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From the Executive Director

As we welcome a new year, we acknowledge several awareness months, including Stalking Awareness Month and Human Trafficking Prevention Month in January, and Teen Dating Abuse Awareness Month in February.

This year, our Teen Dating Abuse is #NotJustPhysical campaign will target parents and other adults in teens' lives, including coaches, club advisors, dance instructors and the like, offering tips and resources so they can recognize signs of dating abuse, start conversations about the topic, discuss healthy relationships and get help and support.

This issue of the bulletin focuses on risk assessment and reduction in domestic violence cases, the topic of OPDV's first-ever summit last fall (see Page 4 for more details). I'm thrilled that two presenters from that event - Rachel Teicher of the National Network for Safe Communities and Kassondra DelPozzo, Project Manager of the Kingston Intimate Partner Violence Intervention Strategy - have shared their expertise and experiences in our featured article and Q&A.

Our Legislative Update highlights important legislation passed last year, including several new laws designed to better protect adult and child victims of human trafficking.

On behalf of everyone at OPDV, I wish you a peaceful and happy 2019 and I look forward to your continued partnership in the coming year.

Gwen Wright

Mark Your Calendars - Thursday, Jan. 31: Spotlight on Labor Trafficking

The state's Interagency Task Force on Human Trafficking is hosting a presentation and panel discussion about labor trafficking from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 31, in the Moot Courtroom at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in Manhattan.

The event will feature Martina E. Vandenberg, the founder and president of The Human Trafficking Legal Center in Washington, D.C. The former assistant U.S. attorney, who is recognized as an expert in labor trafficking prosecutions and human rights violations investigations, will be joined by Fainess Lipenga, a survivor of labor trafficking who has been an active member of the National Survivor Network since 2013. For more information or to RSVP, email nyspio@otda.ny.gov

OPDV is one of 10 state agencies that comprise the Task Force, which provides guidance on protocols and best practices for training and outreach, collects and reports data, and evaluates approaches to increase public awareness about sex and labor trafficking in New York State.

1-800-942-6906
NYS Domestic & Sexual Violence Hotline

Confidential • 24 HRS/7 DAYS
English&español,multi-languageaccessibility
711: Deaf or Hard of Hearing
In NYC: 311 or 1-800-621-HOPE (4673)
TDD: 1-800-810-7444

January is Stalking Awareness Month

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month

New York Went Purple For Domestic Violence

Thank you to every community, agency, organization and individual who raised awareness in October by turning New York purple. We hope you will continue to share your photos: Send them to opdvpurple@opdv.ny.gov and we'll include them in our Facebook album. OPDV also released a new card and poster that detail how someone can be an ally to a victim or survivor of domestic violence. Check them out and help us spread the word.

Did You Know?

In 2017, 41 percent of female homicide victims who were 16 or older were killed by an intimate partner, as compared to 4 percent of male homicide victims of the same age.

Source: 2017 Domestic Violence Dashboard

An Offender Focused Approach to Victim Safety

Rachel Teicher, Director of the Intimate Partner Violence Intervention, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Between 40 and 50 percent of female homicide victims are killed by intimate partners¹, and intimate partner violence comprises 15 percent of all violent crime nationwide². Traditional approaches to addressing intimate partner violence have been ineffective at controlling the most dangerous abusers, and have burdened victims by asking that they leave the relationship and their support networks, re-locate themselves and their children and involve the criminal justice system, which could put them and their families at further risk. Developed by the [National Network for Safe Communities](#) (NNSC) at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, [Intimate Partner Violence Intervention](#) (IPVI) is an evidence-based approach to reducing the most serious intimate partner violence through strategic law enforcement, community-based, informal social control, victim-centered advocacy and social service assistance. IPVI is based on a proven framework that has informed interventions against [group violence](#), [overt drug markets](#) and other [critical public safety problems](#). The strategy is designed to alleviate the most serious harm to victims and their families; intervene early in cycles of victimization; teach offenders that they will face consequences for IPV; and remove the burden of offender accountability from victims. Under IPVI, police and community partners make clear that intimate partner violence will not be tolerated and they will take special action to deter and, if necessary, prosecute the most dangerous offenders.

Partnerships

IPVI relies on a partnership among law enforcement; community-based victim advocates; social service providers; community members; local government; and local, state, and federal prosecutors. Law enforcement works strategically to hold offenders accountable while parallel structure provides affirmative outreach to victims, corresponding with each level of offending, to address safety and ensure access to holistic, trauma-informed services, including a protocol of written and in-person offers of services and safety planning. A strong relationship with the advocacy community, independent from its law enforcement partners, gives the IPVI partnership a unique perspective on the risks and challenges of their work and better equips them to protect victims.

Strategy

IPVI addresses all intimate partner violence offenders known to the criminal justice system. The strategy recognizes that offending occurs at different levels of severity, conducts analysis to understand the local dynamics of offending and engages each offender with a specific approach. Essential elements of this strategy are its focus on deterring offenders at early stages of offending, clearly defining consequences, and its creation of community norms against intimate partner violence. When offenders continue to engage in criminal behavior, they are “elevated” to the appropriate higher level with each re-offense. Each level has a specified response:

- Lowest-level offenders who have been suspected of IPV but leave law enforcement without a probable cause for arrest receive a letter informing them of close police monitoring; a community moral message against IPV; and the legal consequences associated with further offending.
- Offenders with a first IPV arrest are visited by detectives who give them a face-to-face deterrent message that explains the strategy and legal consequences for further offenses: increased bail, enhanced prosecution and tightened probation conditions.
- Those with an IPV history who commit another IPV offense receive an enhanced and customized deterrent message that details specific legal consequences. These offenders may be mandated to attend a “call-in” meeting, where community members and law enforcement communicate (1) a moral message against intimate partner violence; (2) a law enforcement message about the consequences of further IPV; and (3) an offer of help for those who want to change. Law enforcement warns offenders explicitly about the enhanced attention they are now exposed to and that the IPVI partnership will seek other legal avenues for future IPV offenses.
- Offenders with a history of severe IPV are addressed by the partners using all legal means available and used as deterrent examples to other offenders. They are also occasionally charged with non-IPV offenses as a way to keep the victim safe.

Outcomes and going forward

We believe this approach has great promise to reduce recidivism rates by intimate partner violence offenders and resulting in fewer arrests, less victim harm in IPV assaults, and repeat calls for service. An evaluation of the pilot IPVI implementation in High Point, N.C., found dramatic reductions in intimate partner homicides, reoffending among notified intimate partner violence offenders and victim injuries. From 2002 to 2008, there were 18 IPV homicides; since implementation, from 2009 through 2017, there were three. Working with state and federal agencies, we are expanding implementation of the strategy to jurisdictions throughout the country. New York became only the second state in the country to implement the Intimate Partner Violence Intervention Strategy with support from the NNSC. In late 2016, the State Division of Criminal Justice Services partnered with the NNSC to fund and support the program in Kingston, Ulster County. With support from the federal Justice Department’s Office on Violence Against Women, the NNSC is implementing IPVI in three additional locations nationwide. Our hope is that expanded implementation will begin to build a national community of practice around offender-focused intimate partner violence prevention and integrate this perspective into conversations about victim safety.

¹ Campbell, J.C., D. Webster, J. Koziol-McLain, C.R. Block, D. Campbell, M.A. Curry, F. Gary, J. McFarlane, C. Sachs, P. Sharps, Y. Ulrich, and S.A. Wilt. “Assessing Risk Factors for Intimate Partner Homicide.” *NIJ Journal* 250 (November 2003): 14–19, NCJ 196547.

² Truman, Jennifer L. and R.E. Morgan. “Nonfatal Domestic Violence, 2003-2012.” *Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report* (April 2014): 3, NCJ 244697.

Q&A: Intimate Partner Violence Intervention in Kingston, Ulster County

The National Network for Safe Communities (NNSC) and Kingston law enforcement and service providers have partnered to implement the Intimate Partner Violence Intervention (IPVI) through its Gun Involved Violence Elimination Strategy (GIVE) funded by the State Division for Criminal Justice Services (DCJS).



Conducted with Kassondra DelPozzo, Project Manager for Kingston Intimate Partner Violence Intervention Strategy

Q When did implementation start in Kingston, and what were some of the first steps?

A Preliminary calls between the NNSC and the Kingston partners began in November 2016. Initially, the focus was on establishing the partnerships that would serve as the foundation to implementation as well as introducing partners to the strategy. An essential piece of that initial work included an intensive two-day “IPVI University” that outlined the intervention. Approximately two dozen key partners from Kingston and Ulster County attended IPVI University. Following IPVI University, the NNSC provided ongoing technical assistance, which gave the Kingston partners the ability to work with the NNSC to lay the foundation for implementation. This started with a comprehensive quantitative and qualitative data analysis that provided the NNSC a more nuanced understanding of IPV in Kingston. From there, the NNSC assisted the Kingston partners with tailoring the intervention to address the unique IPV offending dynamic within the city. This included but was not limited to the development of an offending ladder that directly reflected the findings of the NNSC’s analysis and the Kingston partners’ frontline knowledge; a corresponding offender and victim notification structure; a law enforcement protocol

for the Kingston Police Department to aid officers in identifying and classifying IPV offenders; and data-tracking mechanisms to help the Kingston team measure recidivism and progress. Full implementation of IPVI began in March 2018.

Q Who are the partners involved in implementing IPVI in Kingston?

A The Kingston IPVI Task Force consists of the Ulster County District Attorney’s Office, Kingston Police Department, Ulster County Probation, the State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, and the Ulster County Crime Victims Assistance Program (CVAP). The Task Force works closely with other state and federal law enforcement partners, key community stakeholders and other community-based service providers, including Family of Woodstock. To ensure clear and concise communication between all partners involved in IPVI implementation the City of Kingston hired a project manager, who coordinates and manages all aspects from intervention to implementation in Kingston.

Q What data tracking mechanisms have been put in place to support the implementation of IPVI?

A The Task Force designed and implemented a unique database and corresponding spreadsheet that allows for reliable tracking of the Task Force’s engagement with victims and offenders. This information allows the Task Force to track implementation and measure recidivism.

Q You mention that full implementation began in March 2018. What did that entail?

A Full implementation refers to the date the Task Force’s protocol went into effect, and the Task Force began victim and offender notifications for all levels. The

Kingston Police Department began identifying, classifying and notifying offenders of their offending status, providing specific verbal and written messages to offenders, including an offer of help, and immediately notifying the Task Force of the offender’s classification status.

The Ulster County Crime Victims Assistance Program (CVAP) leads the parallel victim engagement and messaging, once notified of an offender’s classification. CVAP engages in affirmative outreach to the victim of the incident to offer resources and services, as well as notify them of the offender’s classification status. As an extra precaution CVAP also notifies the victim in writing about resources and services available to them in addition to the offender’s classification status.

Q Have there been any noticeable differences in the city of Kingston since IPV since implementation?

A While it’s still too early to see any tangible effects on IPV offending in Kingston, there have been noticeable improvements in communication and feedback among Task Force partners, which have aided the city’s ability to address IPV quickly and collaboratively. Both Ulster County Probation and CVAP have reported that streamlined communication as a result of implementation has improved their ability to respond to both offenders and victims. This enables probation officers to hold offenders accountable in initial meetings and the CVAP to provide immediate support to victims. CVAP also has reported an increase in the number of victims seeking services and assistance since implementation. This likely is attributable to the increased awareness of services and resources available to victims as a result of the intervention.

Legislative Update

The 2018 legislative session resulted in progress on several crime victim issues, particularly assisting sex trafficking victims.

- Trafficked victims charged with prostitution may now have their cases transferred to a human trafficking court within their county or an adjoining county. These courts provide specialized treatment necessary for sex trafficking victims.
- Lodging facilities (i.e., hotels, motels, inns) must display cards with information about human trafficking services in guest rooms, public restrooms and areas in plain sight of guests and employees.
- The crime of sex trafficking of a child

under 18 years old eliminates the requirement that force must be proven.

- All public and private schools must now report suspected physical and/or sexual abuse by a school employee or volunteer to law enforcement, the parents, and the state Education Department if the subject of the report holds a professional license.
- Crime victim compensation can now cover the cost of crime scene clean-up for victims of certain crimes who did not suffer physical injury, including victims of hate crimes and of offenses that can often occur in domestic violence cases, such as

menacing, harassment and criminal obstruction of breathing or blood circulation, among others. The new law also provides compensation for expenses related to domestic violence shelter stay.

- The Office of Victim Services must now accept documents from sources other than certain criminal justice agencies to establish eligibility for compensation in family offense cases. Documentation can now be submitted by Family Courts, child or adult protective government agencies, and medical facilities that provide sexual assault forensic exams.

OPDV Hosts First Ever Risk Reduction Summit

OPDV hosted its first-ever statewide summit to help law enforcement professionals and service providers identify and assist individuals at high risk of being killed or seriously injured by an intimate partner. More than 150 professionals attended to learn about danger/lethality assessments and discuss innovative models for reducing domestic violence homicides.

Remarks by Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul kicked off the event, which also featured a keynote address by

Nicole Sharp of the Heather Hurley Foundation, named in memory of her mother, and OPDV Fatality Review Coordinator, Mary Walsh, who gave an overview of the work of New York State's Fatality Review Team.

The event concluded with a roundtable discussion among service providers and law enforcement professionals who receive state funding to implement innovative risk reduction programs in their communities. Over the past four years, OPDV has provided funding to

Unity House (Rensselaer County), Safe Homes of Orange County, the Center for Safety and Change (Rockland County), Westchester County Office for Women, Cayuga-Seneca Community Action (Cayuga County) and ACCORD (Allegany County) through its Risk Reduction Enhanced Response Pilot program.

New York State Domestic Violence Listening Tours

The Governor's Office on Women's Affairs hosted a "Domestic Violence Listening Tour" late last year, hosting regional meetings that provided domestic violence advocates the opportunity to detail issues and barriers to providing services and share ways in which they successfully assist victims in their communities.

OPDV Executive Director Gwen Wright joined with Office on Women's Affairs Director Kelli Owens and colleagues from other state agencies, including the Office of Children and Family Services,

the Division of Criminal Justice Services and Office of Victim Services, at the regional meetings. The New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence also participated.

Although some regions identified unique challenges and successes, there were many common themes statewide, including: Lack of adequate, affordable, long-term housing; difficulty getting victims legal protections to enhance safety; transportation for victims, especially in rural areas; staffing issues such as training, turnover, and need

to pay higher wages; funding issues, such as paying for language access services; restrictions on funding; lack of flexibility to fund best practices such as coordinated community response; minimal funding for administrative costs; and reporting requirements that differ among funders, which can be challenging for programs.

The listening tour visited the following regions: Capital, Hudson Valley, Central, Southern Tier, New York City and Long Island. Additional regional meetings will be scheduled this year.

NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence www.opdv.ny.gov

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