Delaware Domestic Violence Coordinating Council

2001 *ANNUAL REPORT*

to

Hon. Ruth Ann Minner
Governor, State of Delaware

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

Members, General Assembly

Letter from the Chairs

Dear Colleagues,

Enclosed is the Annual Report from the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC). In the seven years we have been in existence, we have made tremendous progress in coordinating services provided by government and nonprofit agencies involved in domestic violence.

The DVCC was particularly active this year with the Fatal Incident Review process. Nine cases were reviewed in FY2001. Further a team attended, participated in, and made a presentation at a national conference on Fatal Incident Reviews in New Hampshire in November of 2000. Also, the initial Fatal Incident Review report is expected to be released in October of 2001.

The DVCC completed, approved, and released the Treatment Intervention Standards. The document is unique in that intervention is determined by the behavior of the perpetrator.

The DVCC also embarked in FY2001 on an effort to review and, where appropriate, recommend changes in policies and procedures concerning domestic incidents where children were involved. This effort includes the participation of a number of governmental and private agencies that work with domestic violence and/or children. It is anticipated that the group will present recommendations to the DVCC in the fall of 2001.

The Legislative Subcommittee drafted legislation to create a Crime Victims Ombudsman Office. The legislation was introduced in June of 2001. If enacted it is expected that the Crime Victims Ombudsman Office will be able to enforce compliance by agencies with the Victims Bill of Rights.

While there are many positive things to report this year, unfortunately, we still had tragic domestic violence deaths in this fiscal period. We must continue to work to reduce domestic violence and these tragic deaths over the coming months.

Chief Judge Vincent J. Poppiti
Chair

Senator Patricia M. Blevins
Vice-Chair

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Preface

The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council was created by legislative initiative in 1993. The Council meets on a quarterly basis and the meetings are open to the public. Much of the work of the Council is done through seventeen regular and ad hoc subcommittees.

Traditionally, the Annual Report has included substantial background information on the subject of domestic violence. That information will still be available upon request by interested parties; however, the new format will focus on the strategic planning process and the year-to-year accomplishments attained as they relate to the goals and objectives of the DVCC.

Ronald T. Keen

Ronald T. Keen
Executive Director

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.

The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council's membership is as follows with the appointing authority indicated where appropriate:

Council Members

Honorable Vincent J. Poppiti, Chair - Chief Judge of Family Court
Honorable Patricia M. Blevins, Vice Chair - Member, Delaware State Senate

Dr. Rhoslyn J. Bishoff - Appointed by the Commission on Family Law
Cynthia M. Boehmer - Member At-Large
Honorable M. Jane Brady - Attorney General
Honorable James L. Ford - Cabinet Secretary
Honorable Deborah Hudson - Member, Delaware House of Representatives
Colonel John L. Cunningham - Appointed by Secretary of Public Safety
Mary W. Davis - Chairperson of Domestic Violence Task Force
Geraldine Lewis-Loper - Member-At-Large
Honorable Cari DeSantis- Cabinet Secretary
Maria Picazo - Member At-Large
Dr. Matthew Hoffman - Designated by Board of Medical Practice
Honorable Henry duPont Ridgely - President Judge of Superior Court
Honorable Lawrence M. Sullivan - Public Defender
Stanley W. Taylor - Commissioner of Adult Correction

DVCC Staff

Ronald T. Keen, Executive Director
Bridget V. Poulle, Project Coordinator
Eileen Ondra, Trainer/Educator
Kenzel Messick, Senior Secretary

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

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* Family is defined under this title to include husband and wife, a man and a woman cohabiting in a home in which there is a child of either or both, custodian and child, and persons closely related by blood or marriage (such as parents, in-laws, siblings, children, grandparents, grandchildren, and stepparents).

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, by marriage or by some other intimate relationship. The parties can be brother and sister, parent and child, or grandparent and grandchild. But the parties may be related in many different ways, including couples that 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 non-criminal acts may have a devastating effect on the family.

