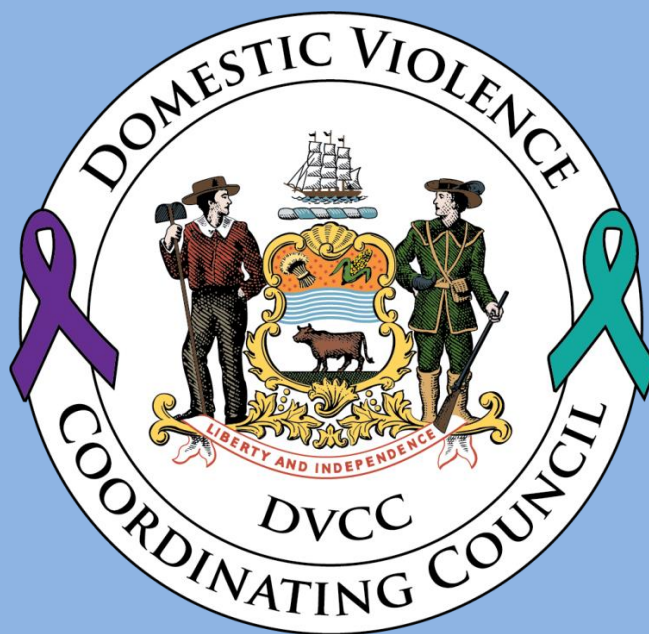


S T A T E   O F   D E L A W A R E

# Domestic Violence Coordinating Council

Fiscal Year 2017

## Annual Report



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## Domestic Violence Coordinating Council – 2017 Overview





## Chair's Message

On behalf of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, we present the Annual Report for FY 2017. The Annual Report highlights some of the DVCC's initiatives during the past year, as well as statistical information on domestic violence incidents and services throughout the State.

FY 2017 can be most noted as a year of transition for the DVCC.

In March of 2017, I was honored to be elected to serve as Chair of the Council. I am fortunate to serve in this position with Professor Dana Harrington Conner who has served as Vice-Chair for the past five years. Also, during 2016 we had a transition in our Executive Director position. Maureen "Moe" Monagle was hired to succeed Ellie Torres, Esquire, who left to take a position at Family Court as a member of my staff.

The Council experienced its most meaningful transition when we said good-bye and thank you to Senator Patricia Blevins, who served as Chair of the Council since 2003. This past spring, we were able to recognize and thank Senator Blevins for the many successes and accomplishments the Council has celebrated under her leadership over the past 23 years. The Council also bid farewell to Carla Benson-Green, Dr. Matthew Hoffman, Dawn Culp, Gretchen Gilchrest and Neda Biggs.

We thank all of our Council members for their leadership and service and welcome our newest members: Senator Nicole Poore; Cabinet Secretary Josette Manning of the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families; Commissioner Perry Phelps of the Department of Correction; as well as our newest Members-At-Large Dr. Julie Silverstein, Professor Jennifer Naccarelli, and Ariana Langford. We are fortunate to have a strong collaboration among Council members who are committed to leading Delaware's efforts in ensuring a coordinated system response to violence in families and the community.

This time of transition is an exciting one for the DVCC. In the coming months, this Council will hold a strategic planning day to identify goals we wish to meet over the next few years. We look forward to the opportunity to continue to strengthen Delaware's efforts to prevent and respond to sexual and domestic violence.

We could not do this work without our partners in the advocacy community, victims' services, law enforcement, the Courts, and other community leaders.



Hon. Vincent Poppiti, Hon. Michael Newell,  
Hon. Patricia Blevins and Maureen Monagle



## Executive Summary

The FY 2017 Annual Report highlights some of the DVCC's initiatives during the past year, as well as statistical information on domestic violence incidents and services provided throughout the State.

The statistical data that begins on page 21 reflects the collective efforts of our community-based and justice-based partners in the State's response.

The DVCC has been legislatively created to improve Delaware's response to domestic violence and sexual assault. Our mission and goals cannot be achieved without a committed collaborative approach to address the complex issues that many victims and survivors face. As detailed in this report, much of the work of the Council is accomplished through the work of our various Committees.

A summary of DVCC accomplishments and activities for FY 2017 are:

- The Public Awareness & Education Committee launched the first Annual Teen Dating Violence Poster Contest to student artists in three high schools.
- More than 1,500 students were reached by the DVCC's Teen Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention activities.
- More than 600 professionals enhanced their knowledge & skills by participating in DVCC trainings.
- Created the DVCC Training Committee to coordinate quality training and educational opportunities for professionals working with victims of domestic violence and abuse. This need was identified through the work of the Family Court Enhancement Project.
- Released the "*Elderly & Domestic Violence in Delaware*" report which identifies five goals for the Elderly & DV Committee.
- The Criminal Justice Committee continues to explore opportunities to strengthen Delaware's response to domestic violence, and address the complex issues surrounding victims' safety.
- The Treatment Committee completed the "Evaluation of the Batterer's Intervention Program (BIP)" Project.

This work would not be possible without the knowledge and dedication of the DVCC Staff, Council Members, Committee Members, and community partners.

Thank you.



## **Council Members**

Hon. Michael Newell,  
Chief Judge, Family Court  
Chair

Professor Dana Harrington Conner  
At-Large Member  
Vice Chair

Hon. Catherine Cloutier, Member, Senate  
Hon. Nicole Poore, Member, Senate  
Hon. Deborah Hudson, Member, House of Representatives  
Hon. Stephanie Bolden, Member, House of Representatives  
Hon. Jan Jurden, President Judge, Superior Court  
Hon. Carl Danberg, Judge, Court of Common Pleas  
Hon. Matthew Denn, Attorney General, Department of Justice  
Hon. Brendan O'Neill, Chief Defender, Office of Defense Services  
Hon. Robert Coupe, Secretary, Department of Safety & Homeland Security  
Hon. Perry Phelps, Commissioner, Department of Correction  
Hon. Josette Manning, Secretary, Department of Children, Youth & Family Services  
Cpl./3 Adrienne Owen, Representative, Law Enforcement Community  
Dr. Julie Silverstein, Representative, Medical Community  
Diane Glenn, At-Large Member  
Laura Graham, Esq., At-Large Member  
Ariana Langford, At-Large Member  
Jennifer Naccarelli, Ph.D., At-Large Member  
Hon. Vincent Poppiti, At-Large Member

## **DVCC Staff**

Maureen Monagle, Executive Director  
Natasha Smith, Senior Administrator  
Aimee String, Project Coordinator  
Pat Kwetkauskie, Trainer/Educator  
Karen Ewing, Administrative Specialist

**Agency Main Number: 302-255-0405**

**<http://dvcc.delaware.gov/>**



## Vision Statement

The Domestic Violence Coordinating (DVCC) is a state agency legislatively created to improve Delaware's response to domestic violence and sexual assault. The DVCC brings together all stakeholders including service providers, policy-level officials and community partners to eradicate domestic violence. The DVCC is committed to leading the nation through innovative legislative action, community education and an outstanding coordinated system response to violence in families and the community.

### Statutory duties of the DVCC (13 Del.C. § 2103)

- Continuously study court services and procedures, law-enforcement procedures and protocol, and criminal justice data collection and analysis as it relates to domestic violence.
- Promote effective prevention, intervention, and treatment techniques which will be developed based upon research and data collection.
- Recommend standards for treatment programs for perpetrators of domestic violence to the Department Health and Social Services, Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families and the Department of Correction.
- Review and comment upon legislation relating to domestic violence introduced in the General Assembly at the request of any member of the General Assembly or on its own initiative.
- Effectuate coordination between agencies, departments and the courts with victims of domestic violence.
- Improve the response to domestic violence and abuse so as to reduce incidents thereof.



## **Committees**

Much of our work is accomplished through committees made up of Council members, DVCC staff, first responders, service providers, policy-level officials, and community members. This collaborative approach has helped establish supportive ties in the community for victims of violence, identify areas of need, and implement policies and procedures that respond to those needs.

### Children and Domestic Violence

Chair: Hon. Carla Benson-Green (2016)  
Hon. Josette Manning (2017)

### Criminal Justice

Chairs: Hon. Jan Jurden, Hon. Brendan O'Neill and Cpl. /3 Adrienne Owen

### Elderly and Domestic Violence

Chair: Hon. Matt Denn

### Immigration

Chair: Laura Graham, Esq.

