



NASSAU COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
60 CHARLES LINDBERGH BLVD., SUITE 160
UNIONDALE, NEW YORK 11553-3686
Phone: 516-227-7403 Fax: 516-227-8432
Web: <http://www.nassaucountyny.gov/>

Nassau County Executive's Task Force on Family Violence

Report to the County Executive

August 2010

OVERVIEW OF THE REPORT

- 1) Introduction to the County Executive**
- 2) Members of the Task Force**
- 3) Definitions**
- 4) Family Violence As a National Problem**
- 5) Family Violence As a New York State Problem**
- 6) Family Violence in Nassau County**
- 7) Findings and Recommendations to the County Executive**

INTRODUCTION

In February of 2010, Nassau County Executive Edward P. Mangano appointed a distinguished panel of individuals representing health and human services, education, law enforcement and the judiciary to review the problems of family and domestic violence in Nassau County.

The County Executive's Task Force on Family Violence held its first meeting on March 12, 2010, and since that time has convened on a number of occasions to review the current situation of family and domestic violence in Nassau County and to present a wide-ranging series of recommendations to reduce the scope and prevalence of family violence in Nassau County.

Family violence permeates every fabric of our society, and its tragic impact can be seen in the most vulnerable casualties – our children, who are either the victims of family violence or are victimized by their observation of violent behaviors within their families. Both have deep and lasting impacts on children's development, and the Task Force offers a number of recommendations to combat this pervasive public health issue.

Family and domestic violence constitutes a national, state and local crisis that unless addressed in bold and dramatic fashion will continue to escalate given the difficult economic and social conditions with which many families must contend. The call to action contained in the Recommendations contained herein challenges leaders in all the major institutions of our lives, including government, law enforcement, business, faith-

based organizations, health and human services, and education, civic and fraternal organizations.

The appointees have been privileged to receive your nomination to the Task Force and, should they meet with your approval we look forward to implementing the recommendations for a safer and violence-free family life in Nassau County.

Nassau County Executive's Task Force on Family Violence

The Honorable Anna Anzalone

Nassau County Court Judge
99 Main Street,
Hempstead, NY 11550
(516) 572-2115
aanzalon@courts.state.ny.us

The Honorable Stacey Bennett

Nassau County Family Court Judge
1200 Old Country Road
Westbury, New York 11590
(516) 571-9362
sbennet@courts.state.ny.us

Sarah Brewster, PhD., J.D.

Supervisor of Services
Círculo de la Hispanidad
26 West Park Avenue
Long Beach, New York 11561
(516) 431-1135
(516) 431--2307 Fax
sbrewster@cdlh.org

Maria Torroella Carney, MD

Commissioner
Nassau County Department of Health
106 Charles Lindbergh Boulevard
Uniondale, New York 11553
(516) 227-7900
Maria.Carney@hhsnassaucountyny.us

Mr. Peter DiSilvio

Office of the County Executive
1550 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, NY 11501
pdisilvio@nassaucountyny.gov

Asma Ejaz, MD, FACFEI

Director, Addiction Psychiatry
Nassau University Medical Center
2201 Hempstead Turnpike
East Meadow, NY 11554
516 296 3251 (office)
516 884 2500 (cell)
aejaz@numc.edu

Mr. Lance W. Elder

President and CEO
EAC, Inc.
50 Clinton Street – Suite 107
Hempstead, New York 11550
(516)539-0150
lelder@eacinc.org

Ms. Jamie Lee Essig

Community Service Representative
Nassau County department of Social Services
60 Charles Lindbergh Boulevard
Uniondale, NY 11553
(516 227 7408
jamie.essig@hhsnassaucountyny.us

Ms. Alane Fagin, Director

CAPS
PO Box 176
Roslyn, New York 11576
(516) 621-0552
alanefagincaps@optonline.net

Stephen Feiner, Esq.

Director of Grants Management, Nassau County
One West Street
Mineola, NY 11501
sfeiner@nassaucountyny.gov

The Honorable Rhonda Fischer

Nassau County Court Judge
99 Main Street
Hempstead, New York 11550
(516) 572-2133
rfischer@courts.state.ny.us

Mark Gann, Esq.

