



CSOSA SUPPORTS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS BY SENDING A CLEAR MESSAGE THAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS UNACCEPTABLE.

CSOSA'S CJAN NETWORK

By: Lawrence E. Jordan

On October 29th, 2015, CSOSA's Sixth District Community Justice Advisory Network (CJAN) hosted its 1st Community Forum for FY 2015. The theme was Domestic Violence (DV) in Our Community.

The evening began by welcoming the attendees, followed by an introduction of CSOSA's Branch Chief of the Domestic Violence Unit, Valerie Collins. She gave a brief overview of the topic to be presented, and then turned the program over to Supervisory Community Supervision Officer (SCSO) Kelli Wynn, the co-facilitator of the forum.

At that junction in the program, SCSO Kelli Wynn began introducing a myriad of presenters that included her colleague CSO Lorraine Smith to discuss DV Treatment, representatives from the Legal Aid Society to discuss the legal ramifications, representatives from MPD's Victim Service Branch, representatives and staff from the MBI Mental Health Program, and Bonnie Andrews, CSOSA's Victim Services Program Manager.

One prevailing message that each presenter repeated was that domestic violence and abuse does not discriminate and it happens among heterosexual couples and in same-sex partnerships. It occurs within all age ranges, ethnic backgrounds, and economic levels. While women are more commonly victim-

ized, men are also abused. The bottom line is that abusive behavior is never acceptable; physical violence and abuse is a crime.

Each presenter approached the topic of domestic violence from a different angle, however they all reinforced the information that was presented before them.

The CJAN members in the audience stayed engaged with each presenter and had

a multitude of questions for each presenter. Mary Jackson, a seasoned CSOSA advocate and friend stated, "She liked the presentations so much that she suggested that we (CSOSA) should make the same DV presentation to every civic and community group in Ward Seven to ensure that everyone received this impactful information about domestic violence."



CSOSA's Domestic Violence Unit Branch Chief, Valerie Collins provided opening remarks and itinerary of the DV CJAN forum of October 29, 2015.



The St. Luke Community Center was buzzing with information and educational activity as CSOSA, local government and private sector partners shared their unique services available to residents of Ward Seven.

PHOTO GALLERY: SIXTH DISTRICT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS CJAN MEETING



Attorneys Jamie Soprano and Stephanie Western of the Legal Aid Society are shown in a photo opportunity enjoying the variety of presenters, as they waited to also present to the audience about the Legal Aid Society. The forum was about sharing information.



Community Justice Advisory Network Partners and CSOSA staff members remained attentive throughout the presentations.



CSOSA's Senior Domestic Violence team member Lorraine Smith is shown delivering an emotional and passionate presentation referencing domestic violence in the community, and treatment methods to address it.



Rhonda Baskerville, Director of the MDI Mental Health Program (I) and one of her volunteer staff distributed information about the MBI Program to attendees of the Sixth District CJAN.

Resources for Victims of Domestic Violence

- ◆ National Domestic Violence Hotline - (800) 799-SAFE
- ◆ DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence - (202) 299-1181
- ◆ Rape Crisis Center (counseling and self defense classes) - (202) 333-7273
- ◆ Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency's Domestic Violence Unit - (202) 442-1823

A MESSAGE FOR THE SIXTH DISTRICT



Neighbors and residents of the Sixth District:

Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency's (CSOSA) mission remains to increase public safety, prevent crime, reduce recidivism, and support the fair administration of justice, in close collaboration with the community. In the Sixth District, we intend to achieve our objectives through the support of pro-social activities, and the strict accountability towards the men and women that we supervise.

Lawrence E. Jordan

To submit a community announcement, a scheduled activity or for more information about the Sixth District Community Justice Advisory Network, contact: Lawrence E. Jordan at (202) 220-5515 or (202) 220-5333.