Subcommittee approved the submission in April 2005 of Senate Concurrent Resolution 7 (See Appendix III), sponsored by Senator Patricia Blevins, Senator Liane Sorenson, and Representative Deborah Hudson, creating a Task Force to study the feasibility of developing a Family Justice Center in Delaware. The measure which passed the Senate and the House requires that a report be submitted to the General Assembly by October 31, 2005. Family Justice Centers, which essentially co-locate services to more effectively serve victims of domestic violence, are becoming very popular around the country. The Task Force, chaired by Criminal Justice Council Chairman, Lieutenant Governor, John C. Carney, Jr., began its work in May.

MEDICAL SUBCOMMITTEE

Dr. Matthew Hoffman and Vincent J. Poppiti, Esq. co-chair the Medical Subcommittee. The major focus of this Subcommittee during the past year has been the offering of training to healthcare professionals. The group works collaboratively with individuals from Bayhealth and Christiana Care to develop training events, several of which were held during the past year. Professionals from a variety of medical fields such as physicians, nurses, dentists, nurse practitioners, and specialists in a number of areas have participated in the effort. The training events have been held statewide and have been well received.

The Medical Subcommittee is also considering broadening the approach to the medical community by including dentistry, pediatrics, and mental health professionals. The Medical Subcommittee is also reviewing and updating the Medical Manual published by the DVCC and the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence in 1999/2000. The goal is to make the document accessible via the Internet once it is revised. Consideration is also being given to changing the format to make it more user friendly.

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council Activities

BATTERERS' INTERVENTION CERTIFICATION PANEL

The Batterers' Intervention Certification Panel was active throughout the year. This panel consists of ten representatives from treatment providers or from agencies that work with treatment providers regularly. In 2004, the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council approved a recertification protocol. This protocol was used during the past year to review the recertification applications submitted by certified providers. By the end of the fiscal year, all certified providers due for recertification either completed the process successfully or are still undergoing the rigorous process.

Currently, there are five certified programs batterers may attend in Delaware. The certification process standardizes the programming that domestic violence offenders receive. It also allows judicial authorities to be confident that offenders will receive appropriate programming when so ordered by the court.

COMMUNICATION

In January 2002, the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council website, www.dvcc.state.de.us, became operational. The site has been expanded and updated to reference all DVCC activities. The site includes all DVCC reports, a calendar of events, relevant domestic violence legislation, Violence Against Women Act updates, services information for victims, intervention information for perpetrators, and links to many relevant sites.

The DVCC is very proud of the site and receives feedback that the material is helpful to victims and service providers. The volume of Annual Report "downloads" has increased approximately 5% from July 2004 to

July 2005, and remained consistent thereafter. The DVCC also distributed approximately 5,000 safety plans (hard copy) from June 2004 to June 2005.

In November 2003, the DVCC published its first newsletter, the *DV News*. The newsletter is published Quarterly and reports on activities in the domestic violence community as well as topics of importance both locally and nationally. As with other materials, the *DV News* is available on our website.

DELTA PROJECT

The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council is collaborating with Abriendo Puertas and the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence on a Federal Center for Disease Control grant (DELTA Project). The goals of the project are:

- a. To enable the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council to expand its knowledge and capacity to appropriately address the prevention and intervention efforts geared to the Hispanic community of Sussex County.
- b. To recognize the unique needs of immigrant families, new socio-cultural trends and barriers faced by immigrants that go beyond language, in order to identify the optimal approach for a prevention program.

The first phase of the grant, which began in 2003, was to survey the immigrant community in Sussex County in an attempt to determine the need for domestic violence services. Surveys were collected and some useful information was obtained. It was learned that Mexican, El Salvadoran, and Guatemalan immigrants were represented in the Hispanic

community of Sussex County. Additionally, it appears that the Hispanic population in Sussex County faces education and language barriers.

Phase two of the program involved collaborating with Sussex County Hispanic churches in an effort to educate young people about the dynamics of domestic violence. Young people were divided into two groups based on age. A series of group sessions were held, with each group beginning in February 2005 and ending in June 2005, to educate young people in an attempt to prevent domestic violence in the future.

As a follow-up to the group sessions, the project is reaching out to community groups, churches, and to English As A Second Language teachers. The intent is to train individuals who attend these sessions in prevention strategies and educate them concerning appropriate relationship behavior.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

On October 4, 2004, Governor Ruth Ann Minner signed a Proclamation at a Domestic Violence Coordinating Council-sponsored press conference designating October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Other speakers at the event were DVCC Chairperson, Senator Patricia M. Blevins; DVCC member, Senator Liane Sorenson; Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence Executive Director, Carol Post; and DVCC Executive Director, Ronald T. Keen.

