

2013-2014 Fiscal Year Review

As the new fiscal year is well underway, we utilize this issue of the *Florida Voice* to provide our readers with a review of the past fiscal year and share some highlights, accomplishments, and new programs and initiatives. The following highlights are certainly not inclusive of every Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence activity, but are designed to share a snapshot of some of FCADV's programs, initiatives and trainings.

FCADV serves as the statewide professional association for Florida's certified domestic violence centers. In this role, the Coalition is the primary voice of survivors of domestic violence and their children in the public policy arena; in addition, FCADV provides training, technical assistance, and education to our membership, partners, advocates and professionals to improve services, practices and policies. In 2004, FCADV was statutorily mandated to serve as the administrator of state and federal funding earmarked for domestic violence services in Florida. As the administrator of these funds, FCADV subcontracts with Florida's 42 certified domestic violence centers, a multitude of law enforcement agencies, state prosecutor's offices, and community based organizations dedicated to ending domestic violence. FCADV ensures compliance with both administrative and programmatic requirements of each of the subcontracts through engaging in a stringent monitoring process. This unique role affords FCADV the opportunity to assist with the creation of cutting edge programming and leading to a seamless coordination among agencies whose services impact survivors and their children. In addition, the Coalition operates the Florida Domestic Violence hotline, providing multilingual services 24 hours a day/7 days a week. Trained hotline advocates provide support, advocacy, information, and referral services for

domestic violence survivors, their children, family and friends, as well as to community members, program partners and others seeking information.

Created with the founding principles of cooperation and unity among domestic violence centers, FCADV constantly advocates for programs, policies and funding that benefit all certified domestic violence centers, and more importantly the survivors and children they serve. By speaking with a single, unified voice, Florida stands out as a national leader in creating programs and services, and strong policy initiatives that benefit survivors and their children, and hold batterers accountable.

During fiscal year 2013 – 2014 FCADV:

- Responded to 9,570 technical assistance requests from domestic violence centers, collaborative partners and other agencies
- Conducted 105 onsite technical assistance visits and trainings for domestic violence center staff and/or Board of Directors, collaborative partners and other agencies
- Conducted 47 regional training events throughout Florida
- Conducted 90 webinars
- Conducted 24 statewide training events and/or conferences
- Received 27,716 calls to the Florida Domestic Violence Hotline
- Assisted 3,077 survivors through calls to the Legal Hotline
- Administered and managed 139 contracts
- Conducted 102 monitoring visits and/or desk reviews

Together We Can End Domestic Violence

The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence is a grassroots nonprofit organization whose membership is comprised of individuals, centers, and advocacy groups sharing the goal of eliminating domestic violence.

FCADV Programs, Initiatives and Trainings

FCADV works closely with Florida's certified domestic violence centers, collaborative community partners and service providers to create and implement programs and initiatives designed to ensure quality services, maximize safety for domestic violence survivors and their children, and hold perpetrators accountable for their actions. In addition, thousands of hours of technical assistance and training are provided each year to increase knowledge of issues, enhance efficiencies and standards, and build capacity to best serve domestic violence survivors and their children. Trainings are tailored to the unique needs of each certified domestic violence center, training participants, organizations, local communities, and partners. For more specific information regarding the availability of training programs, please email: info_fcadv@fcadv.org.

Following the trainings, programs and initiatives listed below are highlights about several new, expanded and/or existing FCADV programs and initiatives. While certainly not an exhaustive list of all programs and accomplishments, these are examples of the many exciting, innovative and groundbreaking initiatives designed to serve domestic violence survivors and their children and hold perpetrators accountable.

Sample of Available Trainings:

All trainings are tailored to the needs of the training participants and their local community.

