FCADV’s Primary Prevention Program

A safer tomorrow begins with prevention programming today

The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence (FCADV) coordinates three separate funding sources for the primary prevention of domestic violence and engages in a variety of prevention efforts at the state and local level. In March 2018, FCADV was awarded the Domestic Violence Prevention Enhancements and Leadership Through Alliances (DELT A) Impact grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In September 2018, FCADV and partner AVDA (Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse) in Palm Beach County were awarded a renewal of the Office of Violence Against Women’s Engaging Men and Youth grant to continue the meaningful social change work of the past three years in Palm Beach County.

DELT A Impact

FCADV is one of ten domestic violence coalitions selected for a five-year period from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to participate in DELTA Impact. In addition to funding for state-level activities, two Florida certified domestic violence centers will implement programming at the local level in collaboration with their coordinated community response teams (CCRs). The two local communities selected to participate in this project are Collier and Pasco Counties. The Shelter for Abused Women and Children, Inc, the certified domestic violence center in Collier County, will serve as the local fiscal agent (LFA) for the Collier

(Continued on page 2)
County project, based in Immokalee. Sunrise Domestic and Sexual Violence Center of Pasco County, the certified domestic violence center for east Pasco County, will serve as the LFA for the Pasco County Family Support, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention Task Force. Both communities have strong partnerships among stakeholders and have already begun to explore systems-level change related to intimate partner violence.

Through DELTA Impact, FCADV has been implementing four projects in three focus areas, in addition to coordinating a statewide Leadership Team and Action Plan to ensure coordinated and impactful prevention efforts across the state.

With Sunrise of Pasco County, FCADV is working to Increase Protective Environments in schools through a classroom-based program called Shifting Boundaries. Students learn about boundaries and healthy relationships and then complete Hot Spot maps of their schools. These maps help staff hear directly from students where they feel safe and unsafe at the school. The Prevention Team can work with schools to identify effective measures to increase the protective environment and safety of the school based on student experiences. As of April 2019, Sunrise staff had conducted 13 rounds of programming, reaching all 6th grade students at one middle school in Pasco County and many 9th grade students at another high school.

In Collier County, The Shelter is working to strengthen economic supports for families by improving access to paid leave policies. Research indicates that having access to paid leave - a general term that includes sick leave, parental leave, family leave, and other paid time off to deal with life - can prevent future violence. Immokalee, Florida, has low rates of access to paid leave policies and a high number of jobs in agriculture or restaurant industries. Through community partnerships and training, the Shelter staff will work with local employers and employees to determine ways to improve access to leave and help strengthen families’ economic stability.

Statewide, FCADV is also working to strengthen economic supports by working to improve access to TANF. Meaningful cash assistance programs can help bring families out of deep poverty and provide the support and stability that families need to take care of each other.

Additionally, FCADV is working to engage influential adults and peers through the Coaching Boys Into Men program. This program provides the training and support to coaches to lead discussions with young male athletes about healthy relationships, treating others with respect, consent, and bystander intervention. FCADV trained 23 domestic violence advocates on the program in November 2018 at a 1.5-day training in Orlando. Advocates learned how the program runs and developed action plans to engage local coaches, athletic leaders, and community members to implement Coaching Boys Into Men.

**Engaging Men in Palm Beach County**

AVDA, a certified domestic violence center in Palm Beach County, and FCADV began their fourth year of Engaging Men and Youth work through the Office of Violence Against Women. The campaign in Palm Beach County, called Committed Men, brings together African-American men and boys with prevention educators to create social marketing campaigns and conduct youth programming that supports men and boys to make a commitment to ending dating and domestic violence. Working at a local recreation center, the 505 Teen Center, young people learned about media literacy and the role of music in creating social norms. Young people then created their own music with positive messaging. One of these songs is featured in a Public Service Announcement written by
young men at the teen center with the support of AVDA staff. In the video young men express the commitments they are making to end violence against women.

