

# **ACT - <u>A</u>ddressing <u>C</u>rime <u>T</u>ogether: Domestic Violence Summit Follow-up**

October 20, 2017

# **Rick Staly, Sheriff**

"An Honor to Serve, A Duty to Protect."



### **Purpose of the Domestic Violence Summit**

On June 28, 2017, over 55 community partners met to <u>A</u>ddress <u>C</u>rime <u>T</u>ogether with a focus on understanding and reducing domestic violence in Flagler County.

- Flagler County has experienced a 7% increase in Domestic Violence cases and 4 domestic or relationship related homicides in 2017.

### **Goals of the Domestic Violence Summit**

- To develop a community-driven comprehensive plan designed to reduce the number of domestic violence cases in Flagler County.
- To bring greater awareness to the problem of domestic violence and its impact on the community, family unit, social services, detention facility, law enforcement and the overall criminal justice and civil court system.
- To improve coordination and efficiency with partnering agencies in response to domestic violence.
- To ensure the safety of victims and their resolve for a solution when in an abusive relationships.
- Lessen the exposure of children to domestic violence reducing generational offender and victimology



### Flagler County Domestic Violence Summit Report 2017 – Overview

Today we gather to share with the community the findings and recommendations of the Domestic Violence Summit Committee. Utilizing an integrated approach to problem solving the Committee held five public sessions and established five sub-committees:

- Social Services
- Mental Health/Medical Services
- Education
- Faith Based Services
- Criminal Justice

Each committee was tasked with independently examining the manner in which domestic violence is addressed by practitioners within each of these disciplines.

The Committee first decided it was important to develop a Flagler County definition of Domestic Violence:



**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEFINITION**: Physical, emotional, sexual, psychological, verbal, economic and digital violence and the threat of same, including: stalking, false imprisonment, assault, battery, intimidation, power, control, estrangement and abuse involving families encompassing persons in legal relationships, dating and living together.

**PROCESS:** Each sub-committee was asked to discuss honestly and evaluate how they are currently doing business and identify weaknesses that can be improved.

Each committee was tasked with researching and identifying ideas, strategies, programs, policies, legislative recommendations and other solutions to reduce domestic violence in Flagler County.

Each committee has selected a spokesperson who will present their part of the community-driven solution.



# **Social Services Committee**

Carrie Baird, Committee Chair, Flagler Cares

Stephanie Pete, Sally's Safe Haven
Chuck Puckett, Department of Children & Families
Patricia Cain, Flagler County Human Services
Tony Deobil, Family Renew
Christina Heichel, Sally's Safe Haven
David Lydon, Flagler County Veteran Services Administrator
Joe Mayer, Flagler County BCC

Maureen Britz, Family Life Center Janet Nickels, Flagler County Human Service Pamela Wu, Flagler County Human Services Ralston Reodica, Flagler County SHIP Administrator Anna Temple, SMA Behavioral Healthcare Alicia Vincent, SMA Behavioral Healthcare Hillary Medlin, Healthy Start Coalition of Flagler & Volusia Counties



## **Recommended Strategies**

#### Provide training to Social Service Staff and Key Community Sectors:

- Provide Training to:
  - Increase awareness of the signs and symptoms of domestic violence.
  - Improve skills and competencies to appropriately serve victims of domestic violence.
  - Increase awareness of community resources to support domestic violence victims.
  - Provide training through online webinars.
- Target Populations:
  - Employers, including HR Directors and EAP providers.
  - Teachers
  - Neighborhood Watch participants.
  - Church groups
  - Civic Organizations
  - Veterans Groups
  - First Responders
  - Emergency Department staff



#### Improve the Way Information about Domestic Violence is Conveyed in the Community

- For Social Service Agencies:
  - Encourage agencies to tour their office environments and assess the availability of discreet and non-discreet information relating to Domestic Violence services.
    - o Create and share materials that visibly promote hotline numbers and the characteristics of abuse
    - Create materials designed specifically for use in social service waiting rooms, bathrooms, and offices to increase awareness of how to access domestic violence services.
- Locate and provide "burner phones" for victims of abuse.
- For the Faith Community/Churches:
  - Develop materials to promote the hotline in church bulletins and other church communication.



