



Niagara County FAMILY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROJECT Newsletter

Volume 2.3

September 2018

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"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."
-Aesop

Safe at Home Conference

The **20th Annual Family Violence Intervention Project Safe at Home Conference** brings leading national experts to Western New York to assist professionals from a wide range of disciplines to confront the complex challenges of responding to interpersonal violence. The conference is being held on **Tuesday, October 16, 2018** at the Conference & Event Center Niagara Falls.

Safe at Home is designed to enhance professional skills and promote best practices to recognize, investigate, treat and prevent violence against both children and adults. Child welfare professionals, Law enforcement officers, prosecutors, healthcare providers, mental health counselors, social workers, educators, advocates and other child-serving personnel will gain practical, current information related to their field.

CEU's are available for licensed social workers and mental health clinicians.

Conference Speakers:

Keynote: Michelle Kaminsky, Esq., Author of *Reflections of a Domestic Violence Prosecutor: Suggestions for Reform*

Plenary: Cory Jewell Jensen, M.S., Selection, Engagement, and Seduction of Children and Adults by Child Molesters

The Safe at Home Conference is presented by the Child Advocacy Center of Niagara, a service of Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center. We are grateful to our sponsors who make this program possible: Niagara County Department of Social Services, Niagara County Department of Mental Health, Buffalo Bills, Catholic Charities of Buffalo, Niagara Services and the Seneca Niagara Resort and Casino.

Conference Workshops

- Selection, Engagement, and Seduction of Children and Adults by Child Molesters, *Cory Jewell Jensen, M.S*
- Reflections of a Domestic Violence Prosecutor: Suggestions for Reform/IN-DEPTH, *Michelle Kaminsky, Esq.*
- Substance Use Disorders and Domestic Violence: Identifying Risks and Treatment Options, *Richard Blondell, M.D.*
- Interpersonal Violence within the Military and Veteran Communities, *Nikki Slaughter-Smith, LCSW and Joel Smith, MSW, LICSW*
- Protecting Our Children: "Advice from Child Molesters", A Child Safety and Crime Prevention Program, *Cory Jewell Jensen, M.S.*
- Integrating Trauma-Informed Care Into Practice for Services and Systems, *Aimee Neri, LMSW*
- Navigating the Crossroads: Opioid Use and Human Trafficking, *Tara Hughes, LCSW-R and Julie Butkowski*
- Stalking and Technology: Technology and How it is Used Against People, *Stephanie Lamarque*

For more information and to register visit our website at www.cacofniagara.org

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month Spotlight: October Events



5th Annual Domestic Violence Ribbon Walk and Art Exhibit “Trees of Energy” and “Power Animals”

Family & Children’s Passage House Domestic Violence program is hosting its 5th Annual Domestic Violence Ribbon Walk and Art Exhibit event on **Tuesday, October 2nd, 2018** starting at 4:30 pm at the corner of Main and Third streets in Niagara Falls. Participants will be tying purple ribbons around the trees on the two blocks of Third Street between Main St. and Niagara St. to raise awareness for Domestic Violence Awareness month. Afterwards, come take a look at survivor art created by clients in Passage House DV Services while networking and grabbing some food and drink at Wine on Third. Art is on display during the entire month of October at Wine on Third for everyone to come and see!

3rd Annual Red Flag Campaign and Domestic Violence Awareness Event “Surviving...Thriving: A Journey of Healing Through Art”

Niagara University is hosting the Red Flag Campaign and a domestic violence awareness event on **Tuesday, October 23rd, 2018** from 5pm to 8pm at the Castellani Art Museum. The Red Flag Campaign, a dating violence awareness initiative used on college campuses all over the country, will be taking place at Niagara University in the days leading up to the main event. The domestic violence awareness event will feature over 80 pieces of domestic violence survivor artwork for viewing. Niagara University is collaborating with several local victim service agencies in Niagara County, including Family & Children’s Service of Niagara, the Niagara County Sheriff’s Victim Assistance Unit, and the YWCA of the Niagara Frontier. Everyone is welcome to attend. Admission to the event is \$1 for students and \$5 for non-students, and all funds raised will be donated to local domestic violence survivor programs.

Domestic Violence Awareness Luncheon “Leadership Over Violence”

The YWCA Of The Niagara Frontier’s Advisory Committee presents the domestic violence awareness luncheon “Leadership Over Violence” with featured speaker, Troy Vincent, NFL Executive Vice President and former NFL player. This event will be held on **Tuesday, October 23rd, 2018**. at the YWCA of The Niagara Frontier Conference Center. For more information, call (716) 433-6716.



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



Study Abstract

“Policy makers and researchers give psychological abuse considerably less attention than physical abuse in the partner abuse area. One reason for the relative neglect of psychological abuse is that there are difficulties in arriving at a common definition of psychological abuse that might be useful to both the mental health and legal professions. Another reason for the relative neglect of psychological abuse has been an implicit assumption that physical abuse exacts a greater psychological toll on victims than does psychological abuse. At the extreme level of physical abuse, this assumption seems defensible, but at levels of physical aggression that are most com-

mon in marriage and long-term relationships, psychological abuse appears to have as great an impact as physical abuse. Even direct ratings of psychological and physical abuse by women in physically abusive relationships indicate that psychological abuse has a greater adverse effect on them than physical abuse.

