



**Georgia
Commission on
Family
Violence**

GCFV Family Violence Task Force *Newsletter*

February 2018

GCFV NEWS & UPDATES

New Staff Member at GCFV

Terri Powe has joined the staff of GCFV as the **Support for Survivors of Murder-Suicide Coordinator**. In her new role at GCFV, Terri will provide support, resources, and referrals to survivors of murder-suicide in Georgia. Terri has recently moved back to Georgia from Virginia, where she successfully implemented a domestic violence universal screening tool for health care providers. Terri is available to speak to Task Forces around the state about the Murder-Suicide project. Please contact Terri at terri.powe@dcs.ga.gov for more information.

2017 Fatality Review Report

This year, the Georgia Domestic Violence Fatality Review Project's Annual Report focuses on the problem of intimate partner stalking. Intimate partner stalking is a dangerous and prevalent problem that often has devastating impacts on victims. Four percent of women and two percent of men are stalked each year in the United States, meaning that roughly 312,000 Georgians are stalked each year. Despite the staggering statistics, stalking that occurs in the context of intimate relationships is a largely invisible crime that often goes without consequences for the perpetrator.

Through exploring the issues of intimate partner stalking, we hope to examine some key questions: How is stalking a precursor to homicide? What is different about domestic violence homicides involving stalking behaviors? If there is something different, how can we make changes to prevent future deaths? Are we missing opportunities to take stalking behaviors more seriously and hold perpetrators accountable? If so, how can we fill in these gaps to provide interventions and services to ultimately keep victims safer? Our analysis of reviewed stalking cases revealed several key findings and recommendations to address those questions, which are discussed throughout the Annual Report.



How Can I Receive the Report?

The Report will be released in the Spring (date to be determined) and announced in the GCFV newsletter. You can sign up to receive the newsletter on our web page, gcfv.georgia.gov.

For more information on the Fatality Review Project, and to schedule a presentation, you can also visit georgiafatalityreview.com, or contact Niki Lemeshka, at niki.lemeshka@dcs.ga.gov.



Technical Assistance

for Task Forces

Task Force Tool Kit

GCFV is here to support you and your Task Force! We have created an online resource, The Task Force Tool Kit, which is available for new and seasoned Task Forces around the state.

The manual is for community members, frontline practitioners, and members of systems across Georgia who lead and participate in Family Violence Task Forces (FVTFs). Within this resource, you will find data, research, policies, and practices which guide the planning and work of FVTFs. The manual can be used as a blueprint for implementing a new FVTF, and as a resource for active FVTFs as they evaluate their purpose and goals.



Task Force Tool Kit Tip

Organize your Task Force into SubCommittees

Organizing the Task Force into smaller working groups around a particular issue in the community energizes Task Forces and can help increase participation.

Section 3 of the Task Force Tool Kit lists sample committees that Task Forces can organize, along with objectives and goals for each committee.



TASK FORCE SUPPORT

Would your Task Force like to schedule a presentation on the Task Force Tool Kit at your next meeting? Do you have general or specific Task Force questions you would like to discuss? If so, please contact Stacey Seldon, Family Violence Coordinator, and your point person for Task Force support. You can reach her at stacey.seldon@dcs.ga.gov, or 404.463.3178.

Resources & Training

for Task Forces

PRAXIS INTERNATIONAL BLUEPRINT FOR SAFETY

Praxis International has developed the Blueprint For Safety Guide to assist CCR groups with developing methods and protocols that improve the way systems work together in domestic violence cases.

The Guide includes sample protocols for various systems that can be adapted for your community. Please reach out to Stacey Seldon if you have questions about this resource.



TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Battered Women Justice Project Webinars

Since 1994, BWJP has been providing training and technical assistance that translates research findings into ideas for implementation, showcases the pioneering work of local jurisdictions, and facilitates the adoption of promising practices across the country.

Georgia State Child Welfare Training Collaborative

Extensive training on trauma and its effects on development and the brain.

Online Judicial Training: Effective Adjudication of Domestic Abuse Cases

Online judicial training created by the National Center for State Courts, Futures Without Violence, and the American Judges Association

Don't forget to check in with the GCFV Events page for more training and events information, including GCFV's Annual Conference.