Advanced Domestic Violence Training for Law Enforcement
 Advocacy, Technology, and Safety
 Advocating for LGBT Survivors of Domestic Violence
 Adult Protective Services and Later in Life Intimate Partner Violence
 Batterer Accountability in the Child Welfare System
 Batterer Accountability in the Criminal Justice System
 Battering and Chemical Dependency
 Battering and Mental Health Complexities
 Building Domestic Violence and Child Welfare Collaborations
 Cognitive Disability, Mental Health and Domestic Violence
 Community Collaboration to Prevent Domestic Violence Homicide
 Compassion Fatigue and Advocate Self-Care
 Domestic Violence Core Competency Trainings
 Domestic Violence and Disabilities
 Domestic Violence Fatality Review
 Domestic Violence in Later Life
 Domestic Violence in the Military
 Dynamics of Sexual Violence and Substance Abuse
 Economic Justice: Survivor-Centered Advocacy
 Effective Communication: Advocating for Survivors Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing
 Effects of Domestic Violence on Children and Youth
 Emergency Preparedness as it Relates to Survivors with a Disability

Empowerment-Based Advocacy
 Empowerment-Based Documentation and Service Management
 Ethical Communication
 Evidence-Based Prosecution in Domestic Violence Cases
 Financial Exploitation in Later Life
 Herstory of the Battered Women's Movement
 Human Trafficking, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
 Improving Access to Justice for Immigrant Survivors of Domestic Violence
 Lethality Assessment and Safety Planning
 Medical Advocacy Projects: Tools and Training Methods
 Organizing in Rural Communities to Prevent Domestic Violence
 Primary Prevention of Domestic Violence
 Providing Outreach to Incarcerated Survivors
 Relationship Abuse – Runaway and Homeless Youth
 Sexual Violence in the Context of Domestic Violence
 Shelter Rules, Ethics and Empowerment
 Social Media and Advocacy in the Digital Age
 Teen Dating Violence and Technology
 The Americans with Disabilities Act and Service Animals
 Train the Trainer on Core Competency
 Trauma Informed Care and Service Provision

List of Programs and Initiatives

Burn and Trauma Medical Advocacy Project
 Domestic Violence and Disabilities Program
 Domestic Violence in Later Life Program

Peace of Mind Florida: Domestic Violence and Traumatic Brain Injury
 Child Protection Investigation Project
 Child Welfare Initiative
 Clearinghouse Project
 Economic Justice Initiatives
 Florida Domestic Violence Hotline and Legal Hotline
 Core Competency Based Trainings
 Healthy Advocate Initiative
 Domestic Violence and Home Visitors Project
 DELTA FOCUS Initiative
 Primary Prevention Initiative
 Empowerment-Based Service Provision Project
 Engaging Men and Boys Prevention Project
 Intimate Violence Enhanced Service Team (InVEST)
 Law Enforcement Enhanced Response to Violence Against Women
 Law Enforcement Training Initiative
 Rural Statewide Initiative
 Survivor Listening Project
 Linguistically and Culturally Specific Services Project
 Legal Assistance for Victims
 Legal Initiative
 Sexual Violence in the Context of Domestic Violence Project
 Statewide Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team
 Technology and Safety Program
 VAWA Community Collaboratives Projects
 VAWA Rural Underserved Projects

Child Protection Investigation Project Expansion

FCADV's Child Protection Investigation (CPI) Projects are a collaborative effort between the Coalition, the Office of the Attorney General, the Department of Children and Families (DCF), local certified domestic violence centers, community based care agencies (CBCs), and criminal justice system partners to provide an optimal coordinated community response to families experiencing the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child abuse. Project partners convene Leadership Teams to oversee the implementation of the project within each respective local community. FCADV's CPI Project also establishes formal partnerships where domestic violence advocates are co-located within CPI Units. These co-located advocates provide consultation to child protection staff, referral services to survivors, and attend meetings between all partnering stakeholders to develop strategies to resolve any barriers or issues that may arise. The ultimate goals of these projects are to bridge the gap between child welfare and domestic violence service providers to enhance family safety, create permanency for children, and hold perpetrators accountable for their actions. During the 2014 Legislative Session, FCADV received funding to **expand this groundbreaking program beginning July 1, 2014, to include co-located domestic violence advocates in an additional 33 counties, for a total of 45 participating counties in Florida.** FCADV is working closely with the new sites to establish memoranda of understanding with their child welfare and criminal justice partners, train new co-located advocates on their roles and responsibilities, and build Leadership Teams across Florida. Leadership Teams will guide each local project to increase adult survivor and child safety and enhance batterer accountability. Successes from specific CPI

