

CSOSA SUPPORTS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS BY SENDING A CLEAR MESSAGE THAT DOMESTIC BATTERING AND/OR VIOLENCE IS UNACCEPTABLE.

CSOSA'S CJAN NETWORK

By: Lawrence E. Jordan

On October 30th, 2011, CSOSA's Sixth District Community Justice Advisory Network (CJAN) hosted its 1st Community Forum for FY 2012. The theme was Domestic Violence 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 introduced her team of experts. The presenters showed a brief film that portrayed an actual victim of domestic violence, a reenactment of the crime, and the various treatments and psychological counseling sessions that the victim had to endure on the road to recovery. A resounding message became clear during their presentation. The message was 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 victimized, men are also abused. The bottom line is that abusive behavior is never acceptable; physical violence and abuse is a crime.

One attribute of good presenters is that they don't just identify the problem or situation, but they also suggest possible solutions. CSOSA's Domestic Violence Unit did what good presenters do - they sug-

gested solutions. The following are a few of the things discussed to help a friend or family member that you suspect is a victim in need of help: 1) Gather all the information that you can about domestic violence so that you will become an informed advocate; 2) Have a sympathetic ear and be willing to listen; 3) Encourage the victim to find assistance such as counseling or a hotline; 4) Give the victim positive reinforcement, emphasizing that he or she is a

good person and deserves a life free from violence; 5) Confront the victim about the danger his or her abuser is putting him/her through and letting him/her know that it will continue until they seek help; and finally, 6) Help the victim develop a safety plan. Discuss steps the victim should take if her/his partner becomes abusive again.



COURT SERVICES AND OFFENDER SUPERVISION AGENCY

**Sixth District CJAN
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CSOSA's Domestic Violence Unit presenting to the Sixth District CJAN meeting attendees from left to right are: SCSO Lisa Elcano, CSO Paulette Perry, and CSO Mark Collins.



The loyal Sixth District CJAN meeting attendees were totally focused as they were exposed and educated about the various aspects of Domestic Violence and Abuse.

PHOTO GALLERY: SIXTH DISTRICT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS CJAN MEETING



Sixth District residents came out in numbers to hear the presentation on Domestic Violence and abuse.



CSOSA's CJAN supporters and Branch Chief Valerie Collins, listen intently to the Domestic Violence presenters.



Branch Chief of the Domestic Violence Unit, Valerie Collins stands in the rear of the forum to address an attendee's question.



A few of CSOSA's staff pose for a photo opportunity with a long time Sixth District CJAN supporter, Willard Poteat (center), who just happens to be the father of CSOSA's Deputy Director.

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
- ◆ Lesbian Support Services - (202) 939-1580
- ◆ 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) 220-5320.