### Legislative Drafting and Review

Chair: Hon. Patricia Blevins (2016)  
Hon. Deborah Hudson (2017)

### Medical

Chair: Matthew Hoffman, M.D. and Dawn Culp, MSN, RN (2016)  
Dr. Julie Silverstein (2017)

### Public Awareness/Education

Chair: Hon. Carl Danberg

### Training

Chair: Hon. Michael Newell

### Treatment

Chairs: Hon. Brendan O'Neill and Hon. Robert Coupe

## **Additional DVCC Committees**

Batterers' Intervention Certification Panel

Fatal Incident Review Team

Chairs: Hon. Jan Jurden, Professor Dana Harrington Conner and Hon. Vincent Poppiti





## Children and Domestic Violence Committee

### Committee Focus

The Children and Domestic Violence Committee brings together representatives from the Department of Services for Children, Youth and their Families (DSCYF), the General Assembly, Family Court, the Department of Justice, law enforcement, advocates and community partners to examine services and system gaps for children experiencing domestic violence.

### Fiscal Year 2017 Accomplishments

The Committee examined 13 *Del.C.* § 705A regarding perpetrators of domestic violence. The Committee continues to explore all statutes pertaining to the protection of Delaware's children exposed to domestic violence.

In addition, the Separating and Divorcing Parent Education Program curriculum was discussed. In reviewing the curriculum, the committee discussed the domestic violence information shared with parents who are taking the course as well as determining, if any, the challenges for the parents who are mandated to take the course. This committee will continue to review the curriculum to ensure it is in line with best practices in the field of parent education courses.

Lastly, the DVCC was approved for funding through the Criminal Justice Council to bring the Safe & Together™ Model Suite of Tools and Interventions to Delaware. This has been a longstanding item on this committee's agenda. The DVCC will partner with the Division of Family Services and the Domestic Violence Liaison Programs across the state to conduct the assessment. The ultimate goal of this project will be to improve the response and enhance services to victims of domestic violence who are involved with the child welfare system. During the next fiscal year, this project will be implemented in three phases:

- Initial needs assessment and review of current practices;
- Training and technical assistance; and
- Review and evaluation to include a final report on the outcome and any changes made.



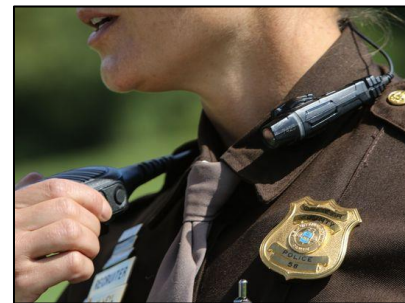
## Criminal Justice Committee

### Committee Focus

The focus of the Criminal Justice Committee is to continuously review the system response to domestic violence and sexual assault in order to identify and implement improvements to the criminal justice system through policy development. This committee brings together law enforcement, the courts, the Chief Defender, the Department of Justice, the Department of Correction, DELJIS, advocates and community partners to resolve issues specific to the needs of those affected by domestic violence.

### Fiscal Year 2017 Accomplishments

This Committee discussed law enforcement's use of body worn cameras in domestic violence cases. The Committee examined a number of issues around body worn cameras and victim safety as well as policies concerning the administration of recording the lethality assessment. This Committee will continue to work on addressing these concerns in the coming year.



This Committee continued to explore the benefits of establishing a high risk domestic violence team in the State. The purpose of the team would be to identify and provide a coordinated, multidisciplinary response to high risk domestic violence cases. Over the past year committee members and various stakeholders have met to discuss this issue. From those discussions, it was recommended that a DV High Risk Team Ad Hoc Advisory Board be created.

The DV High Risk Team Ad Hoc Advisory Board is tasked with examining memorandums of understanding, referral forms, as well as a cost projection in order to create a successful domestic violence high risk team. This Board will analyze issues related to confidentiality for DV High Risk Team members regarding information sharing across agencies as well as any possible statutory changes. The Committee will continue to work on this issue to provide victims in Delaware with a coordinated response to domestic violence.



## Elderly and Domestic Violence Committee

### Committee Focus

The Committee is comprised of representatives from the Department of Justice, law enforcement, healthcare, advocates, and community partners including the Delaware Center for Justice; University of Delaware's Center for Drug and Alcohol Studies; Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities and Adult Protective Services; as well as representation from the housing sector. The Committee continuously reviews data and information about the prevalence of domestic violence against aging Delawareans. In addition, the Committee learns from key informants, including citizens, about existing services and programs available to elderly victims; the unmet needs of elders experiencing abuse, and elderly victims' experiences in Delaware.

### Fiscal Year 2017 Accomplishments

The data and information about the elderly and domestic violence obtained by the Committee during the previous two years was compiled and presented to the Council during the Quarterly meeting in September. A representative from the Center of Drug and Health Studies, University of Delaware who is also a member of the DVCC Elderly and Domestic Violence Committee conducted the presentation *Crime, Abuse, and Neglect among Older Delawareans: 2004 – 2014*.

Following the presentation, the Committee identified an additional area that should be explored – the intersection of crimes against the elderly by family members and the presence of drugs or alcohol in relation to the incidents. At the request of DVCC staff, the Delaware Information & Analysis Center (DIAC) of the Delaware State Police compiled a report. The *Elderly Victim Report* produced by the DIAC confirmed what citizens communicated during the public listening sessions held by the Committee in April 2015. The DIAC's Report strengthened the Committee's understanding of the prevalence, types of crime and familial relationships in drug and alcohol-related domestic violence against the elderly.

The Committee compiled a summary of its findings and produced the report: *The Elderly and Domestic Violence in Delaware* available on the DVCC website <http://dvcc.delaware.gov/reports/>. The report includes several areas for the Committee to address:

1. Promote public awareness about domestic violence and the elderly on a statewide basis;
2. Collaborate with faith-based communities to provide outreach to ensure the elderly are aware of resources available to assist victims;
3. Develop strategies and implement educational programs on identifying elderly victimization to professionals and paraprofessionals who have contact with elderly citizens;
4. Work with community partners to explore the feasibility of establishing emergency housing for low income victims of elderly domestic violence in Kent and Sussex Counties; and
5. Inform legislators and policy makers about the impact of elderly domestic violence on victims in order to ensure that the needs of this vulnerable but often hidden population are addressed.



## **Immigration Committee**

### **Committee Focus**

This Committee, made up of service providers, law enforcement, advocates, and survivors of domestic violence, openly discusses the additional barriers confronting immigrant victims and works to effectuate change. The Committee also maintains an open dialogue about changes in laws, service issues and unique needs of immigrant victims.

Working with immigrant victims of domestic violence and sexual assault brings additional barriers and challenges. Immigrant victims often feel trapped in abusive relationships because of immigration laws, language barriers, social isolation, and lack of financial resources. In addition, the immigrant population is less likely to report violence out of fear of law enforcement and deportation. A recent study in New York City found that 51 percent of intimate partner homicide victims were foreign-born, while 45 percent were born in the United States.

### **Fiscal Year 2017 Accomplishments**

The Committee focused on resource sharing and community outreach. Committee members spoke at community events and on radio stations about topics such as Driver's Privilege Cards, U and T Visas, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Human Trafficking and addressed myths surrounding domestic violence and deportation.

## **Medical Committee**

### **Committee Focus**

The Committee, made up of health care providers, advocates, service providers and other interested parties, acknowledges the profound difference that health care providers can make by universally screening for domestic violence and providing resources. The Committee seeks to provide accessible information and education to health care providers in Delaware regarding the screening and treatment of patients experiencing domestic violence.

This year the Committee said farewell to both committee chairs, Dr. Matthew Hoffman and Dawn Culp, RN. We would like to thank them for their years of service and dedication to the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council and the Medical Committee.



## Legislative Drafting & Review Committee

### Committee Focus

The Legislative Drafting & Review Committee reviews proposed legislation addressing domestic violence and sexual assault and considers legislative initiatives to be supported by the DVCC. Participation on the Committee includes representatives from the General Assembly, the Department of Justice, the courts, law enforcement, advocates and community partners.

### Fiscal Year 2017 Accomplishment

During FY 2017, the Legislative Committee reviewed and discussed many bills that may impact the response to domestic violence and sexual assault. Two bills reviewed by the Committee that passed the General Assembly and were signed by the Governor:

- HB 141: This Act authorizes Family Court to interview a child outside the presence of the parties for the purpose of obtaining the child's testimony and ascertaining the truth of a matter asserted by a party to a Protection from Abuse proceeding. The Court may permit counsel to be present during the interview and ask the child questions. The Court may also permit a party who is not present for the interview to submit questions of fact for the Court to use in interviewing the child. Interviews under this Act must be made a part of the record.
- SB 102: This Act consolidates laws related to child abuse and child sexual abuse training and detection, suicide prevention, bullying, criminal youth gang detection, and teen dating violence and sexual assault. States that the DVCC shall identify and maintain a teen dating violence and sexual assault training program for school administrators, school nurses, and school counselors serving grades 7-12.

## Training Committee

### Committee Focus

The Training Committee was established in April of 2017 as a result of a need identified by the Family Court Enhancement Project. The Committee's goal is to identify domestic violence and sexual assault training needs throughout the State and to develop specific and multidisciplinary trainings. Additionally, the Committee is looking at multiple mediums through which to offer trainings, including in-person conferences and webinars.

