

# NETWORK NEWS



The comprehensive resource on domestic violence

FALL 2010

A PUBLICATION OF THE OHIO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE NETWORK

## **Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse**

### *In Harm's Way*

#### **Executive Summary: Domestic Violence Program Responses to Pets**

*By Jo Ellen Simonsen, ODVN Prevention Trainer and Technical Assistant*

In the spring of 2010, members of the Ohio Domestic Violence Network's Steering Committee on Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse surveyed Ohio domestic violence programs to assess the needs and resources available to victims of domestic violence who are concerned about the safety and well-being of their pets. The results establish a strong connection between the safety of abuse victims and the safety of their animals, and the results show a sporadic response to these needs across Ohio.

Eighty percent of Ohio's domestic violence programs participated (60 residential and 8 non-residential).

- More than 79% of interviewees felt pet support for domestic violence victims is needed.
- Nearly half of responding programs reported being unable to provide any degree of pet support to domestic violence victims.
- One program offers on-site shelter for pets while fourteen utilize animal shelters; eleven assist with foster care and twenty others use veterinarians, local kennels or even shelter staff, volunteers and board members.
- Exactly half of responding programs screen for incidents of pet abuse with their clients.
- Domestic violence organizations were overwhelmingly (88%) interested in learning more about model programs to improve responses to victims needing pet support.

Beyond the statistical data, a great number of needs and challenges were recorded through interviewee comments and surveyor observations.

#### **The threat to animals**

- Concern for safety of the pets is a true barrier to seeking safe shelter and a valid concern for victims of domestic violence. More than 40% of interviewees could recall cases where pets were killed, harmed or threatened with harm.
- Pets are frequently used as a batterer's control tactic over their victims. Reports from Ohio programs include pets being killed during assaults; pets being killed in front of small children; remains of killed pets being hung from trees, thrown in yards, kept in freezers to intimidate victim families; pets being starved, neglected or abandoned.

#### **The threat to families**

- Pets are often used to lure or force victims back to their abuser.
- Victims frequently stay in unsafe situations in order to care for pets. Many animals such as large animals, farm animals and exotics are particularly difficult to make arrangements for emergency boarding or care.
- Most programs cannot accept animals at their shelter. Pets and families are often separated, thus

## Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse

(Continued from page 1)

many victims endure abuse to keep themselves, their children and their pets together.

- Domestic violence victims, while attempting to flee, have been subsequently re-victimized and reported for neglecting pets, even in cases where the abuser remains in the home with the pets.
- Victims and their children are traumatized by harm to pets, threats of harm and by having to abandon their pets.
- A history of using pets as an abusive tactic has been connected to increased risk of lethality for the victim, abuser and other family members.

### Challenges in responding

- Domestic violence programs are in financially precarious times with existing services being threatened or cut. Adding pet support services is perceived as especially difficult.
- Some programs report that they do not screen for presence of animals or abuse to pets, because once identified they feel they can offer little in terms of support, referrals or shelter.

### Opportunities for responding

- Interviewees expressed great interest in addressing the pet support needs of domestic violence victims. Likewise they show concern for the welfare and safety of animals.
- Even where formalized services do not exist, programs have cobbled together some support by tapping local resources including kennels, veterinarians, animal control/dog wardens, animal

shelters and community members.

- Some programs report local interest and organizing taking place to address the needs.
- Several models exist such as PAWS and Safe Haven.
- Training on The LINK ® is available in Ohio.
- There are currently 19 states that address pets in orders of protection. HB55 which is currently pending before the Senate Judiciary-Criminal Justice Committee includes a provision to allow for pets to be addressed in Ohio's orders of protection.

### ODVN Steering Committee on Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse

**Lesley Ashworth, American Humane**

**Dr. Barbara Boat, Univ. of Cincinnati and Cincinnati Children's Hospital**

**Debbie Brooks, YWCA of Greater Cincinnati**

**Jim Brown, Union Township Police Officer-Cincinnati**

**Harold Dates, Hamilton County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals**

**Lynn Jacquot, YWCA Toledo**

**J. Jeffrey Holland, Holland & Muirden Attorneys at Law**

**Dr. James Prueter, Shaker Animal Clinic**

*For more information on the work of the Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse Steering Committee, please contact Lesley Ashworth at 614.888.8886.*

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) launched the **First Strike®** campaign in 1997 to raise public and professional awareness about the connection between animal cruelty and human violence. Through the campaign, The HSUS encourages everyone to take animal cruelty seriously.

For more information on the First Strike program, call 1-888-213-0956 or visit the website at [www.hsus.org/firststrike](http://www.hsus.org/firststrike).

## Animal Cruelty/Domestic Violence Fact Sheet From the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)

### Why do batterers threaten, abuse, or kill animals?

- To demonstrate and confirm power and control over the family.
- To isolate the victim and children.
- To eliminate competition for attention.
- To force the family to keep violence a secret.
- To teach submission.
- To retaliate for acts of independence and self-determination.
- To perpetuate the context of terror.
- To prevent the victim from leaving or coerce her/him to return.
- To punish the victim for leaving.
- To degrade the victim through involvement in the abuse.

### Why should we recognize animal abuse as a form of battering?

- Animal abuse exposes the deliberateness of battering rather than loss of control.
- Animal abuse and child abuse are closely related.
- Animal abuse is often a tool used by batterers to emotionally control or coerce victims.
- Threatening, injuring, or killing animals can indicate the potential for increased violence or lethality.
- Victims may postpone leaving out of fear for their pets' safety.
- Identifying animal abusers can help identify other victims of violence within the family.

### What can victims of domestic violence do to protect their pets?

- Develop an emergency plan for sheltering the pets, themselves, and their children (Review a copy of the First Strike® planning guide, *Making the Connection: Protecting Your Pet From Domestic Violence.*)
- Establish ownership of the pets (obtain an animal license, proof of vaccinations or veterinary receipts in victim's name to help prove they own the pets).
- Prepare the pets for departure (collect vaccination and medical records, collar and identification, medication, bowls, bedding, etc.).
- Ask for assistance from law enforcement or animal care and control officers to reclaim the pets if left behind.

