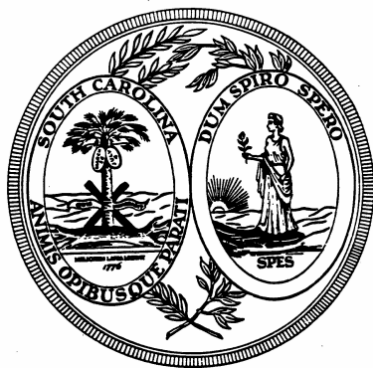


**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAMS
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004-2005**



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INTRODUCTION

The South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS) through its Battered Spouse Program provides assistance for victims of domestic violence. The program is designed to present a holistic perspective and provides support for crisis intervention and prevention services to victims of family violence, their children and abusers through a network of community based nonprofit service providers. Our guiding principle is that community resources will work together to assure quality services and to promote healthy lives for families experiencing domestic violence. The Department began funding domestic violence services in 1980 with one emergency shelter and a crisis intervention network. Mini grants were awarded to community based domestic violence task forces to host community forums on spouse abuse; install emergency crisis lines for victims; and to develop brochures and training materials on the subject. Gradually increased levels of funding has allowed the program expansion to include twenty providers throughout the state.

The types of providers vary from emergency shelters offering a variety of services to programs that offers specialized counseling services for victims of incest and for batterers of Domestic Violence. These are providers in rural as well as metropolitan areas. All providers are united in their dedication to ensuring the safety of victims and prevention of further incidents of violence.

This annual report delineates the significant events, accomplishments and data for State Fiscal Year 1998-99.

BACKGROUND

STATE LEGISLATION

The Domestic Violence Protection Act of 2003 includes Criminal Domestic Violence of a High and Aggravated Nature in the list of crimes categorized as “Violent” and also classifies it as a “Felony” Offense. Redefines “Household Member,” as spouses, former spouses, persons who have a child in common and male and female who are cohabitating or have formerly cohabitated. (Basically refines the definition to include those most appropriate for application of this law).

This law mandates our agency the following responsibilities:

- To approve the batterers treatment program of government agencies, nonprofit organizations and private agencies serving the batterers
- To develop and implement an agency Workplace Domestic Violence Policy that includes a zero tolerance policy statement regarding acts or threats of domestic violence in the workplace and safety and security procedures
- To review and approve the Department of Education and the South Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA) guidelines and materials for continuing education concerning domestic violence
- To facilitate the development of domestic violence coordinating councils in each county or multi-county area with the collaboration of the public and private sectors in the communities
- To make available domestic Violence for the staff of child day care center owners and operators

DEPARTMENTAL ROLE

The South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS) was designated by the Governor as the administering agency for the State Battered Spouse Appropriation and Family Violence Prevention and Services Act funds. The Department is responsible for strategic planning, policy development, and administration of the State’s Family Violence Intervention Program. The goal of the Department regarding the Battered Spouse and Family Violence Prevention and Services Act Programs is to prevent and/or reduce the incidence of domestic violence and to ensure accessible emergency shelter and related assistance to those in need of services for the prevention of spouse abuse and violence. The Department reserves the right to prescribe funding criteria for all service providers receiving awards from the Battered Spouse and Family Violence Prevention and Services Act appropriations.

Domestic Violence Coordinated Councils with their response Teams are implemented statewide. These councils provide a vehicle for change in the communities they serve by bridging the gap between service providers, creating and maintaining partnerships, and searching for resources for families. The goal of the Response Teams is to provide access to services that support the healing of children and their families exposed to domestic violence.

The Batterer Intervention Programs (BIP) focus is to eliminate domestic violence by providing services to batterers while supporting safety and justice for victims. Program treatment services are based on quality standards, which are utilized for intervention with clients who have been identified as perpetrators of domestic violence.

