



Mayor's Office to
Combat Domestic Violence

2017

Annual Report





INTRODUCTION

The Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence (OCDV) was established by City charter in 2001 and is charged with coordinating the delivery of citywide domestic violence services, formulating policies and programs related to the prevention of domestic violence and raising awareness about domestic violence. OCDV operates the five New York City Family Justice Centers and collaborates closely with governmental and community-based organizations that assist families impacted by domestic violence. This annual report provides an overview of the domestic violence initiatives that OCDV implemented in 2017.

The NYC Domestic Violence Task Force (DVTf) was launched by Mayor Bill de Blasio in October 2016 and charged with developing a comprehensive citywide strategy to address one of the most urgent challenges facing our City. The work of the Task Force is led by Commissioner of OCDV Cecile Noel, Director of the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ) Elizabeth Glazer, and the Task Force's Executive Director Bea Hanson. Thanks to the efforts of domestic violence survivors, non-profit organizations, City agencies, District Attorney's Offices, defense attorneys, and elected officials, in 2017, the DVTf announced 32 new initiatives with \$11 million in City funding to reduce violence and enhance the safety and wellbeing of survivors of domestic violence and their families. A number of these new initiatives will be referenced in this annual report as they are closely linked with OCDV's work in 2017, namely expanded hours and children's counseling at the Family Justice Centers and the expansion of staffing for the Healthy Relationship Training Academy.

ABOUT THE COMMISSIONER

Cecile Noel was appointed Commissioner of OCDV by Mayor Bill de Blasio in October 2015.



Commissioner Noel has worked in social services administration for nearly thirty years impacting social services response, interventions and prevention efforts for survivors. She began her career as Director of Prison Health and Special Patient Services for New York City Health + Hospitals where she led policy and programmatic oversight for inmate health and special patient services. Special patient services included domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse, child abuse, as well as corporate social work services.

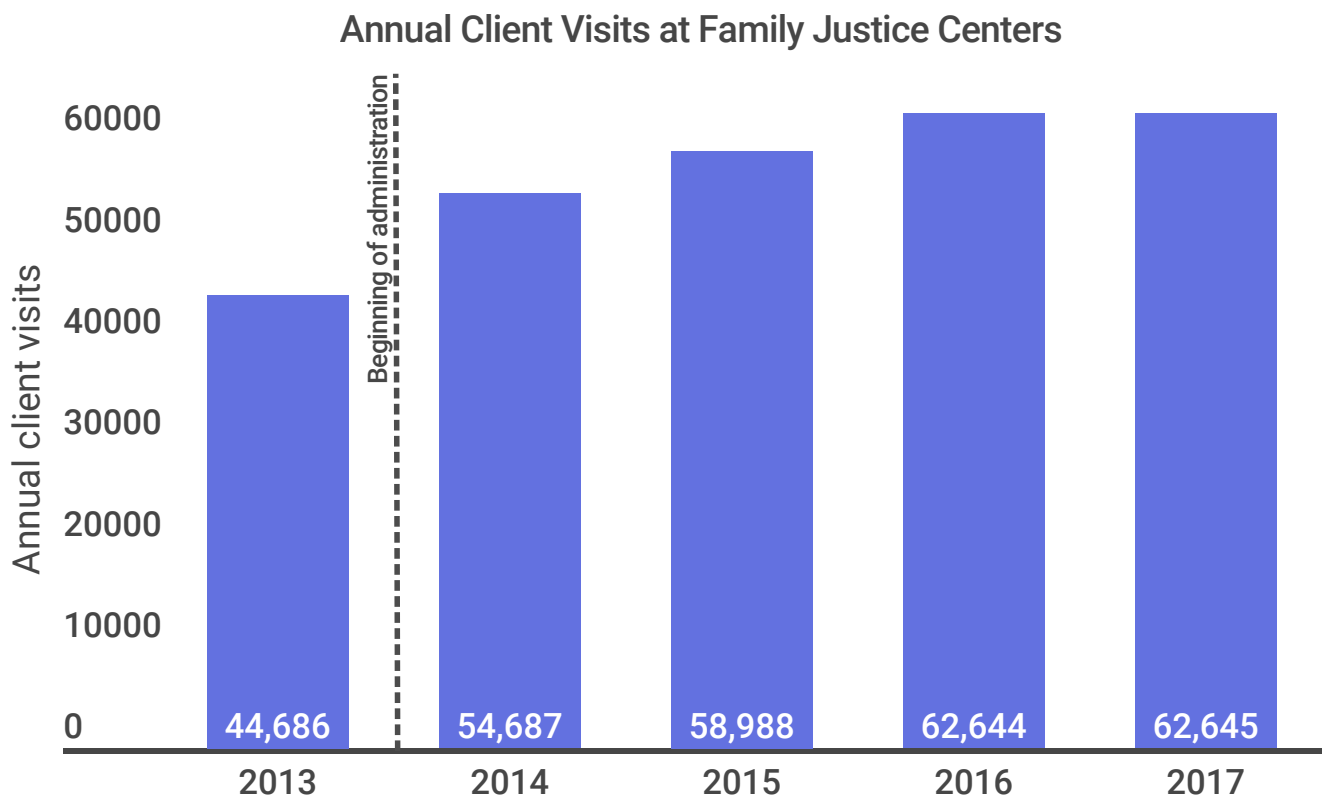
Prior to her appointment to OCDV, Commissioner Noel served as the Executive Deputy Commissioner of Emergency Intervention Services at the Human Resources Administration (HRA). At HRA, she oversaw the 52 New York City-funded domestic violence shelters, which serve over 1,000 families per day. In addition, Commissioner Noel led several citywide emergency assistance programs including the NYC Emergency Food Assistance, the HRA Crisis and Disaster, the NYC Adult Protective Services, and the NYC Home Energy Assistance programs.

