

**ULSTER COUNTY
INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

2013 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Ulster County Inter-agency Council on Domestic Violence was established by the Ulster County Legislature in May 2009 “to begin work on system coordination, services, education, and reduction of victimization with the goal of achieving efficiencies in system coordination to be utilized to deliver services and programs and shall work to collaborate seamless delivery of services to domestic violence victims by utilizing prevention services, family services, and coordination of courts”. As noted in Resolution No. 140, the Council shall meet monthly to review problems and concerns of an interagency nature, review data concerning operational issues, and advise the Ulster County Legislature and County Executive regarding the need for their attention and action. Toward that end, below are the Council’s 2013 accomplishments.

Council Membership: Beginning in 2012, the Council’s goal was to increase membership and the participation of its members. Through member outreach, the Council this year added representatives from the YWCA, Saugerties Police Department, and UCCC. The Council now includes representatives from:

- City & Town Courts;
- Law enforcement including the New York State Police, Kingston Police Department, UC Sheriff’s Department, the Police Chiefs’ Association, Public Defender’s Office, and District Attorney’s Office;
- County Executive’s Office as needed, as well as full-time representation from other County departments, including DSS, and Probation/Crime Victims Assistance; and
- Community stakeholder involvement in the form of Family of Woodstock, and the Family & Child Advocacy Center.

New Initiatives in 2013:

“October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month” Recognition:

- The County Executive Proclaimed October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Ulster County by issuing a Proclamation
- The Clothesline Project Art Exhibit was hung in the Lobby of the Ulster County Office Building during October.
- 1st Annual Domestic Violence Information Forum – A 2013 initiative of the Council, the Forum was held on October 2nd at UCCC and opened with an audio of a 911 domestic violence call. Speakers included a survivor of domestic violence, Lauren Watts, as the keynote speaker and presentations by Family of Woodstock on cell phone use by victims and William Flynn/OPDV on legal aspects. The Forum was open to the public, stakeholders, providers, etc. and was an opportunity to raise domestic violence awareness; 102 individuals attended the Forum.

- Through coordination with the Executive’s Office, each County employee received a handout regarding domestic violence with their paycheck at the end of September.
- With funding through UCDS & UCDOH and coordination with the Executive’s Office, four billboards were placed throughout the County proclaiming “October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month”.
- The District Attorney’s Office printed a palm card on domestic violence service resources and printed a brochure for the Forum, and the County provided purple magnetic ribbons for distribution.

Domestic Incident Report (DIR) Database: Although not a direct initiative of the Council, members of the Council, in their respective roles at the Family & Child Advocacy Center and District Attorney’s Office, began work on expanding and updating the Domestic Incident Report (DIR) database. The expansion of the database will allow statistical review of both individual cases and County trending.