UNDERSTANDING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: THE DYNAMICS OF AN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP

I. The Cycle Of Violence

In her seminal work, The Battered Woman, Lenore Walker in 1979 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 eventually help 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 common 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 them 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.

For example, many victims enter the criminal justice system immediately after an acute battering incident. When the parties are before law enforcement or the courts, they may present as witnesses very differently.

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 compellingly argue on their behalf. Only through an understanding of these dynamics can we hope to better get at the truth and better serve these parties.

II. Power And Control Techniques

A graphic depiction of the most common power and control techniques is attached at Appendix C hereto. The Dating Abuse Intervention Project in Duluth, Minnesota provided this graphic.

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, then 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
- Intimidation
- Emotional Abuse
- Isolation
- Minimizing, Denying, Blaming
- Using Children

III. Why Victims Stay in Abusive Relationships

People often ask why victims do not just leave. The reality is that most victims eventually will seek help or escape from a violent relationship. This 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:

- Power and Control Techniques
- Shame
- Religious and Societal Pressures
- Response of Authorities
- Danger
- Economics
- Fear of Losing Custody of the Children

Notwithstanding these many obstacles, people continue to ask why victims just 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

Delaware now has three years of Domestic Violence statistics as we have the data for 2000, 1999, and 1998. A review of the State Bureau of Identifications Domestic Violence statistics for calendar years 2000, 1999, and calendar year 1998 reveals some interesting information.

Domestic Violence Incidents

- The total number of DV incidents in Delaware in 2000 as reported by the State Bureau of Identification was 26,250. This represents a decline of 5% from calendar year 1999. The total for 1999 represented an increase of 3% from 1998.
- Referring to the "criminal" incident statistics, the total number of incidents decreased by 3.9% in 2000 from 1999. The total for 1999 represented an increase of 2.8% over 1998.
- The number of criminal incidents where children were present fell to 25% in 2000. The numbers were 32% in 1999 and 37% in 1998.
- Also, the number of dual arrests continued to fall in 2000 as they occurred in only 8/10 of 1% in 2000. In 1999 the percentage was 2.5% and in 1998 the percentage was 3.5%.
- The number of criminal incidents where a victim was injured was 19.9% in 2000 after being 22% in 1999 and 21% in 1998.

While these year-to-year comparisons are interesting, it is felt that caution should be used before citing these statistics as an indicator that Domestic Violence is decreasing. These statistics are the product of all the police agencies providing data to the State Bureau of Identification. There is some indication that the data fields are not defined uniformly by all departments. The Law Enforcement Subcommittee is reviewing these differences.

Protection *From Abuse Statistics*

- In calendar year 2000 1,855 Protection From Abuse Orders were issued which is a decrease of about 1% from 1999. The 1,871 PFAs issued in 1999 was a decrease of 4% from 1998.
- There were 568 ex-parte orders issued in calendar year 2000, which is a 4.6% increase over 1999 which was a 13% increase over calendar year 1998.
- In 2000, 569 cases were taken to trial and abuse was found in 56% of the cases. In 1999, 554 cases went to trial and there was a finding of abuse 376 times (68%) while in 1998, 545 cases went to trial and there was a finding of abuse 361 times (66%).
- In 2000, 138 cases were taken to trial for civil contempt and guilt was found in 72% of the cases. In calendar year 1999, 122 cases were brought to trial for civil contempt and a finding of guilt was entered 103 times (84%). In calendar year 1998, 184 cases were brought to trial for civil contempt and a finding of guilt was entered 137 times (74%).

Family Court continues to tabulate and review the Protection From Abuse Order statistics. It also examines and attempts to understand any apparent anomalies that appear in the statistics.