Project communities include, but are not limited to: providing culturally and linguistically specific outreach and services to Haitian and Latina survivors of domestic violence; significantly reducing the number of children removed from the non-offending parent without increasing re-abuse rates; increasing prosecutions of domestic violence perpetrators; and, conducting court-ordered "one parent removals" and Chapter 39 Injunctions to increase the safety of survivors and their children. The CPI Project utilizes a comprehensive and holistic approach that focuses on keeping the child safe in the home with the non-offending parent. Instead of mandating services for both the offending and non-offending parent, the program focuses on holding the perpetrator of domestic violence solely responsible for the abuse to the family.

New Resources: Domestic Violence Informed Child Welfare Practice

FCADV, DCF, and David Mandel and Associates worked collaboratively to develop videos and printed guidebooks on integrating domestic violence informed practices into Florida's Safety Methodology that reflects DCF's new model for child welfare practice. The materials utilize the principles and critical components of David Mandel and Associates' *Safe and Together Model*, which helps child welfare professionals to enhance child safety when working with families experiencing domestic violence by identifying survivor strengths and perpetrator patterns of behavior that could endanger the child and non-offending parent. The videos and accompanying guide offer concrete examples of CPIs staffing cases with co-located domestic violence advocates, supervisory consults among child welfare professionals that focus on the batterers' impact on the family, and partnering with survivors to enhance the safety of their children.

The videos will be utilized in FCADV and DCF's trainings throughout Florida for child welfare professionals.

Intimate Violence Enhanced Service Team (InVEST)

InVEST was created to prevent domestic violence homicides in Florida and is designed to encourage local law enforcement agencies and their community partners to treat domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking as serious violations of criminal law requiring the coordinated involvement of the entire criminal justice system. FCADV and the Office of the Attorney General identified 11 Florida communities with the highest rates of domestic violence homicide to provide funding for the implementation of a coordinated community response to reduce the number of domestic violence related deaths. Advocates and law enforcement partners engage in daily collaborative reviews of police reports in an effort to determine potential high risk domestic violence cases and to make contact with survivors to determine if they are interested in participating in the program. InVEST partnerships implemented batterer accountability measures and provided enhanced advocacy for more than 3,600 domestic violence survivors last year who were at high risk of being murdered by their intimate partner. **Since the program's inception in 2009, there have been no homicides of InVEST participants. This is particularly notable since InVEST participants are identified through a comprehensive evidenced-based process to determine if high risk behaviors were perpetrated against them by their partner/ex-partner.** FCADV conducts training for all partners involved in the project including, but not limited to, domestic violence advocates, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges, and parole/probation officers. FCADV's InVEST training for criminal justice partners focuses on the use of evidence-based investigations and prosecutions of domestic violence perpetrators; the use of an abbreviated risk assessment tool to promote survivor safety; and, survivor-centered practices to connect survivors and their children to domestic violence services.

