



Domestic Violence Coordinating Council

2004 ANNUAL REPORT



to

Honorable Ruth Ann Minner
Governor, State of Delaware

Honorable Myron T. Steele
Chief Justice, Supreme Court
State of Delaware

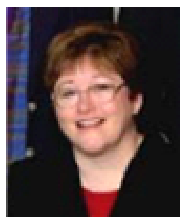
Members, General Assembly



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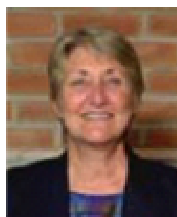
Domestic Violence Coordinating Council Members



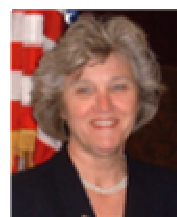
Hon. Patricia M. Blevins
State Senate
Council Chair



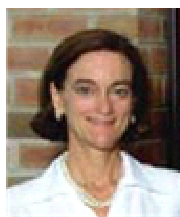
Hon. Chandlee Johnson Kuhn
Chief Judge Family Court
Council Vice-Chair



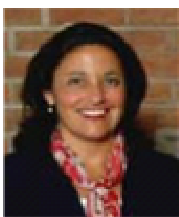
Ms. Cynthia M. Boehmer
Families In Transition
Member at Large



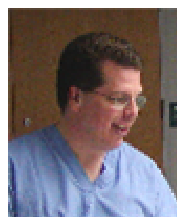
Hon. M. Jane Brady
Attorney General



Ms. Mary Davis
Chair, Domestic
Violence Task Force



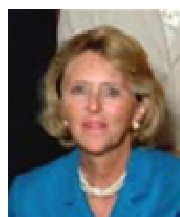
Hon. Cari DeSantis
Secretary, The Dept. of Services for
Children, Youth, and Their Families



Dr. Matthew Hoffman
Christiana Hospital
Medical Representative



Chief Jeffrey Horvath
Dover Police Department
Law Enforcement Representative



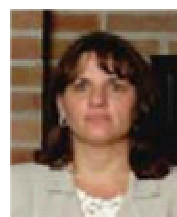
Hon. Deborah Hudson
House of Representatives



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



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



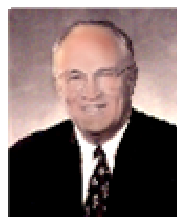
Ms. Maria Picazo
Abriendo Puertas
Member at Large



Hon. Vincent J. Poppiti
Blank Rome, LLP
Member at Large



Hon. Liane Sorenson
State Senate
Commission on Family Law



Hon. Lawrence M. Sullivan
The Public Defender



Hon. Stanley W. Taylor
Commissioner
Dept. of Correction

Vacancy: President Judge of Superior Court

Staff Members



Ronald T. Keen
Executive Director



Bridget V. Poule
Project Coordinator



Maureen Querey
VAWA Planner/Monitor



Eileen Ondra
Trainer/Educator



Kenzel V. Messick
Senior Secretary

Membership Changes

At the October 2003 Quarterly meeting, the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) unanimously elected Senator Patricia Blevins as Chair and Chief Judge Chandlee Johnson Kuhn as Vice Chair to serve through 2004. State Representative Deborah Hudson was selected to join Senator Blevins, Chief Judge Kuhn, Attorney General Jane Brady and Cindy Boehmer on the Executive Committee.

The Honorable James L. Ford, Secretary of Safety and Homeland Security, retired from State service on April 30, 2004. Secretary Ford served on the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council from January 2001 until his retirement. Secretary Ford Co-Chaired the Law Enforcement Subcommittee. During his tenure, the Intimate Partner Report was created and the "Model Policy on Police Officer Domestic Violence" was endorsed by the Police Chief's Council.

In June 2004, the State Senate confirmed Governor Ruth Ann Minner's appointment of David B. Mitchell as Secretary of Safety and Homeland Security. Secretary Mitchell was a former Superintendent of the Maryland State Police. With the appointment to Secretary of Safety and Homeland Security, Secretary Mitchell becomes a member of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council.

A Letter From The Chairs

Dear Colleagues:

Last year the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) celebrated its tenth anniversary. Much was accomplished in that first ten years in combating domestic violence in Delaware; the DVCC is very proud of the lead role that it played in drafting legislation, formulating policy, developing protocols, providing training, and raising public awareness.

In a sense, so much was accomplished from 1993 through 2003 because there was so much to be done in the fight against domestic violence. By 2004, legislation has been enacted, policies and protocols have been developed, procedures have been initiated, and programs have been started that benefit victims and hold perpetrators accountable.

While being proud of the accomplishments of the last ten years, the DVCC recognizes that significant work is still needed and will continue to be needed in the years to come. Legislation enacted over the last ten years needs periodic review to determine if adjustments are in order. Practices and policies within the law enforcement community need to be examined for effectiveness and, if necessary, changes need to be formulated. The courts need to continue to look at their practices in processing domestic violence cases and responding to the issues of litigants. Additionally, work is needed to ensure that the supervision provided by the Department of Correction for offenders convicted of domestic violence offenses is effective in enhancing victim safety and preventing offender recidivism.

The DVCC has made efforts to address the relatively new initiative of identifying and addressing the needs of children in families of domestic violence. Domestic violence issues in the immigrant community present unique challenges, but the DVCC is attacking those problems with

understanding and vigor. The DVCC is reaching out to the medical community to raise awareness of domestic violence, to encourage and develop training, and to draw healthcare professionals into the domestic violence community.

In summary, we are encouraged that, through the efforts of collaborating agencies, many improvements have been made over the past eleven years. We recognize, however, that much work lies ahead. The DVCC is confident that through the commitment of its members and with the collaboration of the domestic violence community that services for victims will be enhanced and that Delaware's collective response to domestic violence will continue to improve.



Senator Patricia M. Blevins
Chair



Chief Judge Chandlee Johnson Kuhn
Vice Chair

Preface

The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council 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 done through its eight formal subcommittees chaired by DVCC members, the Fatal Incident Review Team (FIRT), and through various workgroups managed by DVCC staff. Subcommittee summaries are included in this report.

Traditionally, the Annual Report 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 the early months of 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, and 2004, Intervention Standards for Domestic Violence Perpetrators, the Model Policy on Domestic Violence in the Workplace, and Violence Against Women Act-funded reports on the Risk Assessment and Rural Needs. Every Annual Report from 2001 to the present can be accessed through the website.

In late 2003, the DVCC published the first issue of *DV News*, a quarterly newsletter. The intent of DV News is to communicate to the domestic violence community in Delaware important and relevant events and issues.



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.