### What are suggested intake questions regarding pets that should be asked by a domestic violence shelter?

- Do you now have a pet? If yes, how many and what kinds?
- Have you had a pet in the past 12 months? If yes, what kinds?
- Has your partner ever hurt or killed a family pet? If

yes, describe.

- Has your partner ever threatened to hurt or kill a family pet? If yes, describe.
- Have you ever hurt or killed a family pet? If yes, describe.
- Have any of your children ever hurt or killed a family pet? If yes, describe.
- Was the animal considered the child's, yours, your partner's or the family's pet?
- Did your concern for a pet's welfare keep you from coming to a shelter sooner than now? If yes, explain.
- Did you leave the abusive partner because of the abuse of a pet? If yes, describe.



### What can advocates do to raise awareness about the connection between animal cruelty and domestic violence in their communities?

- Take animal abuse seriously.
- Contact their counterparts in other agencies.
- Develop cross-training and cross-reporting among animal welfare, domestic violence, child abuse and other related agencies.
- Support strong anticruelty laws.
- Develop community anti-violence coalitions.
- Develop community based programs to promote empathy and humane education.
- Encourage research on the connection.
- Work with local animal shelters, veterinarians, veterinary schools and boarding kennels to develop emergency housing programs for pets.
- Collect data in their own agencies.
- Add questions to intake forms about animal cruelty.

### What does The HSUS's First Strike campaign do to help other organizations?

- Provide First Strike materials and related information.
- Assist with outreach efforts (e.g., workshops, contacts, etc.).
- Provide information and contacts for model programs across the country.
- Provide advice, support, and technical assistance.
- Provide assistance on cases involving animal cruelty.
- Assist with legislative efforts.
- Help raise awareness of domestic violence, child abuse and other forms of human violence among animal protection organizations and activists.



## ***Spotlight on Local Programs*** ***Battered Women's Shelter YWCA Greater Toledo*** ***Safe Animal Housing Program*** ***By: Lynn Jacquot, Executive Director***

A hamster, a rabbit, a turtle, two guinea pigs, several horses, several dogs, and several cats: this is a list of the animals we have provided safety planning for including shelter in the last year. Through the generous contributions of the community, and a private foundation, the Lauren and Jacob Saunders Fund, the YWCA is able to provide care, comfort and safety to the animals of domestic violence survivors. This was not always the case.

In my first few months as director of the Battered Women's Shelter of YWCA Greater Toledo, the plight of survivors of domestic violence and their pets came to my attention in a stark and painful manner. At that time there was no screening or assessment for the presence of pets of survivors either over the crisis line or in person with survivors receiving advocacy services through outreach or shelter. A woman came to shelter, bruised and battered directly from the hospital. Her batterer proceeded to stalk her, and harass her through relatives and friends. She had been with us for about one week when she mentioned her dog. She proceeded to tell me that she left her dog at the home she had shared with her batterer, and she was concerned about him and asked if we could do anything to get him back. I asked about the dog's safety. She said he had not hurt the dog in the past, but she was uneasy. We called the police department so that a law enforcement officer could accompany her and her sister to her home to retrieve the dog.

Sadly, her dog had been locked in a bedroom with no food or water for that week and had died alone and suffering. We provided counseling and support for the survivor. We could not prosecute the batterer as he simply said she left the dog not him, and he was no longer residing at the residence either. I vowed that we would do a better job for the next survivor with pets. We immediately began asking at intake. That next month we housed a rabbit and a hamster in cages at the shelter, as a temporary exception to the rule of no pets. We also began to look for other solutions. The local Humane Society was approached, and they also looked into a program. Their program was limited in several ways,

including the need for the survivor to "surrender" her pets up front. This is a difficult and painful step, even if they are then verbally told that they can retrieve them at the end of 30 days. Another survivor told me: "I have left so much. They are my family too, and to give them up, even on paper just seems like one more failure."

A plan was developed for what would be an ideal program if on site shelter for pets was not possible. I looked at other states and small programs, and devised a wish list including an animal kennel on the roof... not something that proved feasible. Several individual community members and a local foundation, The Hawley Fund, stepped forward and granted us funds to implement the program. Now we are able to offer shelter to pets of survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault whether they themselves are sheltering with us or not. We are able to offer a wide range of safety planning for the pets including an agency foster setting, a relative's home, or a kennel. We are able to provide medical care, food and other supplies.

This year we began a public awareness campaign, see billboard below. We will be developing a local resource tool with options and information in partnership with our local Humane Society.

Domestic violence survivors leave so much behind to be safe. The idea of leaving a pet or animal is not an option for many, and women will stay until assistance is available. Pets are often hurt or threatened with injuries as a tactic of batterers to gain or maintain control. Pets are killed. These very real barriers to leaving, and injuries to pets and animals are serious and deserve serious attention. Lowering these barriers, and providing safety for pets is a vital link in providing safety for women and children fleeing domestic abuse. We are humbled by our ability to provide this programming, and would be pleased to discuss the process with anyone looking to set up a program in their area. Please call Lynn Jacquot, 419-241-3235.





## *Spotlight on Local Programs (continued)*

### **SECOND STEP**

#### **DELTA Project in Knox County**

**By: Jamie Smith, New Directions**

In 2009-2010, the DELTA Project implemented the *Second Step* program at Danville Elementary, a small rural school in the Eastern part of Knox County. *Second Step* is a socio-emotional learning program that promotes the healthy, pro-social development of children and is one of the most highly acclaimed and well-vetted evidence-based programs available. *Second Step* lessons teach children empathy, problem solving, impulse control and anger management using a variety of student engagement strategies and providing kids with the opportunity to practice and use the skills they learn each week. Because these are classroom-contained programs, the *Second Step* skills are reinforced by the classroom teacher across academic disciplines, and provide developmental continuity for students year after year. While the curriculum teaches these skills across grade levels, the lesson plans are academically and developmentally tailored to each grade level.