While at HRA, Commissioner Noel directed one of the largest expansions of DV shelter and community-based services. She also launched one of the first school-based domestic violence prevention programs in the country, the Teen Relationship Abuse Prevention Program (RAPP). Through peer-led workshops, RAPP helps students to identify abusive patterns of behavior and relationships. The program is now operating in over 87 New York City public schools, and was recently expanded to include educational programming for middle schoolers.

FAMILY JUSTICE CENTERS

OCDV operates the New York City Family Justice Centers (FJs), which provide comprehensive social service, civil legal and criminal justice assistance to survivors of intimate partner violence, elder abuse and sex trafficking in all five boroughs. Key city agencies; community, social and civil legal service providers; and law enforcement agencies including the NYPD and District Attorney's Offices are located on-site at the FJs to make it easier for survivors to access assistance in one location. Services are free and confidential and all are welcome regardless of language, income or immigration status. OCDV has partnered with the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City (the Fund), a 501(c)(3), not-for-profit organization dedicated to supporting innovative programs throughout the five boroughs, to secure support for the Family Justice Centers through private funding. Critical programs and services at the FJs are available through the generous support of private funding partners, including the Brooke Jackman Foundation, the Robin Hood Foundation, Chapman Perelman Foundation, Verizon Wireless, and the Staten Island Foundation.

Since the beginning of the de Blasio Administration, the number of annual client visits to the FJs has increased by 40%. In 2017, the five FJs had 62,645 client visits (see chart below).



The following is an overview of new initiatives and programming that occurred at the FJs in 2017.

FJC PROGRAM EVALUATION

In November 2016, OCDV collaborated with the Mayor's Office for Economic Opportunity (NYC Opportunity) to contract with Abt Associates to conduct an evaluation of the Brooklyn, Queens, Bronx, and Manhattan FJCs, specifically focusing on effective interagency collaboration, provision of efficient and effective service delivery, and client satisfaction. This evaluation was completed in 2017 and was the first ever evaluation of the New York City FJCs.

In November 2017, OCDV presented the evaluation findings to its partner agencies and sought feedback from partners regarding how best to address the evaluation's findings. Although the evaluation's findings were overwhelmingly positive, there are targeted areas where OCDV will be looking to enhance collaboration and service delivery at the FJCs. Each Center will be implementing new initiatives in 2018 to ensure that the FJCs are providing efficient and effective services to survivors in a collaborative, supportive environment.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Survivors of intimate partner violence have significantly higher rates of adverse mental health outcomes. To ensure that the FJCs' holistic services approach includes long-term, trauma-informed mental health services for clients, OCDV has partnered with NYC Health + Hospitals to station mental health teams, consisting of a full-time psychotherapist, part-time psychiatrist and an off-site administrative staff member, at the City's five FJCs. This project, part of First Lady Chirlane McCray's ThriveNYC initiative, builds upon the successful mental health counseling pilot program launched in 2014 at the Bronx FJC with the Department of Psychiatry at the Columbia University Medical Center (CUMC), through the support of Chapman Perelman Foundation. Since the initial pilot, Chapman Perelman Foundation has supported the expansion of this model which has given CUMC the ability to provide training, technical assistance and support to NYC Health + Hospitals to implement this innovative, multidisciplinary program.

As of November 2017, the mental health teams began working at all five FJCs. In 2017, the program provided services during 1,563 FJC client visits.

HOUSING SERVICES

Numerous studies have documented housing instability and homelessness as a potential impact of intimate partner violence. During 2017, the FJCs expanded their existing partnership with New Destiny Housing by bringing their HousingLink program to the Queens FJC and by contracting with New Destiny to provide training and technical assistance on housing-related matters for advocates at the FJCs. As housing is such an important need and often a barrier for many survivors who want to leave abusive relationships, it is essential that advocates at the FJCs are well trained on all available housing programs. OCDV also partnered with HRA to pilot access to the Family Homelessness and Eviction Program (FHEPS) at the FJCs. FHEPS is a rent supplement for families with children who receive Cash Assistance and have been evicted or are facing eviction, who lost their housing due to a domestic violence situation, or who have lost their housing because of health or safety issues. Through this partnership, the FJCs are able to refer eligible clients to apply for FHEPS in the community to secure permanent housing and financial assistance to help maintain their housing. Under this pilot program, the FJCs will be able to assist 50 clients access FHEPS.