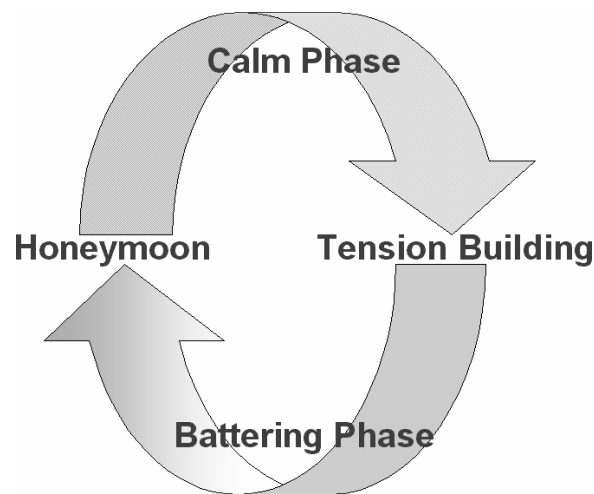
Domestic violence also includes a wide range of behaviors. Some acts of domestic violence are criminal offenses under Title 11 of the Delaware Code, such as assault, terroristic threatening, destruction of property, or sexual offenses. Other forms of domestic violence may not constitute criminal conduct, 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: _____

The Dynamics of An Abusive Relationship

The Cycle Of Violence

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



A. Tension Building Stage

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

B. Acute Battering Incident

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

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

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

Honeymoon Stage

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

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

The Effects of the Cycle of Violence

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

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

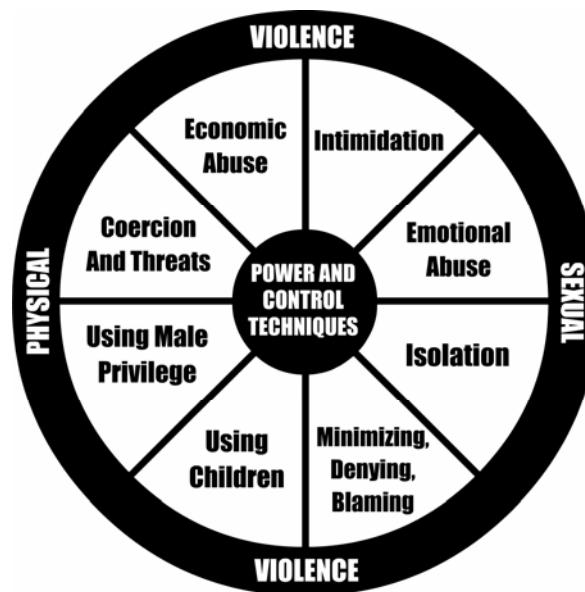
Understanding Domestic Violence: The Dynamics of An Abusive Relationship

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

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

Power And Control Techniques

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



The most common power and control techniques may include:

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

Why Victims Stay in Abusive Relationships

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

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

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

Domestic Violence Criminal Data _____

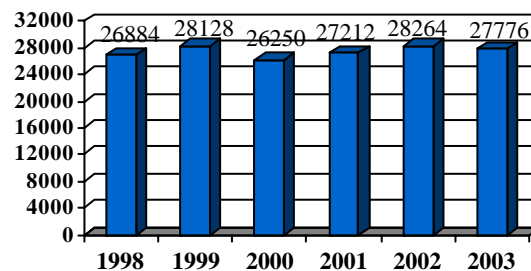
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATISTICS

Delaware has six years of domestic violence statistics (1998-2003). A review of the statistics published by the State Bureau of Identification for calendar years 1998 through 2003 reveals some interesting information.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INCIDENTS

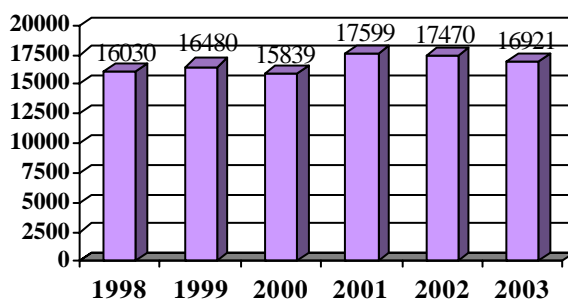
In calendar year 2003, as reported by the State Bureau of Identification, the total number of domestic violence incidents (combined criminal and non-criminal) was 27,776, representing a decrease of 1.7% from the 28,264 reported in 2002, an increase of 2% over the total reported in 2001, and an increase of 3.3% over the number reported in 1998. Since the inception of the DV Incident Report in 1998, the number of domestic complaints that police respond to has varied little.

DV Incidents 1998 - 2003



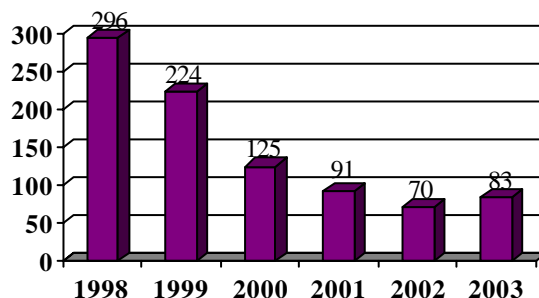
In calendar year 2003 the total number of domestic violence criminal incidents was 16,921, representing a decrease of 3% from the 17,470 that were reported in 2002, and a decrease of 3.9% from the 17,599 reported in 2001. Calendar year 2003 presented the highest total reported in any year since Delaware started tabulating the data in 1998. The total for 2003 reflects an increase of 5.6% over the 16,030 reported in 1998.

DV Criminal Incidents



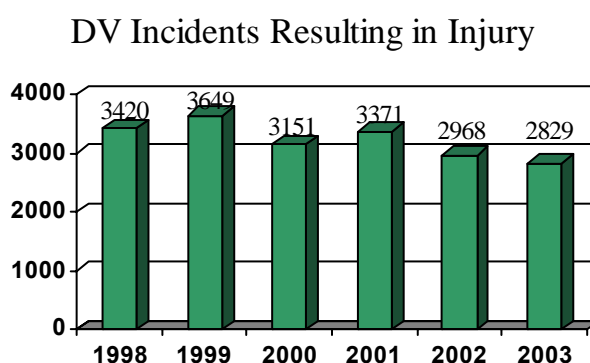
In 2003, 83 (0.5%) of the criminal domestic incidents resulted in a dual arrest. This compares with 0.4% reported in 2002, 1.3% reported in 2001, 0.8% reported in 2000, 2.5% in 1999, and 3.5% in 1998. This is a category that has decreased dramatically since 1998, reflecting an increased sensitivity by law enforcement to victims of domestic violence.

DV Incidents Resulting in Dual Arrests



In 2003, the number of criminal domestic incidents in which an individual was injured was 2,829, occurring in 16.7% of the 16,921 criminal domestic incidents. In 2002, 17% of the incidents included physical injury compared to 19% in 2001, 19.9% in 2000, 22% in 1999, and 21% in 1998.

In 1998 the number of domestic criminal incidents in which a victim was injured was 3,420. The total of 2,829 for 2003 represents a decrease of 17.2% from the 1998 total. The lower total and percentage in 2003 may indicate that police are being called before violence occurs more often now than they were a few years ago.

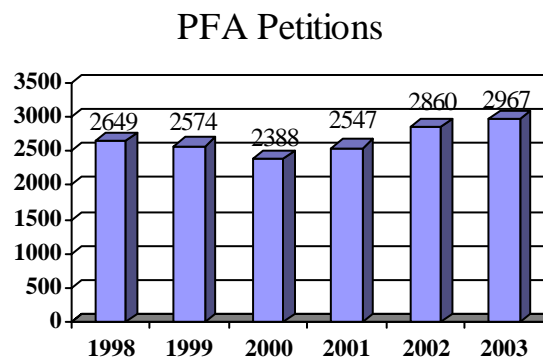


INTIMATE PARTNER REPORT

In 2003 Delaware broke the relationship “intimate partner” out of the criminal domestic incidents for the first time. For 2003, the relationship in criminal domestic incidents was classified as “intimate partner” on 8,021 occasions, which represents 47% of the total of 16,921 criminal domestic incidents. The victim was listed as female in 75% of the cases and as male in 25%. Injuries were reported in 20.1% of the incidents and dual arrests occurred in 0.7% of the cases.