Retrospective reports, longitudinal research, and treatment dropout research all provide evidence that psychological abuse can exact a negative effect on relationships that is as great as that of physical abuse. Finally, psychological abuse almost always precedes physical abuse, so that prevention and treatment efforts clearly need to

address psychological abuse. Eight measures of various forms of psychological abuse that have reasonable psychometric properties and considerable construct validity are reviewed and a definition of psychological abuse in intimate relations is provided.”

O’Leary, D. “Psychological Abuse: A Variable Deserving Critical Attention in Domestic Violence.” *Violence and Victims*, 14(1), 3-23.
doi:10.1891/vv.14.1

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

Happenings Around Town...

Have an agency announcement, group dates or events to share?

Email lbachman@niagarafamily.org

Here is what is happening:

Tuesday, October 2nd

Domestic Violence Ribbon Walk

Family & Children's Passage DV Services gather at the corner of Main and Third streets in Niagara Falls

4:30 pm start time

Join us at Wine on Third directly following the walk to view survivor art work created by clients in Passage House DV services, while networking and grabbing some food and drink

Tuesday, October 16th

Safe at Home Conference

Family Violence Intervention Project Conference & Events Center Niagara Falls

8:00 am– 4:00 pm

For more information and to register visit www.cacofniagara.org

Thursday, October 18th

Wear Purple Day!

Show your support for survivors of domestic violence and join this national initiative!
#PurpleThursday

Tuesday, October 23rd

Domestic Violence Awareness Luncheon "Leadership Over Violence"

YWCA of The Niagara Frontier Conference Center

32 Cottage St, Lockport

Info: 716-433-6714

www.ywcaniagarafontier.org

Speaker: Troy Vincent

Tuesday, October 23rd

Surviving...Thriving: A Journey of Healing Through Art.

Red Flag Campaign/DV Awareness event

5:00 pm– 8:00 pm

Castellani Art Museum

Admission: \$1 for students/ \$5 for community. Join us as we appreciate the art created by survivors of Domestic Violence, while coming together to create awareness and change as a campus and community.



Thursday, October 11th In Her Shoes DV Simulation

10:00 am– 12:00 pm

Family & Children's Service of Niagara

1522 Main St. Niagara Falls

RSVP to lbachman@niagarafamily.org or call Larissa at 285-6984

Thursday, October 18th

In Her Shoes DV simulation

2:00 pm– 4:00 pm

Lockport Public Safety Facility
5574 Niagara Street. Extension,
Lockport

RSVP to lbachman@niagarafamily.org or call Larissa at 285- 6984



"HATS OFF!" to...

Niagara County Sheriff's Office Victim Assistance Unit (VAU)!

VAU employs five Crime Victim Advocates to assist victims of crime throughout Niagara County. The VAU began as a volunteer program and has been providing direct services to crime victims since 1989. The dedicated advocates work as a liaison between the victim and law enforcement and the District Attorney's Office to make the criminal justice process easier to navigate. The VAU has continuously met these needs by offering: Outreach to explain VAU services and Office of Victims Services (OVS) compensation for medical expenses, counseling expenses, funeral costs, loss of wages and essential personal property to eligible crime victims. ; Home/hospital/off-site visits; Transportation and accompaniment to police interviews, court proceedings and medical examinations at the Child Advocacy Center; Referrals to appropriate service providers; Advocacy on the victim's behalf with other agencies, and 24 hour on-call crisis intervention provided at the crime scene or hospital. These advocates utilize their vast knowledge and experience to assist victims and often go above and beyond to make sure they are safe and linked with the appropriate services.

Thanks for everything you do for this community.

Hats off to you, Sarah Ackerman, Kelly Bird, Rebecca Coleman , Kristen Mack and Stacy Suess!

WHAT IS FVIP?

For more information about FVIP, go to www.cacofniagara.org and look for FVIP under the services tab or email cacofniagara@nfmmc.org



**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/>

COMMUNITY EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT:

Family Violence Intervention Project Quarterly Meeting “Trauma-Informed Responses to Disclosures of Sexual Violence”

When survivors of sexual violence seek help, the responses of service providers, academic administrators, law enforcement, families, and friends can make a tremendous difference in the survivors' healing processes. If survivors do not receive compassionate, trauma-informed responses, they are at risk of “secondary victimization,” in which they may be re-traumatized or harmed by inappropriate responses.

This presentation will educate attendees about the short-term and long-term impact of trauma on survivors' memories

and communication patterns. The presenters will provide attendees with information about appropriate, supportive ways to respond to people when they disclose that they are survivors of sexual violence as well as resources

Presented by:

Rachel Sandle-Sacco, Sexual Violence Prevention Educator & Victim Advocate for the YWCA of the Niagara Frontier
Thomas Gibbons, New York State Senior Investigator for the Campus Sexual Assault Victim's Unit

Join us for this **FREE** training:

Friday, September 14th
9:00 am– 11:00 am
Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center
Auditorium A
621 Tenth Street
Niagara Falls, NY

For more information Call :
(716) 285-0045 or
Email cacofniagara@nfmmc.org