



Niagara County FAMILY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROJECT Newsletter

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FVIP Meeting Dates and Topics—

a free opportunity for learning and networking

All meetings take place at Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center Auditorium A or B at 9am.

June 8th—

Topic: Understanding the Child Protective Services Response,

Presented by Melanie Reed, Sr. Child Protective Services Worker, NCDSS

Meet Michelle Kaminsky

Michelle Kaminsky, author of *Reflections of a Domestic Violence Prosecutor: Suggestions for Reform*, shares her twenty years of experience prosecuting domestic violence crimes. Using eleven compelling cases she handled, Kaminsky illustrates how societal beliefs about women, inadequate laws, judicial biases, inflexible prosecution policies, and a lack of resources prevent meaningful change for battered women in the criminal justice system.

Kaminsky advocates for a number of reforms including judicial screening committees for the selection and monitoring of domestic violence judges; collaborative interdisciplinary response teams to address the myriad needs of battered women; legislation allowing for the admission of the history of domestic abuse at trial; an age appropriate continuing

curriculum from K-12, which addresses socially constructed gender norms and healthy relationships; media accountability; and adequate funding for Family Justice Centers.

Kaminsky has discussed her book with numerous media outlets and organizations including the Judith Regan Show, the Bob Salter Show, NPR, and the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Kaminsky graduated from American University, and received her law degree from Brooklyn Law School.

We are lucky to have the opportunity to hear her speak at the **Safe At Home Conference on Tuesday, October 16, 2018.**

For more information, visit our website at www.cacofniagara.org

Happenings Around Town...

Friday, June 22
Festival of Fathers
11am-2pm
Hyde Park Splash Pad
The Corner of Hyde Park and Pine Ave
Niagara Falls, NY

Tuesday, October 16
Safe at Home Conference
Save the date!
The Conference & Events Center
Niagara Falls, NY

More Details to Follow!

WHAT IS FVIP



**Domestic Violence
Hotline #s:**
Passage
(716) 299-0909
YWCA
(716) 433-6716

The Niagara County Family Violence Intervention Project (FVIP) is a coalition of agencies and organizations committed to addressing interpersonal violence and child abuse through collaborative responses, community education and professional training.

For nearly 20 years, FVIP has recognized the co-occurrence of child abuse and domestic violence and worked together to protect children and adults alike. Volunteer FVIP Steering Committee members set the FVIP's strategic agenda for training, collaboration, and networking for mutual support for a shared mission.

We are so excited to share the FVIP Newsletter with the community. We will be sharing news, events, and program highlights on a quarterly basis!

The FVIP is coordinated by the Child Advocacy Center of Niagara, Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center.

In the meantime, visit our website at <http://cacofniagara.org/services/family-violence-intervention-project/>



Research Corner- **We are happy to provide you with recent research related to family violence**



Study abstract

"This study was a randomized controlled trial that examined the impact of meditation practice on the mental health outcomes of female trauma survivors of interpersonal violence who have co-occurring disorders. Sixty-three female trauma survivors were randomly assigned to the meditation condition and the control condition. Treatment conditions consisted of a 6-week meditation curriculum that was influenced by Tibetan meditation tradition and focused on breathing, loving kindness, and compassion meditation. Clients in the meditation condition made significant changes in mental

health symptoms ($t = 5.252$, $df = 31$, $p = .000$) and trauma symptoms ($t = 6.009$, $df = 31$, $p = .000$) from pre-treatment to posttreatment, whereas non-significant changes were observed among the control condition clients. There were significant group differences between clients in the meditation condition and in the control condition on their mental health symptoms, $F(1, 54) = 13.438$, $p = .001$, and trauma symptoms, $F(1, 54) = 13.395$, $p = .001$, with a generally large effect size of eta squared .127 and .146, respectively. In addition, significantly more clients in the meditation condition achieved reliable change in mental health symptoms (35.5% vs. 8.3%)

and trauma symptoms (42.3% vs. 4.8%) than clients in the control condition. Significance of the study is discussed with respect to the empirical evidence of meditation practice as a complementary behavioral intervention for treating female trauma survivors of interpersonal violence who have co-occurring disorders."

Lee, M. Y., Zaharlick, A., & Akers, D. (2017). Impact of Meditation on Mental Health Outcomes of Female Trauma Survivors of Interpersonal Violence With Co-Occurring Disorders: A Randomized Controlled Trial. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 32(14), 2139-2165. doi:10.1177/0886260515591277

If you would like a PDF copy of the article, please email Dana Radatz at dradatz@niagara.edu.