Statewide Shelter Statistics

- In 2000, there were 3,612 calls to the Hotline, which is a decrease of 4% from 1999 when there were 3,766 calls. In 1999, the 3,766 calls to the Hotline was an increase of 4% over 1998.
- In New Castle County there were 2,637 calls to the Hotline in 2000, which was a decrease of 4% from 1999 when 2,748 calls to the Hotline were made, which was an increase of 9% over 1998.
- In Kent and Sussex Counties, the calls totaled 975, which is a decrease of 4.2% from the 1,018 calls in 1999, which was a decrease of 6.7% from 1998.
- In 2000, shelter was provided for 480 individuals, which was a decrease of 20% from 1999 when shelter was provided for 602 individuals. The shelter numbers in 1999 were a 7% increase from 1998. It should be noted that the data from 2000 include the 44 individuals who received shelter from La Esperanza while neither the 1999 nor the 1998 data reflected sheltered individuals from La Esperanza.
- In New Castle County, 298 individuals were sheltered in 2000, which was a decrease of 35.6% from 1999 when 463 individuals were sheltered. The 463 individuals sheltered in 1999 was an increase of 26% from 1998.

- In Kent and Sussex Counties, 138 individuals were sheltered in 2000, which is almost exactly the same as the 139 individuals who were sheltered in 1999. The 139 individuals sheltered in 1999 was a decrease of 28% from the number of individuals sheltered in 1998.

Directory for Statewide Domestic Violence Services

Delaware is fortunate to have a comprehensive network of services and interventions. Below are listings for current providers in this state.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM SERVICES
NEW CASTLE COUNTY

24-Hour Hotlines
Provide round the clock, 365 days a year, contact for victims of domestic violence and refer those seeking services to appropriate service providers.

Domestic Violence Hotline 762-6110
Rape Crisis Contact 761-9100
Mobile Crisis Unit 1-800-652-2929
Latino/a Population 1-888-522-2571

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: Victims 50+ Yrs. Old - 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 571-7910/571-7379
Wilmington 573-5537/573-7722

Prosecution Services
Coordinates with and supports 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 577-2200

Offender Supervision
Provides offender supervision and tracking.

Probation/Parole 323-6050

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 577-2200, ext. 3098

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 1-800-701-0456
Domestic Violence Coordinating Council 577-2684

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM SERVICES KENT AND SUSSEX COUNTIES

24-Hour Hotlines
Provide round the clock, 365 days a year, contact for victims of domestic violence and refer those seeking services to appropriate service providers.

Northern Kent 678-3886 Kent and Sussex 422-8058
Latino/a Population 1-302-344-4320 (voice mail, da mensaje)
Abriendo Puertas 745-9874
Rape Crisis Contact 1-800-262-9800
Mobile Crisis Unit (18+ Yrs. of Age) 1-800-345-6785

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

Battered Women's Shelter
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

Police Victim Services
Provide support services to victims of domestic violence as they negotiate the criminal justice system

City of Dover 736-7134
Delaware State Police Victim Services (24 hours) 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 856-5254

Offender Supervision
Provides offender supervision and tracking.

Probation/Parole
Kent 739-2338
Sussex 854-6994

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 1-800-701-0456
Domestic Violence Coordinating Council 1-302-577-2684

Committee Reports

Immigration Subcommittee

The Immigration Subcommittee, chaired by Mary Davis, has been working on domestic violence issues faced by the immigrant community. In addition to their victimization, the immigrant community is confronted with issues around their legal status in this country that can have a chilling effect on the reporting and delivery of effective services. The Subcommittee's efforts during FY2001 have focused on bridging the gap between the northern and southern sections of the state. The Subcommittee has also focused on Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), specifically training with DHSS staff, minority recruitment for DHSS staff, a Spanish-speaking information line for DHSS clients, and creating a manual for DHSS staff. Early in FY 2002 it is anticipated that a new shelter Abriendo Puertas will open in Georgetown for Latino victims.

Law Enforcement Subcommittee

The Law Enforcement Subcommittee, chaired by Secretary of Public Safety James L. Ford, meets on a bi-monthly basis. The Subcommittee is comprised of representatives of numerous Delaware police departments, the Department of Justice, the advocacy community, Dover Air Force Base, and Probation and Parole.