Statewide Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team

Created in 2009, the Attorney General's Statewide Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team continues to assume the leadership role with identifying and addressing systemic issues that could prevent domestic violence fatalities. The statewide team is co-chaired by Attorney General Pam Bondi and FCADV. The team includes members representing the continuum of organizations that work with survivors, their children, and perpetrators of domestic violence, including certified domestic violence centers, legal and direct service providers, state agencies, faith-based organizations, law enforcement, probation, parole, corrections, health care, the court system, prosecutors, the defense bar and a survivor. Each year, the statewide team is charged with analyzing data provided by the local fatality review teams while simultaneously conducting reviews of domestic violence fatalities and near fatalities to identify systemic barriers. The team utilizes the data and review findings to render recommendations regarding necessary systemic changes to reduce domestic violence homicides in Florida. This year, FCADV implemented four recommendations from the prior year's report. These include, but are not limited to: conducting ten full days of training for law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges on holding perpetrators accountable through the criminal justice system; piloting a data system with a local state attorney's office that assists community partners in tracking batterer compliance with court orders; and conducting four regional trainings on The Dynamics of Domestic Violence and Substance Abuse in partnership with the National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma, and Mental Health. In addition, FCADV collaborated with Dr. Neil Websdale and Northern Arizona State University's Family Violence Institute to conduct a comprehensive assessment, including making recommendations regarding the period of heightened danger to victims when the court denies an ex parte petition and sets a hearing (with notice to the respondent) to determine whether to issue a final injunction. During fiscal year 2014-2015, FCADV will continue implementation of the recommendations that were included in the comprehensive assessment of the safety of Injunctions for Protection for survivors in Florida.

Improving Access to Justice for Immigrant Survivors

FCADV's Projects also include the development of survivor-focused,

culturally informed resources such as the *Improving Access to Justice for Immigrant Survivors Program* collection of materials. *Improving Access to Justice for Immigrant Survivors Program* includes an eight-hour training curriculum, a service provider handbook, and educational videos developed in collaboration with Voices for Immigrant Defense & Advocacy (VIDA) Legal Assistance. The materials were informed by immigrant survivors as well as allied organizations that provide services to immigrant and farmworker women. Resources were created in Creole, Spanish and English, and in an accessible format. The goals of the collection include: 1) helping service providers identify and examine system barriers that inhibit access to justice for immigrant survivors; and 2) assisting training participants to recognize and evaluate the implications of survivors' immigration status in the context of advocating, investigating, prosecuting, and presiding over domestic violence and sexual assault cases. Since FCADV and VIDA began conducting these trainings two years ago, the collaborative partners have received and fulfilled 12 training requests related to access to justice for immigrant survivors.

Community Collaborative Responses to Increase Access to Services for Survivors

Comprehensive mental health services for survivors of domestic violence

During several of FCADV's survivor listening groups related to mental health, a marked number of survivors expressed a need and desire to receive mental health counseling/therapy in addition to the crisis intervention counseling and advocacy core services received from domestic violence advocates. Traditionally and appropriately, Florida's certified domestic violence advocates focus on non-clinical approaches to working with survivors and as per Florida's Domestic Violence Center Certification Minimum Standards Administrative Rule, 65H-1, "Individuals who need mental health counseling services may be served through referral to an outside provider." It is critical that domestic violence center advocates refer survivors to mental health providers that understand the dynamics of domestic violence and possess the ability to address the complex needs of survivors with a trauma-informed approach. This critical understanding in partnership with the creation of appropriate policies and procedures are key elements of FCADV's *Community Collaborative Responses to Increase Access to Services for Survivors*. As grantees of this project, Harbor House of Central Florida and Shelter House of Northwest Florida collaborate with their respective local mental health providers to build the capacity of each agency to best serve survivors of domestic violence within the framework of the battered women's movement and its empowerment-based, trauma-informed approach. The Central Florida project staffs a co-located, licensed therapist that provides intensive one-on-one intervention for survivors that request their assistance. The Northwest Florida project recently completed a comprehensive assessment, including survivor and staff listening groups, to inform strategic planning for their community regarding the intersection of domestic violence and mental health. These projects close gaps in service delivery and address the lack of access to services for survivors of domestic violence who are also living with mental health complexities.