The Battered Spouse and Family Violence Prevention Act Programs' goal is to prevent and/or reduce the incidence of family violence and ensure accessible emergency shelter and related assistance to those in need of services for the prevention of spouse abuse and family violence. Our Department uses the State Battered Spouse and Family Violence Prevention and Services Act funds to contract with non-profit community based agencies to:

- Improve access to services by funding a regionally based network of emergency shelters; each shelter being required to provide locally based services for residents of its assigned service area, including but not limited to locally based individual crisis counseling, legal and/or client advocacy, and to locally based support group counseling for each county in the entity's service area
- Coordinate intervention by requiring that contractors establish cooperative agreements with law enforcement and other disciplines providing intervention services for victims and families and
- Increase public awareness about domestic violence and its impact on the community by requiring contractors to promote community education by sponsoring workshops, public speaking with local civic and private organizations, and contacts with local media.

The South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA) is a professional agency representing 13 domestic violence providers and 16 sexual assault organizations. These member organizations provide crisis intervention, safe shelter, counseling, legal advocacy, financial aid and a myriad of other services intended to support victims of domestic violence. In collaboration and in contract with our agency, SCCADVASA provides the following:

- Encourage members' participation (as appropriate) as on-going members of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Councils and Domestic Violence response Teams in their counties
- Encourage members to assess children within the shelter to determine their involvement as witnesses or victims of domestic violence. When appropriate, immediately make referral to child protective services.

- Coordinate cross training of community partners, including law enforcement, adult and child domestic violence, how it effects victims and their children and the inter-relatedness to child abuse
- Conduct an annual one-day training conference regarding the interrelatedness of domestic violence and child abuse for professionals on state-wide basis
- Provide funding for victims (transition, education, etc.) and witness services by subcontracting with DSS
- Employ staff who will specialize in working with child witnesses and/or victims and in developing specific programs for this population
- Partner in the evaluation regarding the project's effectiveness, progress, functioning and
- Submit quarterly reports summarizing activities undertaken

History

The State of South Carolina has been actively involved in domestic violence prevention. Since the legislature first appropriated funds for the development of a program of services for the prevention of spouse abuse. Thereafter, the legislature has reappropriated funds for the provision of services to victims of domestic violence at gradually expanded levels.

Initially, DSS provided funding for additional domestic violence intervention agencies as the state appropriation increased. By 1988, eight emergency shelters, one crisis intervention center, and two offender intervention services were funded by a combined state and federal appropriation of over \$800,000.0. However, most services were concentrated in the larger towns and cities, often leaving rural residents without access to services.

As public awareness and demand for family violence intervention services increased, the Department of Social Services realized that the practice of funding emergency shelters and/or crisis intervention agencies as they became operational was inadequate to meet the needs of the state victim population. The rate of denial of emergency shelter services due to lack of space consistently amounted to fifty percent of those actually receiving shelter.

To remedy the situation, DSS implemented a Service Expansion Plan in 1988 to maximize the service capabilities of provider agencies and to ensure the availability of accessible emergency shelters and related assistance to victims. A system of regional emergency shelter services was instituted. All emergency shelter services are required to provide:

- a twenty-four hour crisis line
- client needs assessment
- information and referral
- temporary emergency shelter
- individual and group counseling
- legal advocacy
- assistance with obtaining housing and employment
- locally based services in each county of the assigned service region, and
- promote community awareness of domestic violence issues

In the ensuing years, increased funding and public awareness of the issues has aided expansion and diversification of services throughout the state.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	FISCAL YEAR 2004-2005
Number emergency shelters funded	13
Number offender intervention centers funded	7
Number individuals receiving emergency shelter	16,374
Number women/children receiving counseling services	9,663
Number offenders receiving counseling services	5,170

Presently, the Department funds fourteen (14) emergency shelters, seven (7) counseling services for abusers and one (1) crisis intervention program for victims of incest. South Carolina ranks number six in the nation for number of women killed by abusive partners.