An issue reviewed by the subcommittee in FY2001 was the accuracy of some of the statistics captured by the Domestic Incident Report. A sub-group was formed which recommended some changes concerning how some of the data was captured.

A second issue was a Model Policy for police agencies concerning how an agency would address incidents of domestic violence involving police personnel. The Subcommittee reviewed the Model Policy on Police Officer Domestic Violence, developed jointly by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Office of Community-Oriented Policing, and the Violence Against Women Office. The Policy was submitted to the Goals Committee of the Police Chief's Council for consideration. The Model Policy remains under review by the Police Chief's Council.

In addition, funded by a Federal grant through the Violence Against Women Act, the Law Enforcement Training Work Group completed another successful round of law enforcement training reaching an additional 358 law enforcement officers, probation and parole officers, Division of Family Services staff, prosecutors, magistrates, court commissioners, Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals enforcement officers, and advocates from across the state. The Training Working Group staged a single two-day session at the Sheraton in Dover on November 4 and 5, 2000. Approximately 50% of the attendees were from other than law enforcement occupations. The training featured nationally recognized trainers Mark Wynn and Lydia Walker. The presentation by Ms. Walker focused on Children and DV. The attendees responded very favorably to

the training. Over the past five years nearly 1,700 persons have been trained through this grant.

Members of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council approved spending remaining unspent VAWA grant funds to purchase domestic violence training videos. The videos have been purchased and are available for use by law enforcement agencies throughout the state.

Legislative Drafting and Review Subcommittee

The Legislative Drafting and Review Subcommittee is co-chaired by Senator Patricia Blevins and Attorney General M. Jane Brady. Much of the effort of this Subcommittee during FY2001 was concentrated on an effort to enhance compliance with the Victim's Bill of Rights. The Subcommittee drafted legislation establishing the Office of the Crime Victim's Ombudsman. Senator Blevins introduced this bill, SB 248 in June of 2001. This office, if created, will investigate complaints of noncompliance with the Victim's Bill of Rights. The Crime Victim's Ombudsman is to be appointed by the Governor and within the budget of the Administrative Office of the Courts. The bill also provides for an Advisory Council of nine to oversee the efforts of the Ombudsman. This bill was developed through the active collaboration with and cooperation between the Legislative Subcommittee and the Victims Rights Task Force. These groups are also investigating the need for a Constitutional Amendment for victims. Many states have such an amendment but whether it is appropriate for Delaware is still being evaluated.

The Legislative Subcommittee also at Representative Scott's request revised his bill, HB276 providing leave for victims of violent crime. The bill originally only provided relief for victims of DV but the group felt strongly that relief should be available for victims of a variety of violent crimes. The Subcommittee recommended changes to the legislation, which became part of the bill introduced by Representative Scott in June of 2001.

Senator Blevins also sponsored SB 97 (which was subsequently signed into law), which changed the composition of the DVCC. The law amended Title 13, Section 2102(6) by designating the "Secretary of the Department of Public Safety" and Title 13, Section 2102(13) by repealing the subsection and inserting "The Secretary of the Department of Services for Children, Youth, and Their Families".

The DVCC, on the recommendation of the Legislative Subcommittee, voted to oppose SB 61 because of an amendment that would remove judicial discretion in decisions to issue a license to carry a concealed deadly weapon. The DVCC, also on the recommendation of the Legislative Subcommittee, voted to endorse SB 100, which attempts to close the criminal background check loophole currently existing with private gun sales. Neither of these bills passed the General Assembly.

The Legislative Subcommittee, concerned with the impact on children witnessing a violent crime, sent a letter to SENTAC Chair, The Honorable Richard Gebelein, requesting that "presence of a child or children" be added as

an "Aggravating Factor" for any offense involving violence or the threat of violence.