Palm Beach Anti-Stalking Collaborative

FCADV's *Community Collaborative Responses to Increase Access to Services for Survivors* program also funds Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse (AVDA) and the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County to create a multi-disciplinary, coordinated community response to address the increase of stalking in Palm Beach County. To ensure appropriate identification of stalking victims and create a seamless service delivery approach, the team created community specific resources such as law enforcement palm cards, brochures, and an Anti-Stalking Toolkit. The toolkit provides practical guidance for implementing the techniques used in Palm Beach County to assist survivors of stalking and hold stalkers accountable through the criminal justice system. Members of the Anti-Stalking Collaborative have formed strong partnerships that have helped to create significant changes and enhancements in the services received by stalking survivors and the criminal justice response to stalkers in Palm Beach County.



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supporters, members, interested individuals, and organizations of the activities of the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Sponsored by FCADV and the State of Florida, Department of Children and Families

Florida's Allstate Agents and Domestic Violence Centers Changing Lives

FCADV is currently partnering with Allstate Florida to create a comprehensive statewide economic justice project, *Florida's Allstate Agents and Domestic Violence Centers Changing Lives*. As a part of this project, FCADV and Allstate Florida convened a Statewide Advisory Team comprised of local Allstate agents and certified domestic violence center directors who are currently partnering in their communities. This exciting new project also includes an opportunity for two domestic violence centers to educate survivors about financial literacy. Each local domestic violence center grantee will utilize the successful Allstate Economic Empowerment Program, *Moving Ahead Through Financial Management* to work with survivors of domestic violence to create financial plans, open bank accounts, implement matched savings programs, provide economic advocacy, gain access to Earned Income Tax Credits, and effectively meet survivors' personal financial goals. In addition to these new projects, FCADV and The Allstate Foundation currently fund three certified domestic violence centers to implement similar programs. Survivors that participate in the Allstate Economic Empowerment Program learn how to effectively meet their personal financial goals by taking advantage of microloans, micro enterprises, or matched savings accounts provided by participating centers. In addition, funding will offer the opportunity for local grantees to implement Economic Empowerment Training Programs for survivors, center advocates and community members. Local Allstate agents will partner closely with certified domestic violence centers to raise awareness about the centers' life saving services and to refer survivors to the center when they become aware of domestic violence.

Allstate Florida and FCADV have long-term plans to expand these successful projects beyond the current programs. Both agencies have leveraged current resources to create the Advisory Team to coordinate statewide activities that will prepare for long-term sustainability. The Team will identify ways to secure additional funding with the ultimate goal of replicating the project statewide. FCADV and the Statewide

Advisory Team will hold press conferences throughout Florida to formally launch the newly expanded FCADV, Allstate Florida, Allstate local agencies and certified domestic violence center partnerships. These important partnerships will build the foundation necessary to ensure all of Florida's certified domestic violence centers have the capacity to share vital information with survivors to not only learn how to create financial safety plans, but also how to become financially independent from an abusive partner.

Survivors from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities Needs Assessment

FCADV worked with a national leader, Olga Trujillo, to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment of Florida's 42 certified domestic violence centers to ascertain whether Florida's centers are providing culturally and linguistically specific services that appropriately reflect each local community's needs and demographics. Notably, the needs assessment revealed that FCADV member programs, in direct contrast to national data and trends, serve women of color in numbers proportional to that of their broader communities. This trend denotes promising staffing practices that should be continued in Florida and modeled in other states. The assessment included a final report that provides background on the project, details about the methodology and findings, and specific recommendations for ensuring Florida's domestic violence services are accessible to all survivors. Recommendations include, but are not limited to: evaluating current language access plans and program standards to ensure best practice on language access related to limited English proficiency (LEP); developing additional guidance materials for advocates providing services to LEP survivors; providing training on going beyond cultural competency to adopting an overall approach for advocates to operate in diverse cultural contexts; and developing tools such as checklists, fact sheets, and training manuals, to help communities meet their Title VI legal obligations when working with LEP survivors. In addition, FCADV collaborated with Ms. Trujillo to develop strategies to increase staff capacity regarding trauma-informed advocacy.