Funding

The DSS Family Violence Intervention Program receives funding from two sources: the state appropriation and Family Violence Prevention and Services Act Funds. The state legislature re-appropriates funds for the Battered Spouse Program each fiscal year. These state funds are governed by a proviso that limits expenditures to services for domestic violence victims and their children. Family Violence funds are reallocated annually. The amount each state receives is based on a ratio of the state's population to the total appropriation. The disbursement of Family Violence monies is governed by regulations delineated by the federal Department of Health and Human Services. The Department distributed \$1,393,456 in Federal Family Violence Prevention Funds to 20 agencies. The maximum to any agency is \$62,500 (\$50,000 Federal and 12,500 Local matches). The department also distributed \$1,703,929 in state allocated funds, \$800,000 in Marriage License Federal Funds and \$362,394 in Federal TANF funds.

ELIGIBILITY AND SERVICE INFORMATION

Client Eligibility

Recipients of these services must be victims of domestic violence, their children or batterers. Domestic Violence is defined as any physical or emotional behavior perpetrated by one person toward another to control the other person's behavior.

The Domestic Violence Act of 2003 provides that domestic violence offenders who participate in a batterer(s) treatment program must participate in program offered through a government agency, non-profit organization or private provider that has been approved by the South Carolina Department of Social Services. In discharging its responsibilities DSS seeks to secure professional and qualified service providers who are willing and capable of operating their batterers treatment program in accordance with an approved "Standards of Care for Batterers Treatment" developed by the Palmetto Association of Family Violence Intervention Programs and adopted by our agency. Of this number, seven (7) batterers intervention and treatment programs are funded by the agency in 2005. Reports indicate that 5,170 offenders are receiving counseling services in 2005.

Those in need are eligible to receive services without regard to income, national origin, or gender. Emergency shelters may develop house rules that prohibit residence by individuals who exhibit inappropriate or dangerous behavior.

Service Delivery

DSS contracts with nonprofit community based agencies to:

- provide or arrange emergency shelter care and/or appropriate services for victims of family violence, their children, and other relevant family members
- Promote public awareness and education about family violence in their local communities
- Coordinate services with other crisis intervention, shelter, and/or offender programs when, or if necessary
- Collaborate to the extent possible with local law enforcement, solicitor, and judiciary in the prosecution of offender

Fees for emergency shelter services may be charged by contractors with prior approval from DSS. However, services may not be denied to any client due to non payment. All providers are expected to abide by the terms and specifications outlined in their contracts with DSS. The programmatic activities of funded agencies are regularly monitored for contract compliance. Statistical reports of client services are submitted to DSS on a monthly basis.

Service Locations

DSS funds a regional network of thirteen emergency shelter programs. The primary program sites are located in the traditional marketplace center for each region. Several programs have established satellite locations that offer advocacy and counseling services within their service areas.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAMS



Thirteen Emergency Shelters:

REGION	EMERGENCY SHELTERS	COUNTIES SERVED
Region I	Safe Harbor	Greenville, Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens
Region II	Laurens County Safe Home	Abbeville, Laurens, and Saluda
Region III	Cumbee Center	Aiken, Allendale and Barnwell
Region IV	Citizens Opposed to Domestic Abuse	Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper
Region V	My Sister's House	Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester
Region VI	Sistercare	Fairfield, Kershaw, Lexington, Newberry, and Richland
Region VII	Safe Passage, Inc.	Chester, Lancaster, and York
Region VIII	YWCA of the Upper Lowlands	Clarendon, Lee, and Sumter
Region IX	Pee Dee Coalition Against Spouse Abuse	Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marion, and Williamsburg
Region X	Citizens Against Spouse Abuse	Georgetown and Horry
Region XI	Spartanburg Safe Home-Rape Crisis	Cherokee, Spartanburg, and Union
Region XII	Citizens against Sexual Assault/Family Systems	Bamberg, Calhoun, and Orangeburg
Region XIII	MEG's House	Edgefield, Greenwood, and McCormick

Family violence intervention services that include psycho-educational counseling services for Batterers Intervention Program (BIP) and support services for victims exist throughout the state.