#### Improve the Way Information about Domestic Violence is Conveyed in the Community

- ➢ For Community Organizations:
  - Create a system to formally identify certain locations as sanctuaries or "Safe Zones" for domestic violence services to be accessed (i.e. agency would commit to training/certification, would provide a private room with phone/internet to customers or employees, etc.)
- ➢ For the General Public:
  - Create a positive slogan campaign to support victims of domestic violence and assure them that help is available.
  - Provide resource information and promotion of the hotline phone number in community settings such as libraries, grocery stores, restaurants, and other business locations.
  - Promote Sally's Safe Haven and other similar sites in surrounding areas.



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#### Access to Social Service Support for Victims of Domestic Violence

- Work with providers of social services to increase access to support services through:
  - Prioritization of victims of Domestic Violence for expedited service delivery.
  - Modify eligibility criteria for services to reduce barriers experienced by victims.

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- Changes in policy, legislation or protocols to expand access to services or reduce identified barriers to service access.
  - Change Florida Statute 1002.81 to expand the eligibility criteria for child care subsidies so that victims engaged in domestic violence services can access support.
- > Identify potential funding sources to create a Batterer's Intervention Program (BIP) in Flagler County. DONE.
  - > As a result of the Domestic Violence Summit a BIP has been started in Flagler County at no cost to taxpayers.
    - Family Resource Connection of Palatka has started holding classes at the Flagler County E.O.C. The cost is paid for by the offender.



#### Increase the Capacity of Critical Support Services

- > Identify and secure funding to expand the capacity of services critical to victims of Domestic Violence including:
  - Expansion of the Certified Domestic Violence Shelter, Family Life Center, in Flagler County.
  - Transitional Housing.
  - Affordable Rental Housing.



# **Mental Health & Medical Services Committee**

Dr. Helene Vossos, Committee Chair, Stewart-Marchman Act Behavioral Health Sonny Donaldson ,Co-chair, Stewart-Marchman Act Behavioral Health

Jonathan Tanenbaum , Stewart-Marchman Act Behavioral Health, Spokesperson/Case Manager Scott Wetherhold, Stewart-Marchman Act Behavioral Health, Intern Robert Snyder , Florida Department of Health & Human Services Sarne Bland, Family Life Center Mara Mesa, Family Life Center Robert M. Davis, Florida Hospital – Flagler Denise Duty-Troiano, Florida Hospital – Flagler Mary Radcliff , Florida Hospital - Flagler Linda Kendrick



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# **Overall Committee Recommendation**

- Flagler County does not have a Domestic Violence Intervention Program DVIP). Clients are expected to travel out of the county for programming, which is both unrealistic and, at times, logistically not possible for the client.
- This committee has determined that a DVIP in Flagler County is imperative to the success of combating domestic violence.



# **Public Education**

### **Identified Areas of Concern or Issues**

- Committee defined issues to confront regarding Domestic Violence for this review.
- Batterer's often do not realize that they are being abusive or have knowledge that domestic violence is a serious offense.
- General public can have little to no tolerance for batterers, making it difficult to implement programs aimed at rehabilitation or re-offense prevention.
- Create an appropriate program in Flagler County for a Domestic Violence Intervention Program (DVIP).



# Public Education Recommendations

- Educate the public to debunk myths and stereotypes surrounding Domestic Violence.
- Importance of public recognition and tolerance toward domestic violence programs and the need for them.
- Request previous or former batterers to join in the task force to lend more credibility toward the need for offender programs.
- Update current pamphlets and items which detail what to do in a case of domestic violence and who to contact for assistance, to include current information on available programs.



# Public Education Funding Assistance Needed

- Any programs initiated will require funding in some capacity.
- Grants are a possible option for this funding. Research grant options.
- SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) provides numerous grant opportunities.
- Certain statistics regarding Domestic Violence would be required from Flagler County and its organizations, based on which grant is applied for.