We chose Danville as a pilot school so that we would be able to lay the groundwork and establish some best practices for expanding the curriculum to additional schools in our region. We were fortunate to work with a wonderful staff of teachers and the enthusiastic support of Danville Principal Lynn Shoemaker, who dedicated many of her resources and much staff time to continual monitoring of implementation practices and ongoing professional development over the course of the school year. At the close of the 2009-2010 school year our formal evaluations, classroom observations, and anecdotal evidence was so positive that we decided to approach two additional school districts about implementing *Second Step* during 2010-2011.

We met with even more success than we anticipated: instead of earning commitments from two school sites (Fredericktown and Centerburg Elementary Schools), we are also implementing *Second Step* at East Knox Elementary. What that means is that the DELTA Project will be able to promote the healthy development of all children enrolled in Knox County School districts this academic year. In order for us to do this within the confines of our own organizational capacity, a sustainable model for implementing *Second Step* has been developed. Instead of the DELTA Coordinator supervising implementation at each school, a Site Facilitator has been hired on a contract basis at each location. All the site facilitators and the majority of the school principals attended *Second Step* and *Steps to Respect* "Train the Trainers" training in August, 2010, so that they are empowered to train their own staff, plan implementation specific to their school's needs, and provide professional development to their own staff members. Each school site has been provided with two

curriculum kits per grade level. By the end of October, teachers at all three sites will be trained in *Second Step* and implementation planning will be complete, with implementation fully underway at two sites.

The DELTA Coordinator will continue to provide technical assistance, deal with logistics, and serve as a point person for the *Second Step* Program. However, our sustainability model allows schools to claim ownership of the program, tailor it to suit the diverse needs of their students, and provides an on-site person to navigate implementation of the curriculum and serve as a point-person to teachers and other staff.

One area in which we struggled at Danville was parent engagement. A key component of *Second Step* is the parent training, which allows families to extend the practice of *Second Step* at home. We scheduled a series of six Family Seminars, to help parents support *Second Step* and acquire nonviolent parenting skills that reinforce the key values of empathy, problem solving, impulse control, and anger management. In order to encourage attendance, the DELTA Project received several private and foundation donations to provide door prizes and incentives such as gift cards to local stores, gasoline stations, and restaurants. Families who attended four of the five sessions were eligible to win a set of four family bicycles in a raffle at the final seminar. Those donations also allowed DELTA to provide meals for families who attended the family seminars, and DELTA Committee volunteers provided child care during the parent trainings. DELTA advertised the Family Seminars through flyers, letters home, phone calls, morning announcements, booths at school concerts, speaking with parents at open house, and posting notices throughout the Danville community. Unfortunately, attendance was very low and we are reexamining our approach to engaging families during implementation at additional schools during the 2010-2011 school year.

However, we feel confident in asserting that expanding our *Second Step* program is a success. We have engaged three new school sites, trained two principals and four site facilitators, and will provide over 2000 students with the *Second Step* curriculum in 2010-2011.

We are making great strides towards enriching the lives of all Knox County residents, as we cultivate an entire generation of children with the skills they need to succeed, and conduct thriving healthy relationships for the rest of their lives.

## ODVN Welcomes New Staff

**Dona Pierce** is one of the two new Batterers Intervention Program Training and Technical Assistant Specialists for ODVN. Dona has been a probation officer for over twenty years in Dayton Municipal Court. In the early 1990's, Dona found herself very concerned about the safety of victims in the community due to the fact that many of the offenders she was supervising for convictions of domestic violence weren't getting the help they needed to change their abusive behaviors. At that time since Dayton had a shortage of batterer's intervention programs, many offenders were languishing on waiting lists, and victims were potentially at risk.

This concern caused Dona to start researching batterer's treatment, become a member of ODVN, and observe existing groups. Dona also attended the Duluth and Emerge trainings, all with the intention of developing a program for Dayton Municipal Court. That dream became a reality and fifteen years later their program is going strong. Dona is looking forward to working with ODVN to end domestic violence by helping with the development and enhancement of Batterer' Intervention Programs, throughout the state of Ohio.

**Celeste M. Waller, Psy.D.**, is a Clinical Psychologist at Summit Behavioral Healthcare one of the state mental health hospitals in Ohio.

She has worked in the field of domestic violence since 1995. She is currently the Director of the Preventing Abuse in the Home (PATH) program at the Ellis Human Development Institute in Dayton, Ohio. This program is part of the Wright State University, School of Professional Psychology Doctoral Program. PATH is an intervention program that advocates for peace within intimate partner relationships. It provides treatment to perpetrators as well as survivors of intimate partner violence and psycho-education groups to inmates in the Montgomery County Men's and Women's Jails. She also collaborates with Artemis Center for Alternatives to Domestic Violence, to provide an intervention program for women who use force. She has participated on community panels to effect local legislation and police response to domestic violence calls, regulate batterer's treatment, encourage treatment as part of probation, and to inform and encourage community involvement.

Celeste joined the ODVN team as one of the Batterers Intervention Program Training and Technical Assistance Specialists in September.



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### *Mission Statement:*

*The Ohio Domestic Violence Network advances the principle that all people have the right to an oppression and violence free life; fosters changes in our economic, social and political systems and brings leadership, expertise and best practices to community programs.*

### ODVN Staff:

**Nancy Neylon**, Executive Director  
**Tana Carpenter**, Resource & Technology Coordinator  
**Rebecca Cline**, Prevention Programs Director  
**Jasmine Finnie**, Sexual Assault Prevention Trainer and Technical Assistant  
**Nancy Grigsby**, Economic Empowerment Director  
**Becky Mason**, Executive Assistant  
**Tonia Moultry**, Training and Technical Assistance Program Director  
**Dona Pierce**, Training and Technical Assistance Specialist  
**Krystal Preston**, Outreach Coordinator to Underserved Populations  
**Rachel Ramirez-Hammond**, Training Coordinator  
**Jo Ellen Simonsen**, Prevention Trainer and Technical Assistant  
**Amy Smith**, Financial Manager  
**Celeste Waller**, Training and Technical Assistance Specialist  
**Kalitha Williams**, Prevention Programs Assistant