BATTERERS INTERVENTION PROGRAM (BIP)

AGENCY	COUNTIES SERVED
Carolina counseling	Spartanburg
Compass of Carolina	Greenville
Family Counseling	Anderson
Family Service Center	Richland
Domestic Abuse Center	See asterisk below*
Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Assault	Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marion, Marlboro, and Williamsburg
YWCA of the upper Lowlands	Clarendon, Lee, and Sumter

*Counties served: Abbeville, Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell, Beaufort, Cherokee, Chester, Colleton, Edgefield, Fairfield, Greenwood, Hampton, Horry, Jasper, Kershaw, Lancaster, Laurens, Lee, Lexington, Marlboro, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee, Pickens, Richland, Saluda, Union, and York.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Victims Served:

A total of twenty-one thousand two hundred thirteen (21,213) victims received services. Of that number one thousand nine hundred thirty two (1,932) were males, ten thousands one hundred fifty seven (10,157) were female. One hundred forty nine (149) between the ages of sixty-five or over, eight thousands eight hundred ninety nine (8,899) between age eighteen and sixty-five, and seventy six (76) were age seventeen and below. All victims served did not receive residential services.

Individual Served:

A total of six thousands three hundred thirty nine (6,339) Caucasians, four thousands nine hundred sixty one (4,961) African-American, two hundred ninety two (292) Hispanics, eighty nine (89) Asians, and fourteen (14) other individuals received emergency shelter and related services.

Battered Intervention Services:

A total of seven hundred fifty (750) persons received counseling services. A total number of two hundred two (202) intakes were completed, thirteen (13) volunteer treatment, two hundred five (205) mandatory treatment; eleven (11) females batterers received treatment, and thirty six (36) completed treatment program.

Shelter Services:

A total of sixteen thousands three hundred seventy four (16,374) persons received emergency shelter. Of that number nineteen thousands four hundred ninety seven (19,497) were women, sixty three (63) were children; three thousand eight hundred seventeen (3,817) were men. Victims spent a total of two thousands three hundred forty-six point sixty-three (2,346.63) bed nights in emergency shelters. The average length of stay was sixty (60) days. Nine hundred thirty two (932) persons were denied shelter due to lack of space. Three thousands eight hundred and eight (3,808) persons were referred to other emergency or homeless shelters.

Other Services:

Other services rendered include one thousands four hundred twenty (1,420) hours of individual counseling, two thousands eight hundred four (2,804) hours of group counseling; thirty six thousands four hundred and six (36,456) crisis calls were answered, seventeen thousands nine hundred eighteen (17,918) calls for information and referral were answered.

A total of six thousands four hundred fifty seven (6,457) persons received court advocacy, eleven thousands five hundred and forty eight (11,548) persons received

assistance with completing and filing Orders of Protection. Agencies presented a total of eight thousands two hundred sixty-three (8,263) media activities. The activities included television interviews, radio interviews, newspaper advertisements, booths at local festivities and speeches for local religious, community and civic organizations.

DSS and South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA) have entered in contract to further our collaboration. This working together project produced a state-wide conference on Domestic violence and two (2) one day training workshops. All workshops presenters were experts in domestic violence and sexual assault. The target audience is professionals from the helping areas such as mental health, faith leaders, substance abuse and domestic and sexual violence. Workshops are located at various areas around the state in order to offer them to as many participate as possible. The objective of each workshop is to promote education of domestic violence and its effects on our families and communities.