# Domestic Violence Intervention Program (DVIP)

- Create a DVIP (or bring in an established program) dedicated toward assisting in the recovery of offenders who commit Domestic Violence.
- Create a DVIP education program for public awareness to debunk myths and stereotypes, and reinforce the need for a DVIP in our community.
- Work with the Criminal Justice system to include required offender court ordered mental health evaluation of domestic violence offenders as part of the criminal justice process or sentencing.
- This committee researched and identified two separate policies and procedures for DVIP programs from Massachusetts and California.
  - This committee gathered data about these two programs to determine the success rates of each, and whether either program would be a good fit for Flagler County.



# MERGE Domestic Violence Intervention Program (DVIP)

 One example of a successful DVIP program is EMERGE in Boston, who trains agencies for facilitating Domestic Violence programs. Our committee has received a 55-page report from Ted German, EMERGE Director of Training, that was prepared by Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, which indicates there is reduced recidivism with probation clients supervised by the Massachusetts Department of Probation after attending the EMERGE DVIP program.



# **Education Committee**

#### Sgt. Chris Ragazzo, Committee Chair, FCSO

Jeane Rademacher Sandra Shank Sharon Piety-Nowell Sally Sherman, Deputy County Administrator, Flagler County BCC David Bossardet Winnie Oden, Flagler County School District Darlene Parding Lynette Shott, Flagler County School District



## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN**

#### I.Review and evaluate current practices and procedures within your discipline.

#### A. Family Life Center (FLC):

- 1. Offers information items on FaceBook daily;
- 2. Offers Billboards to advertise domestic violence resources to community;
- 3. Offers Youth Advocate sessions at middle and high schools;
- 4. Holds Walk A Mile in Her Shoes community event once a year (next one April 2018) to help educate public about domestic violence;
- 5. Holds Clergy Breakfast once a year in March to educate clergy leaders;
- 6. Holds Ambassadors for Peace Breakfast to educate business leaders each year in June;
- 7. Provides numerous presentations to community groups each year;
- 8. Conducts a quarterly Leadership Team Meeting which includes, but is not limited to, the FLC CEO, and Leadership from DCF and CBC(s), the State Attorney's Office, local law enforcement agencies, batterer intervention programs, DCF's Children's Legal Services, and community corrections to discuss domestic violence within the child welfare system.



Family Life Center (FLC) Continued:

- 9. Conducting a presentation on Teen Dating Violence at the end of the October 2017 at Matanzas High School.
- 10. Teaches Primary Prevention Program at Imagine School at Town Center. Students participate in a full day of training once a week for 8 weeks.

#### **B.** Flagler Public Schools:

- 1. School personnel receive training as part of overall safety and abuse training.
- 2. Domestic violence curriculum is offered to meet Florida Statute 1003.42. Teen and Dating Violence information is included in Health Curriculum and currently taught by Physical Education Teachers in grades 7-12.
- 3. This summer online lessons were developed and added to curriculum.
- 4. Employee training on Mandatory Reporting is given to all staff/teachers annually.
- 5. FPS Problem Solvers made a domestic violence presentation in May 2, 2017.



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#### C. Community Awareness:

- 1. United Way has 211 Information Hotline service and
- 2. C.A.R.E.S. has initiated community message program Hope, Health and Healing. Link seen between Suicide Prevention and DV prevention.

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- 3. Chamber provides Common Ground Breakfasts to offer informational sessions to business owners and attendees.
- 4. Offers Leadership Flagler to increase county leadership pool.
- 5. Proclamations given to FLC in October annually by County Commission.
- II. Identify and recommend areas of improvement within current practices and procedures.

#### A. Family Life Center (FLC):

1. Need Batterer Intervention Training available for Adults and Youth. Act when observing the early signs of violence by targeting at risk youth. Provide intervention programs for perpetrators when released from jail.



#### B. Flagler Public Schools:

- 1. Education on early intervention strategies This can be accomplished by targeting environments in which there are strong signs that violence may occur or which can provide a focus for early intervention.
- Need domestic violence program for elementary schools due to rising incidence of cases in that age group. Engage, educate, and empower youth to live free from domestic violence by promoting a culture of respect and nonviolence.\*
- 3. Problem Solvers Have the youth be part of the solution by engaging in candid discussion about the opportunities and challenges of getting them to discuss domestic violence.
- 4. Zero Tolerance Change attitudes and behaviors that condone and tolerate violence against others, specifically women and their children.

#### C. Community:

- 1. Need participation by Palm Coast and other municipalities' leaders in Domestic Violence Summit and in offering/marketing resources;
- 2. Businesses need to have programs to educate employees and support victims of domestic violence. Outback Restaurant has a good employee support program for DV victims.
- 3. Need more avenues for sharing information on DV.



- III. Identify, create and recommend new and innovative strategies to reduce domestic violence in Flagler County within your discipline.
  - A. Family Life Center (FLC):
  - Establish Domestic Violence Intervention Programs stop perpetrators from committing violence, by bringing them to justice, and changing their behaviors and use them as a deterrence for others. Develop programs to reduce recidivism and the opportunities for re-offending. Add efforts to help victims and batterers to self-identify. In some cases the program will be a faith based program. Establish H.E.L.P. Program – <u>H</u>elp <u>E</u>veryone <u>L</u>ive in <u>P</u>eace. Responsible Persons: FLC CEO Trish Giaccone ; Sheriff Rick Staly, Undersheriff Jack Bisland.
  - 2. Establish informational kiosk's in highly used areas to disseminate information.
  - 3. Family Life Center to work with Criminal Justice System to establish training for courts and courtrelated service providers. A batterer's intervention program cannot be expected to deter domestic violence in isolation: a strong, coordinated criminal justice response will be needed also. **Responsible Persons:** FLC CEO Trish Giaccone – to work with Family Court Judge.



#### **B.** Flagler Public Schools:

 Expand training in Flagler Schools for employees and students and parents – Have Sheriff speak at full faculty meeting for Flagler Schools and distribute materials shared at Domestic Violence Summit. Responsible Persons: Lynette Shott to check to see if Sheriff Staly can speak at full faculty and staff meeting. Set up training for school psychologists and counselors as first step.

Recommended that training materials used to train Board members for FLC which include Empowerment Wheel be used for training community and school groups. Add efforts to help victims and batterers to self-identify. **Responsible Persons**: FLC CEO Trish Giaccone , FLC Outreach Staff and Flagler Schools' staff. Also, Lynette Schott to contact Director of ESE Tim King to work with Trish Giaccone to set up training.

2. Schools asked to consider moving DV Curriculum to more effective area of school program so teachers of curriculum have DV specific training. **Responsible Persons:** School Administrators; Jeanne Rademacher to obtain copy of Volusia curriculum. Lynette Shott to share scope and sequence of 7-12 curriculum to review with committee.\*



### C. Community:

- 1. Expand committee to include a representative from Palm Coast Council and municipalities in the community.
- 2. Add a domestic violence session to Chamber Common Ground Breakfast sessions and to include in Leadership Flagler presentations. Identify and Educate Business leaders on the Impact of Domestic Violence.

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3. Create county-wide marketing initiative – combine efforts of C.A.R.E.S., Mental Health, FLC, etc.

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- 4. Contact FPL, Palm Coast Utility and other providers to include domestic violence flyer in monthly mailings.
- 5. Flagler County Tax Collector's Office to include DV flyer in property tax mailings.
- 6. Implement 211 for community help line to include resources for Domestic Violence.
- Develop an information Resource Library For the dissemination of information through various mediums such as 211, social media, radio, newspaper, community groups, etc.
- 8. Law enforcement agencies to provide presentations on domestic violence at workplaces, church and homeowner's meetings.
- 9. Live by example by creating a healthy, respectful and loving relationship and atmosphere for your spouse and children.

#### Responsible Persons: Chamber Director, FLC CEO Trish Giaccone, LEA's, City Mayors and County Commission Chair

#### \*<u>http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App\_mode=Display\_Statute&URL=1000-1099/1003/Sections/1003.42.html</u>

"Comprehensive health education that addresses concepts of community health; consumer health; environmental health; family life, including an awareness of the benefits of sexual abstinence as the expected standard and the consequences of teenage pregnancy; mental and emotional health; injury prevention and safety; Internet safety; nutrition; personal health; prevention and control of disease; and substance use and abuse. The health education curriculum for students in grades 7 through 12 shall include a teen dating violence and abuse component that includes, but is not limited to, the definition of dating violence and abuse, the warning signs of dating violence and abusive behavior, the characteristics of healthy relationships, measures to prevent and stop dating violence and abuse, and community resources available to victims of dating violence and abuse."



### Faith Based Committee

Rev. Ed Reistetter, Committee Chair, FCSO Law Enforcement Chaplain

John Bangert, Santa Maria del Mar Social Justice Ministry Denise Calderwood, Family Matters of Flagler Sandy Hollett, Family Life Center, Community Relations Manager Hillary Medlin, Healthy Start Coalition of Flagler/Volusia Counties Carol Reistetter, Citizen Volunteer



### **Underlying Assumptions:**

- Domestic violence and abuse can take place in all faith communities regardless of one's faith tradition or religious denomination.
- > Both victims and perpetrators may be worshipping in our faith communities.
- Clergy may encounter instances of Domestic Violence.
- Clergy have unique opportunity to engage victims and/or perpetrators.



# **Problem**

- There is often a disconnect between formal and ministerial training and proper training in handling cases of Domestic Violence.
- Possible consequences of inadequate clergy response:
  - Further empowerment of the perpetrators to hurt victims.
  - Victims loose confidence in the clergy.
  - Victims experience feelings of isolation, hopelessness and/or abandonment.



### **Mission**

- A mission of the entire Flagler County Faith Community should be to work cooperatively with other county agencies to:
  - End Domestic Violence.
  - Assure the safety of victims and their children.
  - Strive to build healthy, loving families where the plans and purposes of God for each member are allowed to be probed, encouraged, and fulfilled.



### **Recommended Actions**

- Offer and conduct clergy training on domestic violence.
- Hold ecumenical prayer services.
- Hold special holiday services.
- Encourage volunteerism at social agencies.
- Disseminate domestic violence information at places of worship.



### **Clergy Training**

- Co-trainers: ANG Chaplain Lt. Col. Jeff Peppers and the Family Life Center (FLC)
- Curriculum: Pastoral Care for Domestic Violence (14 hours)
  - Source: Faith Trust Institute
- Santa Maria del Mar classroom space
- Invitations through Flagler County Sheriff's Office "One Voice" list.



### **Ecumenical Prayer Services**

- Recruit at least two communities willing to host prayer services to:
  - Seek Divine help and guidance.
  - Intercede for victims and families.

Certain holidays (e.g. Christmas) may be especially difficult for victims and families due to feelings of isolation, hopelessness, and/or abandonment.

With the Family Life Center and host churches, help arrange services that allow worship in a safe environment.



### **Volunteerism**

Through participating faith communities, encourage and solicit volunteers to work at the Family Life Center and other social agencies.

### **Provide Domestic Violence Information**

- Encourage faith communities to display domestic violence awareness signage, brochures and other information to:
  - Direct victims to sources for help.
  - Raise awareness of the domestic violence problem and available resources.



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# **Criminal Justice Committee**

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#### Dayanna Lopez, Committee Chair, Community Legal Services

Chief Matt Doughney Chief Tom Foster **Rick Blaine** Jason Lewis Trish Giaccone Becky Quintieri Jack Bisland Jen Taylor Kathy Vazquez Mary Dinardi **Robert Thomasey** Ed Fuller **Charles Puckett** 

Flagler Beach Police Department Bunnell Police Department Flagler County Clerk of Court's Office 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit State Attorney's Office CEO, Family Life Center Director, Inmate Services, Flagler County Sheriff's Office Undersheriff, Flagler County Sheriff's Office Sergeant, Major Case Unit, Flagler County Sheriff's Office Victim Advocate, Flagler County Sheriff's Office Victim Advocate, Flagler County Sheriff's Office Citizen President, Crime Stoppers of Northeast Florida Florida Department of Children and Families



# **CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Assign a full-time dedicated Domestic Violence Detective to follow up on patrol arrests and complaint cases sent to the State Attorney's Office. St. Johns County has a 15% greater prosecution rate attributable to the full time DV Detective program.
  - A comprehensive case review with the Victim Advocates and a Family Life Center Counselor.
  - Build stronger cases for prosecution and identify repeat and prolific offenders.
  - Domestic violence detective to conduct periodic checks on the victim. This may result in locating the offender at the residence in violation of the Judges no contact order.

UPDATE: Sheriff Staly has authorized the assignment of a dedicated FCSO Domestic Violence Detective assigned to Major Case effective 1/1/2018 (as soon as new recruits have completed training).



- Implement a Law Enforcement Domestic Violence Initiative that is offender focused, similar to the Hollywood Police Department's Offender Focused Domestic Violence Initiative (OFDVI) program, the first of its kind in the State of Florida.
  - Focuses on repeat offenders of domestic violence by identifying the most repetitive and violent offenders and hold them accountable.
  - OFDVI continues to pursue justice through all investigative stages, including bond court, trial, sentencing, and probation.
  - Monitoring repeat offenders based on the individual rather than the traditional approach of location.
  - The goal of OFDVI is to stop the repeat cycle of violence before an offender re-offends.
  - This style of policing is often referred to as "Focused Deterrence" and since OFDVI's implementation in May 2015, Domestic Violence incidents in the City of Hollywood, FL have been reduced by 20%.



- Adopt the INVEST model and create a special team to collaborate resources to aid and protect domestic violence victims to include law enforcement, state attorneys office, victim services and the Flagler Life Center.
- Develop a violence lethality questionnaire to evaluate the potential for escalated violence.
   Examples: 1. Has the suspect ever used a weapon against you or threatened you with a weapon.
   2. Has the suspect ever threatened to kill you or your children?
   3. Do you think the suspect is capable of killing you?
- Research and collaborate with the Court System to consider an ankle monitoring program for defendants as a condition of bond for serious, repeat and/or felony domestic violence cases.
- Continued and ongoing training for first responding Law Enforcement Officers relating to Injunction for Protection requirements and identifying the difference between dysfunction and danger while on scene.
- Enhanced communication between patrol officers and other impacted divisions relating to domestic violence cases such as the School Resource Deputy program so the SRD's will have the situational awareness of domestic violence incidents that may impact school aged children who have witnessed or been impacted by domestic violence in their homes.



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Consider a Policy that requires a Florida Department of Children and Family Services notification in domestic violence cases where a child is a witness, victim or impacted by domestic violence.

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- Notify the Law Enforcement Agency where the incident occurred of the release of the defendant from jail and where the defendant will be residing pending disposition of the case. (Usually there is a no contact order with the victim, typically at the residence where the offense occurred).
- Consider a system that is researchable 24-7 that identifies addresses where injunctions are in effect. This will potentially make responses for Law Enforcement safer.
- > Open and make available a Flagler County Batterer's Intervention Program. DONE

UPDATE: Due to the efforts of the Domestic Violence Summit a Flagler County Batterer's Intervention Program was implemented on October 2, 2017. This is a court ordered 29-week program for batterer's held at the E.O.C. and taught by the Family Resource Connection. This program is paid for by the offender at no cost to the taxpayer.



- > Enhance communication between all partners in the criminal justice system in Flagler County.
- Produce a video in collaboration with our partners aimed at arrested domestic violence offenders and require them to watch prior to first appearance. They are a captive audience at that point.
- > Consider legislative recommendations to enhance sentencing guidelines for repeat DV offenders.
- > Neighborhood Watch programs should include awareness about domestic violence



### Summary – Sheriff Staly

- Special thank you to all the participants in the Domestic Violence Summit and the sub-committee's. Without your hard work we would not be able to impact this problem in our community.
- We already have results! Implemented a Batterer's Intervention Program in Flagler County and dedicated detective in January 2018.
- The next step is to follow through on the initiatives and issues that have been identified. Some initiatives require funding, some may require legislative action in Tallahassee while others can be quickly implemented.
- I anticipate the cases of domestic violence will increase before they begin to decrease. Victims now know they have a fully engaged system to assist and protect them.
- > The Committee will meet again in early January 2018 as a follow-up to this report and to evaluate the progress.
- In closing, I would like to show you a Public Service announcement we are unveiling today to educate the community. This PSA is a joint venture between the Flagler County Sheriff's Office and the Family Life Center and is designed to raise awareness and educate victims of domestic violence they can escape the abuse. It also warns offenders it is a crime that we take seriously.



# **Know The Signs**