The event recognized the ongoing struggles of domestic violence victims in Delaware and their continued need for understanding and services. It also highlighted events in Delaware during October which included: Domestic Violence Lecture Series for Healthcare Professionals which was coordinated by the DVCC Medical Subcommittee; "Paws for the Cause"

promoting domestic violence awareness in Dewey Beach; Peace Begins With Me - Children's Peace Rally, sponsored by the YWCA; and the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence Silent Witness Project which was displayed at a number of locations around the State.

FATAL INCIDENT REVIEW TEAM

The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council works to improve Delaware's response to domestic violence through research, education, policy development, and legislation. In June 1996, Governor Thomas R. Carper signed into law the Domestic Violence Fatal Incidents Review Act. This legislation, written by the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, established a Fatal Incident Review Team to investigate and review the facts and circumstances of all domestic violence related fatalities occurring in Delaware.

The ultimate purpose of reviewing domestic violence fatalities is to prevent such deaths in the future. By conducting system audits of State agencies and private organizations having contact with the deceased victim and/or perpetrator, the system's response to domestic violence may be improved. Steps may be taken to prevent future deaths and injuries by making changes to existing policies and practices. Once gaps are identified, programs to fill those gaps may be developed.

Confidentiality is maintained throughout the review process and is required by statute. The records of all reviews are confidential and are exempt from the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act in Title 29 of the Delaware Code. Reports published by the Review Team include only aggregate data and do not identify specific cases.

Although the domestic violence fatality reviews are retrospective in nature, their purpose is prospective. The reviews focus on identifying trends and obstacles in service delivery, assessing the adequacy of agency interventions and, most importantly, developing recommendations for policies and practices aimed at reducing domestic violence deaths in Delaware.

The Review Team members are established by statute and include the following core members:

- the Attorney General
- the Director of the Division of Family Services
- the Chair of the Domestic Violence Task Force
- the Chief Judge of Family Court
- the Chief Magistrate of the Justice of the Peace Courts
- a law enforcement officer to be appointed by the Delaware Police Chiefs' Council and
- two members of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council

Each of these individuals is able to appoint a designee to represent him or her on the Team.

The Review Team meets monthly, provided that there are cases eligible for review. The co-chairs of the Team, or any two other Team members, can convene additional reviews if necessary. No review may be conducted unless authorized by the Attorney General's office.

Each participating member of the Review Team provides information regarding his/her agency's contact with the victim and/or perpetrator to staff.

Members also submit copies of their agency's documentation and provide recommendations for witnesses. Prior to the meeting, staff will review the case files and schedule witnesses.

Agency files, data forms, and other information relevant to the case are distributed to team members for review one hour prior to the meeting. Staff begins the meeting by summarizing the case and introducing the witnesses. Law enforcement officers provide a summary of the fatal incident investigation and other witnesses provide a summary of their (or their agency's) contact with the victim and/or perpetrator in the case. Team members are given the opportunity to ask questions of each witness. Following the witnesses, the FIRT members provide a summary of their agency's contact (if any) with the victim and or perpetrator.

Once the witness interviews and review of case files are completed, team members may either request additional information or discuss making recommendations. If no additional information is requested and the case review is completed, staff may begin compiling a Fatal Incident Review Team Findings Report. At a later date, the case report is submitted to the Review Team for final approval. Recommendations of the Team are adopted only upon a sixty percent (60%) vote of participating members.

The Review Team issues an Annual Report to the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council summarizing, in an aggregate fashion, all data and recommendations made in the cases reviewed. The report, which is available online, at www.dvcc.state.de.us, provides agency responses to the recommendations and describes the systemic changes effectuated as a result of the Review Team's recommendations. An example of a past recommendation and the agency response is:

The Recommendation - “The Division of Family Services should work with representatives of the Advocacy Community in developing a protocol for responding to cases that involve domestic violence.”

The Response - In January 2002, the Division of Family Services and Families in Transition implemented a collaborative pilot project that co-located a domestic violence advocate from Families In Transition within the Division of Family Services in Georgetown. Since then the project expanded to New Castle County in October 2002, and Kent County in December 2003. Services are managed by Child, Inc. in New Castle County, and Families In Transition in Kent and Sussex Counties.

The Review Team has the authority to investigate and review the facts and circumstances of all deaths that occur in Delaware resulting from domestic violence. The reviews may include both homicides and suicides.

The Fatal Incident Review Team may consider only cases which meet the following two criteria:

1. The death must have occurred as a result of domestic violence, and
2. The victim must have been a Delaware resident at the time of the incident or must have died in Delaware.