The Committee's first major project has been to coordinate a multi-disciplinary statewide conference in partnership with Emerge, a nationally recognized domestic violence training and technical assistance provider. The "Recognizing Responsibility & Risk of Abusers in Court" Conference, planned for early fall of 2017, will provide training to judicial officers, court personnel, attorneys, law enforcement, victim services providers and stakeholders.



## Treatment Committee

### Committee Focus

Ensuring the quality and effectiveness of offender treatment is essential to promoting violence-free behavior and enhancing victim safety. The Treatment Committee develops and reviews batterers' intervention policies and procedures (Domestic Violence Intervention Standards) which mandate specific credentials, education and training for treatment service providers as well as outlining the components required for program content. The Intervention Standards seek to increase victim safety by eliminating violence in intimate relationships. Interventions focus on holding the offenders accountable for their behavior by teaching new skills and monitoring behavior while participating in intervention programs. The Committee continuously monitors changes in the field and is committed to providing the best treatment programs.

### Fiscal Year 2017 Accomplishments

In Delaware and nationally, there has been much conversation around domestic violence treatment programs and their ability to effectively treat domestic violence offenders. Over the past year, the Committee set out to perform a meaningful, precise and accurate evaluation that documents the successes, identifies areas for improvement and makes recommendations for the certified treatment programs. In collaboration with Catholic Charities, CHILD, Inc., and Turning Point at People's Place II, the DVCC contracted with Barbara Goldberg & Associates, to conduct an assessment of batterer treatment programs. The DVCC received subgrant funding through the Delaware Criminal Justice Council to implement this project. This evaluation project utilized a combination of qualitative and quantitative data to assist in an effort to modify current operations to best meet the needs of individuals in treatment. *The Evaluation of the Batterers' Intervention Program* report can be found at <http://dvcc.delaware.gov/reports/>

Components of the evaluation included:

- Review, collating and analysis of available quantitative data and materials from DVCC and providers;
- Analysis of recidivism data available through DELJIS;
- Results of BIP Process pre-tests and post-tests;
- Program observations;
- Judicial surveys;
- Judicial Interviews;
- Other key informant interviews;
- Facilitator surveys; and
- Brief focused literature review.

The Evaluation will be utilized as a guide for the Treatment Committee in revising existing treatment program standards and guidelines.



## **Batterers' Intervention Certification Panel**

### **Committee Focus**

The Batterers' Intervention Certification Panel (Panel) is a subcommittee of the Treatment Committee. The Panel is responsible for overseeing and ensuring that treatment programs meet all specified requirements of the Domestic Violence Intervention Standards prior to being added to the list of Certified Treatment Programs. The Panel is made up of eleven members from designated agencies as prescribed by the Certification Rules and Procedures. The panelists include a representative from three of the certified treatment programs, a victim advocate from an agency or organization that works directly with domestic violence victims, as well as a representative from Family Court, the Attorney General's office, Probation and Parole, Youth Rehabilitation Services, the Office of Defense Services, the Department of Correction's Treatment Unit and a representative from Delaware Prevention and Behavioral Health Services with experience in adolescent development.

The Panel meets every February and as needed to review Certified Treatment Programs' Annual Reports to ensure that programs remain in compliance with the Intervention Standards including compliance with all continuing education requirements for facilitators. The annual review process helps Delaware maintain high quality and streamlined treatment services statewide.

Delaware has four certified programs which offer intervention treatment groups in numerous locations statewide.

#### **Catholic Charities**

2601 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Wilmington, DE 19805  
Phone: 302-655-9624  
Fax: 302-654-6432

#### **CHILD, Inc.**

507 Philadelphia Pike  
Wilmington, DE  
19809  
Phone: 302-762-8989  
Fax: 302-762-8987

#### **Dover Air Force Base**

436 MDOS/SGOW  
Family Advocacy  
Program  
300 Tuskegee Blvd.  
Dover AFB, DE 19902  
Phone: 302-677-2711

#### **Turning Point**

**(Peoples Place II)**  
1129 Airport Road  
Milford, DE 19963  
Phone: 302-424-2420  
Fax: 302-424-2402

The Domestic Violence Intervention Standards can be found at: <http://dvcc.delaware.gov/treatment-certification-documents/>



## **Public Awareness/Education Committee**

### **Committee Focus**

The Committee brings together representatives from the courts, law enforcement, healthcare, Department of Services for Children, Youth and their Families, advocates and community partners to promote awareness and education about domestic violence, sexual assault and resources available to victims.

### **Fiscal Year 2017 Accomplishments**

The Committee focused on planning and implementing two initiatives: Domestic Violence Prevention Forums and the DVCC's 2016 Teen Dating Violence poster contest. Three Domestic Violence Prevention Forums were held. Three at Delcastle Technical High School for grade 9, one at Dover High School for grades 9 -12 and one at Seaford High School for grades 9-10. The Committee also developed the theme and guidelines for student entries. Students designed posters around the theme *Healthy Relationships Through Your Eyes*.

On the day of the Forums, Committee members provided logistical support, served as panelists and moderators, and staffed resource tables which included informational materials specific to teens and healthy dating relationships.

Feedback from students, faculty, school administrators and the Committee revealed that the Domestic Violence Prevention Forums and the poster contest provided students opportunities to learn more about the characteristics of healthy relationships, warning signs of unhealthy dating behavior and when and how to reach out for help. As one student noted on her evaluation of the Forum she will tell "other teenagers about teen dating and how it can turn bad in a relationship". Another student indicated he learned that teens should "never be afraid of talking to an adult about problems in your personal relationship". Lastly, many students reflected about the importance of being respectful to their dating partner.





## Community Impact

The DVCC collaborates extensively with community partners statewide by participating in public awareness events. Community outreach fulfills an important function by increasing public awareness about domestic violence and sexual assault while distributing resources available to assist victims and their families. The DVCC promoted resources and information to various communities by participating in 26 outreach events. Over 2,300 youth and young adults participated in the DVCC's educational sessions and awareness activities.





## Community Outreach

- National Night Out – Middletown
- National Night Out – Glasgow Park
- Awareness Day – First State Community Action Agency, Georgetown
- Safety Day – Houston Volunteer Fire Company
- Health & Wellness Expo – DE National Guard
- Veterans and Families Resource Fair – Wilmington
- Imagine Delaware - Wilmington
- 2017 Victims' Rights Awareness Week Tribute - Dover
- DTCC Sexual Assault Resource Fair – Stanton
- Food Bank of DE Resource Fair – New Castle
- Southbridge Youth Farm Stand - Wilmington
- Annual Staff Development Training Seminar – DE Police Chiefs' Council – Dewey Beach
- Community Health Resource Fair - Kingswood Community Center, Wilmington
- Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims- Wilmington
- Recovery Rally – Rick Van Story Resource Center - Wilmington
- Health and Safety Fair – New Directions Early Head Start, Dover
- Brother to Brother Walk/Run - Wilmington
- DV Education & Awareness Forum – Middletown
- Saving Our Sisters Conference – Wilmington
- Health and Wellness Community Event – Delcastle Technical High School - Wilmington
- Community Response to Hunger - Wilmington
- DTCC Sexual Assault Resource Fair - Georgetown
- Food Bank of DE Senior Resource Fair – Milford
- Safe Summer Day – Kent County Levy Court - Dover
- Health and Wellness Fair – Gateway House Wilmington
- World Elder Abuse Awareness Day – Wilmington & Dover

## Professional Trainings

From July 2016 through June 2017, a total of 609 persons were trained. The DVCC provided 39 trainings for counseling professionals, peace officers, animal welfare services, judicial branch employees, victim advocates, schools and members of the community. DVCC training and education activities included:

- Child Support Services – Kent and Sussex Counties
- Delaware Constable Academy
- CHILD, Inc. - Domestic Violence Advocacy Program
- Division of Visually Impaired
- Head Start – Wilmington
- DCADV Advocates' Retreat & Conference
- Social Deviance Class – Wilmington University
- Ministry of Caring – Hope House I
- YWCA Home Life Management Center
- Delaware Coalition for Injury Prevention
- Contact Lifeline – New Castle and Kent Counties
- Early Intervention Unit – DSCYF/DPBHS
- Endoscopy Center of Delaware
- CHILD, Inc.
- Certified Nursing Assistant Program – Sussex Technical High School
- DV Awareness Forum – Middletown Police Department
- Baylor Women's Correctional Institution
- 2016 Annual Law Enforcement Training



## Teen Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention

### Domestic Violence Prevention Forums

Committee members, along with other community partners and professionals from across Delaware, teamed together to offer Domestic Violence Prevention Forums Delcastle Technical High School (9<sup>th</sup> grade) and Seaford High School (9 & 10 grades), as well as students at Dover High School (9-12 grades). The Forums included interactive theatrical skits performed by ARTfusion, panel discussions and student participation. Skits focused on recognizing and responding to controlling behaviors in teen dating relationships and ways to approach a friend or adult when there is disagreement about how to treat dating partners. Panel discussions enhanced students' understanding of respectful dating behavior and promoted awareness of resources available to teens that are experiencing violence in their relationships. More than 880 students participated in the Forums.