Training room at the Manhattan FJC

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMING

In addition to housing instability, intimate partner violence can have devastating impacts on survivors' financial and economic well-being. To address this challenge, OCDV continued to expand its economic empowerment services at the Manhattan FJC in 2017 including adding four new onsite programs – We Are New York (WANY), here there and EVERYwhere, Sanctuary for Families' financial empowerment program, and the Steps to Success – Job Skills Readiness Program facilitated by the New York Junior League (NYJL).

These programs provide clients with unique opportunities to enhance their work readiness, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship skills. For example, clients attending the WANY program are able to improve their English by viewing and then discussing a television show created to help immigrant New Yorkers practice English while informing them of the city's resources. Clients attending the here, there and EVERYwhere program are able to learn or continue practicing their craft in designing and creating art, textiles, and jewelry, while their children are also engaged in age-appropriate creative arts workshops to inspire their creativity. Adult participants are also taught how to sell and market their products on Etsy and other ecommerce websites focused on handmade items. In the NYJL program, clients participate in a three-week workshop focused on important job readiness skills such as resume and cover letter drafting, interviewing skills, and job searching techniques. In early 2017, the on-site practical assistance services available to clients at the FJCs were enhanced to include a food pantry and emergency cash assistance. Through a partnership with HRA's Emergency Food Assistance Program, each FJC started a food pantry program to provide clients in need with a meal package for themselves and their family, as well as helpful resources for ongoing food assistance available within their community. Emergency cash assistance provides one-time assistance for essential and critical items like clothing, toiletries, baby supplies or paying for carfare to get to a shelter through its new emergency petty cash fund. These practical services are equally important as the case management, counseling and legal services clients receive at the Centers as clients are often without or with very limited basic essentials, like food, clothing and toiletries, creating additional barriers and challenges for clients.



Reception area at the Bronx FJC

EXPANDED HOURS

The FJCs with the highest client volume – the Bronx, Brooklyn and Queens – have expanded their operating hours to include appointment slots during evening hours once per week allowing more clients to access critically important core services at the Centers, such as case management, immigration and family legal services and children’s counseling.



Children's room at the Staten Island FJC

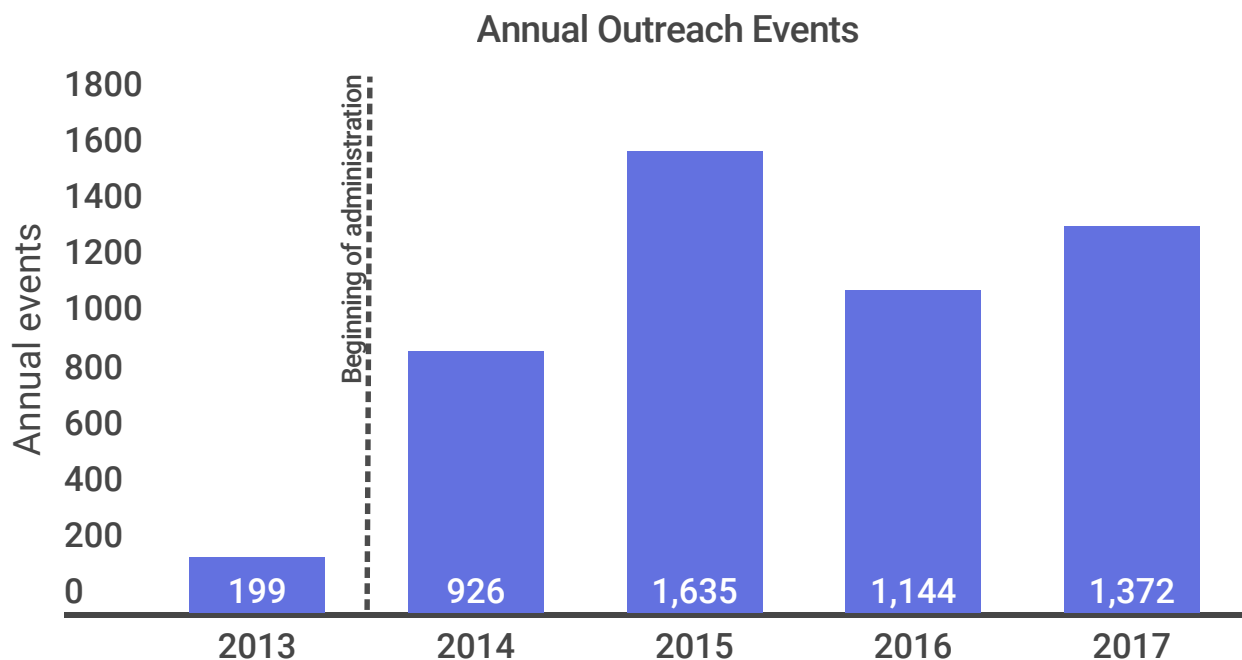
CHILDREN'S COUNSELING

At each of the City's FJCs, children's services are provided on site by a city contracted provider. Such services include individual counseling, group counseling, parenting groups, family literacy programming, and a children's room where children can wait while their parent or caregiver seeks services. To meet the high demand for children's counseling at the FJCs, the Brooklyn and Bronx FJCs each hired one additional Spanish-speaking children's counselor allowing each Center to serve more high risk families in need of individual and group counseling.

OUTREACH

OCDV's Outreach team raises awareness about the City's many resources and programs for survivors, and conducts a wide variety of public engagement and education efforts and events to build the capacity of communities to prevent, recognize, and respond to domestic violence. This work is done in communities across the City, with a special focus on immigrant, youth, vulnerable, and underserved communities. In 2017, the Outreach team hosted and/or participated in 1,372 outreach events (see chart below).

*Seventeenth Annual
Gladys Ricart &
Victims of Domestic
Violence
Memorial Walk /
Brides' March*





OCDV Outreach Team partners with Mayor's Office of Community Affairs (CAU) to host an IPV 101 workshop at October convening of Pakistani American Law Enforcement Society

In addition to ongoing outreach programming conducted in 2017, OCDV's Outreach team enhanced its faith-based programming, as highlighted below.

FAITH-BASED COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLES

In 2017, OCDV worked with the Mayor's Office of Community Affairs (CAU) to organize and host two roundtable meetings with members of the Muslim community, which included faith leaders, advocates, community stakeholders and service providers. The goal of these meetings was to learn more about how intimate partner violence is perceived and experienced by community members, enhance awareness about current services and resources, receive feedback on how current services and programs are working and collectively explore how to create responsive and informed public education efforts, improve outreach and build trust in communities. These meetings were wonderful opportunities to introduce the FJC's and available resources, as well as get to know important community members and hear vital ideas and experiences. Throughout the year OCDV was invited to many other community events for workshops and presentations. Additional roundtable meetings will be planned in 2018.

Established in 2016, OCDV's Policy & Training Institute (the Institute) focuses on building awareness, skills and capacity around issues related to intimate partner violence throughout New York City and identifying ways to enhance city, state and federal policy affecting survivors and their families.

TRAINING

TRAINING TEAM

The Institute's Training Team collaborates with City agencies and community-based organizations to enhance knowledge and awareness about domestic violence. The Training Team assesses training needs and designs trainings to support agencies' and organizations' unique goals and, following training, offers ongoing consultations, technical assistance and refresher trainings. Additionally, staff capacity building and sustainability are accomplished through "train-the-trainer" courses. The Training Team has trained over 10,000 participants since its inception in 2016 and, in 2017 alone, the Training Team provided 277 trainings to 6,613 participants.

OCDV Policy and Training Coordinator Ermira Uldedaj facilitates IPV 101 training for DHS employees working at Prevention Assistance and Temporary Housing (PATH) intake center



In 2017, nine new trainings were added to the Training Team curriculum catalog such as Intimate Partner Sexual Violence that covers the different forms of sexual violence in the context of power and control dynamics, Trauma Informed Practices that aims to develop skills to engage survivors of trauma through client-centered practices and Impact of Intimate Partner Violence on Children that explores the different ways children may be impacted by exposure to intimate partner violence. See full list of trainings on the following page.

In 2017, the Training Team launched a partnership with Voices of Women Organizing (VOW) to bring survivor's perspectives into its work. Several members of VOW observed trainings and provided thoughtful feedback on how to center the experiences of survivors. Much of this involved the use of survivor stories, both in person through an ongoing partnership with VOW and through case scenarios, role plays and videos. This feedback from VOW will inform the Training Team's work as it continues to adapt, enhance and expand its trainings in 2018. Additionally, in 2017, the Training Team entered into a training consultancy with the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Professional Studies Department. The John Jay consultants are reviewing existing trainings and curricula, as well as creating a facilitation workshop and toolkit that will support staff in building and furthering their training facilitation skills.

Over the past year there has been tremendous growth across OCDV to forge partnerships between the Training Team and City agencies and community-based organizations. For example, in 2017, the Training Team partnered with the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) to enhance first responder engagement with domestic violence survivors and with the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) to train over 170 shelter staff who work with single adults in shelter in the Train-the-Trainer series so that they can train hundreds of shelter-based staff on the complexities and dynamics of intimate partner violence.

Spotlight: Partnership with NYC Department of Probation

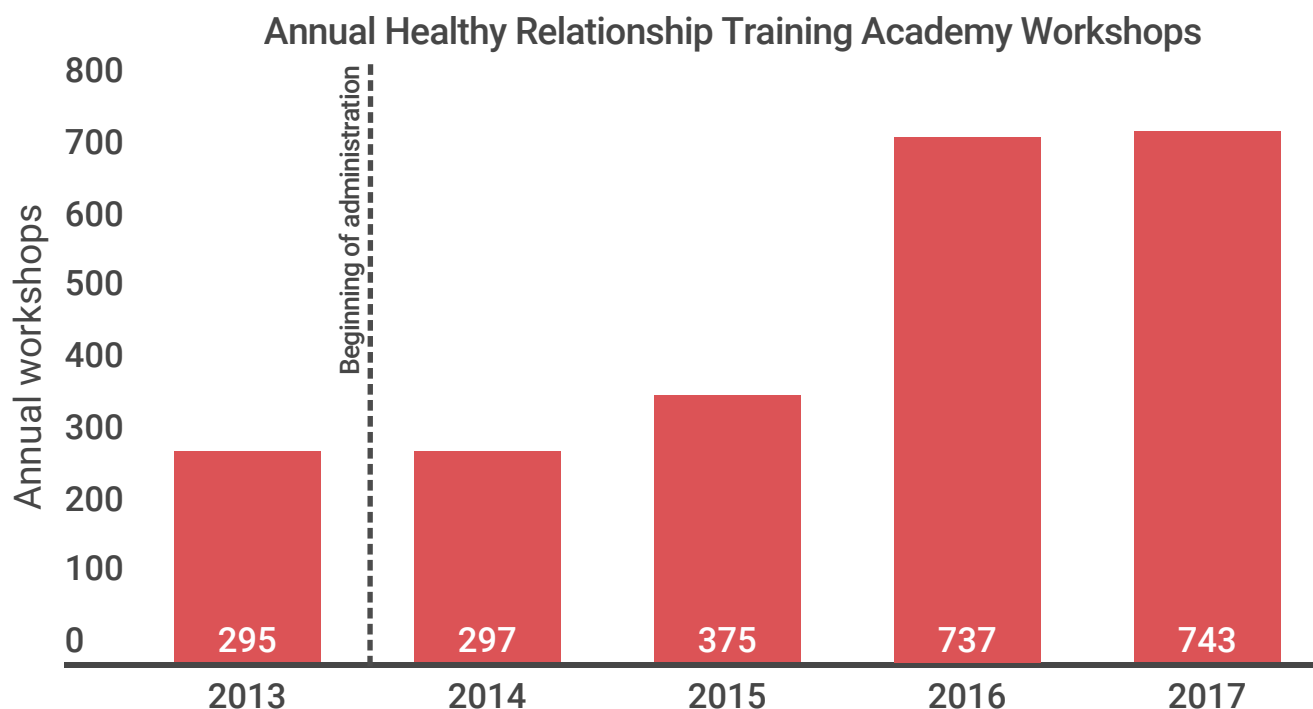
In 2017, OCDV's Training Team led an Intimate Partner Violence 101 training for over 400 NYC Department of Probation (DOP) officers in all five boroughs.

New Training Offerings added in 2017:

- Intimate Partner Sexual Violence
- Trauma Informed Practices
- Neurobiology of Trauma and Trauma Informed Interviewing
- Impact of Intimate Partner Violence on Children
- Commercially Sexually Exploited Children
- Criminal Justice Response to Intimate Partner Violence
- Strangulation and Intimate Partner Violence
- Intimate Partner Violence in the LGBTQ+ Community
- Intimate Partner Violence and Pregnancy

HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP TRAINING ACADEMY

The Institute also houses the New York City Healthy Relationship Training Academy (the Academy), which provides workshops on teen dating violence and healthy relationships to young people, parents and professionals who work with teens. In 2017, the Academy provided 743 workshops to 13,074 participants (see chart below).



In 2017, the Academy worked with the NYC Department of Education (DOE) to identify 20 schools with high percentages of students living in temporary housing, understanding that homeless high school students were three times more likely to report having been deliberately hurt by someone they were dating as compared to their housed peers. [1] Similarly, homeless high school students were three times as likely to report that they had been forced to do something sexual that they did not want by someone they were dating as compared with their housed peers. The Academy expanded to provide dating violence and healthy relationship education to these 20 schools.

Also in 2017, the Academy piloted and began offering a workshop, entitled Navigating Consent and Healthy Relationships that covers the definition of consent, clear and healthy ways to ask for and give consent, how to identify situations where consent may be harder to convey/determine, and how to help a friend.

[1] Institute for Children, Poverty & Homelessness. (March 2017). More Than a Place to Sleep: Understanding the Health and Well-Being of Homeless High School Students.



Academy Educators facilitate a workshop at a DOE 'Celebrations of Healthy LGBTQ Relationships' event in the Bronx

GENDER & SEXUALITY

Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE) Training

Addressing the needs of survivors of domestic violence who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or gender non-confirming (LGBTQ+) across all of OCDV's programs and policy initiatives is central to our overall mission. In order to stay focused on improving LGBTQ+-affirming and inclusive services throughout OCDV's programming and initiatives, OCDV continued offering the Understanding SOGIE training in 2017 for all OCDV staff as well as FJC partner agency staff. The training both provides education on gender, sex, and sexual identity and addresses dynamics of intimate partner violence specific to LGBTQ+ relationships, including a discussion of barriers, forms, impacts and best practices for response. This training was recently adapted and included in the core training series offered monthly at the FJCs.

Project Unity

As part of First Lady McCray's Project Unity Initiative, OCDV has partnered with HRA and the NYC Department of Education (DOE) to assess and improve citywide relationship abuse prevention and healthy relationship materials and programming with a specific focus on LGBTQ+ youth. OCDV has reviewed the Academy workshops on healthy relationships, dating violence and consent and has collaborated with HRA to make workshops more LGBTQ+ inclusive. OCDV's Academy began working with DOE to bring these workshops to Gender and Sexuality Alliances (GSA) at schools, creating a much-needed space for queer and transgender young people to openly discuss relationship challenges and celebrate healthy relationships.

No New Yorker should ever stay in a dangerous situation because they fear missing paid work to address safety needs, or face loss of income while recovering from abuse. Yet, survivors of intimate partner violence across the US report an average of 7.2 days of work-related lost productivity per year.

In November 2017, Mayor de Blasio signed into law the “**Earned Sick and Safe Time Act.**” The law allows employees to use their paid leave if they or a family member have been the victim of any act or threat of domestic violence, unwanted sexual contact, stalking, or human trafficking in order to plan their next steps and focus on safety without fear of penalty.

New York City is the first city in the nation to pass paid safe leave legislation that includes survivors of human trafficking. The amended law also expands the definition of family for whom safe and sick leave can be used to any individual whose close association with the employee is the equivalent of family.

Under the new law, employees can take time off to restore their physical, psychological, and economic health or that of a family member. For example, individuals can take time off to:

- Obtain services from a domestic violence shelter, rape crisis center, or other services program
- Participate in safety planning, relocate, enroll a child in a new school, or take other actions to protect their safety or that of their family members
- Meet with an attorney or social service provider to obtain information and advice related to custody; visitation; matrimonial issues; orders of protection; immigration; housing; and discrimination in employment, housing, or consumer credit
- File a domestic incident report with law enforcement or meet with a district attorney's office

The Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) has enforced the Earned Sick Time Act since it took effect in 2014. Now DCA's Office of Labor Policy & Standards (DCA-OLPS) will continue its enforcement work of the amended law that includes the new paid safe leave uses. DCA-OLPS will collaborate with OCDV, as well as community partners, to conduct outreach and education to ensure that survivors know their rights under the Earned Sick and Safe Time Act.

OCDV was thrilled to partner with DCA to develop and advocate for this legislation and is grateful to the NYC Council for their support in taking on this issue and passing the legislation.

Mayor Bill de Blasio signs Intro. 1313-A that expands paid leave to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and trafficking survivors



CONFERENCES & FORUMS

OCDV hosts conferences and forums annually to bring together local and national thought leaders on issues related to intimate partner violence. In 2017, OCDV convened several conferences and forums to explore trending topics and advance the dialogue in key policy areas affecting intimate partner violence survivors and their families.

Connecting the Dots: Intimate Partner Violence Prevention, Advocacy, and Healing through the Arts

OCDV partnered with the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA), Gibney Dance Company, Hi-ARTS, STEPS to End Family Violence, and Sanctuary for Families to host a conference bringing together over 100 advocates, domestic violence service providers, clinicians and artists to create and encourage collaboration to use art as a healing tool for intimate partner violence survivors. Break out groups facilitated by the artists featured throughout the day provided an opportunity for conference participants to experience firsthand the impact that movement, creative healing, creative writing and mural making workshops can have to address intimate partner violence.



Panel discussion from the Connecting the Dots: Intimate Partner Violence Prevention, Advocacy, and Healing through the Arts conference

Columbia SHIFT Research Forum

OCDV hosted Drs. Jennifer S. Hirsch and Claude Ann Mellins from Columbia University's Sexual Health Initiative to Foster Transformation (SHIFT) for a research forum during which they shared the preliminary findings from their research examining the individual, interpersonal, and structural factors that shape sexual health and sexual violence for undergraduates at Columbia.

Coverage of Intimate Partner Violence in the Media

OCDV hosted a live stream event in partnership with the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Center for Media Crime and Justice for New York area press that featured a panel discussion on media coverage of intimate partner violence and the important role of reporters in shaping public discourse on the issue. OCDV also unveiled a new online media guide to further support effective media coverage of intimate partner violence. During this live stream event, OCDV and John Jay announced a joint fellowship that will be offered for New York area journalists to delve deeper into coverage of intimate partner violence. This fellowship will begin in 2018.

*Panel discussion
from the Coverage of
Intimate Partner
Violence in the
Media live stream
event*



Grand Rounds: Health Care Response to Intimate Partner Violence

OCDV partnered with the DOHMH, Health + Hospitals, and Columbia University's Population Research Center to host a conference bringing together over 150 healthcare providers, social workers and public health professionals to discuss best practices for screening and management in cases of intimate partner violence. The importance of trauma-informed responses to survivors of intimate partner violence was an underlying theme throughout the conference and concrete mechanisms for supporting various vulnerable populations such as youth, LGBTQ+ communities, and immigrants were discussed during the breakout sessions. In connection with the Conference, OCDV will release an online toolkit with resources for healthcare providers in 2018.

ARTS PARTNERSHIPS

OCDV recognizes the value and power of the arts in addressing domestic violence; from healing art therapy, arts-related prevention programming,

and arts as a catalyst for raising awareness and supporting communities in responding to violence. In 2017, OCDV took a number of steps to elevate those efforts and support the advocacy community in identifying best practices and collaborating with the arts community more deliberately. Including the Connecting the Dots conference described above, below are some of the Arts Partnerships that OCDV forged over the past year.

Gibney Dance Company

Gibney Dance Company and their entire staff have been a key partner in all of OCDV's work around the arts and collaborated on a number of projects in 2017, including hosting the Connecting the Dots conference at their Agnes Varis Performing Arts Center. Gibney also partnered with the Academy to bring the innovative Hands Are For Holding dance assembly program created with community-based organization partner Day One to more young people in New York City. The Academy's Peer Educators work hand-in-hand with the dancers during the assembly, asking the audience questions about what they are seeing on stage and providing critical education about what a healthy and unhealthy relationship looks like.



Gibney Dance Company performs at the Connecting the Dots conference

Theater of War

In early 2017, NYC Department of Veterans Services and NYC Department of Cultural Affairs announced Bryan Doerries, Executive Director of Theater of War, as the city's newest public artist in residence. Theater of War stages free community-specific, theater-based projects that address pressing public health and social issues, including intimate partner violence and sexual assault, through the presentation of dramatic readings of plays that initiate important community conversations. OCDV is proud to be partnering with Theater of War to present a number of performances throughout 2017 and 2018 specifically addressing intimate partner violence and sexual assault. These performances have included a reading of the play TAPE with student peer leaders participating in RAPP, a reading of the play Streetcar Named Desire at the Queens Borough President's Office in collaboration with the Queens FJC, and several events at NYCHA developments in partnership with the Mayor's Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety.

OCDV's Research and Evaluation team provides data management and support to all of OCDV's programs and initiatives and also conducts multidisciplinary research projects with interagency research partners to inform future work concerning the prevention and response to domestic violence.

FATALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Established in 2005 through Local Law 61, the Fatality Review Committee (FRC) is tasked with summarizing information pertaining to domestic violence homicides in New York City and developing recommendations for the coordination and improvement of services for domestic violence homicide victims in New York City. The FRC is chaired by the Commissioner of OCDV and includes staff from ten City agencies, two representatives from social services agencies and two survivors of domestic violence. The FRC publishes an annual report and the [2017 annual report](#) includes an emphasis on the intimate partner homicides that occurred between 2010 and 2016.

PUBLICATIONS

[OCDV IN FOCUS: Survey Findings from the New York City Healthy Relationship Training Academy](#)

OCDV published the first in a series of reports on the work of the Academy. The report highlights that, since 2005, the Academy has conducted 3,449 youth workshops with 63,200 youth participants across New York City and has led to statistically significant improvements in their understanding of teen dating violence and healthy relationships.

[Intimate Partner Violence Media Guide](#)

OCDV published an Intimate Partner Violence Media Guide as an online resource to help reporters, journalists, editors, and other in the media industry more effectively cover intimate partner violence. The guide provides tools and resources related to four best practices: 1) Place intimate partner violence in context; 2) Use effective sources; 3) Provide resources to readers; and 4) Use survivor-affirming language. This media guide was informed by an in-depth systematic review of media coverage of intimate partner violence in New York City that OCDV conducted in 2016.

[Intimate Partner Elder Abuse in New York City](#)

OCDV conducted a joint research project with the New York City Department for the Aging (DFTA) to take a closer look at the intersection of intimate partner violence and elder abuse in New York City and

published the first-ever in-depth report on intimate partner elder abuse in New York City, summarizing the results of this research including the rates of intimate partner elder abuse crime and descriptive statistics about FJC clients experiencing intimate partner elder abuse.

Other Publications

In 2017, the OCDV Research and Evaluation team also published a number of data and research reports, including:

- [2016 OCDV Fact Sheet](#) with data on domestic violence homicides, calls to the domestic violence hotline, and other City services
- [2016 Intimate Partner Violence Snapshots](#) with statistics on intimate partner violence-related domestic incidents and offenses for each community board district in the City
- A fact sheet for educators titled [Intimate Partner Violence Traumatizes Children and Teens](#)
- A [data brief](#) analyzing domestic violence incidents in the ten largest U.S. cities.

OCDV PROGRAM DATA

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	% Change from 2013-2017
Family Justice Center Client Visits	62,645	62,644	58,988	54,687	44,686	+40.2%
Outreach Events	1,372	1,144	1,635	926	199	+589.4%
Training Team	277	118	-	-	-	-
Healthy Relationship Training Academy Workshops	743	737	375	297	295	+151.9%

OCDV partners with City agencies and community partners to receive funding from federal agencies and private foundations. Through partnerships with the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice and the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City, OCDV receives funding from the U.S. Department of Justice to produce essential programs for maintaining the safety of survivors and families.

- The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) Improving Criminal Justice Responses to Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking Grant Program funds the Early Victim Engagement (EVE) Project, which provides survivors in Brooklyn with key information about their abuser's arrest and trial proceedings immediately following their abuser's first court appearance.
- Survivors in Queens are aided by OVW's Justice for Families Program, which enables Safe Horizon to run a supervised visitation and safe exchange program at the Queens Family Court.
- OCDV is also implementing a three-year grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Victims of Crime (OVC) to help create a national screening tool for polyvictimization to be implemented at the Queens FJC. OCDV began implementing the project in 2017 and has seen many positive changes as a result, including conducting ongoing training for partner agencies on how to deliver trauma informed services, as well as incorporating trauma-informed design into the physical space.

In 2017, OCDV received private funding from:

- The Avon Foundation for Women, which has been a longtime supporter of the Academy;
- The Robin Hood Foundation, which finances legal immigration services at the Bronx, Brooklyn and Queens FJCs;
- Verizon Wireless, which outfitted the children's room at the Staten Island FJC
- The Staten Island Foundation, which outfitted the training room and hospitality suite at the Staten Island FJC, providing its children's room with additional enhancements and enabling the Center to create a more therapeutic environment through trauma informed design; and
- Chapman Perelman Foundation, which has been funding the provision of mental health services to clients of the Bronx FJC since 2014 and continues to fund technical assistance to the FJC Mental Health Program in all boroughs. In addition the Foundation has supported research in the area of abusive partner interventions and programming, a key priority of First Lady Chirlane McCray and OCDV.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

OCDV emphasizes the importance of professional development for staff, including identifying opportunities for staff to learn from key experts in the domestic violence field. In 2017, OCDV staff participated in multiple local and national conferences that explored innovative approaches in the work to end domestic violence, including youth violence prevention, risk assessment strategies, big data analytics, forensic nursing and trauma informed practices.

SPECIAL EVENTS

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH ADVOCATE LUNCHEON

On October 17, 2017, OCDV honored over thirty advocates that work on behalf of survivors of domestic violence at a luncheon. First Lady McCray gave remarks, thanking those in attendance for their service, while also asking them to remember to take time for personal wellness efforts. Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Herminia Palacio spoke about NYC's work to support survivors, and Dr. Betsy Fitelson from Columbia University's Domestic Violence Initiative spoke about the importance of mental health needs in assessing survivors for holistic services. A highlight of the afternoon was remarks from a survivor and high school student Nalo Turner, a Peer Leader in RAPP at Harry S. Truman High School, who asked participants to consider youth voices in programming for survivors.

The luncheon was part of OCDV's Domestic Violence Awareness Month campaign, Advocates of NYC 2017, which highlighted advocates working with survivors throughout October on OCDV's social media pages. Described by nominators as tireless, resourceful, creative, and dedicated, these individuals represent the best of the New York City advocacy community.



Commissioner Cecile Noel and RAPP Peer Leader Nalo Turner embrace at the Domestic Violence Awareness Month Advocate Luncheon

“WE UNDERSTAND” PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

In February 2018, OCDV launched New York City’s first domestic violence awareness campaign in more than a decade. The “We Understand” ad campaign and promotional spots—which were developed by OCDV in collaboration with DOHMH and the advertising agency Bandujo— are supported by a \$500,000 investment and ran for 12 weeks through the first week of April 2018. Ads were placed on bus shelters, subways, the Staten Island Ferry, and on social media platforms. OCDV also partnered with iHeartMedia, Inc. to run promotional spots on 103.5 KTU FM and Power 105.1 FM, voiced by popular radio DJs Charlamagne Tha God, Lulu and Lala. The campaign videos ran on LinkNYC kiosks across the city throughout February, in addition to a week-long run on Taxi TV.

NYCHOPE PORTAL

The new campaign aims to connect survivors and their loved ones to the City’s new web-based portal, NYCHope, which brings together information, education and resources in one centralized location that can be accessed from any computer, smartphone, tablet, or other device with internet access. NYCHope was designed and developed by the NYC Department of Information Technology and Telecommunication (DoITT) in collaboration with Cornell Tech. During the 2016–2017 school year, students at Cornell Tech interviewed over 100 FJC clients to assess how technology can support their needs for education, information and easy access to resources. During these interviews, survivors explained how they were directed and redirected to numerous agencies and websites as they tried to seek help, services and information. DoITT did further testing directly with OCDV clients to ensure that NYCHope is as intuitive and easy-to-use as possible.

Features of the NYCHOPE web portal include a resource directory providing survivors with easy access to locate services within their community, information about healthy relationships and signs of abuse, and a useful guide about how to help a friend or family member experiencing abuse. The portal includes tech safety tips and a quick-escape feature for users to ensure their safety while accessing the platform. Finally, the portal includes information about the city’s five FJCs, and directly connects users to other City agency sites to easily access information.



Mayor's Office to
Combat Domestic Violence