2021 LEGISLATIVE GUIDE

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN LOUISIANA

LOUISIANA COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
April 27, 2021

Senator/Representative
State Capitol
900 North 3rd Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

RE: LCADV Virtual Advocacy Day

Dear Senator/Representative:

The Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV) has scheduled our annual Day at the Capitol as a virtual event for Wednesday, May 19, 2021. Domestic violence programs from throughout the state will be participating in this day and we invite you to join us! We also ask advocates, citizens and leaders at all levels to take a stand against violence against women. We know that legislative session is an extremely busy time for you, but we hope that you will take a moment to schedule virtual meetings or phone calls with advocates and share your thoughts on how to make Louisiana a safer place for the women, children, and men who live here.

In anticipation of Virtual Advocacy Day, LCADV is providing you with a packet of information on domestic violence in Louisiana. The packet includes information on the scope of the problem as well as the efforts of LCADV and our member programs to address the needs of victims throughout our state. We hope that you will review this information and contact us, or the program serving your district, should you have any questions. As always, we are thankful for your many diligent efforts in support of our mission.

We hope to speak with you on Wednesday, May 19th.

Sincerely,

Mariah Wineski, MS
Executive Director
Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence
ABOUT LCADV

Our Mission

The Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV) is a statewide network of programs, organizations, and individuals who share the goal of ending domestic violence in Louisiana. LCADV empowers its members and communities through advocacy, education, resource development, and technical assistance.

Principles of Unity

The Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV) is composed of people dealing with the concerns of battered women and their families. We represent both rural and urban areas. Our programs support and involve battered women of all racial, social, religious, and economic groups, ages, and lifestyles. We oppose the use of violence as a means of control over the lives of women and children. We strive toward becoming independent, community-based groups in which women make major policy and program decisions.

History of the Organization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>First meeting of the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV)</td>
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<td>1980</td>
<td>LCADV appointed first president and developed articles of incorporation and bylaws</td>
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<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>LCADV elected first slate of officers</td>
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<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>LCADV was incorporated as a private nonprofit corporation</td>
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<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>LCADV was granted 501(c)3 tax-exempt status</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>LCADV celebrated its 30th Anniversary</td>
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<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>LCADV will celebrate its 40th Anniversary</td>
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LCADV Member Programs

The Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV) currently consists of 16 member programs that employ more than 300 individuals. LCADV member programs receive federal funds and are required to comply with standards established by the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services. LCADV member programs work hard to stretch their resources and lessen their reliance on government funding. Our member programs have more than 10,000 donors and volunteers that give more than $2 million in donations and more than 32,000 hours of service, valued at almost $1 million, each year. Through the use of volunteers and donations, LCADV member programs achieve an annual cost savings of more than $3 million.

LCADV member programs provide comprehensive services to more than 17,000 victims throughout the state of Louisiana each year. Services provided by LCADV member programs include, but are not limited to: Crisis Hotline, Safety Planning, Emergency Shelter, Support Groups, Children's Services, Parenting Services, Legal Advocacy and Financial Assistance.
Abuse in intimate partner relationships, also known as domestic violence, battering, partner abuse, and dating violence, is a pattern of behaviors where one person strives to establish or maintain power and control over the other person. Behaviors that are abusive may come in a form that is physical, emotional, sexual, economic, and/or spiritual.

**NATIONAL STATISTICS**

- On average, nearly **20 people per minute** are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States. During one year, this equates to more than 10 million women and men.
- **1 in 3 women** and **1 in 4 men** have experienced some form of physical violence by an intimate partner.
- **1 in 15 children** are exposed to intimate partner violence each year, and 90% of these children are eyewitnesses to this violence.
- On a typical day, there are more than 20,000 phone calls placed to domestic violence hotlines nationwide.
- Intimate partner violence accounts for 15% of all violent crime.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN LOUISIANA**

- Louisiana has the **5th highest rate** of female homicides in the nation. 100% of these women knew their assailant and 64% of those victims were wives, ex-wives or girlfriends of the offender.
- Women are murdered at a rate **twice the national average** in Louisiana.
- Louisiana consistently leads the nation in domestic homicides and has ranked in the **top 5 almost every year since 1997**.
- There has been at least one domestic homicide in every parish in Louisiana.