### Domestic Violence Prevention Forums – Poster Contest

In conjunction with the Forums, a poster contest was offered to students at all three high schools. Judging was based on how participants reflected the theme *Healthy Relationships Through Your Eyes*. Faculty and staff judged the artwork submitted by students in their respective schools.

Finalists, Shantiyyah Hobby (Dover High School), Delaney Durick (Delcastle Technical High School) and Kayleigh Clendenin (Seaford High School) received awards sponsored by The Nu Upsilon Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and The Psi Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., in affiliation with the H.O.P.E. Foundation. A panel of judges selected by the DVCC then determined the grand prize winner for the 2016 Poster Contest.



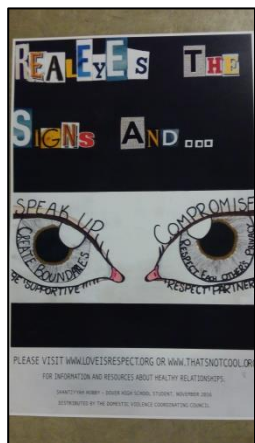
Members of the Psi Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., DVCC Chair, Chief Judge Michael Newell, and Sgt. Reginald Laster, New Castle County Police



Shantiyyah Hobby and Delaney Durick  
Student Artists



### Poster Distribution - *Healthy Relationships Through Your Eyes*



Winning Poster

We live in a world where one in three teens report experiencing some form of abuse in their dating relationships. We know that teen dating violence can result in less attention to academics; increased exposure to drugs and alcohol; greater likelihood of teen pregnancy; growing isolation; and sexual assault. Just one of these can have a profound impact on the physical, social and emotional growth of a young person. Collectively, they create a perfect storm that not only affects victims of abuse, but also their friends, families, schools and surrounding communities. The DVCC continuously endeavors to promote awareness of the perils of dating violence and the importance of healthy relationships. One way this was accomplished was by reproducing and distributing posters and sharing a message created by a Delaware teen. The DVCC reproduced the winning poster and distributed copies to 195 public and private schools

### 2016 Annual Law Enforcement Training Conference

The 2016 Annual Law Enforcement Training Conference took place on November 7, 2016, at Polytech Adult Education Center in Woodside, DE. There were 132 attendees from law enforcement agencies, judicial officers, SANE nurses, various advocates and community stakeholders from across the State. This conference included two national speakers presenting on best practices in the fields of domestic violence and sexual assault. Anne Munch (Anne Munch Consulting in Denver, CO) covered information on victim blaming and interviewing in sexual assault cases and Chief Jerald Monahan (Yavapai College in Prescott, AZ) covered the topic of domestic violence and establishing predominant aggressor in domestic violence cases. In addition, Gary Melvin (Domestic Violence Risk Analyst with Capitol Police) was able to share information on the lethality assessment protocol and the Domestic Violence Intervention Program (VIP). The conference was funded by a subgrant from the Delaware Criminal Justice Council through a federal grant from the US Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.



Anne Munch  
Anne Munch Consulting



Chief Jerald Monahan  
Yavapai College





## Shue-Medill Middle School Proclamation Signing – February 1, 2017

On February 1, 2017, the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the DVCC worked together with administrators and students from Shue-Medill Middle School to proclaim the month of February, Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Student groups involved in the effort included Girl Scout Troop 659, Kick Butts Generation anti-tobacco/smoking organization, ROAR Club Positive Behavior organization, and Jurdy Agents anti-bullying organization. The event included Shue-Medill students enthusiastically reciting the Healthy Relationship Bill of Rights and Governor John Carney signing the official proclamation.



Governor John Carney and Lieutenant Governor  
Bethany Hall-Long



Shue-Medill Middle School students

## High School and Middle School Awareness & Prevention Education Activities

The DVCC conducted 30 teen dating violence awareness and prevention education activities that reached more than 1,507 tweens, teens and young adults throughout Delaware. DVCC's school-related activities were hosted by:

- Brandywine High School
- Polytech High School
- Hodgson Vo Tech High School
- Delmar High School
- Glasgow High School
- Alexis I. du Pont High School
- Milford High School
- Lake Forest High School
- Woodbridge High School
- Mt. Pleasant High School
- Dickinson High School
- Laurel High School
- Concord High School
- Woodbridge Middle School
- Seaford High School
- Caesar Rodney High School
- Delcastle Technical High School
- Smyrna High School
- Howard High School
- High Road School
- Jobs for Delaware Graduates (JDG) - Christiana High School
- Youths Eliminating Lost Lives (YELL) - Middletown High School



## Domestic Violence Awareness Month

### Proclamation Signing

Surrounded by State officials and advocates, Governor Markell declared October 2016 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month for the purpose of bringing focus to a crime that affects the health, safety and welfare of thousands of Delawareans. Domestic Violence Awareness Month is an opportunity to stand with domestic violence survivors, to celebrate the progress made in combating these crimes, and to recommit to reducing domestic violence in the State.



Governor Jack Markell

### DVCC – Outstanding Community Service Award



Detective Joe Miller,  
Senator Patricia Blevins and  
Governor Jack Markell

Detective Joseph Miller started at Wilmington Police Department in 2000. He was initially assigned to the Patrol Division and in 2007 became a member of the Community Policing Unit. In 2010 he was transferred to the Domestic Violence Unit of the Criminal Investigative Division. Detective Miller has worked tirelessly to review police reports, connect with victims, investigate domestic violence crimes, serve protective orders and do a variety of “other duties as assigned.” He goes above and beyond, sitting on various committees to improve the State’s response to domestic violence. He brings to the work a calm demeanor and willingness to help both fellow Law Enforcement and civilians working in the field. We are pleased to recognize Joe Miller as the 2016 DVCC Outstanding Community Service Award recipient.

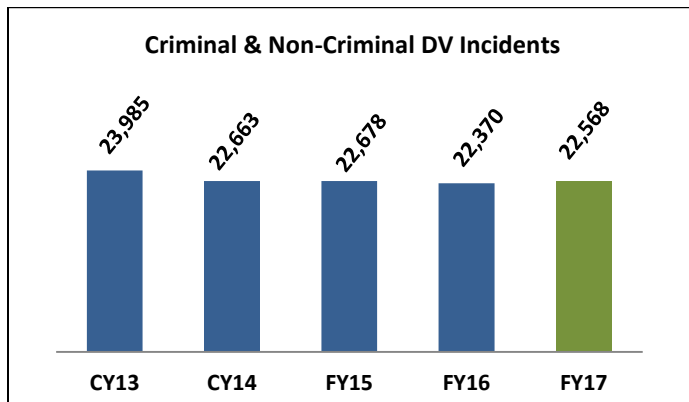


## Domestic Violence Statistics\*

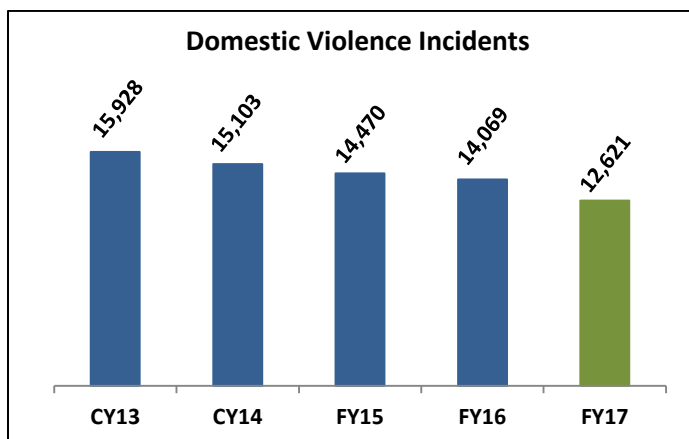
In FY 2017, there were a total of 22,568 combined criminal and non-criminal domestic violence incidents reported in Delaware.

Criminal domestic violence incidents are those in which a crime is committed or alleged.

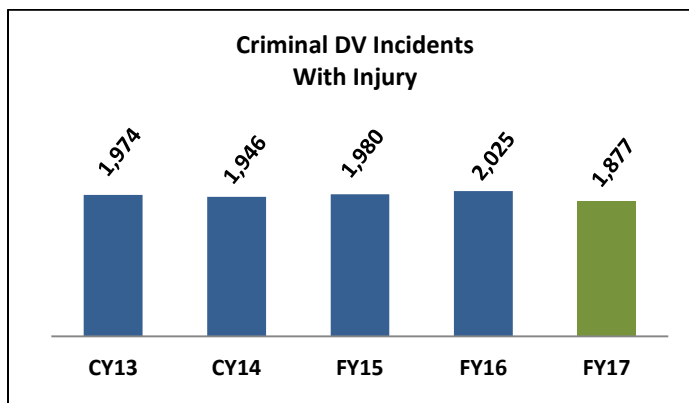
Non-criminal domestic violence incidents are those in which there is police contact, but no crime was alleged, e.g., a verbal argument without any threats.