FUNDED SERVICE PROVIDERS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005

AGENCY	COUNTIES SERVED	TELEPHONE NUMBERS
Carolina Counseling	Spartanburg	864-583-5802
CASA/Family Stems (Citizens Against Sexual Assault)	Bamberg, Calhoun, and Orangeburg	803-534-2272
Citizens Against Spouse Abuse	Georgetown and Horry	843-626-7595
Compass of Carolina	Greenville	864-467-3434
Cumbee Center	Allendale, Aiken, and Barnwell	803-649-0480
Domestic Abuse Center	Richland, Lexington, and York	803-256--468
Family Services of Charleston	Charleston	843-744-1348
Family Counseling Center of Columbia	Anderson	864-225-6266
Laurens County Safe Home	Abbeville, Laurens, and Saluda	864-682-7270
MEG's House	Edgefield, Greenwood, and McCormick	864-227-1421
My Sister's House	Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester	843-747-4069
Pee Dee coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Assault	Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marlboro, Marion, and Williamsburg	843-669-4694
Safe Home-Rape Crisis Coalition	Cherokee, Spartanburg, and Union	864-583-9803
Safe Harbor	Anderson, Greenville, Oconee, and Pickens	864-467-1177
Sexual Trauma Center	Greenwood and Laurens	864-227-1623
Sistercare	Fairfield, Kershaw, Lexington, Newberry, and Richland	803-329-3336
Safe Passage, Inc.	Chester, Lancaster, and York	803-329-3336
YWCA of the Upper Lowlands	Clarendon, Lee, and Sumter	803-773-7158

VICTIM'S EXPERIENCE

In November 2002, Marie, frightened young Jamaican woman with a 6 month old infant, first called crisis line. Her American husband had beaten her badly and she had a head injury but was afraid to call the police or go to the hospital because he had convinced her that if she sought help he would have her deported and would take her baby away from her. The counselor convinced her to go to the emergency room and met her there. They talked for four hours that day at the hospital. Marie was not ready to risk calling the police and not ready to risk leaving him. She was glad to have a friend to talk to and she began calling the shelter and talking from time to time.

The verbal abuse, threats and beating worsened, and still she was afraid to leave. Finally, on September 1, 2003, he hurt her again and she was afraid for her child. She called the shelter and was assisted immediately, with a police escort, to the safety of the shelter. The shelter legal advocates filed her request for an Order of Protection, and accompanied her to court. Her husband retaliated by calling her employer and lying about their immigration status, causing her to lose a good job. He also confiscated her mail and immigration documents, causing her to lose her legal work permit and endangering her legal status as a resident of the United States. She could not work for a living wage and could not receive social services or medical care. Through two discouraging years of fighting to regain her documentations, Marie lived in transitional housing, attended counseling and support group and fought to evade her husband who was aggressively stalking and harassing her.

The shelter repeatedly assisted her in pressing charges against her husband for Order of Protection violations. The shelter was able to assist her with a pro bono attorney specializing in domestic abuse and immigration problems. Through interagency referrals and aggressive resourcing on her behalf, Marie and her three year daughter now live happily in a new, fully furnished two-year transitional apartment. With help, she has obtained her new work permit and will be a United States citizen within a few months.

Through interagency resourcing, the shelter was able to obtain a donated car for Marie, and helped her obtain a legal drivers license, insurance and registration. With their help, Marie was able to obtain childcare, and now she is working full time, providing her daughter with a peaceful, safe home. Marie was able to leave a nightmare of abuse and fear to find peace, hope, and happiness. She attends the shelter's support group every week with her happy, healthy little girl, and frequently tells her story that the shelter cares, and the shelter is a safe haven. The shelter is a place where hope is real.

Jane is a beautiful, petite, twenty-four year old mother of three children ages 6, 5, and 2. She and her sister were reared in an abusive, dysfunctional home with a passive mother and an aggressive, alcoholic father who provided very little love and no healthy boundaries or directions.

At the age of fifteen, she dropped out of school and was on the streets using and selling drugs which led her into prostitution to satisfy her chemical needs. One night while attempting to make a drug deal something went wrong and someone in the background yelled, "shoot her" and the man standing by the car door shot her in the head. The bullet entered in just below her ear and traveled downward, which saved her life. That was a definite turning point for this young lady. Looking death in the face made her realize she was heading down the wrong path.

Someone got her involved in a loving, caring church that helped her turn her life around. The minister's wife brought her for counseling in April 2004. She and her children were living in a friend's condo until the lease expired. At that time, this young family moved into the shelter to await the completion of Alliance Inn Apartments, where she now resides.

Jane has been drug-free since August 2003 and she quit smoking cigarettes in April 2004.