The Review Team has adopted a broad definition of domestic violence, similar to that used by the Department of Justice. Use of a broad definition ensures that no domestic violence case escapes review. For purposes of these reviews, domestic violence is defined as follows:

“Domestic violence is any abusive act between family members (see 10 Del. C. 901(9)), ex-husband and wife, intimate cohabitants,

former intimate cohabitants, dating couples, and former dating couples. Abusive acts include physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, threats of abuse, and destruction of property. Domestic violence shall also include abusive acts in which an individual who has a relationship with the domestic violence victim is killed as a result of the offender's actions. The offender and victim in a domestic violence case may be of the same sex.”

Any case involving the death of a minor related to domestic violence will be reviewed jointly by the appropriate regional panel of the Child Death Review Commission and the Domestic Violence Fatal Incident Review Team.

Rules and Procedures for conducting Joint Reviews were recently developed through a collaborative effort of the Fatal Incident Review Team and the Child Death Review Commission. The joint reviews will be co-facilitated by the chairs of the Fatal Incident Review Team and the Child Death Review Panel. Both agencies will staff the joint review meetings.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

Throughout the fiscal year, July 2004 through June 2005, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Implementation Committee, which is staffed by the DVCC, conducted several meetings pertaining to funding received through the Office of Justice Programs and Office on Violence Against Women (OVW).

S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women Act Formula Grant Program

The purpose of these grant funds is "to encourage the development and strengthening of effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies to combat violence against women and the development and strengthening of

victim services in cases involving violence against women." By statute, the State of Delaware is required to allocate at least 25% of each years funding to prosecutors, at least 25% to police, at least 30% to nonprofit, nongovernmental victim services, and 5% to state and local courts. The remainder of the funds may be spent at the discretion of the State to address the statutory program purposes.

In 2003, the VAWA Implementation Committee submitted a three-year strategic plan to OVW. On May 1, 2003, the VAWA Implementation Committee held a strategic planning day. As a result, the following goals were established to connect quadrants relevant to maximizing the resources available under the S.T.O.P. Formula Grant Program:

1. Improve access to legal services, referrals, counseling, and safety resources to women victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, especially women who are of underserved and minority populations;
2. Provide on-going support to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence;
3. Improve effective prosecution of cases involving domestic violence;
4. Provide more effective assistance to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence throughout the prosecution process;
5. Provide stricter law enforcement in cases involving violence against women through improved policies and procedures; and
6. Improve technology to enhance the current reporting system development and strengthening to identify cases which involve sexual assault and domestic violence.

On August 30, 2004, the VAWA Implementation Committee finalized their funding recommendations, in the amount of \$833,000, a 4.5% decrease from fiscal year 2003 funding. As reported in the DVCC's 2004 Annual Report, there was a balance of \$26,682.50 in FY 2003 funding. Prior to finalizing their recommendations for FY 2004, the Committee reviewed the progress of each program on its merit and the amount requested for continuation. After reviewing the continuation programs under the Victim Services and Discretionary quadrants, there was an approximate \$6,891.00 deficit.

Based on this deficit, the VAWA Implementation Committee, decreased the following subgrantees FY2004 request for funding by \$1,000 and using some of the balance in FY2003 award, increased their FY2003 award by \$1,000: YWCA of New Castle County (Helping Hearts Program), Latin American Community Center (Families in Control), Community Legal Aid Society, Inc. (Domestic Abuse Legal Services), CONTACT Delaware (Rape Crisis Intervention & Support Services for Adolescent Victims of Sexual Assault), and Christiana Care Health Services (SANE Training).

Additionally, the Domestic Violence Advocacy Center's FY2004 continuation program funding was decreased by \$891.00 and their FY 2003 award was increased by the same.

The charts on pages 60 to 62 of this report represent the distribution of funding for FY2004 and the FY2003 balance of funds to address the aforementioned goals.

In February 2005, the VAWA Implementation Committee submitted an application to the OVW seeking continued support to sustain comprehensive programs in the State of Delaware to address the needs of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. In March 2005, the VAWA

Implementation Committee was notified of the award amount of \$838,000, which resulted in a \$5,000 increase from FY2004 funding. It is anticipated that during the upcoming quarters funding allocations will be determined for FY2005.

On November 15, 2004, the VAWA Implementation Committee facilitated a Consortium of direct service providers who receive federal grants from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, Office for Victims of Crime, and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Administration for Children and Families providing direct victim services to combat violence against women. The Consortium afforded the Committee an opportunity to have a dialogue with the community service providers to determine how these receiving agencies could leverage funding resources to increase coordination, collaboration, and public awareness in responding to issues concerning violence against women. In total, 40 service providers attended the Consortium. As a result of the Consortium meeting, the VAWA Implementation Committee solicited requests from direct service providers in attendance to form a Subcommittee of the VAWA Implementation Committee. The purpose of establishing a Subcommittee is to constructively review the summary and report to the Committee by outlining recommendations for addressing the issues and gaps in services identified.