In FY 2017, the total number of reported domestic violence criminal incidents was 12,621.



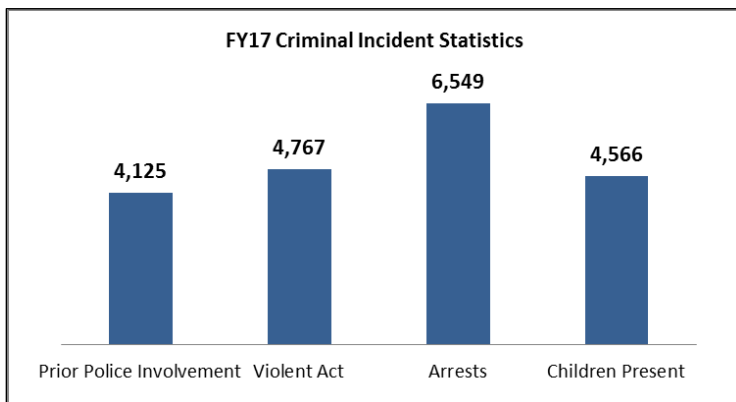
Of the 12,621 reported domestic violence criminal incidents in FY 2017, 1,877 resulted in physical injury to the victim.



\*Domestic Violence statistics are captured through DELJIS reporting.



- In FY 2017, 33% of domestic violence incidents had prior police involvement.
- In FY 2017, 38% of domestic violence incidents involved a violence act.
- In FY 2017, 52% of domestic violence incidents resulted in an arrest.
- In FY 2017, children were present in 36% of domestic violence incidents.



## Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP)

The Lethality Assessment Program provides an easy and effective method to identify victims of domestic violence who are at the highest potential for being seriously injured or killed by an intimate partner. A risk assessment is completed by law enforcement at the scene of a domestic violence incident, and the victim is put in contact with the domestic violence hotline immediately for safety planning purposes.

Capitol Police's Domestic Violence Risk Analyst has continued training law enforcement officers statewide on the protocol. Since 2014, the DV Risk Analyst has conducted 49 training sessions in 29 agencies to over 555 officers and the utilization of the LAP has dramatically increased. In the first 6 months of 2017, police officers statewide completed the LAP on scene 80% of the time.

In addition, the DV Risk Analyst worked with programmers at Delaware Criminal Justice Information System (DELJIS) when they were building the new Law Enforcement Information Statewide System (LEISS) product. Built in LEISS is an emergency email mechanism for every new high risk domestic violence report that gets written. The DV Risk Analyst receives these emergency emails and immediately forwards them to the respective police based victim services program, with special attention given to any report where the victim did not speak with the domestic violence hotline.

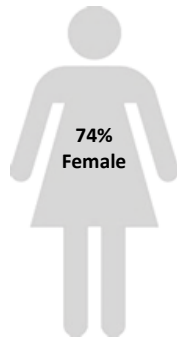
As part of the re-launch of the LAP, Capitol Police collaborated with the courts and community partners to develop a web-based referral program for high risk cases. The Domestic Violence Intervention Program (VIP) allows anyone to make a referral for a domestic violence victim to receive police accompaniment to a court hearing in any of the three counties. To date almost 400 high risk victims have been accompanied to their respective hearings. A link to the VIP is: <http://capitolpd.delaware.gov>.



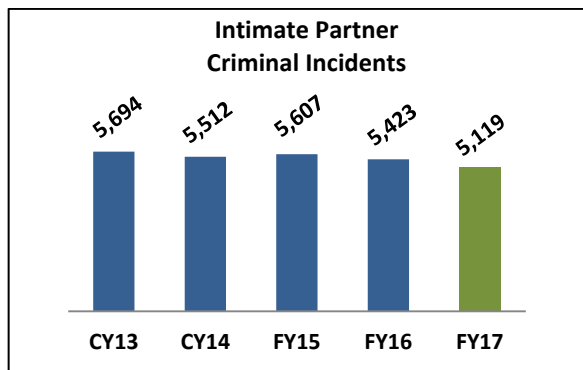


## Intimate Partner Criminal Statistics

Incidents of domestic violence can be perpetrated against an intimate partner or a family member. Intimate partners can include current and former spouses, current and former dating couples with or without a child in common and teen dating couples. Intimate partners may be the same gender.

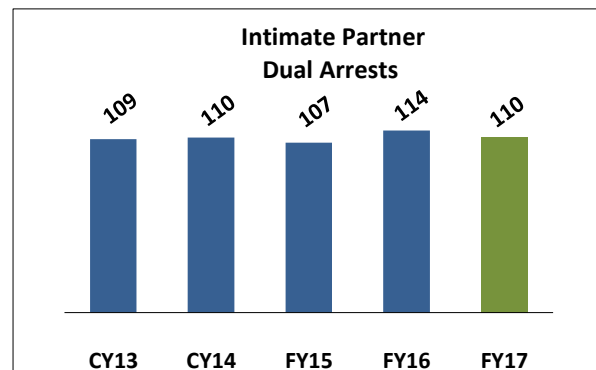


Of the intimate partner criminal incidents reported, 74% of the victims were female for FY 2017.



In FY 2017, of the 12,621 criminal incidents reported, 5,119 were between intimate partners.

Of those reports in FY 2017, 881 indicated physical injury to the victim.



Dual arrests occur when police officers arrest both intimate partners involved in a domestic violence incident.

In FY 2017, there were 110 dual arrests made by law enforcement.



## Protection From Abuse Statistics

An order of protection from abuse (PFA) is a civil order issued by the Family Court that provides protection from harm by a family or household member. In addition to family and household member, persons living separate and apart with a child in common, or persons in a current or former substantive dating relationship may file for a PFA. The Court may order the abuser to stay away from the person being abused; provide exclusive use of the home or possessions; award temporary custody; child support or spousal support; or payment of expenses. Additionally, the offender may be ordered to surrender firearms, and/or to seek treatment from a certified Batterers' Intervention Program.

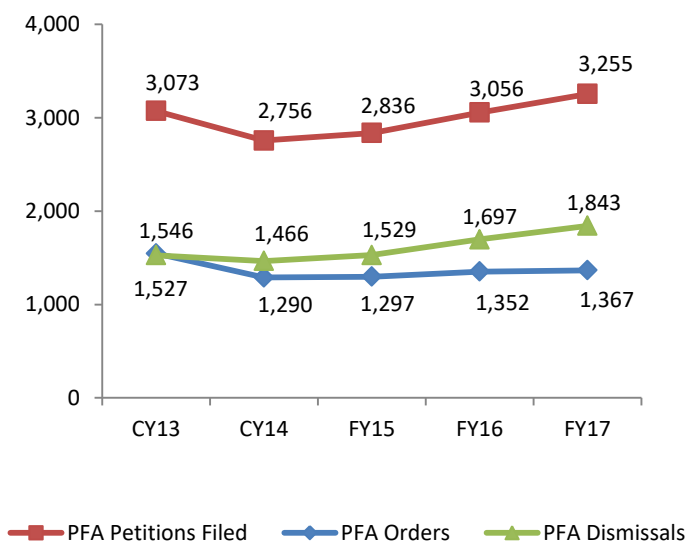
Upon a finding that aggravating circumstances exist, the Court may grant no contact relief for as long as reasonably necessary to prevent further acts of abuse or domestic violence up to and including a permanent or lifetime order.

### Lifetime Orders

New Castle County	35
Kent County	32
Sussex County	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>

In FY 2017, there were 73 lifetime PFA orders issued that remained in effect at the end of the fiscal year.

Family Court processed 3,255 PFA petitions statewide in FY 2017. Of those petitions filed, 1,367 orders were issued and 1,843 petitions were dismissed.



A PFA order can be issued by Family Court in one of three ways:

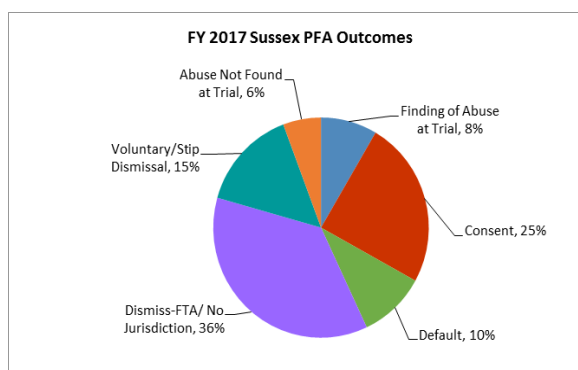
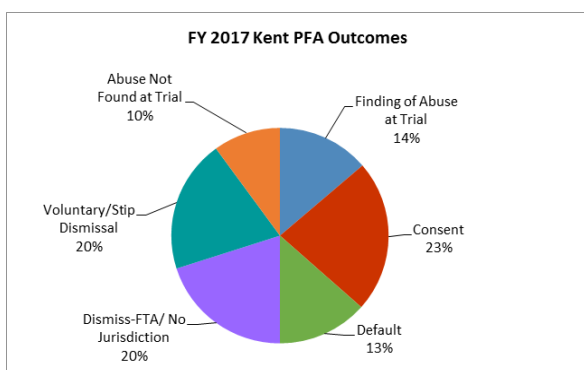
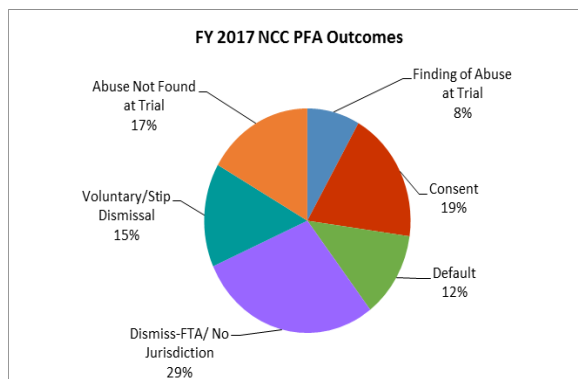
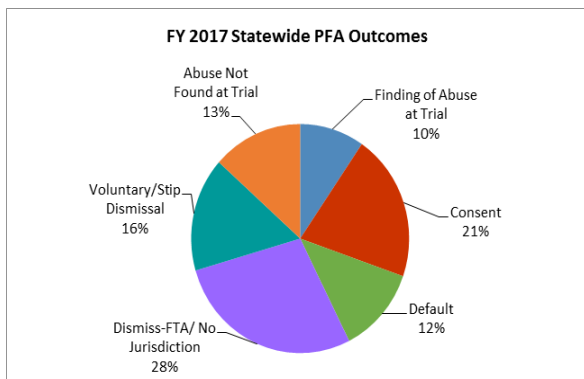
- The Court finds by a preponderance of the evidence following a hearing that domestic violence has occurred;
- The respondent consents to the entry of a protective order; or
- A default order is entered when the respondent fails to appear for a hearing after proper notice.

A PFA petition can be dismissed for one of the three reasons:

- The petitioner failed to appear for the hearing;
- The petitioner voluntarily withdrew the petition before the hearing; or
- Abuse was not found by a preponderance of evidence following a hearing.



## PFA Outcomes



## Family Court Enhancement Project

In November 2013, Delaware was among four courts nationwide selected by the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women to receive a federal grant as part of the Family Court Enhancement Project (FCEP). Over the past three years, FCEP has been focused on improving policies, procedures, and the overall court experience for litigants in PFA and child custody cases to help keep victims of domestic violence and their children safe from further violence and trauma.

Implementation is underway on some of the more than sixty recommendations from FCEP's two subcommittees. They include making visual and practical enhancements like better signage in the courthouses, and improving the physical layout of the resource centers to make them safe for litigants and staff; improving the experience for litigants during PFA calendars to feel less chaotic; providing additional domestic violence training for court staff, mediators, and judicial officers; exploring how to better address custody requests that are made as part of a PFA petition; improving materials for self-represented litigants and court personnel; and revising policies and procedures to decrease barriers for litigants and provide the appropriate level of court intervention in each case.

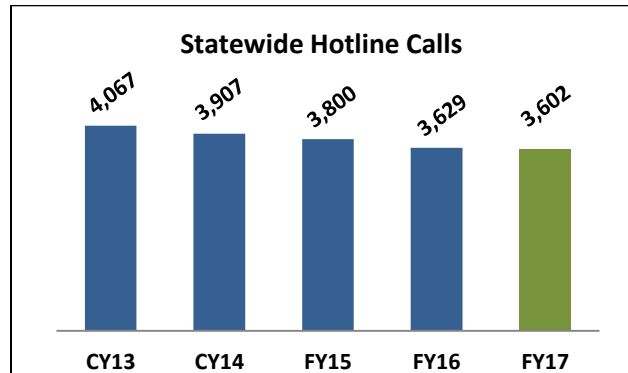


## Domestic Violence Hotline Statistics

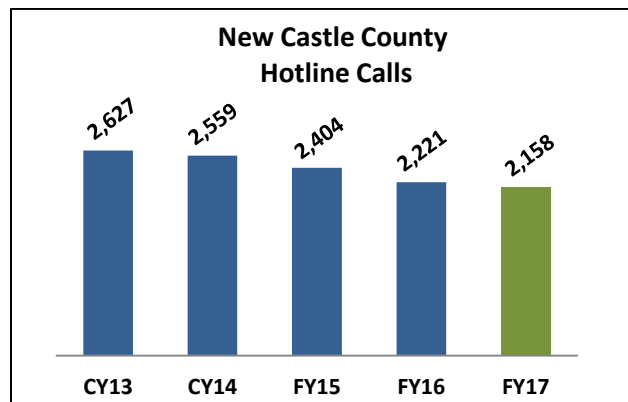
The Domestic Violence Hotlines are an important resource available to victims of domestic violence in Delaware. The hotlines, which are available in all three counties, are confidential and available 24 hours a day/7 days a week. Hotlines are staffed by trained professionals who assist in safety planning, offer emergency shelter when appropriate and refer victims to available resources. Services are available for victims who do not speak English and to those who are hearing impaired.

In FY 2017, there were a total of 3,602 calls received by the Domestic Violence Hotlines statewide.

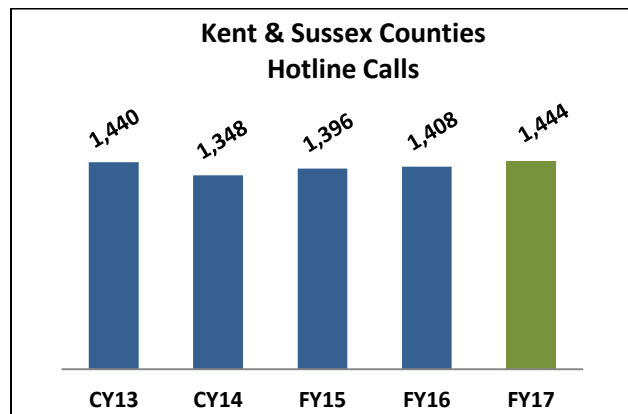
Over a five year span, the average number of hotline calls is 3,801 per year.



In FY 2017, there were 2,158 calls to the Domestic Violence Hotline in New Castle County.



In FY 2017, there were a total of 1,444 calls to the Domestic Violence Hotlines in Kent and Sussex Counties.



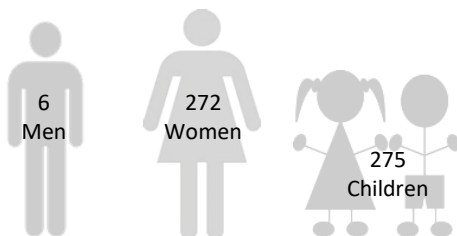


## Shelter Statistics

Two agencies, CHILD, Inc. and People's Place, offer shelter and transitional housing in confidential locations throughout Delaware. In addition to providing emergency shelter in a trauma-informed setting, domestic violence shelters offer safety planning, case management, advocacy, counseling, child care, job assistance and more.

### Statewide

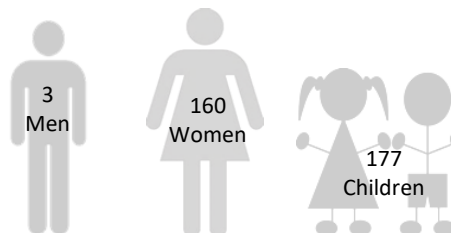
553 individuals were sheltered statewide.



A 9% increase in the number of individuals sheltered from FY 2016.

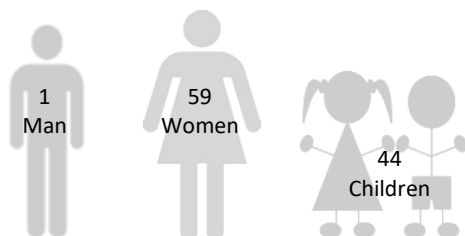
### New Castle County

340 individuals were sheltered in New Castle County.



