

PCADV Statewide Dating Violence Initiative

PCADV is engaged in a statewide initiative to provide training, technical assistance and resources for key stakeholders in the juvenile justice system and allied professionals, who regularly interact with youths who engage in dating relationships that are characterized by violence and abuse.

The goal of this project is to facilitate an increased understanding on the dynamics of dating violence by and against minors in order to improve the system's ability to keep minor victims safe and hold minor offenders accountable.

At the end of this 16-month initiative, PCADV anticipates that stakeholders will:

- Possess knowledge and understanding of the dynamics of dating violence;**
- Possess knowledge of the range of services and protections available to minors who are victims of dating violence through Pennsylvania's network of county-based domestic violence programs;**
- Develop policies, procedures and protocols that institutionalize a consistent and timely response to dating violence that prioritize the safety of victims of dating violence and hold offenders accountable;**
- Support improved communications between the juvenile justice system and the civil justice system so that information pertaining to Protection From Abuse Orders against minors and violations of those orders are promptly and properly communicated to law enforcement and become part of the statewide and national repositories designed to facilitate enforcement;**
- Identify, investigate and refer for prosecution acts of dating violence when appropriate;**
- Recognize and increase referrals of victims of dating violence to Pennsylvania's domestic violence programs for services and information on the availability of relief through the Protection From Abuse Act.**