In March 2005, members of the Subcommittee met and reviewed the outcomes from the Consortium. The Subcommittee focused on the summary of the dialogue generated and follow-up feedback derived from the Consortium and prepared the following recommendations to the Implementation Committee for consideration:

Centralization of Information

- Create a centralized department responsible for gathering and disseminating standardized information related to issues involving violence against women. For example, create one inclusive reporting form to capture all services delivered to victims of violence against women from every agency impacting the system. It is recommended that a current agency already collecting data (i.e., Criminal Justice Council, Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault Network of Delaware, or DELJIS) assume this responsibility.
- Create a centralized source to gather and disseminate electronically the following information: Program descriptions, program changes, staff changes within programs, and upcoming events (proclamation signing, meetings, trainings, conferences, etc.). The Subcommittee identified the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council as an appropriate agency to provide this function.
- Create an informal/formal environment exclusive to Executive Directors and Program Directors to meet on a Quarterly basis to foster collaboration among the service providers. The establishment of this forum would allow executives to meet with a clear purpose of exchanging information and determining how to increase their agencies' capacity to enhance the delivery of services to victims of violence against women.

Public Awareness

- Establish a subcommittee and charge the committee with developing a strategic plan to address the following elements: conduct a needs assessment, develop a public relations plan, and determine a funding proposal for implementation. This strategic plan would consist of identifying an endorsed, qualified, and market tested public awareness campaign to raise the public's awareness on the impact of violence against women and the services available to those impacted by the violence. Additionally, this plan would serve as an example of coordination among service providers by bringing together agency resources to determine what currently exists in Delaware, what is planned for the future, what public awareness campaigns have been successful and/or a hindrance, and determine what financial limitations exist towards implementing a public relations plan.
- Establish a speakers bureau with specializations. This would include training speaker(s) on the issues of violence against women and services available throughout the State. A speakers bureau would allow for trained and competent speakers to conduct community outreach. Due to limited staffing, agencies do not have the capacity to conduct outreach or participate in events. This initiative would increase the coordination among service providers and provide a valuable service to the citizens of Delaware.

Needs for Collaboration

- Mandate the participation of subgrantees and VAWA Implementation Committee members in an annual educational component regarding coordination and collaboration as it relates to issues on violence against women.

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council Activities

- Mandate, as a condition of funding, collaboration and coordination of direct service providers to enhance the overall delivery of services.
- Identify what the core services are and ensure when considering continuation programs that these programs are addressing the core elements.

Rural Domestic Violence Planning Grant

In 2002, the State of Delaware completed a Rural Domestic Violence Needs Assessment in Delaware's two rural counties, Kent and Sussex. Resulting from the needs assessment, issues have clearly been defined pertaining to the Hispanic community in Sussex County. In the midst of completing the rural needs strategic plan, the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence received a DELTA grant through the Center for Disease Control, Domestic Violence Prevention Enhancement Leadership through Alliances Project. In collaboration with this grant initiative, funding has been allocated to Abriendo Puertas, an Hispanic shelter in Sussex County, to research and implement a prevention/intervention program to address domestic violence needs within the Hispanic community.

It has been suggested that this grant initiative seek technical assistance from the Coalition for Family Peace in North Carolina, another OVW, Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization, grant-funded project working primarily with the Hispanic Community. As a result, in coordination with the DVCC's DELTA-sponsored program addressing prevention in the Hispanic community, the VAWA Implementation Committee funded a multi-disciplinary group composed of ten representatives to conduct a site-visit to Siler City, North Carolina. The multi-disciplinary team was composed of the judiciary, batterers' intervention treatment providers, domestic violence court advocates, legal representatives, and staff representing funding agencies.

Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies & Enforcement Protective Orders

As delineated in the grant application and award, the first phase of the Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Protection From Abuse Orders Initiative was to hire a consultant to complete an assessment of the current systems by tracking offender accountability in domestic violence cases. The goal of this project is to develop and install an integrated domestic violence compliance system. After careful considerations, the VAWA Implementation Committee awarded a contract to Diamond Technologies, Inc. to complete the analysis phase of this project. On October 14, 2004, there was a kick-off meeting with the Memorandum of Understanding Partners. Diamond Technologies, Inc. conducted more than 30 interviews with critical agencies to gather pertinent information to make a recommendation to the VAWA Implementation Committee. The interviews have included agencies such as the Department of Justice, Department of Correction, Judicial Information Center, DELJIS, all of the Courts, law enforcement personnel, batterers intervention programs, and victim advocacy centers.