### ODVN Board of Directors:

**Melinda Swan**, *Board Chair*, The Ohio State University  
**Lisa Eschleman**, *Board Chair Elect*, Ohio Environmental Review Appeals Commission  
**Malinda Gavins**, *Board Treasurer*, Sojourner House  
**Deborah Brooks**, *Board Secretary*, YWCA of Greater Cincinnati  
**Carole Beaty**, Safer Futures  
**Shawna Bosse**, OhioHealth  
**Todd Deavers**, Net Jets  
**Kathy Ezawa**, The Domestic Violence Shelter  
**James B. Hadden Esq.**, Porter, Wright, Morris & Arthur  
**Lynn Jacquot**, YWCA Toledo Battered Women's Shelter  
**Linda Johaneck**, Domestic Violence Center  
**Bridget Mahoney**, Citizens Against Domestic Violence  
**Cheryl Prusinski**, Deaf Women Against Violence Everywhere  
**Hon. Edmund Sargus**, US District Court, Southern District of Ohio  
**Patti Schwarztrauber**, Artemis Center  
**Jim Slagle**, Ohio Attorney General's Office  
**Sandy Theis**, Theis Research & Consulting  
**Tequila Whitman-Pickens**, Verizon  
**Sally Zimmerman**, Every Woman's House

## **New Projects at ODVN!**

### **Project Connect**

The Ohio Domestic Violence Network was selected as one of ten sites in nine states for a groundbreaking two-year violence prevention initiative designed to improve the health and safety of women and children. *Project Connect: A Coordinated Public Health Initiative to Prevent Violence against Women* is funded by the Office on Women's Health of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It will find new ways to identify, respond to and prevent domestic and sexual violence, and promote an improved public health response to abuse.

Project Connect's vision for Ohio is that all persons presenting in family planning and adolescent health settings have access to a safe supportive environment, appropriate assessment, resources or intervention when indicated, and universal prevention education for reproductive coercion, sexual and dating or domestic violence. For the first time, ODVN has the opportunity to build, in collaboration with its partners across Ohio, a full continuum of prevention services, from primary to tertiary for family planning and adolescent health clinics.

Four Ohio Department of Health Title X family planning clinics have been selected as pilot sites for rollout of new screening protocols that include questions about domestic violence, sexual coercion, reproductive coercion and birth control sabotage. The pilot sites include:

- Huron County General Health District
- KnoHoCoAshland Community Action Agency
- Public Health of Dayton Montgomery County
- Wood County Health District

We are working to secure commitments and hope to engage the following adolescent health clinics:

- Austintown Local Schools Adolescent Health Clinic
- Shaw High School Wellness Center
- Northeast Ohio Neighborhood Health Services, Inc
- Southeast Health Center's Adolescent Health Clinic

Also included in pilot sites are local rape crisis and domestic violence programs. When clients are identified as great risk for sexual or domestic violence they will have access to local resources. Additionally, Project Connect aims to help local sexual and domestic violence programs work better with women who come into their programs by providing training and technical assistance about how to talk about sexual and reproductive health concerns. Ideally, the pilot sites will begin working together in a way that women who present in family planning clinics and need resources have greater access to them and women who present in sexual and domestic violence programs have greater access to family planning and reproductive health resources.

In addition to family planning sites, ODVN is currently recruiting adolescent health clinics, school based or otherwise, as pilot sites. It is hoped that similar services for adults will be replicated in selected adolescent health clinics.

For more information, contact Rebecca Cline, Prevention Programs Director at [rclineodvn@aol.com](mailto:rclineodvn@aol.com) or 330-725-8405.

### **Legal Assistance to Victims**

We are thrilled to share that ODVN was awarded a \$488,000 legal assistance grant from the Department of Justice. In December of 2009, 48 member domestic violence programs responded to a survey with information about unmet legal needs in their local communities. ODVN developed a proposal and we were funded to contract with attorneys at \$75 an hour for a wide range of legal needs for survivors of domestic violence, stalking and sexual assault. The project also includes an outreach focus to deaf/hard of hearing survivors, LGBT survivors and victims re-entering their communities from jails and prisons.

We are currently getting our case priorities approved through DOJ. The next step will be training attorneys and advocates who will be referring cases into the program, which we expect will be in December or January.

So, while we can't take case referrals yet, there is one thing you can do to help successfully launch the project. Whether you did the survey or not, if you plan on referring survivors for civil legal assistance into the project, please begin talking with attorneys in your community to see if they will accept cases for \$75 per hour. The project will also cover any case related costs such as transcripts, filing fees, etc. We need the attorney's name, county, phone number, address and email address. As you get names of attorneys who are interested, please forward those to Nancy Grigsby, Legal Assistance Program Director at [nancyg@odvn.org](mailto:nancyg@odvn.org).

### **Trauma-Informed Care Manual**

Domestic violence is traumatic for a lot of the individuals we work with. In addition, many survivors have long and complicated histories with multiple traumatic experiences, including childhood abuse and neglect, sexual assault, and homelessness. Overall, domestic violence programs work with many trauma survivors, and ODVN has recognized the need for additional training and information on issues of trauma for years.

In May, the Ohio Department of Mental Health funded ODVN to develop a manual for Ohio domestic violence programs on providing trauma-informed care in their agencies. The manual, which is in its final stages of development, focuses on providing an understanding of trauma, sharing best practices that programs can use to serve trauma survivors, and includes a set of protocols on commonly provided services (such as answering hotline calls, intakes, support groups, exit interviews, safety planning, and supporting survivors as parents) that outlines how to provide such services in a trauma-informed manner. This manual, developed as a hands-on guide to becoming a trauma-informed individual or organization, will be available for a free download through ODVN's new website by the end of the year. In addition, the manual will be accompanied with a short webcast. For more information, please contact Rachel Ramirez, Training Coordinator at [rachelr@odvn.org](mailto:rachelr@odvn.org).

## PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

### **HB 55 - Animal Cruelty**

The bill sponsored by Rep. Brian Williams (D-Akron) and Rep. Courtney Combs (R-Hamilton) passed House Criminal Justice Committee on May 12, 2010 and the House on May 27, 2010 without the amendments proposed by OCJS. It was referred to the Senate Judiciary-Criminal Justice Committee, but has had no hearings. The bill would include the protection of companion animals in civil and criminal domestic violence and stalking orders, mandate psychological assessment and counseling for juveniles that committed animal cruelty and revise the penalties and sentencing provision for cruelty to animals.

### **HB 70 -Companion Animals**

Introduced by Rep. Robert Hagan (D-Austintown) and Rep. Ronald Gerberry (D-Youngstown), passed the House February 24, 2010 and was referred to the Senate Judiciary-Criminal Justice Committee. The bill would enhance the penalty for violation of the prohibition against cruel treatment of a companion animal to a fifth degree felony. The bill has had no hearings.

### **HB 112 - Protection Orders**

Introduced by John Domenick (D-Smithfield) on March 31, 2009 and referred to the House Criminal Justice Committee, the bill would authorize a court to monitor alleged offenders by a GPS system as a condition of pre-trial release in specified criminal cases. The cost is borne by the alleged offender. The bill has had no hearings.

### **HB 167- Domestic Violence Victim's Employment and Housing Rights**

Introduced by Rep. Dennis Murray (D-Sandusky), the bill passed the House on December 8, 2009 and was assigned to the Senate Judiciary-Civil Justice Committee where it has had only sponsor testimony. The bill with substantial amendments in the Senate appears to have a good chance of passing as there is support for the amended bill in the Senate. The proposed amendments basically gut the employment provision but still allow for unpaid leave to secure a civil or criminal protection order and protection from termination for taking such leave. The number of employees is increased from 25 to 50. The housing provisions remain basically intact and permit a victim of domestic violence to terminate a lease or remove their name from a lease, although they lose their security deposit, and requires landlords to change the locks in the victim's dwelling at the victim's expense. The bill also prohibits law enforcement from charging either the victim or the landlord with responding to domestic violence calls. The bill would also require public housing authorities to transfer a victim to another unit if one is available.

### **HB 371- Child in Need of Protective Services (CHIPS)**

Introduced by Rep. Connie Pillich (D-Montgomery) and Rep. Robin Belcher (D-Cleveland) on November 17, 2009 with support from the Ohio Department of Human Services and the Supreme Court of Ohio, and referred to the House Civil and Commercial Law Committee. The legislation changes Ohio's child protection definitions in order to eliminate confusing and overly broad or vague definitions for child maltreatment. The goal is to establish a framework that focuses on the safety and well being of children while promoting parental rights, autonomy and family preservation, enhancing parental accountability and advancing consistency from county to county in case response and decision making. There has been sponsor testimony on the bill but no further hearings as the bill is being amended to address concerns.

### **HB 391- Address Confidentiality**

Introduced by Rep. Kathleen Chandler (D-Kent) with support from the Secretary of State's office, the bill was passed by the House on April 14, 2010 and has had sponsor testimony on May 18 in the Senate State and Local Government & Veterans Affairs Committee. The bill provides a confidential address through the Secretary of State's Office for victims for domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking and provides program enrollees with the opportunity to vote absentee.

### **HB 429- Domestic Violence**

Introduced by Rep. Marian Harris (D-Columbus) and Rep. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) the amended bill had sponsor, proponent and interested party testimony May 19, 2010 in the House Criminal Justice Committee. The legislation includes the following provisions: requires the Supreme Court to collect data on the number of protection orders and violations; requires the Attorney General to develop a standardized investigation form for law enforcement officers responding to domestic violence incidents; establishes criteria for fatality review teams; allows for jail time up to one year for a first degree misdemeanor at the courts' discretion; extends criminal protection orders through the term of probation at the courts' discretion; adds statements made by witnesses to the factors for law enforcement to determine primary aggressor and mirrors the federal weapons disabilities in Ohio law. The bill was amended to take out the following provisions: requiring the court to require that a domestic violence offender participate in a domestic violence treatment program or other counseling program; requiring one judicial review at 30 days and additional reviews at the court's discretion; and mandatory arrest for violation of a civil protection order.

## Look for Community Shares and Ohio Domestic Violence Network in your company's workplace giving campaign



If you are reading this article, it's likely you are already involved with the Ohio Domestic Violence Network and know about the important work we are doing. You can easily support ODVN by "giving at the office" through your workplace giving campaign.

Community Shares of Mid Ohio connects people like you to nonprofits working on the issues and causes they care about most. To learn more about Community Shares' 60 member agencies, visit [www.comunityshares.net](http://www.comunityshares.net). ODVN is one of the founding members, joining over 15 years ago.

If you work for any of the employers that offer these campaigns listed below, you can make a donation to us through payroll deduction. Please help spread the word by letting your friends and co-workers know how easy it is to support ODVN.

### **Public/Governmental Workplaces**

Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA)  
City of Columbus Combined Charitable Campaign  
City of Dublin  
Columbus Metropolitan Libraries  
Columbus Public Schools  
Columbus State Community College  
Combined Federal Campaign of Central Ohio  
Combined Federal Campaign of North Central Ohio  
Franklin County Combined Charitable Campaign  
Heart of Ohio Combined Federal Campaign  
Hilliard Public Schools  
Miami Valley Combined Federal Campaign  
South Western City Schools

State of Ohio Combined Charitable Campaign  
The Ohio State University "Bucks for Charity"  
Community Charitable Drive  
Three Rivers Combined Federal Campaign  
Upper Arlington City Schools  
WCBE 90.5  
Westerville Public Schools  
Worthington Public Schools

### **Private Workplaces**

AFSCME  
Commercial National Bank  
COSI  
Dennison University  
Edison Welding Institute  
Hahn Loeser and Parks  
Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing  
Ohio Civil Service Employees Association (OCSEA)  
Ohio Historical Society  
Southeast CMH  
WWHO CW

### **Open Online Companies**

AT&T  
CNA Insurance  
Medco Health Solutions  
US Filter  
Wells Fargo Financial Services

Please call Becky at ODVN for more information.