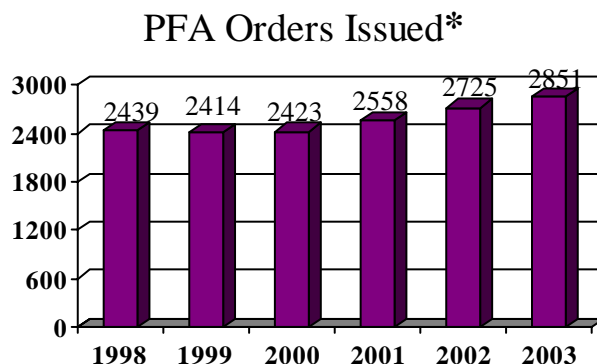
Protection From Abuse Statistics

Family Court processed 2,967 Protection From Abuse Petitions statewide in 2003, which is an increase of 3.7% from 2002 when 2,860 were processed. The 2002 total was an increase of 12.3% from the 2,547 filings of 2001. 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 in 2000. The average over the six-year period is 2,664.



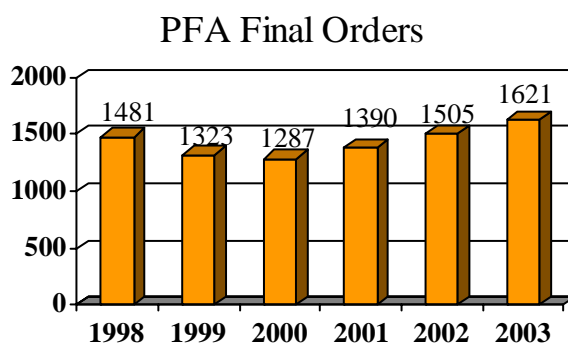
In 2003, a total of 2,851 Protection From Abuse Orders were issued in Delaware. This total represents an increase of 4.6% from the 2,725 issued in 2002. The 2002 total represented an increase of 6.5% over the 2,558 that were issued in 2001. For the six-year period beginning in 1998 the highest annual 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 six-year period is 2,568.

The totals include Ex-Parte Orders and Protection From Abuse Final Orders. An Ex-Parte Order is a temporary order issued by the court when it is determined that the petitioner is in immediate danger. The temporary order remains in effect for ten days until the regular hearing is held.



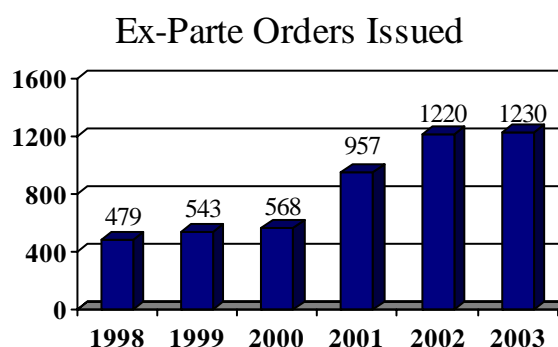
* PFA Orders issued include Ex-Parte Orders and Final Orders.

In 2003, the number of Final Orders issued statewide was 1,621, which is an increase of 7.7% from the 1,505 Final Orders that were issued in 2002. The total for 2002 represented an increase of 8% from the 1,380 that were issued in 2001. Over the six-year period beginning in 1998 the highest number of Final Orders issued was the 1,621 in 2003 and the lowest was the 1,287 in 2000. The average annual number of Protection From Abuse Orders issued during the six-year period is 1,435.

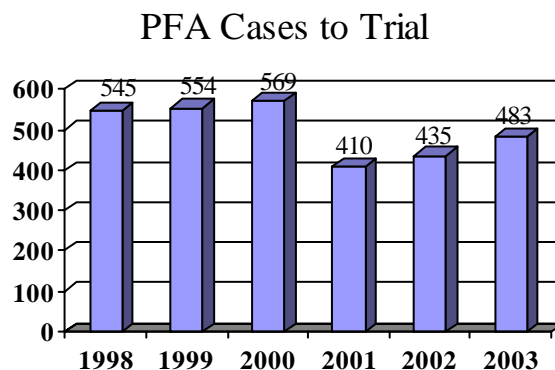


In 2003, Family Court issued 1,230 Ex-Parte Orders. This total reflects an increase of 1% from the 1,220 that were issued in 2002. The 2002 total represented an increase of 27% from the 957 that were issued in

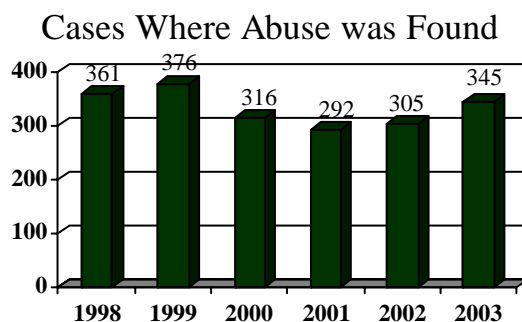
2001. In late 2002, Family Court discovered a flaw in the automated counting procedure and made a significant upwards adjustment for the Ex-Parte total for 2001. It is not known if the counting error also occurred in the years prior to 2001. The totals for the three previous years ranged from the 479 in 1998 to the 568 in 2000. Given the question about the early data, it is perhaps prudent to consider the three-year period from 1998 to 2000 when the average is 530 and the three-year period from 2001 through 2003 when the annual average is 1,136.



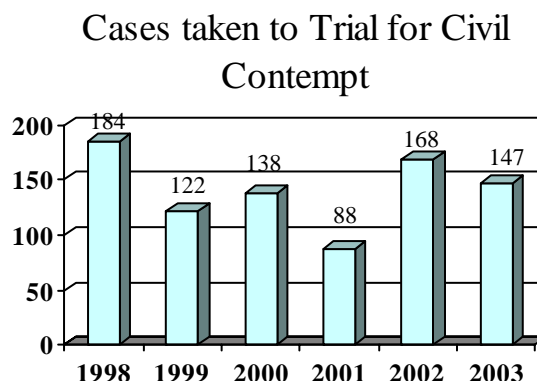
In 2003, 483 Protection From Abuse Petitions were taken to trial, which reflects an increase of 11% from the 435 cases that went to trial in 2002. The 2002 total was an increase of 6% from the 410 that were taken to trial in 2001. Over the six-year period beginning in 1998 the number of Protection From Abuse Petitions that were taken to trial ranged from the high of 569 in 2000 to the low of 410 in 2001. The six-year average is 499.



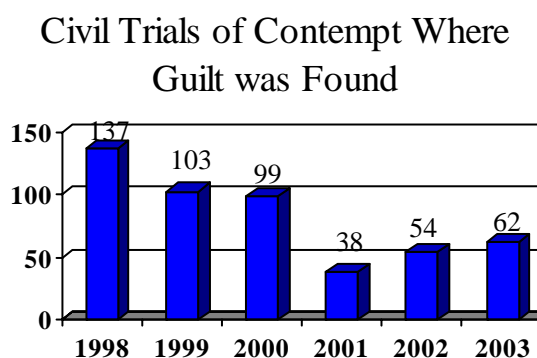
In 2003, abuse was found in 345 cases, which is 71.4% of the cases that were taken to trial. This compares with the 70% finding of abuse in 2002 and the 71% in 2001. In 2000 the figure was 56%, in 1999 it was 68% and in 1998 the figure was 66%. The average for the six-year period beginning in 1998 is 67%.



In 2003, 147 cases were returned to Family Court on a charge of Civil Contempt of a PFA. This is a decrease of 12.5% from the 168 cases that were taken back to court in 2002. In the six-year period beginning in 1998, the range in cases being returned to court on a charge of civil contempt of a PFA was from a low of 88 in 2001 to a high of 184 in 1998. The average for the six-year period is 141.