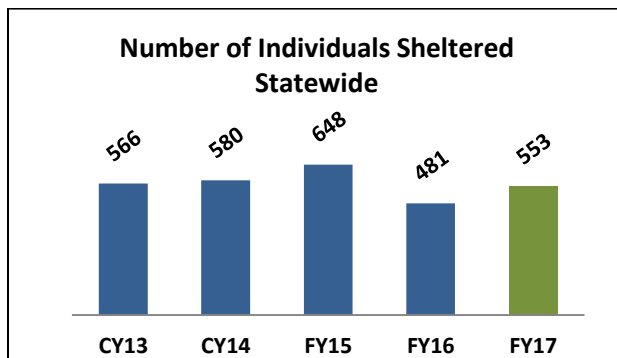
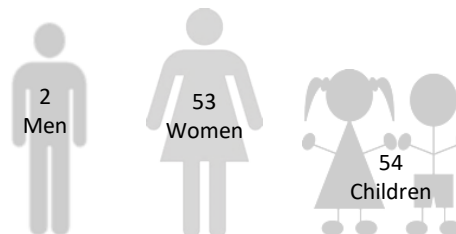
### Kent County

104 individuals were sheltered in Kent County.



### Sussex County

109 individuals were sheltered in Sussex County.



Shelter was provided for 553 individuals during FY 2017.



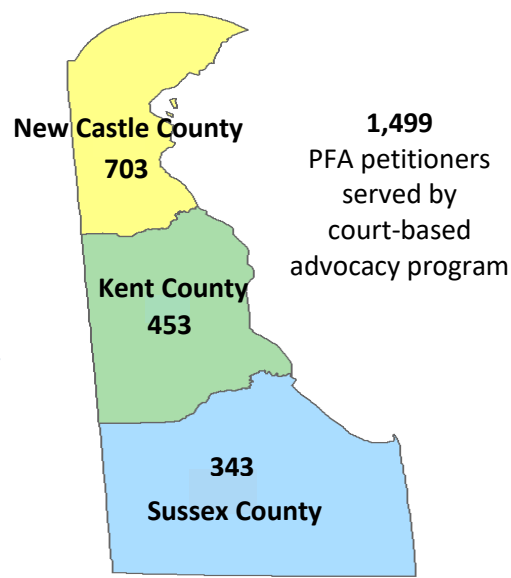
## Domestic Violence Advocacy Program

The Domestic Violence Advocacy Programs provide free services to help intimate partner victims of domestic violence navigate their way through the court system. CHILD, Inc., is the statewide provider of these services with an advocate located at the Family Court in each county. CHILD, Inc., trains advocates to assist victims with safety planning, answer questions about the court process, file petitions and provide a supportive presence at court hearings.

**New Castle County**  
302-255-0420

**Kent County**  
302-672-1075

**Sussex County**  
302-856-5843



## Legal Services for Victims

In Fiscal Year 2017, Community Legal Aid Society, Inc. (CLASI) handled 481 cases for victims of domestic violence in Kent and Sussex Counties. Of the 481 cases, 421 were PFA cases, 41 were custody/visitation cases, 7 were divorce cases, and 12 were child support cases.

Delaware Volunteer Legal Services (DVLS) provides free representation in New Castle County to victims of domestic violence. In FY 2017, pro bono and staff attorneys provided advice, brief services and representation to 348 victims through the PFA Pro Bono Program in obtaining protection orders. Pro bono attorneys also represented 32 other clients with PFA matters, custody/visitation and divorce matters. In-house staff attorneys provided representation, advice or brief services on 313 additional PFA, custody and divorce matters.

During fall and spring semesters, the Delaware Civil Clinic at Widener University Delaware Law School provides practical legal experience to law students, admitted to the limited practice of law, pursuant to Delaware Supreme Court Rule 56. The interns are directly responsible for their client's cases, under the close supervision of the program's director and a staff attorney. From February through April of Spring Semester 2017 (the DCC was not offered in the Fall Semester 2016), interns provided legal assistance to eight (8) survivors of domestic violence in seeking civil orders of protection from abuse, child custody and/or visitation.



## Family Visitation Centers Statistics

Family Visitation Centers provide safe, supervised visits between visiting parents and their children at the centers, as well as supervised exchanges of children between parents for off-site visits. Visitation Centers are designed for families with a history of violence, including intimate partner violence, or in other situations when there is concern for the child's welfare. Families are most often referred by Family Court or the Division of Family Services (DFS), but families may also self-refer. The centers are structured to promote safety for families to include staggered arrival and departure times for parents, and separate entrances for parents. Family Visitation Centers employ experienced security guards for the safety of children and parents. The centers are equipped with age appropriate toys, games, crafts and the like. Trained staff supports parents in engaging children in activities and positive interactions.

The Delaware Family Visitation Program is a federal and state funded program for the operation of the Family Visitation Centers. The Delaware Department of Health and Social Services/Division of State Service Centers (DHSS/DSSC) administers the program on a contractual basis with CHILD, Inc. and Family Visitation Centers at People's Place II. The five centers in Delaware are located at the Belvedere State Service Center in Wilmington, the Hudson State Service Center in Newark, the Dover Center in Dover, the Milford State Service Center in Milford, and the Adams State Service Center in Georgetown.

	CHILD, Inc. New Castle County	People's Place II Kent & Sussex Counties	Statewide
Visitation Exchanges:	444	1,098	1,542
Group Visits:	583	1,140	1,723
Individual Supervised Visits:	1,114	963	2,077
Children Served:	187	234	421
Parent/Caregivers Served:			
• Visiting Parents	143	146	289
• Non-visiting Parents	140	139	279



## Division of Family Services Statistics

The Division of Family Services (DFS) screens for domestic violence when an allegation of child abuse or neglect is reported to the DFS hotline. In FY 2017, DFS received 20,382 reports alleging child abuse or neglect. Of those, 8,462 (41.5%) were accepted for investigation. Of those reports accepted for investigation, 1,760 (20.8%) also alleged domestic violence. Of those reports accepted for investigation, 716 (8%) also identified DV at the conclusion of the investigation (all findings types). A total of 907 investigations were substantiated and 261 (28%) of the substantiated cases included a finding of domestic violence.

Since 2002, domestic violence advocates from CHILD, Inc. and the SAFE Program of People's Place have been located at DFS to assist victims referred by DFS. These DFS advocates provide safety planning and advocacy services and continue to work with the victims as needed. SAFE Program's *Making Cents* financial literacy program had 119 survivors participate.

<b>New Castle County CHILD, Inc.</b>	<b>Kent County People's Place</b>	<b>Sussex County People's Place</b>
Victims Served by DFS	Victims Served by DFS	Victims Served by DFS
Liaisons: 168	Liaisons: 59	Liaisons: 53

\*Substantiated means that following an investigation, DFS found support for the allegation of maltreatment or risk of maltreatment.

## Services for Children Exposed to Domestic Violence

Trauma-informed therapeutic services are essential to help children who have witnessed domestic violence recover from the trauma it causes. Counselors providing these clinical services use age appropriate techniques including play therapy for younger children. Safety planning, working through feelings related to the violence, and developing skills to break the intergenerational cycle of violence are the focus of this healing therapy. In New Castle County, services are provided by CHILD, Inc. In Kent and Sussex Counties, Turning Point at People's Place provides these services to children.

<b><u>New Castle County</u></b>		<b><u>Kent &amp; Sussex Counties</u></b>	
<b>Helping Children Heal (CHILD, Inc.)</b>		<b>Turning Point (People's Place)</b>	
Children/Adolescents		Children/Adolescents	
Served:	92	Served:	94
Parent/Caretakers		Parent/Caretakers	
Served:	165	Served:	28
<b>Total:</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>122</b>





## **Beech Street DV Liaison Success Story**

Mabel\* met her abusive partner David just after her mother died; she was vulnerable and needed a distraction from the untimely death. David became homeless and Mabel wanted to be helpful to her new friend, so she allowed him to move in with her and her teenaged son. David soon revealed himself to be an alcoholic prone to physical aggression when drinking.

After two years of escalating abuse David strangled Mabel during one of his attacks. Mabel's 16 year old son intervened to save his mother's life. This was a wakeup call to Mabel- she couldn't fathom her son having to rescue her from her boyfriend. She was also disgusted with David's drinking. Division of Family Services (DFS) became involved because of the severity of the crime occurring in front of a child. The caseworker referred the adult victim of domestic violence to me hoping that I could intervene.

I met with Mabel in her home and helped her to complete the Victim's Compensation Assistance Program (VCAP) application. We talked for a long while about her relationship and her dreams for the future- both for herself and her son. Mabel decided the relationship was over and she wanted to cooperate with the police. We co-created a safety plan and decided on action steps.

Within a week of applying for help, VCAP granted Mabel assistance with relocation. She is thrilled because she can transfer to another branch location in the industry she is trained in her new city. Her son is happy because he found a high school that offers aviation courses in their new town. Mabel will continue to participate in the support groups offered by this grant where she serves as an inspiration to women still in their abusive relationships.

\*Names have been changed.