If you would like to make a tax deductible donation directly to Ohio Domestic Violence Network, please visit our website, and click on the "Donate" button or you can mail us a check to the address below. We also invite you to become a member of ODVN (see page 13 for Membership form).

### **Ohio Domestic Violence Network**

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## Increasing Safety in Ohio's Child Welfare System

By Jo Ellen Simonsen, ODVN Prevention Trainer and Technical Assistant

Over the past year, ODVN has participated in some exciting new work occurring in Ohio aimed at improving the response to domestic violence victims and their families that are also involved with child protective services. To understand the recent developments and their implications for statewide potential, it is important to know the back-story. In 2006, the Ohio Supreme Court's Subcommittee on Responding to Child Abuse, Neglect and Dependency recommended the implementation of a pilot project on Alternative Response (AR) practice models to provide an expanded continuum of child protection responses. The model recognizes that Child Protective Services agencies receive broad variations in incoming reports and that an investigative response is not always the most productive for the family or most beneficial for the child. It differs from traditional responses in that it is more attuned to child and family strengths and their self-articulated needs, and services are provided without the traditional requirement of a formal disposition (substantiated or unsubstantiated) of maltreatment or risk for maltreatment. AR has also been characterized by its creative problem-solving and resource flexibility, such as using funds to help pay for tires so a parent can retain work or for outstanding tuition so a mom can finish a degree.



Ten counties were the first to pilot the approach in Ohio with design beginning in 2007 and implementation launching in July of 2008. When it came to reports on families where domestic violence was also identified, each county had some discretion on whether or not a case was eligible to be assigned an alternative response pathway. As it stands today, domestic violence alone will not disqualify a family from being eligible for alternative response in most counties, other extenuating factors such as suspected

child sexual abuse or high risk of imminent danger would disqualify it. As the pilot projects became more familiar with AR practices, many expressed a desire to approach Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)-related concerns in a manner more consistent with the principles of AR. From this observer's perspective there are many compelling parallels between the underlying AR philosophy and the empowerment values aspired to by domestic violence advocates. ODVN sees this as a real opportunity for systems change, and, with the support of the HealthPath Foundation of Ohio, our organization has become a key stakeholder and important resource to the development of Ohio's IPV Collaborative.

The Collaborative, convened by the National Center Adoption Law and Policy (NCALP), includes several components. The first is a multi-disciplinary Statewide Planning Group whose charge has been to develop recommendations to assist state and county agencies in establishing and implementing a collaborative community response plan for IPV with regard to child welfare. ODVN has been highly active with this body, providing referrals to experts throughout the state that now serve as members of the Planning Group, providing resources for literature review such as *The Greenbook*, *Advocacy Beyond Leaving* by Jill Davies, and the recently revised Batterers Intervention Program Standards. As ODVN's project lead in this arena, I attended all meetings of the Collaborative, facilitated a Task Group, and with the assistance of many ODVN staff members drafted several recommendations to the Ohio Supreme Court, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and Casey Family Programs, which were submitted in the group's final report. Most relevant to our membership are recommendations regarding community collaboration, IPV-Child Welfare protocols, cross-training, service gaps, BIP standards, confidentiality adherence, access to trauma-informed care and others. If the recommendations are adopted in their entirety and sustainably funded, we could expect to see dramatic improvements for families experiencing domestic violence with impact well beyond child welfare.

## Increasing Safety in Ohio's Child Welfare System

*(continued from page 10)*

Another component of the Collaborative was an assessment of current IPV practices and capacity in the ten AR pilot agencies. Early in 2010, ODVN in collaboration with MEMconsultants developed an assessment instrument that captured information on practices, local infrastructure, and worker attitudes regarding domestic violence and provided an analysis of the data for project use. The results showed many common trends (e.g. lack of accessibility to local services) and wide variations of practices (e.g. responses to and expectations of domestic violence victims). There is some discussion of administering a broader survey in the near future to all of Ohio's Public Children Services Agencies.

A third component of the project was an intensive capacity building and training initiative for four of the ten AR counties. Clark, Fairfield, Franklin and Ross counties articulated their vision for local capacity building and committed to team attendance at 15 days of training and technical assistance over a four-month period. The trainings, delivered from late- February to mid-June of 2010 by Mandel and Associates, were on the Safe and Together Model developed by David Mandel, ([www.endingviolence.com](http://www.endingviolence.com)). Five different ODVN staff members participated, observed and served as resource persons at each installment of the training, accounting for more than 50 staff days with the four counties. ODVN staff also participated in site-specific technical assistance visits and conference calls.

The core principle of the Safe and Together Model is that: "The safety and well-being of children exposed to batterer behavior is ideally achieved through keeping them Safe and Together with the non-offending parent/domestic violence survivor." Additional principles support the first principle, such as making a partnership with the non-offending parent the default position for child welfare (rather than an adversarial relationship); comprehensively assessing the non-offending parent's strengths; and intervening with perpetrators to reduce risk to children, making the adverse impact of their behavior on the children more visible and developing behaviorally appropriate case plans which hold batterers accountable.

The initial results of the training have been fairly impressive thus far. The teams more effectively identify coercive control, they give more consideration to choices in language, they engage family members better and more safely, assessments look beyond a single alleged incident, and documents and case filings better reflect the true dynamics of the case. The four agencies who participated in the project demonstrate and report increased IPV competency among participating workers and supervisors, dramatic philosophical shifts and improving community collaboration. In addition to the great gains, the final report produced by NCALP also acknowledges many internal and external challenges that will need to be addressed in order to achieve a broad-scaled paradigm shift that is sustainable statewide.

Since the original ten AR pilot counties, fifteen more have been added. In May of this year, the Supreme Court of Ohio's Subcommittee on Responding to Child Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency approved a recommendation that Ohio should develop a plan and proceed with statewide implementation of alternative response in all 88 counties. That expansion is critical foreshadowing for any possibility of expanding the IPV initiative in child welfare as well.