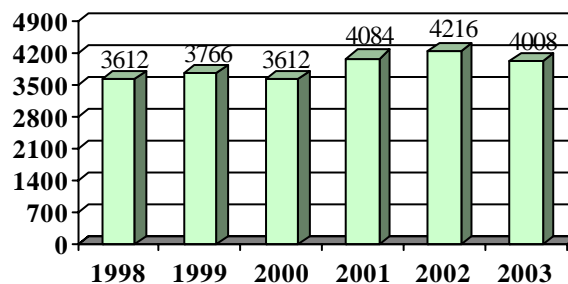
In 2003, civil contempt orders were entered in 62 cases. This is 42% of the cases returned to court for civil contempt. This compares with 32% in 2002, 43% in 2001, and 72% in 2000. In 1999 the figure was 84% and in 1998 it was 65%. This percentage has been highly variable over the six-year period. The average is 58% with a high of 84% in 1999 and a low of 32% in 2002. 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.



Shelter Statistics

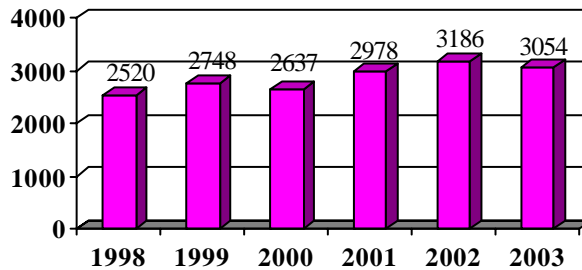
In 2003, there were 4,008 calls statewide to the domestic violence hotlines. This is a decrease of 4.9% from the 4,216 calls that were received in 2002. The 2002 total was an increase of 3% from the 4,084 that were received in 2001. The figure for 2002 is the highest annual total since the DVCC began reporting the data in 1998, while the lowest annual total was the 3,612 received in 1998 and again in 2000. The 2003 total of 4,008 represents an increase of 10.9% from the 3,612 that were reported in 1998. The average number of hotline calls received annually since 1998 is 3,883.

Statewide Hotline Calls



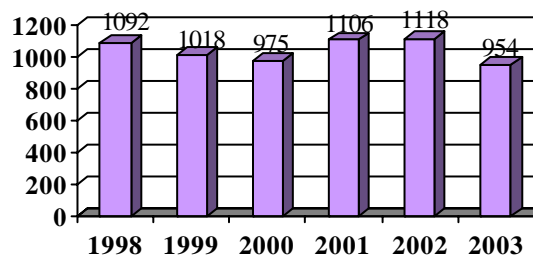
In 2003, there were 3,054 calls to the domestic violence hotline in New Castle County. This represents a reduction of 4.1% from the 3,186 that were received in 2002. The total for 2002 represented an increase of 7% from the 2,978 that were received in 2001. The figure for 2002 represents the highest annual total for New Castle County since the DVCC began tracking the data in 1998 with the total of 2,520 in 1998 being the lowest. The total for 2003 represents an increase of 21% from the 1998 calls. The average number of hotline calls annually since 1998 is 2,853.

New Castle County Hotline Calls



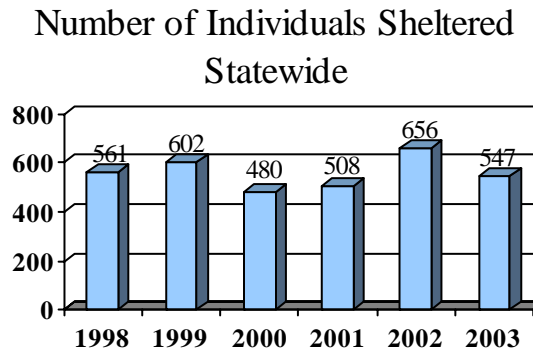
In Kent and Sussex Counties (including Abriendo Puertas), the total number of hotline calls in 2003 was 954, which is a decrease of 14.7% from the 1,118 calls that were received in 2002. The total of 954 hotline calls received is the lowest annual number since the DVCC began tracking the total in 1998. The range has been the low of 954 received in 2003 and the high of 1,118 in 2002. The annual average for the six year period is 1,044 calls received.

Kent & Sussex County Hotline Calls

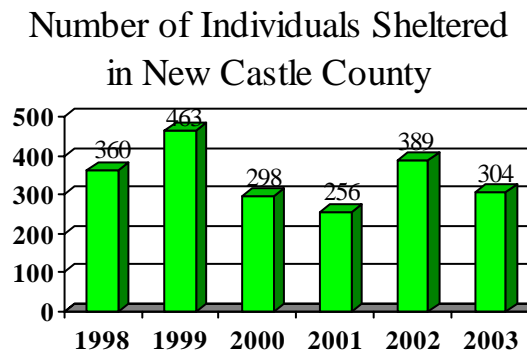


In Delaware 547 individuals received shelter in the domestic violence shelters in 2003. This total represents a decrease of 16.6% from the 656 that were sheltered in 2002. The total for 2002 was an increase of 29% from the 508 that were sheltered in 2001. The total for 2002 was the highest recorded in the past six years while the 2000 total of 480 was the lowest

annual total recorded. The average annual total of individuals sheltered in Delaware's domestic violence shelters since 1998 is 559.

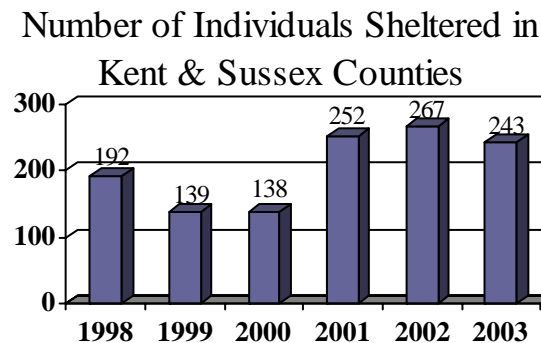


In New Castle County, shelter was provided to 304 individuals in 2003. This represents a decrease of 9.6% from the 389 who were sheltered in 2002. The highest number of individuals sheltered in the past six years was the 463 in 1999 and the lowest was the 256 sheltered in 2001. The average number of individuals sheltered annually in New Castle County since 1998 is 345.



In Kent and Sussex Counties, the total number of individuals sheltered in 2003 was 243, that is a decrease of 9% from the 267 who were sheltered in 2002. The average number of individuals sheltered annually in

Kent and Sussex Counties is 205. The range has been from a low of 138 in 2000 to a high of 267 in 2003.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVOCATE PILOT PROJECT

In Fiscal Year 2001, People's Place II, Inc., was awarded a grant, Domestic Violence Advocate Pilot Program, through the Delaware Criminal Justice Council (CJC) by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, to collaborate with the Delaware Division of Family Services (DFS) in Sussex County to provide advocacy support referrals to domestic violence victims who are involved with DFS.

Due to the success of the collaboration between advocates and DFS workers, Child, Inc., received a grant from the CJC, by the U.S. Department of Justice Program, Office for the Victims of Crime, to expand the partnership to New Castle County. Additionally, in Fiscal Year 2003, People's Place II, Inc., expanded the initiative to Kent County through further funding through CJC and the Office for the Victims of Crime. In total, as of March 2004, the programs have served 289 clients. Of that total, 187 were from Sussex County, 87 were from New Castle County, and 15 were from Kent County.

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

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

Family Court 255-0300

Offender Supervision

Provides offender supervision and tracking.

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

*Victim Service Representative: 323-6050, extension 220

Assistance for Victims of Violent Crime

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

Violent Crimes Compensation Board 995-8383

Court Advocacy

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

Victim Advocacy Program 255-0420/255-0422

Legal 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.

Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence 658-2958

Kent/Sussex: 1-800-701-0456

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

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 1-302-745-9874 or 855-9515

Treatment & Intervention Services

Provide treatment and counseling services for persons experiencing domestic violence.