## Treatment Program Statistics

In FY 2017, there were four certified treatment providers offering batterers' intervention programs in Delaware. Each of these programs followed the guidelines established through the *Domestic Violence Intervention Standards* and were certified by the DVCC Batterers' Intervention Certification Panel. The four programs are Catholic Charities and CHILD, Inc., in New Castle County, Turning Point at People's Place in Kent and Sussex Counties and the Family Advocacy Center at Dover Air Force Base.

	<u>Catholic Charities</u>		<u>CHILD, Inc.</u>		<u>Turning Point Peoples Place II</u>	
	Male	Female*	Male	Female	Male	Female
Probation Evaluated:	69	0	128	19	Kent:	96
					Sussex:	12
With PFA Order Evaluated:	19	0	32	9	Kent:	75
					Sussex:	9
Self-Referrals:	1	0	11	2	Kent:	28
					Sussex:	5
Court Ordered:	13	0	31	6	Kent:	1
					Sussex:	0
Participated in Group Intervention:	90	0	235**	56	Kent:	3
					Sussex:	3
Completed Intervention:	58	0	126	26	Kent:	118
					Sussex:	17
Total Number Served:	102	0	383	101	Kent:	77
					Sussex:	9
					Kent:	141
					Sussex:	28
					Kent:	101
					Sussex:	17

\*In FY 2017, Catholic Charities did not have any female participants in Batterers' Intervention.

\*\*Includes former clients that returned to group on a voluntary basis.

Note: 2017 data was not available for the Family Advocacy Center at Dover Air Force Base.



## **Supervised Domestic Violence Offender Data**

Probation and Parole has a specialized Domestic Violence Unit in each county with probation officers specially trained in the dynamics of domestic violence. Domestic violence cases are assigned to the DV Unit based upon criteria including offense, victim/offender relationship, and active PFA orders. The philosophy of the Probation and Parole DV Unit is to hold the offender accountable and maintain victim safety. In addition, Victim Service Agents are available to serve as liaison between victims and probation officers and provide guidance through the criminal justice system once an offender is placed on community supervision.

### **New Castle County Domestic Violence Supervision**

Number of DV Offenders Supervised:	452
Number of Probation Officers Assigned to DV Cases:	8
Probationer/Probation Officer Ratio:	57:1
Number of Victims Served by Victim Service Agents:	220*

### **Kent County Domestic Violence Supervision**

Number of DV Offenders Supervised:	316
Number of Probation Officers Assigned to DV Cases:	6
Probationer/Probation Officer Ration:	53:1
Number of Victims Served by Victim Service Agents:	204

### **Sussex County Domestic Violence Supervision**

Number of DV Offenders Supervised:	242
Number of Probation Officers Assigned to DV Cases:	11
Probationer/Probation Officer Ration:	22:1

\* Position vacant since end of April 2017.



## Fatal Incident Review Team Report

The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council’s Fatal Incident Review Team (FIRT) was established by statute in 1996 and became the first statewide team in the country. FIRT members are dedicated professionals who conduct system audits of State agencies and private organizations that had contact with the victim and/or the perpetrator to assess the system’s response. Although domestic violence fatality reviews are retrospective in nature, their purpose is prospective. Reviews focus on identifying trends, patterns and obstacles in services, assessing agency interventions, and most importantly, developing practical recommendations aimed at improving the system and preventing future injury and death. In 2009, the General Assembly granted FIRT the authority to conduct near-death reviews. These reviews enhance the team’s ability to improve Delaware’s response to domestic violence with the wealth of knowledge that can be gained from speaking directly with the domestic violence survivor about the incident, the history of violence, system involvement, and awareness of resources.

The supplemental [2017 Fatal Incident Review Team \(FIRT\) Annual Report](http://dvcc.delaware.gov/) is available online at the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council website (<http://dvcc.delaware.gov/>). This report provides a summary of the Review Team’s activities and accomplishments over the last year; statistical data for the domestic violence fatalities that occurred in calendar year 2016; information and recommendations from the death and near-death cases reviewed by FIRT in 2016.

### Chairs:

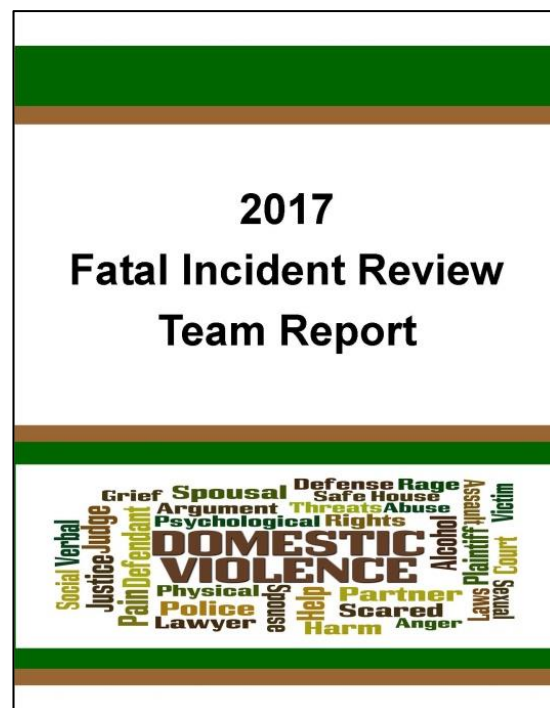
Hon. Jan Jurden  
President Judge, Superior Court

Professor Dana Harrington Conner  
At-Large Member

Hon. Vincent Poppiti  
At-Large Member

### Staff Information:

Natasha Smith  
302-255-0408  
[Natasha.Smith@state.de.us](mailto:Natasha.Smith@state.de.us)





## You are not alone...

- Domestic violence is NOT just violence leading to physical injuries. It is a pattern of abusive behavior used to gain control over another person that can include: threats, emotional, sexual or economic abuse; intimidation; deprivation; social isolation or repeated battering and injury.
- Over time the violence usually becomes more frequent and more severe. It does not go away without intervention.
- Children can be devastated by domestic violence. They are hurt by seeing or hearing the violence and they are more likely to be the victims of violence if you are being abused.
- Although you do not have control over your partner's violence, you DO have a choice about how to respond to him/her and how to best get yourself and your children to safety.

### 24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotlines & Shelters

New Castle County 302-762-6110

NCC Bi-Lingual 302-762-6110

Northern Kent County 302-678-3886

Kent & Sussex County 302-422-8058

Bi-Lingual 302-745-9874

## All hotline calls are confidential.

### Safety Tips

#### To increase your safety and the safety of your children:

- Have important numbers accessible to you and your children (i.e., 911, family members etc.).
- Ask a neighbor to be aware of suspicious activity in your home.
- Plan an escape route in case of an emergency and practice the plan with your children.
- Think in advance of where you may be able to go with your children in a hurry.
- Leave extra money, car keys, clothing and copies of documents with someone you trust.
- Call a Domestic Violence Hotline for assistance in planning.
- If you are in danger, please try to use a safer computer that someone abusive does not have direct or remote access to. Use a safe computer such as a library or a trusted friend's computer.

#### If you leave the relationship:

- Obtain a Protection From Abuse (PFA) Order and keep a copy with you at all times. Keep extra copies in your car, at school, work and/or with someone you trust. Remember-leaving your batterer is a very dangerous time!
- Notify all childcare providers if your partner has been restricted from seeing the children in addition to who has permission to pick up your children.
- Change the locks and make sure all outside lights are working.
- Have your calls screened at work and use an answering machine to screen your calls at home.
- Avoid places where your partner knows you will be (grocery stores, banks, etc.)
- When you feel down and ready to return to the relationship, call a support group, hotline or someone you trust.

**If you are in danger, please call 911.**

## **Domestic Violence/Rape Crisis**

### **24 – Hour Hotline Numbers**

#### **New Castle County**

Domestic Violence	302-762-6110
Bi-Lingual	302-762-6110
Rape Crisis	1-800-773-8570
TTY	1-800-232-5460

#### **Northern Kent**

Domestic Violence	302-678-3886
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#### **Kent & Sussex**

Domestic Violence	302-422-8058
Rape Crisis	1-800-262-9800
Bi-lingual	302-745-9874



### **Capitol Police - Domestic Violence Intervention**

<http://capitolpd.delaware.gov>

## **DVCC Main Office**

Leonard L. Williams Justice Center  
(formerly New Castle County Courthouse)  
Suite 700  
500 N. King Street  
Wilmington, DE 19801

Phone: 302-255-0405

Fax: 302-255-2236

<http://dvcc.delaware.gov/>

## **DVCC Kent & Sussex County Office**

Milford State Service Center  
Suite 105  
13 S. W. Front Street  
Milford, DE 19963

Phone: 302-424-7238

Fax: 302-424-5311

<http://dvcc.delaware.gov/>

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council

<http://dvcc.delaware.gov/>