

# PEACEWATCH

Center for Domestic Peace Newsletter • Fall 2014

## Dear Supporter,

Last year, PeaceWatch showcased Center for Domestic Peace's strategic plan as we seek *"to build, expand, and more fully engage our base to strengthen and expand our services and leadership."* To that end, we are delighted to report on several key areas of progress made over the last year.



- Because domestic violence plays a key factor in a woman's risk of homelessness, C4DP has continued to serve on the **Homelessness Policy Steering Committee**, led by the County of Marin. To ensure domestic violence victims remain in the forefront, C4DP: gave input into the development of the County's "10 Year Plan to End Homelessness;" now assists with the implementation of and plan and; provides data for the County's annual homelessness count, which includes the women and children in our housing programs (shelter and transitional housing).
- **Marin Youth Services**, the youth-focused division of C4DP, provided age-specific services to 70 youth and young adult dating abuse victims from January-June 2014, almost three times the number of young victims served in the previous 6 months. During the same period, 1,776 students participated in Dating Abuse 101 workshops and over 5,000 received information on Teen Dating Abuse and Marin Youth Services victim services.
- After extensive research into a new data tracking system, C4DP identified **new software** to improve services and capture performance outcomes.
- C4DP continued providing strategic leadership for the Marin County Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence Network (**CCR to DV Network**) and within the law enforcement community. Our cover story discusses the collaborative nature of our work with our community partners in depth.

Also, in this newsletter, you will get to know one of our cherished staff members, whose contributions and dedication to the work inspires us all, as well as one of our community collaborators and the chairs of the CCR to DV Network.

Lastly, please join us once again for a free breakfast event, **"Changing the Future for Children,"** October 17 at 8:15 am at Phil Lesh's Terrapain Crossroads in San Rafael. Hear how children are benefitting from C4DP's programs, and witness the multigenerational impact of C4DP's work. Hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Tracy Kostiuik  
Board Chair

## Marin County: Living up to the Promise of a Coordinated Community Response (CCR) to Domestic Violence

Last year, Marin County celebrated a milestone in its coordinated efforts to respond to and prevent domestic violence: the 15th anniversary of Marin's Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence Network (CCR to DV Network). For the past 15 years, agencies within the criminal justice system, courts, educators, therapists, and community groups have been working formally in collaboration to address the most prevalent violent crime in Marin.

### Why is a coordinated community response needed?

Domestic violence touches many places in our community. For people who deal regularly with the public, such as doctors, lawyers, or 911 responders, recognizing and responding to the complexities of domestic violence may not be a daily task, such as it is here at Center for Domestic Peace (C4DP). What we know to be true, however, both here and across the county, is the importance of a uniform protocol in responding to and solving the issue across a community. Getting everyone on the same page is a monumental challenge, and it is a priority here in Marin.

CCRs are considered a best practice by the Department of Justice for communities to address victim safety, hold abusers accountable, hold up the belief that domestic violence is solvable, and connect victims to services.

### What has been accomplished over the past 15 years?

In short, Marin's current team, the **Marin County Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence Network (CCR to DV Network)**, has accomplished much. C4DP's website has published a 12-page report that highlights all the details: [www.c4dp.org/ccr-dv-network](http://www.c4dp.org/ccr-dv-network). Over the past 15 years, the CCR to DV Network has grown to include some forty organizations and agencies, co-hosted by C4DP and the District Attorney's Office. This group has produced more than forty changes and additions in policies and responses to domestic violence, such as the Uniform Marin County Law Enforcement Protocol for the handling of DV cases, which Marin police chiefs adopted. Other major accomplishments include implementing voice recordings at crime scenes, broadening the base of support to include faith leaders, medical personnel, educators, and the Latino community, and sponsoring county-wide trainings for law enforcement, medical providers, and employers.