Diamond Technologies, Inc. performed a comprehensive analysis of the criminal justice information systems to support the development of a domestic violence compliance enforcement system. Prior to the submission of a final report, progress reports indicated that in order to develop and install a domestic violence compliance system, the following service levels must be completed: 1) implement a notification mechanism to allow partners to be informed of important events, 2) provide data aggregation in a domestic violence compliance portal, and 3) provide full integration into the domestic violence compliance system. As a result, in January 2005, the VAWA Implementation Committee submitted a continuation grant proposal to supplement funding to create and implement a statewide integrated

computerized domestic violence compliance system. The system will consist of government agencies, such as law enforcement, probation and parole, prosecution, and courts. Nonprofit, non-government agencies, such as batterer intervention programs and court-based victim advocacy centers, will also enforce the compliance of court orders to hold “offenders” and “systems” accountable. In total, the grant proposal seeks funding in the amount of \$507,701.00. It is anticipated that the State of Delaware will know the status of the grant application by September 2005.

On March 2, 2005, the VAWA Implementation Committee met for a formal meeting. During this meeting, Diamond Technologies, Inc. gave a PowerPoint presentation on the findings and recommendations of their analysis of the current domestic violence-processing environment. As a result of this presentation, the VAWA Implementation Committee voted to begin the process of creating a formal document outlining the policy decision, including any statutory amendments that may need to be accomplished before implementing any phase of this project. Additionally, the VAWA Implementation Committee agreed to extend Diamond Technologies, Inc.’s contract to complete phase one of the project. Phase one of the project will include the following: implementation of a notification mechanism, some automation of event notices, and point-to-point integration among different systems. On June 8, 2005, the VAWA Implementation Committee accepted a continuation proposal from Diamond Technologies, Inc. to continue the integration program. Additionally, the VAWA Implementation Committee voted and approved the analysis submitted by Diamond Technologies.

Transitional Housing Assistance Program

In February 2005, the VAWA Implementation Committee responded to the Office on Violence Against Women’s solicitation, under the Transitional

Housing Assistance Program, seeking applicants to develop grant proposals that addressed a holistic approach to assisting individuals with obtaining permanent housing, through the submission of a grant application in the amount of \$175,000. The FY2005 Transitional Housing Assistance Program offers a limited opportunity to supplement existing services when no other means of financial assistance is available to individuals seeking independent and secured housing. As a result, the CJC in collaboration with Abriendo Puertas, Child, Inc., and People's Place II, Inc. propose to establish and implement a Statewide Transitional Housing Assistance Services Fund.

The goal of this project will be to provide shelter residents an opportunity to access transitional housing programs to assist with integrating them back into the community. The proposed services would include, but will not be limited to, the following wide range of services: short-term housing assistance, assistance with rental or utilities payments, transportation needs, medical needs, child care assistance, case management, or employment and/or financial counseling. Offering these services would reduce the hardships and obstacles individuals face while attempting to flee domestic violence situations and secure safe housing. As of the end of this reporting period, the status of the grant request was unknown. It is anticipated that the State of Delaware will receive notification in September 2005.

Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant Programs

In March 2005, the VAWA Implementation Committee submitted a grant proposal under the Office on Violence Against Women, in the amount of \$658,001.75, to expand, enhance, and improve the existing services of the Family Visitation Centers in Delaware.

Specifically, the CJC is partnering with the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of State Service Centers, to strategically establish

two new supervised visitation and exchange centers to meet the needs of underserved and un-served families in western Sussex County and southern New Castle County. Additionally, this grant proposal seeks to increase the services provided at the New Castle County Family Visitation Centers by instituting a therapeutic visitation services component. Establishing a therapeutic visitation element to the existing services would provide an opportunity for a trained, licensed mental health professional to submit a comprehensive assessment to the Court documenting the detailed issues of domestic violence and/or sexual assault between the parties and making recommendations for custody and visitation. As of the end of this reporting period, the status of the grant request was unknown. It is anticipated that the State of Delaware will receive notification in September 2005.

