



Link

For national participants in the
MNADV's Lethality Assessment Program

A periodic newsletter to update Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) participants throughout the country on events, reports, best practices, and other significant actions occurring in participating jurisdictions related to implementation of the LAP.

LAP in Connecticut

The following was written by Joe Froelich, the Law Enforcement Coordinator for the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) and a retired police officer. The article appeared in the CCADV's inaugural quarterly newsletter, *Connections!*

"The Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) was first brought to Connecticut by Chief Kevin Hale of the Ansonia Police Department in March 2011. He read about the program in a trade magazine and implemented it in his police department. During the first year, the police department conducted 78 screens, 41 (52%) of which were considered high danger. Of the high danger calls, 35 (85%) of those victims immediately spoke with an advocate and 22 (62%) subsequently followed up with additional services.

In September 2012, CCADV and 7 additional member agencies began participating in LAP.... The program, which is a result of collaboration between CCADV and the Connecticut Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POSTC), included Ansonia with 13 additional towns across the state - Manchester, New Britain, Waterbury, Norwalk, Plainville, Norwich, Shelton, New London, Groton City, Waterford, Norwich, Guilford and North Haven.

CCADV formed a Law Enforcement Advisory Committee to review and assess the results of this program to determine best practices that should be implemented by Connecticut. Interviews of law enforcement officials, victim advocates, executive directors, and victims helped form recommendations for the Connecticut Lethality Program. The fourteen police departments conducted 763 screens, 458 (60%) were considered high danger, 404 (88%) of those victims immediately spoke with an advocate, with 266 (66%) following up with additional services.

In April and May 2013, 16 additional police departments and 3 domestic violence agencies received training in the implementation of LAP. It is anticipated that by July 1, 2013, 30 law enforcement agencies and 11 domestic violence providers will be participating in LAP."

Connecticut, under the guidance of the CCADV, is clearly leading the way toward statewide LAP participation. Their efforts to involve law enforcement and partner domestic violence programs, and the extremely high level of performance, demonstrate a remarkable commitment to the LAP and to saving lives in Connecticut.



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Spokane County, WA

The following was written by Steve Barbieri with the Spokane County Sheriff's Office in response to our request for an update on progress since they have been trained. We want to thank and extend our appreciation to Sheriff Ozzie Knesovich, Chief Brian Asmus of Liberty Lakes Police Department, and Chief Lee Bennett of Airway Heights Police Department. The Spokane County Sheriff's Office implemented the LAP in 2012; Liberty Lakes and Airway Heights in January of 2013. Their partner domestic violence program is the YWCA.

"Since October Detective Pannell, Deputy Stockman and Chauntelle have trained 130 law enforcement officers on the LAP process and how and when to use the process in the field. Chauntelle and Detective Pannell have trained 18 advocates and hotline operators on the process. The group has trained 15 additional law enforcement officers in Airway Heights and Liberty Lake. We are now working with the Spokane Police Department to develop a training plan to train the 200 officers in their agency on how and when to use the LAP process. We are also planning to expand the training to the Cheney Police Department, Eastern Washington University Police Department and Fairchild Air force Base.

Detective Pannell and Deputy Stockman are preparing a one hour in service training program for our agency to discuss LAP, domestic violence relationship, community based Advocacy, links to look for in the investigation at the first responder level etc. This is part of a program to contact each of the platoons quarterly and talk about Domestic Violence, address first responder concerns and hopefully work with the patrol personnel so they understand how important their response to the call is and how they can help us and we can help them. Detective Pannell has developed a spreadsheet that tracks victims and suspects so we can track the repeat offenders and the repeat victims. This spreadsheet allows us to identify problem areas, victims and suspects so we can become proactive in offering services and develop a program to identify domestic violence predators.

We are currently working on a plan to create a Domestic Violence team that will be responsible for DV felony assault, DV felony crimes, DV Misdemeanor crimes, stalking, DV sexual assaults, Child abuse cases. The plan is to have this unit work as a team to identify the issues that caused the crime and investigate the problem not just investigate the crime listed in the report. The team will work closely with Chauntelle and the YWCA to help the victim first and make sure that the victim is safe and then decide the best approach on how to deal with the suspect.

This program is expanding quickly but we still are able to keep up with the program and have not become buried. I still want to make sure that we can absorb the program as we move forward so that the program can be sustained if grant money were to go away. Overall this program is a great success and we have received very positive feedback from the first responders, Hotline personnel, Victims and Community Based Advocates."

Spokane County is a jurisdiction that is clearly working proactively and enthusiastically to make the lives of victims safer. With Spokane County having implemented the LAP, Washington becomes the 31st state to have at least one LAP participate of a law enforcement agency and it's domestic violence program.