



STATE OF DELAWARE
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council Strategic Plan 2018 - 2021

The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) is a State agency legislatively created in 1993 to improved Delaware's response to domestic violence. The Coordinating Council brings together domestic violence service providers and policy level officials to identify and implement improvements in system response through legislation, education, and policy development.

Mission Statement

The mission of the DVCC is to reduce the incidence of domestic violence and abuse in all its forms.

Vision Statement

The DVCC is committed to leading the nation through innovative legislative action, community education and an outstanding coordinated system response to domestic violence and sexual assault.

Statutory Duties

13 *Del. C.* § 2103

The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council shall:

- 1) Continuously study court services and procedures, law-enforcement procedures and protocol, and criminal justice data collection and analysis as it relates to domestic violence;
- 2) Effectuate coordination between agencies, departments and the courts with victims of domestic violence and abuse;
- 3) Promote effective prevention, intervention and treatment techniques which will be developed based upon research and data collection;
- 4) 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;
- 5) Review and comment upon legislation relating to domestic violence introduced to the General Assembly at the request of any member of the General Assembly or on its own initiative; and
- 6) Improve the response to domestic violence and abuse so as to reduce the incidents thereof.

Overview

On November 14, 2017, the DVCC contracted the services of the Center for Court Innovation to facilitate a strategic planning day with the Council and key community partners. Participants in this event articulated a broad vision for enhanced statewide coordination on domestic violence cases in order to better promote victim safety and offender accountability. Participants reviewed previously identified goals and generated new ideas for fulfilling the broader vision. The Council then prioritized new areas of focus and developed several achievable initiatives that would further enhance cross-court communication, coordinate and address high risk domestic violence cases, promote resources for offenders and develop strategies for education, prevention and awareness.

Members voted on a name for the new strategic plan. Aptly named “P.E.A.C.E (Prevention *Education *Advocacy *Collaboration*Engagement),” this strategic plan emphasizes the Council’s commitment to the mission. The goals and objectives lay out a plan for the next few years that will focus on the safety and needs of victims; offender accountability; and supportive efforts towards a collaborative community response to violence in families and the community.

Strategic Priorities

<p style="text-align: center;">Priority #1: Court Operations</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Status <i>(as of 11/30/2019)</i></p>
<p>Create a statewide domestic violence coordinator position</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsibilities may include: coordinate communication; identify cases in various court dockets; identify and assess training needs; discern through DELJIS whether civil cases have corresponding criminal cases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Court approved for STOP funding for DV Coordinator. • Family Court DV Coordinator contract secured 09/2018
<p>Establish a DV Compliance Calendar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May involve the statewide coordinator and key stakeholders • Train staff on court coordination for compliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No update for DV Compliance Calendar <p>Family Court Compliance Initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DV Coordinator completes quarterly compliance monitoring reports • Invited DV Treatment Providers to meet with FC Mediators, Commissioners and Staff • Communication with DV Treatment Providers to ensure the VAWA system is utilized with up-to-date information • Established communication system with DV Treatment Providers so Commissioners and Court Staff can contact for information about respondent <p>Training Initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Family Court staff re-trained DV Treatment Compliance tracking sheets and procedures ⇒ Re-trained staff in PFA Rule to Show Cause

<p align="center">Priority #2: High Risk Specialization</p>	<p align="center">Status <i>(as of 11/30/2019)</i></p>
<p>Identify DVHR Team Coordinator position</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsibilities may include: coordinate communication with DVHR Team; receive and track high risk cases; prepare cases for review • Pilot project in Kent County • Secure office / work space to accommodate Coordinator and Team meetings • Establish identification and referral mechanism for high risk cases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOU signed with Capitol Police and DSHS for office space • DVCC approved for VOCA-Assistance funding for DVHR Coordinator (<i>subgrant #VF16-1890</i>). • DVHR Coordinator started 3/4/19. • Referral mechanism in development.
<p>Identify members of DVHR Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-disciplinary team to include law enforcement, P&P, police-based victim specialists, community-based/shelter advocate; DOJ. • Allow for case-specific ad hoc members 	<p>DVHR Coordinator met individually with potential partners (P&P, People’s Place II, DOJ, law enforcement).</p> <p>Invitations were sent leadership in all agencies.</p> <p>Members/designees have been identified. First business meeting was held in July of 2019.</p>
<p>Create MOU between the MDT Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define roles and responsibilities • Address confidentiality issues 	<p>The DVHRT “Rules and Procedures” draft was submitted to the DVCC’s Civil DAG for review on 10/14/19.</p> <p>Final Draft “Rules & Procedures” presented to the DVCC 12/9/19.</p> <p>If approved, the Team can hold first review in December 2019.</p>