Now AVDA is working with teens and adults to create a video series to be shared on social media that shows men taking action to end dating and domestic violence. By sharing examples of influential adults and youth, AVDA seeks to change social norms about men’s roles in relationships and the community.

2019 Youth Summit

On February 2, 2019, FCADV and two certified domestic violence centers, AVDA and WID, co-hosted the annual Youth Summit in Boynton Beach, Florida. During the early session, over 150 participants took part in “In Their Shoes,” an interactive activity that shares real stories of teen dating violence and gives participants the opportunity to make decisions and move through the stories. Among the comments from participants, one noted, “My favorite activity was ‘In Their Shoes,’ by allowing us to go through the situations and see everyone’s different opinions on how to deal with rough situations.”

Participants attended workshops in the late session. The fifteen workshops covered topics such as healthy break-ups, leadership skills, and meditation for self-care. All of the workshops were led or co-led by teenagers and young adults. Break the Cycle, a national dating violence organization, led Real Talk, providing a space for young people to have open, honest conversations about relationships. The Summit ended with performances by local hip-hop artist Absoloot, who partners with AVDA to teach men and boys about healthy relationships and media literacy.

2019 Biennial Statewide Domestic Violence Training Institute

The 2019 Biennial Statewide Domestic Violence Training Institute took place on March 28th and 29th in Orange County and consisted of 20 workshops, 4 plenary sessions, and 2 motivating keynotes. The theme for this year’s conference, “Putting the Pieces Together: Connect. Advocate. Innovate.” highlighted the efforts of communities throughout Florida to create collaborative and innovative community responses to enhance safety for survivors and their children, and hold perpetrators accountable for the violence they commit toward their partners. Workshop topics included cultural and linguistic advocacy services, risk factors and intimate partner homicide, integrating health and wellness, digital evidence and the courts, risk protection orders, and exploring safety.

This year’s keynote speakers opened each day of the Institute with inspirational messages. Doris Rivera-Black, an award-winning activist and survivor, shared her story of survival after experiencing domestic violence at the hands of her ex-husband. After her experiences, she made it her personal mission to help educate the community on the issues of sexual assault and domestic violence. Her journey as an advocate began when she appeared on the Oprah Winfrey Show to share her story in 2007. Doris has since founded NEVER a Victim, a program teaching situational awareness.

(Continued on page 4)
Primary Prevention Programs
continued from page 3

She has co-founded All Hope Restored, a faith-based domestic violence support group, and is also a National Victim/Survivor Impact Consultant with the Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime. Doris facilitated a workshop focused on domestic violence in the Latino community.

Jill Davies, author and attorney, shared information regarding survivor safety. Jill is the Deputy Director of Greater Hartford Legal Aid, Inc. (GHLA), and directs Building Comprehensive Solutions to Domestic Violence, a key initiative of the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, in collaboration with GHLA. Her advocacy on behalf of family violence survivors spans three decades. She is the co-author of the book Domestic Violence Advocacy: Complex Lives/Difficult Choices. Jill facilitated workshops focused on victim-defined advocacy with victims in contact and exploring safety.

Prior to the conference, FCADV hosted a six-week 2019 Healthy Advocate Challenge. During that period, advocates were encouraged to do something positive for their health and wellbeing, such as beginning an exercise program, choosing healthy meals and snacks, quitting smoking, increasing financial health, or taking a few minutes a day for themselves. The cumulative efforts of the participating certified domestic violence centers during the challenge were displayed at the conference. The posters portrayed the advocates’ definitions of a “healthy advocate,” activities in which they had participated during the six-week period, and/or tools they learned to support their own care. Each participating center submitted one poster. Each conference attendee had the opportunity to vote for their favorite poster. The certified domestic violence center with the highest number of poster votes won the healthy advocate challenge. The winner of the 2019 Healthy Advocate Challenge was Domestic Abuse Shelter. The center received a special congratulations from FCADV staff.

During this two-day Institute, FCADV provided resources to 173 conference attendees, including brochures, DVDs, training materials, books, and tip-sheets.

Primary Prevention Programs continued from page 3

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.