Nassau County Bar Association
1 Old Country Road
Suite 250
Carle Place, NY 11514
(516) 294-0300
info@cmgesq.com

Elissa Giffords, DSW

Department of Social Work
Long Island University
C.W. Post Campus
720 Northern Boulevard
Brookville, New York 11548-1300
(516) 299-3919
GiffordsE@aol.com

Ms. Eldia Gonzalez

Executive Director
Nassau County CASA
40 Main Street
Hempstead, New York 11550
(516) 572-0750
egonzalez@nassaucountyny.gov

Sgt. Judy Hoffman

Nassau County Police Department
1490 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, New York 11501
(516) 573-7381
jhoffman@pdcn.org

Ms. Susana Isaacson

Nassau County Youth Board
60 Charles Lindbergh Boulevard – Suite 220
Uniondale, NY 11553
(516) 227-7138
Susana.Isaacson@hhsnassaucountyny.us

Ms, Beatrice Lozada

Nassau County CASA
40 Main Street
Hempstead, New York 11550
(516) 572-0750
blozada@nassaucountyny.gov

Ms. Maureen McLoughlin

Director, CPS
Nassau County Department of Social Services
60 Charles Lindbergh Boulevard – Suite 160
Uniondale, New York 11553
(516) 227-8076
Maureen.McLoughlin@hhsnassaucountyny.us

Ms. Sandy Oliva

Executive Director
Nassau County Coalition against Domestic Violence
At the Place
15-10 Grumman Road West
Bethpage, NY 11714
(516) 465-4700
soliva@cadvnc.org

Ms. Kathy Rosenthal

Vice President – FECS
6900 Jericho Turnpike – Suite 309
Syosset, New York 11791
(516) 496-7550
krosenthal@fegs.org

The Honorable Kathleen M. Rice

District Attorney of Nassau County
262 Old County Road
Mineola, NY 11501
516 571 3800
kathleen.rice@nassauda.org

Lois Schwaeber, Esq

Women's Law Committee
Nassau County Bar Association
250 Fulton Avenue – 3rd Floor
Hempstead, New York 11550
(516)272-0700
lschwaeber@cadvnc.org

Ms. Cindy Scott

Executive Director
Coalition against Child Abuse and Neglect
At the Safe Place
15-9 Grumman Road West
Bethpage, NY 11714
(516) 747-2966

Ms. Gladys Serrano

Executive Director
Hispanic Counseling Center
344 Fulton Avenue
Hempstead, New York 11550
(516) 538-2613
gladyss@hispaniccounseling.org

Madeline Singas, Esq.

Chief, Sex Crimes Unit
Nassau County District Attorney
262 Old Country Road
Mineola, NY 11501
516 571 3800
madeline.singas@nassaуда.org

Ms. Alana Smith

NC Department of Minority Affairs
1 West Street – Room 323
Mineola, New York 11501
(516) 571-1096
asmith2@nassaucountyny.gov

Ms. Chris Veech

LI Council of Churches
1644 Denton Green
Hempstead, NY 11550
chrisveech@aol.com and

The Honorable Hope Schwartz Zimmerman

Supervising Judge
Nassau County Family Court
1200 Old Country Road
Westbury, New York 11590
(516) 571-9020
hzimmerm@courts.state.ny.us

DEFINITIONS

What is Family/Domestic Violence?

Family violence is an on-going situation in which one person in an intimate relationship causes harm to another. At the center of this violence is the abuser's need to gain power and control over the victim, and the violence can be manifested in the following ways:

- Physical, such as slapping, hitting, kicking, punching, biting, burning, choking/strangulation and slashing with a knife or other sharp instrument, or shooting
- Non-Physical, such as threats, harassment, insults and economic or financial isolation
- Sexual, such as incest, rape, forcible touching or other criminal sexual acts

What are the types of Family Violence?

- 1) Child Abuse
- 2) Abuse of elders and other vulnerable populations
- 3) Spousal Abuse
- 4) Intimate Partner and/or abuse of any family member

These abuses constitute an epidemic affecting individuals in every community, regardless of age, economic status, race, religion, nationality sexual orientation or educational background.

Family and domestic violence against women is often accompanied by emotionally abusive and controlling behavior, and thus is part of a systematic pattern of dominance and control.

Domestic violence results in physical injury, psychological trauma, and sometimes death.

The consequences of domestic violence can cross generations and truly last lifetimes.

FAMILY/DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FACTS NATIONALLY

SEXUAL ASSAULT AND STALKING

One in 6 women has experienced an attempted or completed rape.

Nearly 7.8 million women have been raped by an intimate partner at some point in their lives.

Sexual assault or forced sex occurs in approximately 40-45% of battering relationships.

1 in 12 women and 1 in 45 men have been stalked in their lifetime.

81% of women stalked by a current or former intimate partner are also physically assaulted by that partner; 31% are also sexually assaulted by that partner.

CHILDREN WHO WITNESS FAMILY VIOLENCE

Witnessing violence between one's parents or caretakers is the strongest risk factor of transmitting violent behavior from one generation to the next.