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

Fiscal Year 2004

FY 04 CONTINUATION PROGRAMS			
CJC/DVCC	VAWA Administration	Grant Administration	41,650
FY 04 CONTINUATION PROGRAMS			
Courts REQUIRED ALLOCATION: \$39,567			
Family Court	D.V. Investigative Pre-sentence	To continue to employ a pre-trial domestic violence investigative officer.	45,000
FY 04 CONTINUATION PROGRAMS			
Applicant Agency	Concept Title	Description	Committee Recommendation
Prosecution REQUIRED ALLOCATION: 197,837.50			
Prosecution	Kent & Sussex Prosecuting Attorneys	To target violence crimes against women by expanding the support services in New Castle County and strengthening the prosecution efforts in Kent and Sussex Counties.	197,837.50
FY 04 CONTINUATION PROGRAMS			
Law Enforcement REQUIRED ALLOCATION: \$197,837.50			
Department of Correction (Probation and Parole)	Domestic Violence/ Sexual Assault Pager System	To continue the operation of the domestic violence and sexual assault pager system. Increase the number of calls P & P receive from law enforcement and improve communication with an on-call officer.	48,000
Department of Correction (Probation and Parole)	Victim Services Agent	To provide direct services to 400 victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault where the perpetrator is active under community supervision.	37,627
Dover Police Dept.	Victim Service Representative	To continue to employ a part-time domestic violence police-based victim advocate.	22,975
DVCC	L.E. Training	To continue to provide training for law enforcement and prosecution on methods that will aid in the arrest and successful prosecution of domestic violence offenders.	35,437
Wilmington Police Dept.	Elderly Victims Contract	To continue to contract with the Delaware Center for Justice to provide direct services, including intensive case management to elderly victims of domestic violence.	20,000

*On May 27, 2005, Family Court notified the VAWA Implementation Committee that they were discontinuing the D.V. Investigative Service Grant Program under FY2002, 2003, and FY 2004. The VAWA Committee has solicited request for proposals in the Court quadrant. It is anticipated a funding decision will be made in 9/2005.

GRANT PROGRAM S.T.O.P. FORMULA BLOCK GRANT (continued)

Fiscal Year 2004/AMOUNT: \$833,000

FY 04 New Programs			
Law Enforcement REQUIRED ALLOCATION: \$33,798.50			
Applicant Agency	Concept Title	Description	Committee Recommendation
Dept. of Correction, Probation & Parole	Expansion of victim services Representatives/ Kent County	To have a trained and knowledgeable advocate who is familiar with the dynamics of domestic violence and sexual assault and who is sensitive to the needs of the victims. To assist the victim in the criminal justice process and serve as a resource to victims and the Dept. of Correction.	33, 798.50

FY 04 CONTINUATION PROGRAMS			
Victim Services REQUIRED ALLOCATION: \$237,405.00 Discretionary Required Amount \$118,702.50 (minus \$5,432.50) = \$113,270			
Applicant Agency	Concept Title	Description	Committee Recommendation
Christiana Care Health Services	S.A.N.E. Nurse Coordinator	To continue to employ a part-time S.A.N.E. Coordinator who is responsible for training & recruiting nurses & responsible for developing & implementing protocols for working with sexual assault victims.	29,000
CLASI	Domestic Abuse Legal Services	Continue to provide legal representation for low-income victims of domestic violence to obtain protection from abuse orders and ancillary matters (custody and situation) in Kent & Sussex Counties.	74,000
CONTACT Delaware	Rape Crisis Intervention & S.A. Support Services	To provide crisis intervention and group-based treatment services to victims of sexual assault.	18,730
CONTACT Delaware	SSAAV Program	Continue to provide sexual assault intervention and supportive services to young adult females.	50,160
Domestic Violence Advocacy Center	DVAC	To provide court based advocacy services to victims of domestic violence who reside in Kent and Sussex Counties.	64, 486
SOAR, Inc.	Bilingual Sexual Assault Therapist in Sussex County	To establish and provide therapeutic services for sexual assault victims in the Hispanic community within Sussex County.	16, 546
YWCA, NCC	Domestic Abuse Outreach Center	Continue to provide community outreach and comprehensive case management services to domestic violence victims.	41, 000
LACC	Families In Control	Continue to provide bilingual and bi-culture victims' education and counseling services to Latina women victims of domestic violence.	56, 753

GRANT PROGRAM S.T.O.P. FORMULA BLOCK GRANT (continued)

Fiscal Year 2004/AMOUNT: \$833,000

FY 03 Program (Balance - Law Enforcement Quadrant)			
Applicant Agency	Concept Title	Description	Committee Recommendation
Bayhealth Medical Center	S.A.N.E. Nurse	Work with various agencies to sustain a medical - legal - psychological continuum of care. The Sexual Assault Response Team will provide sexual assault victims with medical care and follow up support.	19, 323.50

*Recommendations approved by the DVCC on 10/28/2004 and CJC on 12/16/2004.