Medical Subcommittee

The Medical Subcommittee chaired by Dr. Gordon Reed completed the publication, "Domestic Violence- A Resource Manual for Healthcare Providers for the State of Delaware," in FY2000. Staff members of the DVCC and the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence joined with Council member Dr. Gordon Reed to provide training for health care providers across the state in FY2000 and into the early months of FY2001. Dr. Reed left the DVCC after the January quarterly meeting. The DVCC presented Dr. Reed as well as retiring nurse Jean Ablanap each a plaque in recognition of their many years of service on behalf of victims. The Board of Medical Practice recommended Dr. Matthew Hoffman to replace Dr. Reed on the DVCC. Dr. Hoffman was introduced as a member in the spring of 2001, and has assumed Chairmanship of the Medical Subcommittee.

Corrections Subcommittee

The Corrections Subcommittee had some significant changes in FY2001. Commissioner of the Department of Correction, Stan Taylor, was added to the DVCC in FY2000 and in FY2001 he accepted the chairmanship of the Corrections Subcommittee. Commissioner Taylor convened bi-monthly meetings

and rotated the meetings among the three counties. Discussions at the meetings focused on the Victim's Bill of Rights and intervention for perpetrators.

Commissioner Taylor placed a priority on DV training for the appropriate personnel. The DOC contracted with Bonnie Black, a nationally recognized trainer, to provide DV training for approximately 70 Probation Officers in August of 2001. The DVCC staff and the Bureau of Prisons have also begun an effort to develop training for professional staff at the DOC institutions.

Treatment and Resources Subcommittee

The Treatment and Resources Subcommittee chaired by Cynthia Boehmer is responsible for the development of treatment protocol standards to be applied to programs on a statewide basis. The Subcommittee is comprised of people who work in the treatment field. In FY 2001 this Subcommittee worked diligently at creating a revised intervention protocol. This protocol focuses on the behavior of the perpetrator. The Subcommittee completed the revised protocol and it was adopted by the DVCC.

Batterers' Intervention Program Certification Panel

The Batterers' Intervention Program Certification Panel was formed by the Coordinating Council to implement the batterers' treatment protocol established by the Treatment Subcommittee. The protocol was developed to help ensure

that individuals receiving batterers' treatment attend effective programs that are tailored to serving the unique needs of domestic violence perpetrators.

Members of the Certification Panel evaluate applications for program certification based upon compliance with the standards described in the treatment protocol. Standards include such factors as treatment provider education and experience, program length, group size, and program content. Upon completion of the review, recommendations of the Certification Panel are submitted to the full Council for final decision. Programs receiving certification are included on a list distributed to judicial officers and others throughout the state for use in making treatment referrals.

The panel includes representatives from treatment programs, victim advocacy/services, Family Court, the Attorney General's Office, Probation and Parole, the Public Defender's Office, and the Department of Correction's Treatment Unit.

In FY2001, the panel reviewed two applications for Batterers' Intervention Program certification and their recommendation will be presented to the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council members.

The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council has approved certification of five Intervention programs to provide appropriate domestic violence treatment services:

Catholic Charities, Inc.
Domestic Violence Program
Fourth Street and Greenhill Avenue
Wilmington, DE 19805
Telephone: 302-655-9624

CHILD, Inc.
Domestic Violence Treatment Program
507 Philadelphia Pike
Wilmington, DE 19809
Telephone: 302-762-8989

People's Place II
Family Violence Treatment Unit
1131 Airport Road
Milford, DE 19963-6418
Telephone: 302-424-2420

New Path Consultants, Inc.
P.O. Box 1565
Millsboro, DE 19966
Telephone: 302-684-1139

Family Advocacy Program
Domestic Violence/Batterers Group
436 MDOS/SGOHF
260 Chad Street
Dover AFB, DE 19902-7260

Note: The Coordinating Council 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. In most cases, no further inquiry is made. The certification process is ongoing. Interested parties should contact the DVCC at 577-2684 for an updated list of certified programs.

Fatal Incident Review Team

In June of 1996, legislation was enacted authorizing the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council to establish a Fatal Incident Review Team. The Review Team is co-chaired by two members of the Coordinating Council, and is comprised of the Attorney General or designee, Director of the Division of Family Services or designee, the chair of the Domestic Violence Task Force or designee, the Chief Judge of Family Court or designee, the Chief Magistrate of

the Justice of the Peace Courts or designee, and a law enforcement officer appointed by the Delaware Chiefs of Police Council. The Review Team may also invite other relevant persons to serve on an ad-hoc basis and participate as full members of the review panel for particular reviews. The Review Team was created to investigate and review the facts and circumstances of all deaths that occur in Delaware as a result of domestic violence. The review process includes both homicides and suicides resulting from domestic violence.

The purpose of reviewing domestic violence deaths is to identify the obstacles to delivery of services, and assess the adequacy of agency intervention with the ultimate goal of preventing future fatalities. At the end of each case review, team members develop recommendations aimed at improving policies and practices which constitute Delaware's response to domestic violence. The recommendations of the Fatal Incident Review Team are used by the DVCC to advocate appropriate changes within the system.

The Fatal Incident Review Team (FIRT), chaired by Chief Judge Vincent Poppiti and Cynthia Boehmer, met nine times during FY2001 and reviewed 9 cases. Efforts to enhance the efficiency of the review process have been successful this year, which has significantly increased the number of cases reviewed. To date, the FIRT has reviewed twenty-five domestic violence homicides and suicide cases. The First Annual Report of the Fatal Incident Review Team was compiled using aggregate data from sixteen completed case reviews.

External Committee Involvement

Staff at the DVCC participate on a regular basis in the committee work of organizations involved in this effort. We provide assistance and consultation to the Criminal Justice Council in their staff support to the Violence Against Women Act Implementation Committee. The DVCC staff has a seat on the committee, which reviews and recommends Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding. as well as a seat on the committee, which reviews and recommends Family Violence Prevention & Services funding. The DVCC participates on a steering committee for the State Visitation Center effort out of the Department of Health and Social Services. Staff attends meetings of the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence subcommittees ({including the Women of Color Task Force) and the Domestic Violence Task Force. The DVCC also attends the Legislative Roundtable meetings sponsored by the Agenda for Delaware Women and the Corporate Citizenship Initiative on Domestic Violence in the Workplace (Attorney General's Office).

In October of 2000 the DVCC, out of deep concern with the effect of domestic violence on children, approved an ad-hoc group (Children and Domestic Violence Working Group) to consider issues involving children and domestic violence. The group, consisting of representatives of the Division of Family Services, the Department of Justice, the advocacy community, the treatment community, law enforcement, the courts, and others, divided into five subcommittees, have met on a regular basis. Each subcommittee formulated recommendations for systemic changes concerning how children are treated in

domestic violence cases. The Children and Domestic Violence Working Group is to review and approve the recommendations that will then be submitted to the DVCC for review.

The staff of the DVCC has also been an active participant in the City Theater Project. This effort is a collaborative effort of a number of organizations including the U.S. Attorney's Office, Child Incorporated, SANE of Sussex County, the YMCA Resource Center, City Theater, and the DVCC. The group has authored an interactive play portraying the development of a domestic incident involving a teenage couple. The play was presented in a number of schools in FY2001 to hundreds of students. The interaction of the students in the audience with the play was intense and the play was very well received. The group also sponsored a shorter promotional video of the play that is intended to be shown to school administrators when the group offers to present the play in the school.

Conferences Attended

During FY2001, DVCC staff and members attended the following conferences:

7/12/00 thru 7/14/00, Praxis sponsored conference in Duluth, Minnesota.

9/23/00 thru 9/27/00, The 5th International Conference on Family Violence in San Diego, California. The conference was attended by the

Honorable Vincent Poppiti, Guy Sapp, and Ron Keen. Judge Poppiti and Guy Sapp gave a presentation on the formation of the DVCC.

10/24/01, DCADV conference, Achieving Cultural Competency

11/14/00 thru 11/17/00, Cindy Boehmer, Bridget Poulle, and Ron Keen were among a team of five who attended a STOP TA regional conference in New Hampshire on the Fatal Incident Review process. Bridget presented Delaware's efforts to date in the Fatal Incident Review process.

1/19/01, DCADV Substance Abuse and DV workshop.

3/22/01, Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence, sponsored by the Department of Justice.

3/27/01 and 3/28/01, YMCA Resource Center, "Let it Begin With Me" conference on youth.

4/2/01 CJC Grant Writing Workshop.

4/17/01 Drug Facilitated Rape Conference.

5/07/01 thru 5/09/01 Delaware sent a team of 11 to a regional Full Faith and Credit Conference in Atlanta. Among the 11 were Judge Poppiti and Ron Keen from the DVCC. While problems exist with the Protection From Abuse process in Delaware, it was clear to the group that the statewide system in Delaware functions more efficiently and uniformly than in the other states attending the conference.

5/07/01 Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence Annual Retreat in Dewey Beach.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

As in the past, the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council co-sponsored and participated in a host of events marking "Domestic Violence Awareness Month." Governor Thomas R. Carper issued a proclamation declaring the month of October "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" in Delaware. The DVCC co-sponsored with the DCADV the Domestic Violence Awareness Month Kick-off press conference at the Legislative Hall in Dover on October 2, 2000. The DVCC participated in a number of other events in October 2000, including Wilmington Wellness Day on October 7, the St. Francis Hospital DV Symposium on October 9, the Latin American Community Center's Peace in the Streets Fair on October 17, and the DCADV's Cultural Competency Seminar.

Training /Presentations Provided

The following training was provided during the fiscal year:

Date	Targeted Audience	Location	Attendees (Estimate)
8/8/00	Polaroid Initiative	Seaford Country Club	100
8/31/00	DV Training for Magistrates	New Castle	2
9/12/00	DV Training for Court Watch	University of Delaware	4
9/25/00	DV Medical Training	Christiana Hospital	25
9/25/00	5th International Conference on Family Violence	San Diego, CA	30
10/7/00	Wilmington Wellness Day	Wilmington. DE	50
10/17/00	Peace in the Streets Prevention Fair	Wilmington, DE	100
10/18/00	Clergy Training	Del Tech, Dover	20
11/1/00	City Theater Presentation	Conrad Middle School	250
11/1/00	Seaford Shelter Opening	Seaford Boys and Girls Club	100
11/1/00	Law Enforcement Training	Sheraton Hotel Dover	358
11/07/00	Advocacy Program Training	Aldersgate Methodist Church	25
1/26/01	DOJ DV Training	DOJ	8
2/12/01	Family Law Commission	Family Court, NCC	2
2/21/01	Family Law Commission	Family Court, Dover	2
2/27/01	DV Training	Kingswood Community Center, Wilmington	25
3/2/01	City Theater Presentation	Padua School/Salesianum	200
3/16/01	LACC Training	Wilmington	5
3/28/01	City Theater Presentation	YMCA, "Let it Begin With Me" Conference, Sheraton Hotel, Dover	125
4/28/01	Nutritionally Speaking Health Fair	NCC	125
5/7/01	City Theater Presentation	DCADV Retreat, Dewey Beach	50
5/14/01	Status of Women in DE Conference	University of Delaware	150

Conclusion

The Council appreciated the opportunity to work with Governor Carper's Administration and the General Assembly and the Judiciary on domestic violence issues. With the support of Governor Minner and a new General Assembly, the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council will endeavor in the coming year to continue to reduce the incidence of domestic violence across the State.

The Council will continue to work with practitioners in the field of domestic abuse, including the medical, criminal justice, and treatment and advocate communities to share information, update protocols and procedures; and minimize the potential for physical and emotional injury to the victims and potential victims of domestic abuse. It is clear that much work remains to be done on the issue of domestic violence given the number of criminal complaints and deaths due to domestic violence in 2000.

The Council looks forward to continuing work initiated in FY2001 such as the Crime Victims Ombudsman and the impact of domestic violence on children. The Council also looks forward to the new challenges that will develop in FY2002.