

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW TEAM OF CARROLL COUNTY, MARYLAND

Since 2011, the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team of Carroll County has met to review fatal and near fatal cases that were a result of intimate partner violence. The team is comprised of key community partners that work with victims, offenders and their families. The goal of Carroll County's DVFRT is to reduce the potential for domestic violence in our community through the identification and reduction of systemic gaps that serve to perpetuate domestic violence. Our hope is to keep victims and families safe while promoting healthy relationships.

In 2016, the DVFRT of Carroll County reviewed one (1) case involving a fatality (homicide). Following a thorough review of the case, the Team developed the following key findings and recommendations:

## 2016 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

**Key Finding #1:** It is apparent that coworkers in the victim's place of employment were suspicious of injuries incurred by the victim in advance of the fatal episode. There is no indication that they attempted to refer the victim to domestic violence service providers or to law enforcement.

**Recommendation:** The DVFRT recommends that community partners develop an awareness and education campaign for employers focusing on the recognition of relationship violence and the resources available in our community to assist and support victims and their families.

### **Proposed Actions:**

1. Identify and obtain workplace-appropriate educational and referral materials relating to intimate partner and relationship violence.
2. Contact Carroll County employers, business and service groups and request opportunities to address their membership on relationship violence issues, to include the impact of relationship violence on their employees and their "bottom line".

## DVFRT MEMBERS

**Chief Jeff Spaulding,**  
Westminster Police  
Department, Chair of the  
DVFRT

**Kelley Rainey MA,** Director of  
Domestic Violence Services,  
Family and Children's Services,  
Co-Chair of DVFRT

**Gabby Butler,** State's  
Attorney's Office

**Lynn Davis,** Carroll County  
Youth Services Bureau

**Lynn Dodge,** Carroll County  
Health Department

**Jessica Grimes,** Carroll County  
Department of Social Services

**Brenda Harkavy,** State's  
Attorney's Office

**Kim Hubble,** Department of  
Parole and Probation

**Judy Klinger,** Carroll County  
Public Schools

**Charlene Knight,** Mosaic

**Det. Sergeant Padraic Lacy,**  
Maryland State Police

**Cindy Marucci-Bosley,** Carroll  
County Health Department

**Corporal Rex Scott,** Carroll  
County Sheriff's Office

**Polly Welliver,** Circuit Court

**Tracey Yingling,** Carroll  
Hospital Center

3. Contact Carroll County health care providers and provide them with information relating to intimate partner violence that is specific to health care providers and the patients they serve.

**Timeframe:** Appropriate educational materials have been obtained from the National Network to End Domestic Violence and the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence. Carroll County-specific domestic violence service provider referral materials are available from Family and Children Services of Central Maryland Inc. (FCSCM). FCSCM also has trained staff available to make audience-appropriate presentations upon request. These services are currently available upon request. Outreach to the targeted groups is underway and ongoing.

**Person(s) Responsible:** All DVFRT team members are tasked with identifying and contacting appropriate business entities relating to this effort. Efforts to date include the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, local business-oriented service groups, local gyms and fitness centers, and health care providers.

**Key Finding #2: Students as young as middle school have reported having or knowing someone in their age group who has been involved in a dating relationship that has been violent.**

**Recommendation:** The DVFRT recommends that Carroll County Public Schools and local service providers collaborate in the development and implementation of intimate partner awareness programs for middle school audiences in the County

**Proposed Actions:**

1. FCSCM staff will collaborate with CCPS School Counselors to develop age-appropriate curricula to teach in middle schools in the County.
2. Carroll County Guidance Counsellors will present the curricula to middle school audiences in the County.

**Time Frame:** Judy Klinger (CCPS and DVFRT member) is already working to develop appropriate curricula and train middle school guidance staff on the material.

**Person(s) Responsible:** Judy Klinger (CCPS) and Kelley Rainey (FCSCM) are collaborating on this effort which is underway.