Boys who witness domestic violence are *twice as likely* to abuse their own partners and children when they become adults. 30% to 60% of perpetrators of intimate partner violence also abuse children in the household.

HOMICIDE AND INJURY

Almost 1/3 of female homicide victims that are reported in police records are killed by an intimate partner.

In 70-80% of intimate partner homicides, no matter which partner was killed, the man physically abused the woman before the murder.

Less than 1/5 of victims reporting an injury from intimate partner violence sought medical treatment following the injury.

Intimate partner violence results in more than 18.5 million mental health care visits each year.

One in every four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime.

An estimated 1.3 million women are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner each year.

85% of domestic violence victims are women.

Historically, females have been most often victimized by someone they knew.

Females who are 16-24 years of age are at the greatest risk of nonfatal intimate partner violence.

Domestic violence is one of the most chronically underreported crimes. Only approximately 1/4 of all physical assaults, 1/5 of all rapes, and 1/2 of all stalkings perpetrated against females by intimate partners are reported to the police.

Approximately only 20% of the 1.5 million people who experience intimate partner violence annually obtain civil protection orders.

Approximately 1/2 of the orders obtained by women against intimate partners who physically assaulted them were violated.

More than 2/3 of the restraining orders against intimate partners who raped or stalked the victim were violated.

Most cases of domestic violence are never reported to the police.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The financial cost of intimate partner violence exceeds \$5.8 billion each year, \$4.1 billion of which is for direct medical and mental health services.

Victims of intimate partner violence lost almost 8 million days of paid work because of the violence perpetrated against them by current or former husbands, boyfriends and dates. This loss

is the equivalent of more than 32,000 full-time jobs and almost 5.6 million days of household productivity as a result of violence.

There are 16,800 homicides and \$2.2 million (medically treated) injuries due to intimate partner violence annually, which costs \$37 billion.

FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN NEW YORK STATE

- There were 50,088 reported cases of domestic violence in 2006.
- There were 123,649 orders of protection filed in 2005.
- 38,674 adults and 20,119 children were assisted by domestic violence programs in New York in 2006.
- 2,088 forcible rapes were reported in New York in 2006.
- The most common relationship between a perpetrator and their victim is marriage.
- 133 homicides were a result of domestic violence in 2006.
- 28 children were killed as a result of domestic violence in New York in 2006.
- 50% of female homicide victims age 16 and over were killed by an intimate partner, versus 3% of male homicide victims in 2008.

Recommendations of the Task Force on Family Violence

Nassau County Executive Edward P. Mangano

1. Public Service Announcements (PSA's) by the County Executive advocating Nassau County as a family and domestic violence-free zone.

Suggested Slogan: *Violence is Not the Answer.*

2. A regional conference to be held at Long Island University – CW Post College scheduled for April 8, 2011 highlighting the issues of Family and Domestic Violence.

3. A poster contest/competition for Nassau County colleges and universities to come up with the most effective slogan for preventing family and domestic violence. Task Force will judge the finalists, and the winning posters be placed on the LIRR and LI Buses.

4. Ask the utility companies (LIPA, National Grid and Verizon) to include with their monthly statement a brochure listing the signs and symptoms of family and domestic violence, and what to do in an emergency.

5. A brochure detailing the signs and symptoms of family and domestic violence will be distributed with all Nassau County paychecks.

6. The Bar Association will offer a series of lectures on Domestic Violence.

7. Publication of a Speaker's Bureau.

8. Hospitals will be requested to post notices in all Emergency Departments detailing the signs and symptoms of family and domestic violence, and giving a number to call.

9. Every faith-based organization will be asked to set aside a sermon addressing family and domestic violence.

10. Given the high incidence of drug and alcohol abuse associated with family and domestic violence, all Health and Human services departments will require all their contract agencies to develop a plan for community seminars and postings highlighting the signs and symptoms of family and domestic violence, and information on how to report emergencies and suspicions of child abuse.

References:

Federal Statistics & Information

- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**
www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/

www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/intimatepartnerviolence/index.html
- **National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV)**
www.ncadv.org

Fact Sheet: [www.ncadv.org/files/DomesticViolenceFactSheet\(National\).pdf](http://www.ncadv.org/files/DomesticViolenceFactSheet(National).pdf)
- **Office of Justice Programs Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)**
www.ojp.usdoj.gov

Family Violence Statistics: <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=828>
- **US Department of Justice: Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)**
<http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/>

Fact Sheets: <http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/ovw-fs.htm>

New York State Statistics & Information

- **New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV)**
www.opdv.state.ny.us
- **New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV)**
www.nyscadv.org
- **National Coalition Against Domestic Violence – New York State Fact Sheet**
www.ncadv.org/files/New%20York%20new%202.09.pdf