Children & Families First 856-2388 (ext.135 Spanish-speaking)

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

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/Sussex 855-7468

Offender Supervision

Provides offender supervision and tracking.

Probation/Parole

Kent 739-2338/Sussex 856-5243

Assistance for Victims of Violent Crime

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

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

Court Advocacy

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

Domestic Violence Advocacy Center
Kent 739-6552/Sussex 856-5843

Legal 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 39-4476; Sussex 856-5840

Information/Referral

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

Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Kent/Sussex 1-800-701-0456
Domestic Violence Coordinating Council 1-302-255-0405

Website: www.dvcc.state.de.us

Certified Batterers' Intervention Programs

The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council staffs a panel of intervention practitioners and involved 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 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.

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 six times over the past year. It has worked diligently to develop a user friendly Menu of Treatment Services to be provided to the Family Court. The intent of the list is to provide a level of detail about existing programs and services that will enable judicial officers to make more informed decisions. Work with Family Court staff to develop the Menu is ongoing.

Subcommittee members reviewed the status of the Goals and Recommendations compiled by the Children and DV Workgroup. Issues were prioritized as High, Medium, and Low, based on the urgency of response needed to address the issues. The committee determined that all of the issues have been addressed although not necessarily resolved, as some of the work is ongoing.

Members of the Subcommittee plan to submit a collaborative grant under the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention: Safe Start. The initiative will fund services for children who witness domestic violence. The grant was announced in October of 2003. To date funds for this grant have not been made available.

The Subcommittee goal is to develop a Strategic Plan for the State of Delaware specifically targeting issues involving children in families experiencing domestic violence by holding the perpetrator accountable, and addressing child and victim safety, child well-being, and financing of services.

CORRECTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Department of Correction Commissioner Stan Taylor and Geri Lewis-Loper co-chair the Corrections Subcommittee. The Subcommittee met quarterly throughout the year. As in past years this Subcommittee has discussed issues related to victim notification and perpetrator treatment. A significant issue this past year was the number of domestic violence cases being supervised by probation officers. Probation and Parole had a number of vacancies, which it was unable to fill due to the hiring freeze. As a result, caseloads increased. They remain high, particularly at Level 3 (intensive probation) as vacancies remain.

In 2003, with the use of Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) funds, Probation and Parole hired a Victim Services Agent for victims in New Castle County. Because of the success of the program, an application for expansion to the southern part of the State is being considered.

Also in April of 2004, using VAWA funds, the Department of Correction re-instituted its Domestic Violence/Sexual Offender 24-7 pager system which was discontinued in 2002. The system provides a domestic violence and sexual assault probation officer on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week for police officers to call if they arrest a probationer on a new domestic violence or sexual assault offense.

With the placement of a number of new officers in domestic violence caseload positions during the past few months, Probation and Parole has a need for specialized training for these officers. They are investigating the possibility of bringing domestic violence training specific to probation to Delaware.

COURTS SUBCOMMITTEE

The Courts Subcommittee is co-chaired by Family Court Chief Judge Chandlee Johnson Kuhn and Senator Liane Sorenson. The Subcommittee met quarterly throughout the year. With the assistance of DELJIS staff, the group hopes to enhance the availability of information to judicial officers. The Justice of the Peace Court system developed and implemented guidelines for the processing of domestic violence cases. The Courts Subcommittee reviewed the guidelines and gave positive feedback to Chief Magistrate Patricia Griffin. Crowded domestic violence calendars in both the criminal and civil sections were a concern and generated much discussion. In May 2004, the DVCC submitted a letter of support to the Joint Finance Committee for additional Family Court judges.

While Family Court and the Justice of the Peace Courts are actively involved in the Courts Subcommittee, efforts are underway to encourage more active participation from Superior Court and the Court of Common Pleas, as domestic violence cases are processed by these courts as well.

IMMIGRATION

The Immigration Subcommittee is co-chaired by Mary Davis and Maria Picazo. This subcommittee has New Castle County and Sussex County chapters and each meets on a regular basis. The New Castle group is developing a list of services available to immigrants to be used as a reference by judicial officers. In Sussex County the primary focus of the group's effort has been the DELTA project that is discussed in detail in another section of this report.

There are several ongoing efforts that could have statewide applicability. There is an emphasis being placed on expanding the group to include a broader spectrum of ethnic cultures. Also, training for judicial officers on Violence Against Women Act legislation as it pertains to immigrants is being planned. Further, court processes are being reviewed for their effect on immigrants. For instance, at times the information required to file court papers is problematic for immigrant victims. The effort is to discover what the obstacles are and to see if remedies can be developed.

INTERVENTION AND TREATMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

Cynthia Boehmer and Public Defender Lawrence M. Sullivan co-chair the Intervention and Treatment Subcommittee, which met quarterly. A major effort of this group was to develop a brochure about children who witness domestic violence. The brochure will be 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 will provide information on how witnessing domestic violence may affect children and will include referral phone numbers.

Another project of the Subcommittee was to develop a presentation for Family Court Judges and Commissioners. The presentation will provide an overview of Domestic Violence Intervention Programs including their intake process and will offer an explanation of the differences between Anger Management and Domestic Violence Intervention services. This will be conducted in the fall of 2004.

LAW ENFORCEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

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

The Law Enforcement Subcommittee was busy in 2003 reviewing practices and recommending improvements in law enforcement's response to domestic violence. One improvement, that was initiated in 2002 but tabulated monthly for the first time in 2003, was the Domestic Criminal Incident Intimate Partner Report. For the first time Delaware separates criminal domestic incidents when the relationship is classified as "intimate partner" from the entire census of criminal domestic incidents (see the Domestic Violence Statistics section). The group also looked at the "gun relinquishment" requirement of Protection From Abuse Orders, and DELJIS improved the quality of information available to police departments concerning gun relinquishments. Police departments can now track with a few keystrokes gun relinquishment by individual, by police department, or by county. Law Enforcement Investigative Support System (LEISS) also expanded in 2003 and is now available to all police departments. Each department can now generate warrants via LEISS.

The Law Enforcement Subcommittee has discussed the fact that police officers in Kent and Sussex Counties accompany victims to magistrate courts to sign warrants, while in New Castle County most victims have to go on their own. In New Castle County, most large departments, such as New Castle County and Wilmington police cite workload constraints for this difference.

The Law Enforcement Subcommittee also developed a draft of a

Domestic Incident Report form to be used in non-criminal domestic incidents. The draft report is shorter than the form currently used for documenting all domestic incidents but captures the information pertinent to the case. Funding is being sought in this effort.

LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE

Senator Patricia Blevins and Attorney General M. Jane Brady co- chair the Legislative Subcommittee. Much of the work of this group over the past year involved the development of HB 421. This bill revised a number of statutes concerning the responsibilities of the Violent Crimes Compensation Board. Essentially the bill improved the benefits as well as the eligibility for benefits for many victims of crime. It also clarified some of the language in the statutes concerning the delivery of services. This bill was the result of months of intense collaborative work involving the DVCC Legislative Subcommittee, the Victims' Rights Task Force, the Violent Crimes Compensation Board, and the Sexual Assault Network of Delaware. The bill, which was sponsored by Representative Deborah Hudson, Senator Patricia Blevins, and Representative Pamela S. Maier, was signed into law on June 29, 2004 (see Appendix).

Over the past year the Legislative Subcommittee reviewed and discussed victim notification provisions of the Victims' Bill of Rights. The group also discussed the possibility of drafting legislation creating privilege for sexual assault volunteer workers. The Subcommittee decided not to draft such legislation.