### What have we learned?

In 2012, an unprecedented survey went out to the county, which drew nearly 260 respondents from 15 agencies and partners and set the CCR Network's priority moving forward. (*An Executive Summary can be found at [www.c4dp.org/ccr-dv-network](http://www.c4dp.org/ccr-dv-network).*) What this survey revealed was the need to prioritize four strategies for continuity around screening for domestic violence, responding to it, doing risk assessments, and connecting victims to services. To address this, C4DP produced a Rapid Risk Assessment Program (RRAP) card that shows practitioners how to complete a risk assessment and link survivors to C4DP in 10 minutes or less. This is a tool that anyone can use. We know now that when survivors are linked to domestic violence services, there is greater than 50% decrease in assaults. The sooner a victim is connected to domestic violence services, the safer. A copy of the RRAP card can be found on the inside of the newsletter.

### What's Next?

This past spring, the CCR Network elected two co-chairs to bring in new leadership to the CCR. Going forward, the vision of our CCR is to more fully engage participants to become "Liaison Leaders" for their professions, with the training they need to ensure that DV policies, protocols, and procedures are distributed to their colleagues. This way, as each member attends meetings, they have a solid process for taking the recommended protocols back for implementation, tracking, and evaluation. Further plans include a countywide training series for medical, mental health, social work, and legal sectors, in order to improve coordination between providers, increase prevention efforts, and increase written guidelines and protocols in the area of screening, risk assessment, and safety planning.

As a member of our community, you are invited to participate. The CCR to DV Network meets 4 times a year, with the next meeting on December 17. Please visit our website for more information [www.c4dp.org/ccr-dv-network](http://www.c4dp.org/ccr-dv-network).



## Our Community Supporting Us ~ Thank you!

Center for Domestic Peace honors the hundreds of individuals, families, corporations, foundations, and community organizations who invest in the work we do. Below we acknowledge our partners who contributed more than \$5,000 from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014. For a complete list of donors, please download our Annual Report online after December 31st.

### \$50,000 and above

Anonymous  
Blue Shield of California Foundation  
California Department of Housing and Community Development  
California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services  
County of Marin  
Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Office on Violence Against Women

### \$20,000 - \$49,999

Davis/Dauray Family Fund  
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### \$10,000 - \$19,999

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### \$5,000 - \$9,999

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Sunshine Lady Foundation Inc.  
The Barstow Foundation  
The TJX Foundation, Inc.  
Town of San Anselmo  
van Löben Sels / RembeRock Foundation

## WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT C4DP:

1. Become a monthly donor to give just a little every month!
2. Shop at Amazon? Choose AmazonSmile ([smile.amazon.com/ch/94-2415856](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-2415856)) and support C4DP (MAWS).
3. Organize an old cell phone/mobile device drive and donate them to us.
4. Do you like fine wine? Purchase wine through Giving Vines (<http://www.givingvines.com/Center-for-domestic-peace.aspx>) and a donation will be made to us!
5. Volunteer your special talents.
6. Host a House Party! Let us help you plan one!
7. Designate Center for Domestic Peace as a beneficiary in your Will or Trust.
8. Invite a representative to speak at your organization or business.
9. Follow us on Facebook/CenterforDomesticPeace

Contact the Development Department if you have more ideas or want information on how to give!  
415-526-2543 or [mhedlund@c4dp.org](mailto:mhedlund@c4dp.org)

## 24-HOUR HOTLINES

English	415.924.6616
Spanish	415.924.3456
Men’s	415.924.1070
Marin Youth Services	415.526.2557 M-F, 9am-5pm

## Meet the Leaders: CCR to DV Network

Below you will meet the new co-chairs of the CCR and hear from them about their participation and focus in these new leadership roles. Also, as we celebrate this 15-year retrospective, it’s important we recognize two past co-chairs of the network. Kate Kain, Deputy Executive Director for C4DP, was instrumental in the formation of the CCR, and Charles Cacciatore, Marin County Deputy District Attorney, Family Violence and Human Trafficking Units, stepped in to help with facilitation, planning and CCR training for the past three years, on behalf of the District Attorney.



### New Co-Chairs: Chief Jennifer Tejada & DeAnna Schlau

**Chief Jennifer Tejada, Sausalito Police Department**

#### 1. How long have you been a part of the Marin CCR?

I have been involved in the CCR since the formation of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council in 1998. At that time, the law enforcement community in Marin County, led particularly by Chief Brian Brady and Sheriff Bob Doyle, really began to analyze our response to domestic violence (DV) and began to be more collaborative with MAWS and DV advocates. They were dedicated to a sincere effort to be responsible for raising awareness of domestic violence in our communities, holding offenders responsible, and reducing incidents of DV. The law enforcement leadership at that time was inspiring and provided me with an opportunity to follow my passion and focus on this area of our criminal justice system.

#### 2. Why do you think a CCR is important?

A CCR is important because it expands the boundaries of inclusiveness in our response to DV. It opened the door for everyone to join in the response to DV outside of the traditional partners of law enforcement, prosecution, and advocates. It also causes us to maintain a focus on evolving practices and evidence-based solutions, etc. so that we have the most comprehensive approach, engaging a broader community to decrease DV and increase safety for victims and accountability for batterers.

#### 3. What are your priorities as a new co-chair?

As the new Co-Chair, I hope to continue to improve on our engagement and collaboration from the law enforcement community, and develop new leaders to carry the mission of the CCR forward.

#### 4. What are the challenges you see in the community for the CCR?

The challenges for the CCR will be to continue the engagement we currently have with all of our partners and participants as we compete for their involvement and support with the many other pressing issues we know exist in all of our jurisdictions and organizations.



PEACEWATCH wishes to recognize and “lift up” the important work that the County of Marin’s Health and Human Service Department has launched to address domestic violence from a public health prevention perspective.

## Q & A with the County of Marin:

### Why did the County decide to lead the effort to establish a prevention plan?

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), or domestic violence as it is also referred to, is a significant issue in our county and the most reported violent crime in Marin. There are also a number of implications for individuals, families and communities who experience IPV. Research has shown that IPV is linked to adverse health consequences, contributes to homelessness, and is likely to have adverse social and mental health consequences for children exposed to violence.

In light of these implications and the emotional toll of IPV in our community, the County recognized the value of prevention as a way to complement existing intervention and criminal justice efforts. Keeping victims safe and holding batterers accountable are essential components to an IPV response system, yet it is also important to work to prevent violence from happening in the first place.

### Who was involved?

A broad range of representatives from various community organizations, advocates, service providers, community members, criminal justice agencies and others participated in this planning process. As part of this effort, the HHS Prevention Hub hosted a series of community strategic planning forums from October 2013 through May 2014, aimed at establishing a policy framework that will provide guidance for future prevention efforts and will build upon the work already happening in Marin.

### What came out of it, what are the outcomes?

One exciting outcome is the broad participation from community service providers, as well as community members, to inform the planning process. In an effort to include input from broad and diverse voices, community-based organizations, such as Center for Domestic Peace, hosted a series of focus groups in collaboration with HHS. Over 150 focus group participants weighed in on the local factors believed to contribute to IPV in their communities and on the proposed prevention strategies to address those factors.

In addition, recommendations and input developed from the planning process will be incorporated into the overall framework. HHS recently published a Request for Proposal (RFP) for IPV prevention mini grant projects.

### What’s going to happen next?

Funding for projects that will address the risk and protective factors that impact IPV.

### What most surprised you along the way?

It was interesting and encouraging to hear many community partners who you wouldn’t think of traditionally as working on the “upstream” end of the spectrum, like law enforcement, immediately and almost automatically see the value in preventing violence from occurring in the first place as important to their work.

### Anything else you want to add?

This process has given us the opportunity to learn together, to strengthen cross sector collaborations, and to imagine what’s possible.

For more information, please visit: [www.marinhhs.org/preventing-intimate-partner-violence-ipv](http://www.marinhhs.org/preventing-intimate-partner-violence-ipv)





**DeAnna Schlau, Sexual Assault Response and Volunteer Coordinator, Community Violence Solutions**

**1. How long have you been a part of the Marin CCR to DV Network?**

I have been part of this group since before it was the CCR. I began attending the former Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) meetings in 2010 when Community Violence Solutions and C4DP collaborated to discuss and expand the understanding of domestic violence to include sexual assault as part of the victims’ experience of the abuse of power.

**2. Why do you think a CCR is important?**

The transition from DVCC to CCR opened the network to the public and increased linkages to all sectors. It also reviewed the best practices for domestic violence (DV) response throughout the country, which helped to strengthen partnerships and provide holistic care for families in crisis in Marin. I believe it is important to hear from victims about their experience with the various systems as well as law enforcement and service providers in the community to identify and resolve the gaps in the systems. It’s also important to recognize the progress that has been made. Engaging faith-based groups, medical providers, courts, mental health providers, and social workers is essential to educate the public and increase victim safety while holding abusers accountable.

**3. What are your priorities as a new co-chair?**

My priority as a co-chair is to build up liaison engagement and ownership from the many sectors such as law enforcement and community-based organizations to include recognition of the diverse communities and cultures in Marin. The liaisons can disseminate information to their sector and promote continuous training on best practices and understanding of the challenges victims face as they try to find safety in and after abusive relationships. I also want to encourage open dialogue among the CCR members to continually improve our work together.

**4. What are the challenges you see in the community for the CCR?**

The more the different sectors and law enforcement agencies get together to discuss our vision for DV response, the more we come up with topics/issues to discuss. We cannot cover all the topics in a single CCR meeting, so we will have plenty of agenda items for future meetings. I am only able to co-chair the CCR meetings for one year, but I am looking forward to seeing how it evolves with future co-chairs. I would also like to see the various DV prevention and response groups work together to enhance each other’s work since we are all striving to reduce DV for Marin residents.

**5. What do you hope to accomplish?**

We are currently organizing the new five-year plan, which includes cross-disciplinary review of DV response and builds on the information that was gathered in the Marin County Response Survey. We have identified many client groups, such as teen victims and abusers, child witnesses, LGBT survivors, people with disabilities, and elders. There are also other factors that affect family violence, such as cultural and religious differences, substance abuse, mental health issues, socioeconomic stressors, etc. that need to be considered. In my time as a co-chair I hope to help bring together representatives from as many of these groups as possible to bring case issues to the CCR meetings to collaborate on filling the gaps in providing services that will help to diminish DV in Marin.



**Mirian Bilingual Domestic Violence Advocate**

Fourteen years ago, Mirian Ferroni was working with housing and immigration cases at Legal Aid of Marin when she learned about an opening as a domestic violence advocate at Marin Abused Women’s Services. Back then, the advocates were only at the shelter, helping women and children navigate their legal battles and running support groups. Inspired to do even more, Miriam started volunteering on the hotline because she realized she could have an even greater impact by making a difference to those calling at a crucial time in their lives. She is still volunteering today!

In 2000, accompaniment by an advocate was limited only for shelter and transitional housing participants. Today, C4DP’s Community Advocacy Program (CAP) is able to do a lot more, serving more than 350 individuals annually with four dedicated staff members. Advocates go to court, police stations, hospitals, legal offices, and other agencies with survivors to advocate on their behalf. They educate law enforcement to improve the services for victims, and they are reaching more immigrant survivors than ever before. CAP has been working hard to make a difference in the community and Mirian’s dedication and big heart is a large part of its success!

When asked why she loves the work, Mirian says, “I love the one-to-one interaction with the women and children. I educate the mothers about the cycle of domestic violence, then give them the tools they need to feel empowered and make decisions that will lead to a better life for themselves and their families. It’s so rewarding! When a woman comes to me and hugs me and tells me, ‘thanks, I couldn’t have done it without your help,’ that makes me feel very special, and perhaps I would tell her, ‘I did nothing, you did it yourself,’ nevertheless, I feel so wonderful inside. Those moments make my day, and I have had many of those moments.”

On Friday nights now, as a new opportunity opened for overnight volunteers, Mirian is back working in the shelter, where she spent her first 8 years as an advocate. It holds a very special place in her heart. “When women come to us in crisis and then go through the system with our non-judgmental support, you get to see the change in them. Their posture is different, they smile more often, you see their faces at peace, and they learn to love themselves. It’s just beautiful.”

**OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH**

**Changing the Future for Children  
Free Breakfast Event: Morning of  
Inspiration at Terrapin Crossroads**

You are invited to participate in an inspirational event that will offer you the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of children impacted by domestic violence. Program will include a video demonstrating how the emergency shelter and transitional housing programs are helping the children and offering hope to those who stay there.

**Friday, October 17  
8:15AM - 9:15AM  
100 Yacht Club Dr.  
San Rafael, CA  
RSVP  
415.457.2464**

**Rapid Risk Assessment Program**

Below is a copy of the Rapid Risk Assessment Program (RRAP) card. It is used by first responders in the pursuit of preventing domestic violence homicides, serious injury, and re-assault by encouraging more victims to utilize the support and shelter services of domestic violence programs. Studies now show that survivors who are connected to domestic violence services experience 50% less serious assault than before they were working with an organization like C4DP.

CENTER FOR DOMESTIC PEACE®

Rapid Risk Assessment Program (RRAP)

In 5 Easy Steps

Step One: Assess

1) Does he/she (the abuser) control where you go, who you talk to, or how you spend your money?

2) Has he/she ever used a weapon against you or threatened you with a weapon?

3) Has he/she threatened you or your children?

4) Do you think he/she might try to kill you?

5) Has he/she ever forced you to have sex when you didn’t want to?

Step Two: Inform

“You are in danger and other people in similar situations have been killed or seriously injured.”

Step Three: Ask

“May I have your permission to call Center for Domestic Peace and get a counselor who can talk to you right now? Their counselors are trained experts on safety planning and can help you anytime, day or night. It is completely free and we have found that on average those who work with them are safer. May I get them on the phone now?”

\*\*\*Remind them that the conversation will be confidential\*\*\*

Step Four: Connect

Call a Center for Domestic Peace hotline: 415-924-6616 English; 415-924-3456 Spanish  
Tell the counselor your name and that you are, “working with someone who would like to talk to a domestic violence counselor for safety reasons.”

\*\*\*Give them the phone & privacy if possible\*\*\*

Step Five: Ask Again & Follow-Up

If the victim says no, then ask: “I would like you to reconsider; I am very worried that people in situations like yours do get killed or seriously injured. Will you please let me call & get a counselor on the line for you?”

If they say no again, then ask: “Here is their number, so you can call anytime. Will it be all right if I check in with you in a day or so to see if you were able to make contact with Center for Domestic Peace?”

www.centerfordomesticpeace.org / © Center for Domestic Peace



# Can C4DP Help With Restraining Orders?

Helping survivors understand how to get restraining orders is one of the most frequent things we do. The first step is to call our English or Spanish 24-hour hotline or come to the administration building at 734 A Street, San Rafael, between 9 am and 5 pm, Monday-Friday. Our Hotline Advocates help survivors understand the restraining order process, complete lethality risk assessments, and make safety plans for themselves and their children, and even their pets.

*There is greater than 50% decrease in assaults when survivors are linked to domestic violence services, such as C4DP, and research shows that securing a protective order is a proven deterrent for future abuse.*



The next step is to make an appointment with a Community Advocacy Program (CAP) Advocate. At this appointment, the history of abuse will be discussed, including any threats to children and/or pet, and the different types of restraining orders. Survivors learn how to obtain restraining orders, and we assist in connecting them with attorneys or other services they may need, such as Victim Witness. We also accompany survivors to future hearings if need be.

The most common restraining orders sought for domestic violence crimes are the Emergency Protective Order, Criminal Protective Order, and Domestic Violence Restraining Order (DVRO). The first two involve the police and criminal justice system. The DVRO can be obtained without the police. CAP advocates help survivors access free legal services by contacting the Family and Children’s Law Center (415) 492-9230, Legal Aid of Marin (415) 492-0230, or Legal Self Help Services (415) 444-7130.

**Center for Domestic Peace’s Community Advocacy Program assisted 319 individuals last year. Of the 129 participants seeking restraining orders, 113 received them.**

The advocate’s role, along with providing emotional support and education, is to document the history of abuse, and ensure that the individual knows what their options are and rights under the law. Once a court date is set, the advocate helps the survivor do another lethality risk assessment to check to see if the violence remains or has escalated. If so, a new safety plan can be made. At a civil court hearing, the advocate sits next to the survivor providing support. At a criminal hearing, the advocate will be in the room but is not allowed to sit with the survivor. In both cases, the advocate is there to provide assurance and support. After either hearing, there are follow-up meetings that include understanding the next steps, and once again, safety planning is done.

## Types of DV Restraining Orders:

- a. **Emergency Protective Order (EPO):** This order can only be obtained by law enforcement when an officer believes that someone is a victim of DV and in immediate or present danger; it is issued by a judge and is good for 5 court days after it is issued. In this order, defendant is to stay a specified number of yards away from victim, victim’s home, job, workplace, car, children’s school or child care or other location. Pets can also be protected under this order. C4DP’s Community Advocacy Program helps connect victims to attorneys so that they can seek a DVRO in order to ensure the victim is protected for a longer length of time after the EPO expires.
- b. **Criminal Protective Order (CPO):** This restraining order is issued by the criminal court, and the restrained person has to be in court. It is obtained through the District Attorney’s office and is issued in active DV criminal cases. The order may remain in effect as long as defendant is under court’s jurisdiction, including for the length of their sentence or probationary period, or until modified by the court. The specified number of yards and places that defendant needs to stay away from are similar to those described in the Emergency Protective Order, and the length of time can vary.
- c. **DV Restraining Order (DVRO):** This is a Civil DV Restraining Order regardless of whether there is a police report or criminal case. You or your attorney can file a DVRO request. If the Judge grants a TRO (temporary restraining order) and if served on the restrained person, this order is in effect until the next scheduled hearing. At the next hearing, if defendant has been served, the judge will hear both sides of the case and determine whether a more permanent restraining order should be in place – the order can be for 1 year, 3 years, or even up to 5 years. This type of order can be renewed and can protect the petitioner’s children as well.

As a victim of domestic violence, one has the right to be accompanied by a domestic violence advocate at all points in the criminal or civil justice process. This includes all court hearings as well as all meetings and interviews with police and prosecutors. We help survivors understand the steps that these professionals take, so they can ensure the proper follow-through has happened. Many survivors have informed us that learning the process for how domestic violence cases should be handled and having one of our advocates physically present keeps the process from becoming overwhelming. And remember, if someone violates a restraining order, you can call 911. You can also call our hotline at any point to help with safety planning and lethality assessment, even if you do not contact the police.

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**CENTER FOR DOMESTIC  
PEACE**  
Home of Marin Abused Women’s Services

*PeaceWatch is a publication of  
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San Rafael, CA 94901-3923

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[www.centerfordomesticpeace.org](http://www.centerfordomesticpeace.org)

## OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH



changing the future for children

### Free Breakfast Event: Morning of Inspiration

Friday, October 17 from 8:15AM - 9:15AM  
*Terrapin Crossroads, San Rafael*

You are invited to participate in an inspirational event that will also offer you the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of children impacted by domestic violence.

Hosted by Doug McConnell, OpenRoad

For more information and to RSVP, please call (415) 457-2464.

## Toy Gun & Violent Video Game Exchange

### Promoting a Culture of Peace, Changing the Way our Children Play

Center for Domestic Peace and the Marin County District Attorney’s Office are launching a toy gun and violent video exchange as part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Bring a toy gun or violent video game and receive a Ben & Jerry’s ice cream and enter to win a raffle prize!



- Novato Police Department, October 4, 10am-1pm
- Ben & Jerry’s Bon Air Center, October 11, 10am-1pm
- Town Center Corte Madera, October 18, 10am-1pm
- Sausalito Police Department, October 25, 10am-1pm

To learn more, please visit [www.c4dp.org](http://www.c4dp.org)