

Domestic Violence –
Issues to Consider
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We have
come a Long
Way

*There is still much to
be done... it's gonna
take all of us!*



We are not there yet

We will keep working to bring peace to island families....

- Introductions
- Overview of Agenda
- Misconceptions
- Community Impact
- Questions?

Different Roles

Shared Experiences



Our professional roles have been so vastly different

- The impact of belief systems and community values infiltrates the development, improvement and effectiveness of the work we each do, in our respective roles:

Judge and Advocate/Activist

Annual Judicial Statistics

- According to the 2013 annual Judiciary Statistical Supplement, there were a total of 2,985 TROs filed in FY 2012-2013.
- There are about 75-90 petitions filled out per week (some unfiled).
- Each judge hears about 8 hearings per day. 8 hearings x 3 judges x 4 days per week = 96 hearings per week
- The most recent hard data is from fiscal year 2010-2011
In FY2010-2011, 2,500 petitions were filed. Of those 2,500, 91%, or 2,200 petitions, were granted

Domestic Violence Action Center

Retrospective 14 years (FY2000 – FY 2013)

DVAC staff had telephone contact with **247,704** callers

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 5,787 | Requests for legal representation received |
| 4,531 | Legal cases opened |
| 3,980 | Legal cases closed |
| 3,917 | Legal advocacy cases opened |
| 4,457 | Advocacy cases closed |
| 6,980 | Court appearances by agency attorneys |
| 27,533 | Hours working on document preparation and in court proceedings |
| 19,575 | Accompaniments with clients to agencies and appointments for court |
| 44,812 | Safety Plans completed |
| 43,851 | Risk Assessments conducted |

Since 2002

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 53,063 | Students, educators and service providers trained through the Teen Alert Program |
| 292 | Public schools statewide visited by Teen Alert Program staff |
| 93 | Private schools statewide visited by Teen Alert Program staff |

Domestic Violence Action Center Third Quarter Data FY 2014

(July 1, 2013 – March 31, 2014)

Telephone Assistance

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 10,886 | Client contacts by direct service staff (caseload/court/outreach programs, Helpline) |
| 3,157 | System advocacy & technical assistance to community members/groups/agencies (both local & national) |

Legal Services & Advocacy

| | |
|------------|---|
| 467 | Cases opened |
| 934 | Court appearances made by attorneys & advocates |
| 761 | Cases closed |

Expo Court Outreach

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1,158 | Cases opened |
| 274 | Cases closed |

Advocacy & EXPO Court Outreach (Ex-parte/OSC)

| | |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| 3,457 | Safety Plans completed |
| 2,288 | Risk Assessments conducted |

Teen Alert Program & Community Outreach

| | |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| 165 | Community presentations |
| 3,100 | Participants |

Have you been exposed to domestic violence?

- Were you a child witness?
- Have you known anyone abused by their partner, while dating or married?
- Have you been abused by a partner?
 - verbally
 - psychologically
 - physically
 - financially
- Have you been aware of a co-worker experiencing abuse

Misconceptions

- Two parent families are best, essential, for children
- Domestic violence happens in low income families, primarily
- It is not “real” unless a police report was made
- If there weren’t any wounds, injuries or blood - isn’t really domestic abuse
- There is widespread mis-use of the process
- Domestic Violence is a private matter
- Domestic violence doesn’t hurt children

Raising
community
awareness is
no small feat...

Every opportunity
must be exercised to
promote safe families



Misconceptions are a challenge to every one of us working to address domestic violence

- Domestic violence is a community issue:
Families are at the core of the COMMUNITY
- We share the view that it is a moral and social justice imperative to understand and participate in training about this grave and costly community problem