Although not initiated on by the Legislative Subcommittee, another bill benefiting victims of domestic violence, Senate Bill 277, was sponsored by Senator Blevins and Representative Pam Maier. The bill, which was

signed into law on July 6, 2004, disqualifies individuals who have been served a petition for Protection From Abuse or who have been the subject of a civil or criminal order prohibiting contact with an individual family member, from acting as a health care surrogate for that family member (see Appendix).

MEDICAL SUBCOMMITTEE

Dr. Matthew Hoffman and Vincent J. Poppiti, Esq., co-chair the Medical Subcommittee. This group has been meeting quarterly. The major focus of this Subcommittee has been the offering of training to healthcare professionals. The group has been working collaboratively with individuals from Bayhealth and Christiana Care to develop training events in the late summer and early fall of 2004 for each organization. It is anticipated that some events will be aimed at healthcare professionals. A four-part Physician Lecture Series focusing on different domestic violence topics is scheduled for October.

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 that was 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. The group developed a process for the re-certification of treatment providers that was approved by the DVCC Treatment Subcommittee. The existing programs will need to undergo the re-certification process. In addition to the re-certification process, there are also approved processes for certification and de-certification.

In the spring of 2004 the group received a certification application for a bi-lingual program from Children and Families First. The Panel reviewed the application and recommended approval. In July of 2004 the DVCC approved the application for certification at the Quarterly meeting. There are now five certified programs in Delaware (see Directory For Statewide Domestic Violence Services).

COMMUNICATION

In January 2002, the DVCC website, www.dvcc.state.de.us, became operational. The site has been expanded and updated to reference all DVCC activities. All of the DVCC reports and publications are available on the site. Many of our materials and reports are downloaded each month. Additionally, links to other agencies working in the field of domestic violence are available.

In November 2003, the DVCC published its initial newsletter, *DV News*. The newsletter is published quarterly and reports on activities in the domestic violence community and other topics of importance. As with other DVCC publications and materials, it is available on our website.

The DVCC has made a consistent effort to extend our outreach to the domestic violence community. Both the website and the newsletter are examples of this effort.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

On October 1, 2003, the DVCC and the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence co-sponsored a press conference kicking off October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The event, subtitled *A Decade of Progress in Fighting Domestic Violence*, highlighted the ten-year anniversary of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council. Governor Ruth Ann Minner, who signed a proclamation declaring October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, was the lead speaker. Other speakers were Acting DVCC Chairperson, Senator Patricia Blevins; Claire DeMatteis of U.S. Senator Joseph R. Biden's office; Carol Post, Executive Director of the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence; and Attorney General M. Jane Brady.

The press representatives and attendees were given timelines from 1993 to the present highlighting significant achievements in Delaware's fight against domestic violence, as well as a listing of numerous domestic violence educational and public awareness events occurring in October.

FATAL INCIDENT REVIEW TEAM

The Fatal Incident Review Team met monthly throughout the year, reviewing a new case each meeting. Although the Fatal Incident Review Team is a statutorily created separate entity, the DVCC staffs the Team.

The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council issued the third Fatal Incident Review Team Report on June 30, 2004. This report includes data

on 10 new cases not included in the prior two reports, as well as the 30 who were in the prior reports. Among the findings was that 62% of the victims were between the ages of twenty-six and forty-five at the time of their death. Also, 67% of the perpetrators were between the ages of twenty-six and forty-five. Further, 59% of the deaths were by firearm and 21% were by stabbing.

Other findings included access to the criminal justice system and the civil system. Victims had contact with law enforcement prior to their death in 50% of the cases. However only 25% of victims had prior contact with police-based victim services and only 16% had either a current or expired Protection From Abuse Order.

The report also includes recommendations for agency and departmental changes and their responses to the recommendations. The complete report is available on the DVCC website, www.dvcc.state.de.us.

LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING WORKING GROUP

The Law Enforcement Training Working Group (which serves in an advisory and administrative capacity to the DVCC VAWA-funded law enforcement training grant) met periodically throughout the year. Due to the grant requirement that training be directed specifically to law enforcement personnel, the group has had to alter the focus of the training from previous years, which had a more general appeal. This change has proved to be challenging. The group has also collaborated with a Department of Justice VAWA-funded training grant, which can bring representatives from the American Prosecutors' Research Institute (APRI) to Delaware to provide training to prosecutors and police officers. The APRI training is scheduled for early December 2004. The Training Working Group is also developing a curriculum for training events for police officers.

DELTA PROJECT

The DVCC 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 reality of immigrant women, their family structure, new socio-cultural trends, the barriers they face that go beyond language, transportation, etc., in order to identify the optimal approach for a prevention program.

The first phase of the proposed project is to perform a pilot study that will help confirm and shed new light on the domestic violence issues faced by the female Hispanic population of Sussex County and that will aid us in identifying venues for a prevention effort.

Progress reports were given at each of the DVCC Quarterly Meetings. The first year of the grant was a planning year. Surveys were conducted to determine the needs of domestic violence victims in the immigrant community in Sussex County. Fiscal Year 2005 will be the second year of the grant. It is anticipated that additional prevention services will be developed for Hispanic victims in Sussex County.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

Vincent J. Poppiti, Esq., (Chair), Honorable Patricia M. Blevins (Co-Chair), Honorable Chandlee Johnson Kuhn, Honorable Richard S. Gebelein, Jennifer Barbara-Ranji, and Diane Glenn are the Governor's appointments, through Executive Order, to this advisory committee.

Throughout Fiscal Year 2004, July 2003 through June 2004, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Implementation Committee conducted several significant meetings pertaining to funding received from the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), as well as new initiatives to enhance the delivery of services and coordination among the providers working with domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking victims (see pages 46-51).

• S.T.O.P. Formula Grant Program

In September 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 of this planning day, 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 for women victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, especially women who are of underserved and minority populations.

2. Provide ongoing 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.
6. Improve technology to enhance the current reporting system to identify cases, which involve sexual assault and domestic violence.

The charts on the following pages represent the programs implemented with funds from the S.T.O.P. Formula Grant Program to address aforementioned goals.

Finally, in Spring 2004, the State of Delaware received a fiscal year 2004 allocation under the S.T.O.P. Formula Grant Program in the amount of \$833,000, which was a decrease of approximately 4.5% from the 2003 allocation. The VAWA Implementation Committee began discussions related to the funding and requested continuation letters from current subgrantees and has issued a solicitation requesting proposals for new programs under the law enforcement quadrant. It is anticipated that the VAWA Implementation Committee will submit their final funding recommendations at the end of August 2004 to the DVCC and the Criminal Justice Council. The final funding decisions are made by the Governor.

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council Activities

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

Fiscal Year: 2003

AMOUNT: \$871,000

FY 03 CONTINUATION PROGRAMS			
Applicant Agency	Concept Title	Description	Committee Recommendation
CJC/DVCC	VAWA Administration	Grant Administration	43,550
Family Court	D.V. Investigative Pre-sentence	To provide pre-sentence reports to judicial officers in NCC Family Court, CCP, & Superior Court	45,000
DVCC	L.E. Training	To continue to provide Law Enforcement training on new legislative issues, evidence collection, assessing lethality, and intervention measures. Training will include the following: 1- day conference to 350-400 law enforcement professionals; and 6 mini law enforcement trainings on specific topics.	35,437
Dover Police Dept.	Victim Service Representative	To employ a P/T D.V. Advocate within the Dover Police Dept.	22,975
Wilmington Police Dept.	Elderly Victims Contract	To contract with the Delaware Center for Justice to provide direct services, including intensive case management to elderly victims of domestic violence.	20,000
D.O.J.	Kent & Sussex Counties – Prosecuting Attorney's	To strengthen the prosecutorial response to domestic violence in Kent & Sussex Counties.	206,862.50
LACC	Families in Control	Continue to provide bilingual and bi-culture victims' education and counseling services to Latina women victims of domestic violence.	57,753
YWCA of NCC	Helping Hearts	Continue to provide community outreach and comprehensive case management services to domestic violence victims.	42,000
CLASI	D.V. Legal Services Kent & Sussex Counties	To provide legal representation for low-income victims of domestic violence to obtain Protection from Abuse Orders and ancillary matters (custody and visitation).	75,000
CONTACT, DE	SSAAV Program	To provide intervention services to adolescent and young women who have been sexually assaulted in rural Delaware.	51,160
Domestic Violence Advocacy Center	DVAC	To provide court based advocacy services to victims of domestic violence who reside in Kent & Sussex Counties.	65,377
Christiana Care Health Services	S.A.N.E. Nurse Coordinator	Continue to provide part-time nursing coordinator position.	30,000