**LOUISIANA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAMS**

- Louisiana domestic violence programs provided over 14,000 survivors of domestic violence services within the last year.
- Programs provided over 60,000 nights of emergency shelter and answered more than 25,000 calls.
- Programs documented more than 2,570 unmet requests for services in 2020 due to lack of shelter beds.
2021 LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

INCREASE SURVIVOR ACCESS TO CIVIL JUSTICE

PREVENT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDES

PROMOTE SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT FOR A NOTARIZED AFFIDAVIT ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER PETITIONS

Why is it needed?

Domestic violence is a devastating and pervasive issue in Louisiana, with deadly consequences. Louisiana consistently leads the nation in the rate of women murdered by men. Reducing our homicide rate requires addressing gaps in our systems and ensuring victims can access all available safety resources, including civil orders of protection.

Protection orders are a highly effective tool in preventing future violence. Studies have found that having a permanent protection order in effect was associated with an 80 percent reduction in police-reported physical violence in the next year. Protection orders hold abusers accountable for their abuse before it becomes deadly.

Under current law, Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) petitions require a notarized affidavit to be attached. This presents an unnecessary barrier to accessing the legal protection of a restraining order. Our state must ensure that victims can access protection orders quickly, safely and easily. If we want to prevent domestic violence homicides, we must remove unnecessary barriers to safety for victims.
CREATE A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW TEAM WITHIN THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Why is it needed?

Domestic Violence fatality review teams work to prevent future deaths by conducting multi-disciplinary, systemic examinations of intimate partner fatalities and near fatalities that occur. An examination of individual fatalities will allow the team to comprehensively analyze the strengths and challenges of our state’s response to domestic violence. The review process does not and will not assign blame for fatalities to individuals, agencies or institutions. The perpetrator of the homicide is ultimately the only person responsible for the death.

The objectives of a fatality review team are to:

- Identify systemic gaps and barriers to service
- Implement coordinated community responses to domestic violence
- Enhance the safety of victims and accountability of batterers
- Influence public policy for prevention and intervention of domestic violence
Louisiana consistently leads the nation in domestic violence homicides and we have systemic issues in our state’s response that cannot be fixed until they are identified. Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams helps to identify these issues.

Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams can’t exist without legislation. This legislation creates framework, identifies participant agencies, and provides confidentiality and information sharing protections. Forty six other states have DVFRT legislation. Domestic Violence Fatality Review is a powerful tool to bring communities together, systematically analyze the response to domestic violence, and mobilize participants to take action. Reducing our state’s homicide rate involves following national best practices and developing a statewide fatality review team is a great start.

**REQUIRE TRAINING FOR TEACHERS AND OTHER SCHOOL PERSONNEL ON ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES (ACES)**

Why is it needed?

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) is the term used to describe several types of abuse, neglect, and other potentially traumatic experiences that happen to individuals under the age of 18. ACEs comes from the CDC-Kaiser Adverse Childhood Experiences Study, a groundbreaking public health study that discovered that childhood trauma leads to the adult onset of chronic diseases, depression and other mental illness, violence and being a victim of violence, as well as financial and social problems. The ACE Study is designed to help us understand how Adverse Childhood Experiences influence human development.

Examples of ACEs and potentially traumatic events are:
- experiencing violence, abuse, or neglect
- witnessing violence in the home or community
- having a family member attempt or die by suicide
- growing up in a household with substance use problems or mental health problems
- instability due to parental separation or household members being in jail or prison
2021 LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

• ACEs are common. About 61% of adults surveyed across 25 states reported that they had experienced at least one type of ACE, and nearly 1 in 6 reported they had experienced four or more types of ACEs.

• Preventing ACEs could potentially reduce a large number of health conditions. For example, up to 1.9 million cases of heart disease and 21 million cases of depression could have been potentially avoided by preventing ACEs.

• Some children are at greater risk than others. Women and several racial/ethnic minority groups were at greater risk for having experienced 4 or more types of ACEs.