<p>Develop a “system map” that would lead to development of protocol for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What information should be utilized (LAP, Danger Assessment Tool, Risk Assessment Tool, etc) • Sharing information within agencies or with other agencies (create release of information forms; address confidentiality issues) 	<p>The Team has identified the LAP as a screening tool for law enforcement referrals.</p> <p>The Danger Assessment has been identified as the tool for DV Advocates/Hotline. Confidentiality and Information Sharing are addressed in the draft “Rules & Procedures”</p>

<p align="center">Priority #3: Services and Resources for Offenders</p>	<p align="center">Status <i>(as of 11/30/2019)</i></p>
<p>Promote accessible treatment for offenders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote services of DVCC Certified Treatment Providers • Expand resources or availability of Certified Treatment Providers. • Explore methods to reduce cost barrier for DV Treatment from certified programs. • Collaborate with DOC to explore services for offenders in custody 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatment Committee reviewing evaluation recommendations. • The Treatment Committee established a workgroup to revise the Treatment Standards.
<p>Promote access to legal resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance legal services and pro se assistance for victims and offenders • Create a series of web-based resources, including information for attorneys 	<p>Family Court Enhancement Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created and updated materials. Resources and video are available on the Court’s Protection From Abuse website. <p>Training Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DVCC staff exploring the use of Delaware Learning Center to provide/offer training and promote resources and information • Exploring potential funding sources to support training initiatives (exp: software to publish online trainings, equipment, etc).

Priority #4: Trauma-Informed Education, Prevention and Awareness	Status <i>(as of 11/30/2019)</i>
Establish target audience for educational programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance/expand education efforts in schools • Increase accessibility for educational events to the community at large 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing: Public Awareness & Education Committee and DVCC Trainer/Educator increased contacts with high schools & middle schools • Identify the target audience/community and focus for educational events/workshops. • Staff researched established Best Practice Models for community education tools and programs (ex: the CDC’s “Dating Matters” program; the WSCADV’s “In Her Shoes”; “In Their Shoes”)
Identity training needs to professionals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create curricula • Increase accessibility for training • Face to face workshops; on-demand web-based 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DVCC Training Committee will be identifying priorities and topics. • Exploring platforms to provide/offer training • DVCC staff exploring the use of Delaware Learning Center to provide/offer training and promote resources and information. Staff is approved for training by DLC to learn about publishing on the DLC. • Request of the US District of Delaware Court to assist with event under the POWER Act. First event held 9/4/2019: DVCC partnered with CLASI, DVLS and the Beau Biden Foundation to offer the Stewards of Children Training.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IACP request for the DVCC and Georgetown Police to co-host the “Trauma-Informed Sexual Assault Investigation Training” for law enforcement (tentatively Spring 2020) • Exploring potential funding sources to support training initiatives
<p>Expand social media presence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create content for social media campaign • Build capacity for managing social media presence • Learn more about national education and prevention efforts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 2018: The DVCC received recognition as “Allied Organization” of the NO MORE Campaign to end DV & SA. • Public Awareness & Education Committee plan to develop a social media campaign strategy for 2020. • DVCC staff exploring opportunities to share and promote outreach events to victim serving agencies/organization. • DVCC staff exploring potential funding sources to support awareness initiatives