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council Activities

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

Fiscal Year: 2003

AMOUNT: \$871,000

FY 03 CONTINUATION PROGRAMS			
Applicant Agency	Concept Title	Description	Committee Recommendation
Diocesan Council	Abriendo Puertas Client Support Services	To provide support services to victims of domestic violence residing at Abriendo Puertas (including transportation).	3,800
Department of Correction (Probation & Parole)	D.V. Victim Service	To contract with an agency to provide outreach services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault –where the perpetrator is active on probation and parole.	37,627
CONTACT, DE	Rape Crisis Intervention & S.A. Support Services	To provide crisis intervention and group based treatment services to victims of sexual assault.	19,730

FY 03 NEW PROGRAMS			
Applicant Agency	Concept Title	Description	Committee Recommendation
Department of Correction (Probation & 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
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
Department of Justice	Improving Prosecution	To train approximately 200 Deputy Attorney Generals and law enforcement representatives throughout the State through an evidence-based model.	23,500

* As of the end of June 2004, there is a balance of \$26,682.50 un-obligated. The VAWA Implementation Committee is in the process of soliciting request for proposals.

- **Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Discretionary Grant Program**

As reported in FY2002 Annual Report, the VAWA Implementation Committee submitted an application to OVW, under the Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies discretionary program, to develop a statewide coordinated computer tracking system. In September 2003, the State of Delaware received notification that we were recipients of a \$250,000 award from OVW. As a result, during fiscal year 2003, the VAWA Implementation Committee began work on the preliminary goals and objectives of this grant.

- **Family Justice Center Initiative**

In December 2003 and January 2004, there was significant activity on the part of the VAWA Implementation Committee responding to President Bush's Family Justice Center Initiative under OVW. The Committee convened a meeting in December 2003, to discuss the possibility of submitting a grant application to the Office on Violence Against Women to establish and implement a Family Justice Center in the State of Delaware. Based on the VAWA Implementation Committee's commitment and enthusiasm, a meeting with key stakeholders in the State was held on January 12, 2004. The application, which was due February 5, 2004, placed a premium on memorandums of agreement between participating agencies. Although the stakeholders were very interested in the concept of establishing a Family Justice Center, they expressed concern regarding the details which needed to be resolved before the February 5, 2004, application due date. The VAWA Implementation Committee determined that it would not be feasible to develop the detailed memorandums of agreement required to submit an application, thus it was decided not to apply for the President's

Family Justice Center Initiative. However the VAWA Implementation Committee believes in the importance of this initiative and that Delaware should consider developing a Family Justice Center to reflect the needs of domestic violence victims within our State. Therefore, on January 28, 2004, the VAWA Implementation Committee and staff gave a written and oral presentation to the Governor of Delaware, Ruth Ann Minner, and her staff. The proposal made by the Committee was well received and the dialogue between the Governor and the Committee was informative and valuable. Governor Minner indicated that she would consider the proposal and respond to the VAWA Implementation Committee when her review was complete.

- **Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization Enforcement Discretionary Grant Program**

As a result of funding through the Office on Violence Against Women, Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization Enforcement Grant, 16 members of the working group were afforded the opportunity to attend training in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The focus of this training was on building/enhancing a coordinated community response to domestic violence. Therefore, representatives from law enforcement, prosecution, probation and parole, batterers' intervention programs, and advocacy communities attended the training.

Conferences and Events Attended

9/16/03 to 9/20/03	Conference on Family Violence: Working Together to End Abuse	Town & Country Hotel & Convention Center San Diego, CA	Ron Keen
9/21/03 to 9/24/03	"Law Enforcement, Prosecution, Probation, Advocacy, & Batterer's Program Response to Domestic Violence"	Albuquerque, NM	Maureen Querey 15 Other Agency Representatives
9/28/03 to 10/2/03	13th Annual National Conference on Domestic Violence/National College of District Attorneys	New Orleans, LA	Maureen Querey
10/1/03	Domestic Violence Awareness Month Press Conference with Governor Minner	Wilmington, DE	Ronald T. Keen Bridget V. Poulle Kenzel Messick Eileen Ondra
10/7/03 to 10/8/03	8th Statewide Crime Victim Services Conference	Clayton Hall Newark, DE	Bridget Poulle Eileen Ondra
11/6/03 to 11/8/03	OVC Strategic Planning	Washington, D.C.	Ronald T. Keen Maureen Querey
12/7/03 to 12/10/03	"Enhancing Judicial Skills In DV Cases"	Santa Fe, NM	Judges Robert Coonin and William Walls
1/6/04 to 1/7/04	President's National Family Justice Center Initiative Informational Conference	San Diego, CA	Maureen Querey Maureen Monagle
1/12/04	Symposium on Crime Prevention & Response for People With Cognitive Related Disabilities	Del Tech, Dover, DE	Eileen Ondra
1/16/04	Children Who Have Experienced Traumatic Exposure to Violence, How Development Defines Treatment	Clayton Hall Newark, DE	Bridget V. Poulle Eileen Ondra
2/2/04 to 2/4/04	Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies Training	Washington, D.C.	Maureen Querey Karen Glunt

Conferences and Events Attended

3/4/04	Delaware Quality Partnership Conference	Clayton Hall Newark, DE	Eileen Ondra
3/12/04	STAND Conference: "From Soup to Nuts"	Polytech Conference Center Woodside, DE	Eileen Ondra
3/17/04	2004 Hall of Fame for DE Women Award Ceremony	Dover, DE	DVCC Staff
3/21/04 to 3/25/04	S.T.O.P. TA State Administration National Conference	San Antonio, TX	Maureen Querey Ronald T. Keen
4/16/04	S.T.O.P. Formula Grants New Reporting Forms	Phone Training	Maureen Querey
4/19/04	Victim's Proclamation Signing Ceremony	Wilmington, DE	DVCC Staff
4/21/04	Victim's Tribute, Modern Maturity	Dover, DE	Eileen Ondra Ronald T. Keen Maureen Querey
4/22/04	Immigration and Domestic Violence Conference	Clayton Hall Newark, DE	Eileen Ondra
4/28/04	Communities Respond to Alcoholism, Depression and Family Violence Workshops	Del-Tech Dover, DE	Eileen Ondra
6/24/04	CCR Delta Training, DCADV	Buena Vista, DE	Eileen Ondra
7/13/04 to 7/16/04	"Coalition for Family Peace" On-Site Visit	Siler City, NC	Maureen Querey Eileen Ondra 8 Other Agency Representatives

Training/Presentations

Date	Type	Training/Workshops/Fairs	Attended
8/14/03	Booth Eileen Ondra, DVCC	Avon Wellness Fair Newark, DE	150
9/20/03	Booth Eileen Ondra, DVCC	Wilmington Wellness Fair Wilmington, DE	150
10/20/03	Booth Eileen Ondra	Week Without Violence Delaware Technical Community College, Wilmington, DE	57
10/24/03	Booth Eileen Ondra	4th Annual Wellness Expo Dover, DE	350
12/3/03	DV Training for Immigrant Leaders, Speakers: Amy Arnold/Paulina Gyan, DCADV, Immigration	Responding to Battered Immigrant Women, Wilmington, DE	11
1/2/04 1/06/04 1/15/04	Technology, PowerPoint Development Eileen Ondra	Sexual Assault Network of Delaware, Wilmington Police Sexual Assault Training, Wilmington, DE	175
1/12/04	Speaker Maureen Querey	Family Justice Center Initiative VAWA implementation Committee Community Services Bldg. Wilmington, DE	40
1/14/04	Technology Eileen Ondra	Sexual Assault Network of Delaware, Law Enforcement Train-The-Trainer, "Practical Aspects of Rape Investigation for Law Enforcement", Armin Showalter, FBI, Dover, DE	60

Training/Presentations (continued)

Date	Type	Training/Workshops/Fairs	Attended
1/15/04	Coordinator, Eileen Ondra, DVCC Le' Verne Cecere, CONTACT, Delaware Speakers: Catherine Rivera, CONTACT Delaware; Dawn Schatz,	"When Dating Turns Dangerous" Chesapeake Bay Girl Scouts Council, Newark, DE	60
1/22/04	Booth Eileen Ondra, DVCC	Liberty and Independence for Everyone Conference, Sheraton	35
1/29/04	Speaker Eileen Ondra, DVCC	Vocational Rehabilitation Staff Briefing on Domestic Violence	15
1/31/04	Booth, Eileen Ondra, DVCC/Storytime: Sue Shepley, Child, Inc.	8th Annual Healthy Baby Fair Bayhealth, Dover, DE	257
3/1/04	Presenter Eileen Ondra, DVCC	Domestic Violence Training, Judicial Officer, Bear, DE	1
3/9/04	Speakers: Eileen Ondra, DVCC/Polli Funk, CONTACT Delaware	Veteran's Administration Women Veteran's Council Presentation	10
4/3/04	Speakers: Eileen Ondra, DVCC; Anne Altemus, Child, Inc. Materials: Dawn Schatz, Child, Inc.	Family & Workplace Connection 10th Annual School-Age Care Conference, Newark, DE Workshops: Healthy Dating Relationships, Children and Domestic Violence	40
4/6/04	Technology Eileen Ondra, DVCC	Sexual Assault Response Team Conference, Sheraton Conference Center, Dover, DE	125

Training/Presentations (continued)

Date	Type	Training/Workshops/Fairs	Attended
4/23/04	Technology Eileen Ondra, DVCC	SAND, Sexual Assault Training, Newark Police Department Wilmington, DE	35
5/7/04	Booth Eileen Ondra, DVCC	Health & Wellness Fair Delcastle High School, DE	350
5/8/04	Speaker/Development: Eileen Ondra, DVCC Speaker: LeVerta Bradford, Families in Transition, Milford, DE	Dealing With Victims of Domestic Violence and Their Children: What To Do, Training for Licensed Day- care Providers, Milford Public Li- brary Milford, DE	31
5/11/04	DVCC/DCADV (Planning) Speakers: Noel Jones, DCADV, Eileen Ondra, DVCC Stephanie Rensch, WPD; Mariann Kenville- Moore, DOJ, Donna McCaffrey & Ann Altemus, Child, Inc., Barbara Hobbs, Smart Start Program, RN, BSN	Brandywine Counseling, National Women's Health Week, Domestic Violence Awareness Brandywine Counseling River- front, Wilmington, DE	37
5/13/04	Technology Eileen Ondra	SAND, Sexual Assault Training, Newark Police Department Wilmington, DE	32
5/15/04	Speaker/Development: Eileen Ondra, DVCC Other Speakers: Terry Kaiser, Children's Advocacy Center; Karen Dougherty, Christiana S.A.N.E.; Representative, Terry Center Center	Dealing With Victims of Domestic Violence and Their Children: What To Do Bear Library, Bear, DE	36

Training/Presentations (continued)

Date	Type	Training/Workshops/Fairs	Attended
5/21/04	Speakers/Development Eileen Ondra, DVCC/ Barbara Ridge, Children of Alcoholics; Carol Ann O'Brien, DOL, Helen O'Donnell, Div. Of Voc. Rehab.; Dr. Denise Michulka, Liberty Center, PA	DHSS – Addressing Special Cultural Needs of DV Victims/ Offenders With Substance Abuse and/or Mental Health Issues Bear, DE	30
5/22/04	Speaker/Development Eileen Ondra, DVCC	Dealing With Victims of Domestic Violence and Their Children: What To Do, Newark Sr. Ctr., Newark,	37
6/3/04	Speaker Maureen Querey, DVCC	New S.T.O.P. Federal Reporting Form Training, NCCPD, Middletown, DE	20
6/16/04	Speaker/Development: Eileen Ondra, DVCC	Dealing With Victims of Domestic Violence and Their Children: What To Do, Boys and Girls Club Clarence Fraim Center, Elsmere, DE	7
7/27/04	Speakers Eileen Ondra, DVCC/ Officers, Dover AFB/ Angela Hoag, VET Center	DHSS 33rd Summer Institute Coming Home: Military Family Reintegration/Post Traumatic Stress Disorder/Dynamics of Intimate Violence Clayton Hall, Newark, DE	10
7/28/04	Speakers Eileen Ondra, DVCC and Dr. Gordon Reed,	Domestic Violence Training for Healthcare Professionals Henrietta Johnson Medical	35
8/20/04	Speaker: Eileen Ondra,	Endoscopy Center of DE	25

Conclusion

FY2004 was an eventful year for the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council. The DVCC began FY2004 with changes in leadership. State Senator Patricia M. Blevins was elected Chair in the fall of 2003 and Chief Judge of Family Court, Chandlee Johnson Kuhn, was elected Vice-Chair.

The DVCC was also involved in a number of initiatives in FY2004 that were new to Delaware. These efforts include the DELTA Project, which is aimed at helping the DVCC increase its capacity for preventing domestic violence and at providing additional services to Hispanic victims of domestic violence in Sussex County. Another new project is a VAWA Grants to Encourage Arrest grant that has the dual purpose of creating technological linkages between service providers and monitoring compliance with court orders. A third project that is still in the idea stage is a proposal by the VAWA Implementation Committee to create a Family Justice Center for victims of domestic violence in Wilmington. The proposal, which is under consideration by Governor Minner's office, would provide a "one stop shop" of services for victims of domestic violence.

The DVCC also has expanded its outreach in the past year through its website, www.dvcc.state.de.us, and the publication of its newsletter, *DV News*. The materials offered on the website have increased substantially over the past year and include a number of reports and other domestic violence related documents. The first three issues of *DV News* have been informative and well received.

The DVCC has focused on elements of the domestic violence community that had not received such a focus before. These elements include the health care professions and the immigrant communities. The work on numerous training events that will occur in FY2005 for health care

professionals began in FY2004. Also, efforts to immigrant communities expanded in 2004. The expansion included training events and attempts to draw community involvement from a broader spectrum of ethnicities and cultures.

The DVCC continues work to refine and improve services that already exist. These efforts are ongoing in the areas of law enforcement, corrections, courts, prosecution, perpetrator treatment, legislation, and domestic violence which affects children. As always the primary goal of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council is to reduce the incidence of domestic violence in all of its forms.

Appendix

- 1) Senate Bill No. 277, Delaware Code relating to health-care decisions.
- 2) House Bill No. 421, Delaware Code relating to compensation for innocent victims of crime.