

Domestic Violence Task Force

Taskforce members are looking into the “Offender Focused Domestic Violence Initiative (OFDVI)” which has been conducted in two communities in North Carolina and one community in NY with some promising results including a reduction in recidivism rates and police calls for service. The initiative will provide a new and more specific focus for the taskforce toward efforts to hold offenders more accountable through the criminal justice system and its response to IPV while also providing services and notifications to victims. This requires collaboration and partnership between law enforcement agencies such as the police departments, probation and parole and victim service providers in an effort to reduce recidivism rates. Within this model offenders are assigned to levels A-D depending on first time offense vs. second or repeated, level of violence, if they’ve violated an OOP in the past etc. Treatment & response to the perpetrators is based on which level each is assigned.

- Focus is to relieve burden and onus on victims for holding the offender accountable and putting it back into the hands of the criminal justice system who will be tasked with giving perpetrators a clear message of legal consequences should they continue to perpetrate. This is coupled with notifying victim of their rights, options and resources in the community and kept in the loop about what’s being done with the perpetrator.
- Some highlights & goals of the initiative include: • Protect the most vulnerable victims from the most dangerous abusers • Take the burden off victims and place it on the CJ system • Address as close to all abusers as possible: counter “experiential effect,” establish new norms • Establish state, not victim, as addressing violence • Match with best possible victim support and protection • Mobilize the community’s moral voice against violence • Change domestic violence offender behavior through deterrence • Prevent homicides • Potentially reduce law enforcement resources needed to respond to domestic violence.

Taskforce is looking into possible dates in March for trainers from John Jay College, who have conducted the model in NY, to come speak to county heads about how to start an initiative in Ontario County or in just one city/town in the county to start. John Jay has expressed that they would be available to assist with start up of the initiative and to also walk us through the process to ensure its success. They’ve given us good insight as to what data police departments would need to get to us for a starting point and what we would need to monitor throughout the initiative process (this would also allow us to track data throughout to make sure we’re actually reducing recidivism rates). We have a list of county/city/town heads to invite for the initial introduction to the model to establish buy-in, ask/answer questions and come up with a plan moving forward.

Anyone interested in joining the taskforce, please contact Family Counseling at 315-789-2613 and ask for Jessica DeFazio.