• ACEs are costly. The economic and social costs to families, communities, and society totals hundreds of billions of dollars each year. (Center for Disease Control)

Research shows that requiring that teachers and school personnel to receive training on ACEs can improve trauma informed approaches that will help students get the support they need to recover from trauma and succeed. Organizations and communities that have integrated ACEs science see remarkable results: 98% drop in suicides, schools eliminating suspensions and expulsions, juvenile detention facilities with no violence, Safe Babies Courts that nearly eliminate child abuse, and batterers intervention programs that reduce recidivism from 60% to between 6 and zero percent. (Alliance for Hope International)

There is a critical need in schools that staff be adequately trained to serve the needs of students. Schools should focus on promoting caring, supportive relationships and build social-emotional skills that underlie positive development for all children. For children who have experienced trauma, schools should focus on fostering the kinds of positive relationships that can help these students recover and respond resiliently to future adversities. Every educator in a school building can help children build resiliency. This will minimize the impact of ACEs so that children are able to go to school and graduate with a chance of having a healthy and productive future.

The scope of the ACE Study combined with its health and economic implications make this a great starting point for collaborative efforts between organizations and service sectors working to improve health and well-being at every age. By requiring ACEs education, we are recognizing the importance of schools as a frontline setting for addressing trauma and other mental health concerns. We are also investing in the people who have the most at stake, people affected by ACEs.
1. Beauregard Community Concerns/
June N. Jenkins Women’s Shelter
Parishes: Beauregard, Vernon
Crisis Line: (337) 462-6504

2. Chez Hope Family Violence Crisis Center / Parishes:
Assumption, St. Mary, Iberia, St. Martin
www.chezhope.org
Crisis Line: (337) 828-4200

3. Domestic Abuse Resistance Team (DART)
Parishes: Bienville, Claiborne, Grant, Jackson, Lincoln, Union, Winn
www.dartla.org
Crisis Line: (318) 251-2255

4. Faith House
Parishes: Acadia, Avoyelles, Evangeline, Lafayette, St. Landry, Rapides, Vermilion
www.faithhouseacadiana.com
Crisis Line: (337) 232-8954

5. The Haven
Parishes: Terrebonne, Lafourche
www.havenhelps.org
Crisis Line: (985) 853-0045

6. IRIS Domestic Violence Center
Parishes: Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Pointe Coupee, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana
www.stopdv.org
Crisis Line: (225) 389-3001

7. Jeff Davis Communities Against Domestic Abuse (CADA)
Parish: Jefferson Davis
www.jeffdaviscada.com
Crisis Line: (318) 616-9971

8. Metropolitan Centers for Community Advocacy
Parishes: Jefferson, St. Charles, St. James, St. John
www.mccagno.org
Crisis Line: (504) 837-5400

9. New Orleans Family Justice Center
Parish: Orleans
www.nofjc.org
Crisis Line: (504) 866-9554

10. Oasis A Safe Haven for Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence
Parishes: Allen, Calcasieu, Cameron
www.oasisasafehaven.org
Crisis Line: (337) 436-4552

11. Project Celebration/Taylor House
Parishes: DeSoto, Sabine
www.projectcelebration.com
Crisis Line: (318) 256-3403
Parishes: Bossier, Caddo, Red River, Webster
Crisis Line: (318) 226-5015

12. Safe Harbor
Parishes: St. Tammany, Washington
www.safeharbornorthshore.org
Crisis Line: (985) 626-5740

13. Southeast Advocates for Family Empowerment (SAFE)
Parishes: Livingston, St. Helena, Tangipahoa
www.safelouisiana.org
Crisis Line: (985) 542-8384

14. Family Violence Program of St. Bernard
Parishes: Plaquemines, St. Bernard
www.fvpsb.org
Crisis Line: (504) 277-3177

15. The Wellspring Alliance for Families
Parishes: Caldwell, East Carroll, Franklin, Morehouse, Ouachita, Madison, Richland, Tensas, West Carroll, Catahoula, Concordia, LaSalle
www.wellspringofnela.org
Crisis Line: (318) 323-1505

16. Institute for Indian Development:
Domestic Violence Program
Parishes: Allen, Avoyelles, Lafourche, Rapides, St. Mary, Terrebonne
Crisis Line: (985) 791-1343
SAVE THE DATE

2021 Virtual Advocacy Days

MAY 19, 2021

LOUISIANA COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE