

Charleston County Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence

Reaching out to Victims of Domestic Violence through Faith Communities

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Pastor's Pitch:

Many faith communities take their authority for action within their congregation from the senior pastor. To gain “buy in” and in order to participate the senior pastor must give his blessing for the faith community to participate. Therefore, the CCRDV created a “Pastor’s Pitch” which is a short outline for project staff to approach senior pastors to give them a basic understanding of the goals and vision for the program. The Pastor’s Pitch should be presented along with a person who may be familiar with the senior pastor.

Outline:

1. Create a welcoming environment
 - a. Sermons
 - b. Cards in Bathroom
 - c. Domestic Violence Listing in the program with Point of contact (POC)
2. Act as a referral resource
 - a. Point of contact (POC) familiar with community resources
 - b. Women’s group, support groups
 - c. Counseling dilemma – in house counseling vs. professional referral
3. Introduce pastors to the concept of the Network
 - a. Resources within network
 - b. Online Toolkit
4. Victim sensitive Faith community and pastor – safety first
 - a. Use victim story or have victim attend (Doug, Leslie, Donna)
5. Create a Domestic Violence ministry
6. The Faith Community as an Avenue for Prevention
7. Bring the resources to them
 - a. Online toolkit
 - b. In house trainings
 - c. Brochures, etc.
8. Addressing abusers in the faith community
 - a. In context of victim safety
 - b. Safety of faith community
 - c. Referral resources

9. The Faith Community as a safe house

- a. Structure – what this would look like
- b. Liability issues
- c. Logistical issues

10. Questions

11. Ask if we can come to their faith community to speak in a forum as determined.