For the meanwhile, ODVN continues to offer ongoing support and technical assistance to the four pilot counties and the Ohio IPV Collaborative. At the county level we are helping to identify resources, foster more effective community relationships, and represent our membership's interests. Our role here, as it is in all of our work at ODVN, is to advocate for domestic violence victims and their children, see that batterers are held accountable, and help advance the role of community responsibility in stopping the violence. For more information on ODVN's work in Alternative Response and the Ohio IPV Collaborative, please contact Jo Simonsen, Prevention Trainer/ Technical Assistant at [jsimonsen@woh.rr.com](mailto:jsimonsen@woh.rr.com).

**This newsletter is funded in part  
by the U.S. Department of Health  
& Human Services**

## ***ODVN Training Institute***

For more information or to register for a training, please visit our website at [www.odvn.org](http://www.odvn.org). ODVN is an approved provider of CEUs for social workers and counselors and is a registered training program for the Ohio Advocate Network. If you have questions, call Rachel Ramirez, Training Coordinator at ODVN.

The ODVN Training team is in the final stages of putting together the 2011 training calendar, which is full of new, interesting trainings held across the state of Ohio! Trainings will be offered in a variety of formats, including conference calls, half-day, full day, and multi-day trainings. Training dates, locations, and costs will be available on our brand new website, [www.odvn.org](http://www.odvn.org), in early December. All trainings come with CEU's for social workers and counselors, and are interactive, thought-provoking trainings that provide opportunities for self-reflection, meeting other advocates, and having fun together! If you have any questions, please contact Rachel at [rachelr@odvn.org](mailto:rachelr@odvn.org).

**In 2011, we will be offering:**

***Legal Assistance to Victims (LAV) Grant Training***  
***Facilitating Support Groups for Survivors of Domestic Violence***  
***Cultural Competency***  
***Abuse in Later Life***  
***Short Changed: Economics and Abuse***  
***Domestic Violence Advocacy Fundamentals***  
***In Little Shoes: Working with Children Exposed to Batterers***  
***Justice Systems Advocacy***  
***Peaceful Relationships for Teens***  
***Safety Planning***  
***Ethical Advocacy***  
***Alcohol, Drugs, and Domestic Violence***

**Coming December 8, 2010 in Waverly, Ohio**

***“Stop Hurting Me!” Working with Survivors of Domestic Violence Who Have Disabilities***

While each survivor that we work with has a unique story and unique needs, sometimes domestic violence programs must think outside the box to provide effective and appropriate services to survivors with disabilities. A legal and ethical obligation, domestic violence programs must provide equal services to survivors who have disabilities. In this training, participants will have the opportunity to learn about different types of disabilities, how batterers may manipulate a survivor's disability, things to take into consideration when working with survivors with disabilities, and ways to safety plan with survivors. The cost is only \$60 (\$25 for ODVN members).

For more information on any ODVN trainings, please visit our website:

**[www.odvn.org](http://www.odvn.org)**

*ODVN presents:*  
**Revised Ohio Standards for Batterers Intervention:  
Holding Batterers Accountable Across Systems  
Free Training**

With support of the Batterers Intervention Committee (BIC) of Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN), ODVN has just revised the Ohio Standards for Batterers Intervention. ODVN believes that batterers intervention programs (BIPS) must be a part of the coordinated community response to domestic violence that promotes safety for survivors, children, and the community. It is important that not only BIPs, but also their community partners have a deeper understanding of the Standards for Batterers Intervention.

In this BIP regional training, participants will learn about what's new in the Standards, including a section on working with marginalized communities, such as immigrant/refugee, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ), women and others. The participants will also have an opportunity to explore how to apply the Standards.

BIP administrators/facilitators, victim advocates, probation officers, children services case workers, mental health service providers, and others interested in learning about the Standards are welcome to participate.

Continuing Education: 2.75 CEUs for Ohio Counselors and Social Workers

**November 19, 2010 in Gahanna, Ohio (just outside of Columbus)  
Registration Deadline: November 12, 2010 or until full**

**December 3, 2010 in Canton, Ohio  
Registration Deadline: November 26, 2010 or until full**

To register online, go to [www.odvn.org](http://www.odvn.org) or contact Dona at [donap@odvn.org](mailto:donap@odvn.org).

**Become a member of ODVN!**

**Yes, I want to join the collective voice to end domestic violence.**

**I am enclosing:**

- \$100.00 Organizational Member  
 \$35.00 Individual Member

- \$150.00 Organizational Member  
 \$50.00 Individual Member

- \$200.00 Organizational Member  
 \$100.00 Individual Member

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



Please mail membership form and check to: Ohio Domestic Violence Network, 4807 Evanswood Drive, Suite #201, Columbus, OH 43229  
ODVN is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) agency. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

## CHECK IT OUT!

### From ODVN's Resource Center

*Materials from ODVN's Resource Center may be borrowed for free by ODVN members and Ohio residents. For more information or to borrow resources from our clearinghouse, please contact Tana Carpenter, 1-800-934-9840, Ext. 224.*

#### **Domestic Violence and Health Care: Best Practices in Action**

Most domestic violence victims never call the police or come in contact with the criminal justice system. But, almost all will see a doctor or a nurse. Battering sends many domestic violence victims to the emergency room; many others seek treatment for the less obvious consequences of physical and emotional abuse — from back pain to depression. Any contact between care giver and patient offers vast potential for saving lives and reducing the tragic impact of domestic abuse. By asking the right questions in the right way, doctors and nurses can help victims make the crucial first steps toward getting help. This video explores questions that doctors and nurses need to know and how to ask them, why hospitals need to integrate domestic violence practices throughout all departments, and why health care providers should develop relationships with advocacy groups and organizations that can provide follow up services to victims who take the brave first step toward stopping the abuse in their lives. This video is in English with English subtitles.