Training/Presentations

Date	Speaker/s	Training/Workshops/Booths	Attended
7/27/04	Eileen Ondra, DVCC; Barbara Ridge, Children of Alcoholics; Angela Hogue, Veteran's Administration; Rev. John G. Moore, Sr., Retired Air Force	DHSS 33rd Summer Institute on Substance Abuse and Mental Health - "The Power of Relationship in Recovery" "Coming Home: Dealing w/Stress and Change" Military Workshop	12
7/28/04	Dr. Gordon Reed, Christiana Care and Eileen Ondra, DVCC	Domestic Violence Training for Healthcare Professionals Henrietta Johnson Medical Ctr., Wilmington, DE	28
8/20/04	Eileen Ondra, DVCC	Endoscopy Center of DE, Christiana, DE	15
9/13/04	Eileen Ondra, DVCC and Dawn Culp, Bayhealth Medical Center, Forensic Nursing Program	Domestic Violence Training for Healthcare Professionals Kent General Hospital, Dover, DE 3 2-hour sessions	42
9/14/04	Eileen Ondra, DVCC and Dawn Culp, Bayhealth Medical Center, Forensic Nursing Program	Domestic Violence Training for Healthcare Professionals Milford Memorial Hospital Milford, DE	36
9/23/04	Dr. Money, Dover AFB; Dr. Kate McGraw, St. Jones Behavioral Health Center; Angela Hogue, Veteran's Administration; Robin Jackson, Dover AFB Advocacy Center	Military Training/Intimate Partner Violence, "Coming Home: Dealing with Family Issues of Returning Soldiers"	28
10/06/04	Dr. Elaine Alpert, Family Violence Prevention Fund	Christiana Care Health System Physicians/Nurses/Interns Two Sessions	40

Training/Presentations

Date	Speaker/s	Training/Workshops/Booths	Attended
10/13/04	Eileen Ondra, DVCC and Noel Jones, DCADV	Delmarva Society for Human Resource Management Group (HR Managers - Kent & Sussex Counties)	27
10/14/04	Eileen Ondra, DVCC and	Domestic Violence Training for Clergy/Laypersons	6
10/19/04	Dr. Matthew Hoffman, Christiana Care/DVCC Council Member and Dr. Robert Locke, Neonatologist, A.I. Dupont	Violence During Pregnancy Workshop Kent General Hospital, Dover, DE Sponsored by Bayhealth Foundation	15
10/22/04	Eileen Ondra, DVCC and Barbara Ridge, Delaware Children of Alcoholics	Faith Communities Strengthen Families Conference (DECCF), Delaware Technical College, Dover, DE	7
10/25/04	Eileen Ondra, DVCC	"More Life to Live" Conference Booth and Discussion Time	28
11/03/04 and 11/04/04	Dawn Schatz and Mike McCarty, Public Training Institute Collaboration with DVCC and Child, Inc.	Youth Dating Violence: Train-The-Trainer Seminar	22
11/09/04	Eileen Ondra, DVCC and Yvonne Dodd, Children and Families First, DVCC Immigration Subcommittee	DHSS Training on Cultural Issues	19
11/15/04	Raina Fishbane	VAWA Consortium Buena Vista, DE	38

Training/Presentations (continued)

Date	Speaker/s	Training/Workshops/Booths	Attended
12/01/04	Eileen Ondra, DVCC and Terry Dougherty, Christiana Care, Forensic Nurse Examiner	Domestic Violence Training for Public Health Nurses, Newark, DE	18
12/2/04 to 12/03/04	Facilitators American Prosecutors Research Institute Collaboration: DVCC and DOJ	Two one-day conferences for prosecutors and law enforcement on Evidence-Based Prosecution Rusty Rudder, Lewes, DE/ Wyndham, Wilmington, DE	120
1/12/05 to 1/13/05	Eileen Ondra, DVCC; Stephanie Rensch, Wilmington Police Dept.; Maite Aros, Child, Inc.; Dan Armstrong, Child, Inc.; Linda Shannon, DSCYF	Domestic Violence Training for Intake Workers—New Castle County Courthouse, Wilmington, DE	26
1/27/05	Eileen Ondra, DVCC	LIFE Conference VII Sheraton Conference Center, Dover, DE/ Booth	150
2/15/05 to 2/16/05	Marcus Bruning/ Scott Jenkins National Training Project, Duluth, MN	Law Enforcement Training Conference Two one-day conferences held at Polytech Conference Center, Woodside, DE and Embassy Suites, Newark, DE	125
3/23/05	Eileen Ondra, DVCC/ Anita Symonds, Forensic Nurse Examiner, Christiana Care Hospital, Newark, DE	Domestic Violence Training for Healthcare Professionals Emily Bissell Hospital, Wilmington, DE	25
4/1/05	Judge Robert Coonin, Delaware Family Court	Domestic Violence Symposium, Widener University, School of Law, Wilmington, DE	150

Training/Presentations (continued)

Date	Speaker/s	Training/Workshops/Booths	Attended
4/13/05	Eileen Ondra, DVCC	Victims' Rights Tribute Modern Maturity, Dover, DE/Booth	25
4/19/05	Eileen Ondra, DVCC	Domestic Violence Resources in Delaware at a Post-Partum Depression Workshop, Visiting Nurses, Continental Dr., New Castle, DE	12
4/29/05	Eileen Ondra, DVCC and Representative, Child Inc.	Del-Castle Health Fair, Delcastle Technical High School, Newport, DE	125
5/03/05	Eileen Ondra, DVCC	Domestic Violence Resources for Clergy at Workshop for Prepare/ Enrich, HMI, Wilmington, DE	25
5/12/05	Leila Krouse, Catholic Charities/DVCC Immigration Subcommittee and Nancy Soriano, DOE, DVCC Immigration Subcommittee	Domestic Violence Training Headstart—Telamon	12
5/18/05 and 5/19/05	Jen Wright National Training Project, Duluth, MN	Department of Correction Matrix Training Outlook at the Duncan Center, Dover, DE	32
5/24/05	Eileen Ondra, DVCC	Delaware Healthy Marriage Coalition - Prepare and Enrich Domestic Violence - DV Resources, Wilmington, DE	23

Training/Presentations (continued)

Date	Speaker/s	Training/Workshops/Booths	Attended
5/25/05	Eileen Ondra, DVCC and Dawn Schatz, Child, Inc.	Health Fair, Springer Middle School, Wilmington, DE	200
6/10/05	Eileen Ondra, DVCC	Center for Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine, Dover, DE Booth	55
6/13/05	Eileen Ondra, DVCC and Geri Lewis-Loper, Delaware Center for Justice and DVCC Council Member	Elder Abuse and Intimate Violence, Emily Bissell Hospital, Wilmington, DE	23
6/22/05	Dee Dee Wilson, National Speaker/ Dispatch Manager, Eureka Police Dept., Eureka, CA	Domestic Violence Training for Dispatchers Videotaped by Brandywine Electronics, New Castle, DE	21
6/23/05	Dr. Gordon Reed, Christiana Care and DVCC Medical Subcommittee	Domestic Violence Training for Healthcare Professionals, Dover Air Force Base, Dover, DE	25
6/28/05	Eileen Ondra, DVCC and Margaret Tagliaferro, Delaware Center for Justice	Dating Violence Workshop, New Castle County Detention Center, Wilmington, DE	15

Conclusion

FY 2005 was an eventful year for the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council. While the DVCC continued to work very hard to upgrade services in areas such as police response, prosecution, intervention for perpetrators, services for victims, and evaluating legislative needs, there were a number of areas that merited particular attention. In response to recommendations from the Violence Against Women Act Consortium and the Fatal Incident Review Team, the DVCC created a Public Awareness Subcommittee. This subcommittee will be charged with the responsibility of considering ways to increase the public's awareness of the serious nature of domestic violence and to increase victims' awareness of available services. The subcommittee will also consider hotline call totals and shelter occupancy, to see if the decrease in these numbers over the past couple of years is indicative of a need for any change in the delivery of services to victims.

In the past year, training for law enforcement officers was assessed and conducted differently than it has been in the past. The DVCC collaborated to conduct separate training events for police officers, police officers with prosecutors, probation officers, and police dispatchers. Each event was geared toward specific domestic violence needs of the particular group. On each occasion experts from other parts of the country conducted the training. The trainings were very well received and it is anticipated that this approach will be continued in the future.

Training for healthcare professionals was also emphasized in FY2005. The DVCC collaborated on a number of trainings for healthcare professionals. The trainings were conducted at a number of healthcare facilities around the State. The professions involved in the trainings included physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, dentists, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE), and related specialists. The DVCC continues to be

involved in the Grants to Encourage Arrest initiative. This grant, which involves the collaboration of a number of agencies, both governmental and non-profit, is aimed at improving the integration of information in the domestic violence community. The DVCC, through the efforts of the Children and Domestic Violence Subcommittee, is collaborating with a number of other agencies in seeking grant money to provide resources for children who witness domestic violence.

The DVCC is also actively involved with the Family Justice Center Task Force, a group created by a Senate Resolution, to consider the feasibility of developing a Family Justice Center in Delaware. Family Justice Centers essentially co-locate services for victims of domestic violence in one facility and are becoming very popular in the United States. The Task Force is scheduled to submit a report to the General Assembly in Fall 2005. The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council continues work to refine and improve services that already exist. As always, the primary goal of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council is to reduce the incidence of domestic violence in all forms.

Appendix

1) Appendix I

Hart, Esq., Barbara J., (1990) "Why She Stays, When She Leaves",
PCADV

2) Appendix II

Winter, S., "Domestic Violence Advocate Pilot Project, 2004

3) Appendix III

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 7