**Publisher:** Hillcrest Film, LLC

**Format:** DVD only

**Length:** 21:00 Minutes

**Year Produced:** 2010



#### **Domestic Violence and Law Enforcement: It Started in Duluth**

Police departments and other agencies in the criminal justice system now have a definitive new video resource for training and education:

"Domestic Violence and Law Enforcement: It Started in Duluth. " Law enforcement response to domestic violence, mandatory arrests laws,

and batterer intervention programs are explored in this training video. This video is in English with English subtitles.

**Publisher:** Hillcrest Film, LLC

**Format:** DVD only

**Length:** 22:00 Minutes

**Year Produced:** 2010

#### **Power and Control: Domestic Violence in America**

Interviews with women staying at Safe Haven in Duluth are highlighted in this film; these survivors share stories of emotional and physical abuse they have experienced in their lives. In New York, women involved in the Voice of Women Organizing Project, share their experiences with the family court systems in New York. The eloquent, honest experiences and viewpoints help this film paint a picture of domestic violence survival experiences in the United States. This video is in English with English subtitles.

**Publisher:** Hillcrest Film, LLC

**Format:** DVD only

**Length:** 50:00 Minutes

**Year Produced:** 2010

#### **Safe Haven for Pets: Guidelines for Programs Sheltering Pets for Women who are Battered**

Anyone who has worked in the Domestic Violence field knows of cases where a victim chose to remain with a batterer rather than abandon a beloved pet, because so many DV Shelters will not allow those fleeing a violent situation to bring their pets with them. Dr. Frank Ascione, a leading authority on the connections between animal abuse, child abuse, and domestic violence, has provided a real solution in *Safe Havens for Pets*.

**Author:** Frank R. Ascione, Ph.D.- Dept. of Psychology- Utah State University

**Format:** Book

**Year Produced:** 2000

## **Congratulations to Crossroads Crisis Center**

Crossroads Crisis Center, Inc. was recently awarded a \$250,000 grant from the U. S. Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women for Transitional Housing. Crossroads' Transitional Housing Program is a new second stage residency initiative that will provide the foundation for sustained permanent housing to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking. The goals of the program are to provide transitional housing to victims thus empowering women and their children to progress into permanent and stable housing; empower women and their children to live self-sufficient safer lives; provide opportunities for economic stability and to provide service programs that encourage personal growth. The 36-month funding will provide rental assistance, security deposit assistance, utility assistance, relocation assistance, case management and support services.

## **October was Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

Governor Ted Strickland declared October 2010 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Ohio. In the declaration, Governor Strickland said, "I call upon all Ohioans to recognize the importance of creating awareness for the issue, celebrate those who have survived domestic violence, mourn those who have been lost to it, and continue to encourage advocates of all professional disciplines to work together to provide coordinated services that improve the public's understanding of domestic violence, enhance services for victims and make our communities healthier and safer."

Also, on October 1, President Barack Obama issued a presidential proclamation that declares October 2010 as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In the official press release, President Obama said, "This month -- and throughout the year -- let each of us resolve to be vigilant in recognizing and combating domestic violence in our communities, and let us build a culture of safety and support for all those affected. I call on all Americans to speak out against domestic violence and support local efforts to assist victims of these crimes in finding the help and healing they need."

## **Teen Relationship Violence: A Resource Guide For Increasing Safety**

ODVN had developed a new resource inspired by House Bill 10 and House Bill 19 which were signed into law this past March. HB 10 expands the jurisdiction of juvenile courts to issue protection orders to juvenile offenders, and HB 19 requires schools to adopt teen dating violence policies and provide education in health classes to students in grades seven through twelve.

ODVN recognized that with the implementation of these two bills, there would likely be an upsurge in recognition of teen relationship violence cases. We convened a series of meetings and calls with many different practitioners to help develop some best practice response strategies. We also wanted to offer some guidance about the complex ethical dilemmas presented by the lack of confidentiality that is possible in these cases due to Ohio laws.

This document provides guidance to parents, teachers, friends, and healthcare providers about the dynamics of teen relationship violence and best practices for intervention and prevention. This resource guide was funded by Project Connect.

## **ODVN Launches Newly Designed Website**

If you have not had a chance to check out our new look please take a few minutes to visit our website at [www.odvn.org](http://www.odvn.org). The new website was designed to be ADA compliant so that it is accessible to those who use assistive devices, such as screen readers, to access the web. This feature furthers ODVN's commitment to be inclusive to all survivors. Other new items include:

- The Advocate's Corner where information and articles will be stored that will be useful to you in your daily work.
- An entire section dedicated to survivors to make information easier for them to find.
- COMING SOON! Executive Director's section that will be password protected to allow for sharing of sensitive information related to practice, protocols, etc.

We will continue to add information to the website in the upcoming weeks and months so please be patient with us as we continue to work to build the best website possible for advocates and survivors.



**[Visit ODVN on Facebook](#)**

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## Financial Tip from our Finance Director *Amy Smith*

### HIRE Act

There is still time to take advantage of the tax savings offered under the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment (HIRE) Act. Employers are entitled to a 6.2 percent employer share Social Security tax exemption for previously unemployed workers hired until December 31, 2010. The employee must sign a statement saying they have not worked for more than 40 hours during the previous 60 days. In addition to the tax exemption, employees who qualified for the original exemption may qualify for an additional retention credit for the employer of up to \$1,000 after working for 52 weeks. There are no hour or age requirements for qualifying employees.

#### **What is the payroll tax exemption?**

The payroll tax exemption is an exemption from the employer's 6.2 percent share of social security tax on all wages paid to qualified employees from March 19, 2010 (the day after the date of enactment of the HIRE Act) through December 31, 2010. The employee's 6.2 percent share of social security tax and the employer and employee's shares of Medicare tax still apply to all wages.

#### **Which employers qualify for the payroll tax exemption?**

Taxable businesses and tax-exempt organizations qualify for the payroll tax exemption. Such employers in U.S. territories (i.e., American Samoa, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico) that are subject to federal social security tax also qualify for the payroll tax exemption. Federal, State or local government employers generally do not qualify for the payroll tax exemption. However, public colleges and universities can qualify for the exemption. Indian tribal governments also qualify for the exemption.

For more information and FAQs visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).