ICCR Newsletter

March 2020

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STAYING SAFE DURING COVID-19

We know that you are working hard to keep Texas communities safe despite the added uncertainty and danger that comes with COVID-19, and we want to thank you for your commitment to survivors. Our hearts are with you, your families, and your communities during this difficult time.

We have pulled together a few resources below that outline helpful tips on staying safe and protecting yourself, your family, and victims of domestic violence. Now, and always, we are here if you need us.

LAW ENFORCEMENT:

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) has created a webpage dedicated to aiding law enforcement in learning more about COVID-19 and how agencies can prepare. Resources on this page include fact sheets, organizational guidelines, and what signs law enforcement needs to look for when responding on-scene.

ADVOCATES:

First and foremost, the Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) urges programs to continue to promote their crisis lines and make digital services available. TCFV has created a toolkit containing information such as travel guidance, shelter guidelines, and BIPP planning. Check out their resource guide for COVID-19 here.

PROSECUTORS:

Check out Texas Legal Services Center's web page, which continues to provide updated information regarding COVID-19, including court closures, postponements, and procedures.

SPOTLIGHT ON ROLL CALL TRAININGS

IACP International Association of Chiefs of Police

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) has created several roll call trainings, designed to focus on a unique aspect of policing and how to better serve victims.

The videos at the links below are designed to be viewed and discussed in 15-30 minute segments, and each comes with a training facilitation guide.

The Crime of Domestic Violence Roll-Call Video

Officers provide as much support to victims as possible, but when equipped with a better understanding of the nuances and dynamics of this intimate partner crime, they can more effectively address victims' needs and hold offenders accountable.

This 4-segment video highlights the realities and complexities of domestic violence and provides strategies for effective investigations.

Identifying & Responding to Elder Abuse: An Officer's Role

- Six-part roll call video series to enable law enforcement to better identify signs of elder abuse and recognize evidence that can lead to the successful prosecution of criminals.
- Excel-based financial investigative tool that can help identify patterns of exploitation and develop graphic representations of suspected criminal activity.

APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

DID YOU KNOW?

51.1% of female victims of rape reported being raped by an intimate partner and 40.8% by an acquaintance [1]

63% of sexual assaults are not reported to police [2]

Ages 12-34 are the highest risk years for rape and sexual assault [3]

A sexual assault occurs every 73 seconds in the U.S. [4]

[1] www.rainn.org
[2] www.rainn.org
[3] www.rainn.org
[4] www.rainn.org

Resources

Click on the icons to learn more!

- Quick Guide: Domestic Violence & Sexual Abuse
- Prevalence & Characteristics Among Domestic Violence & Sexual Offenders
- Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network

FELLOWS! Click here to access ICCR Link for more resources on the link between domestic violence & sexual assault!

IN THE NEWS

Home is not a safe place for everyone

This article focuses on a crucial component of the coronavirus pandemic: its effects on domestic violence. Although social distancing will reduce the spread of the virus, concerned perpetrators can use social distancing recommendations to further restrict their partner's freedoms and threaten their safety.

Read more here

Rural hospitals brace for coronavirus

For many rural hospitals, beds are limited, and only go to patients in crisis, including trauma-related services. However, with COVID-19 sweeping across the nation, it is likely that these beds will go to infected individuals. The lack of capabilities for trauma victims could severely impact rape kit testing and inhibit justice for survivors.

Read more here

Calls for help "Are through the roof." DFW women's shelters struggle during pandemic

With the COVID-19 situation underway across the world, shelters in North Texas are just some of the many that are affected. Calls to hotlines are skyrocketing, and many shelters have closed their doors in order to keep the virus from spreading. Shelters are also running low on food and cleaning supplies, putting more pressure on employees and, ultimately, victims.

Read more here

SAVE THE DATE

Webinar: Mindfulness for CCRs

REGISTER

And learn more about this event!

Presented by Justin Boardman, April 9, 2:00 PM-3:30 PM

Multidisciplinary teams are their own organism, each with its own energy. At multidisciplinary meetings, we work hard to try to improve the justice system for victims of crime, but our team members also have their own unique personalities, professions, and trauma backgrounds, which can be frustrating and even traumatizing. In this webinar, we will discuss some options to help identify our own trauma and secondary trauma, as well as how we might prevent it in the future so our teams and victims benefit. Throughout the webinar, we will practice different exercises so you have new tools to take back to your team.

Up to 1.5 hours of accreditation available for MCLE, LMFT, LPC, and Social Work!

Webinar: Organizational Response to Vicarious Trauma

REGISTER

And learn more about this event!

Presented by Janet Fine, May 7, 2:00 PM-3:30 PM

Description and accreditation information coming soon!

Update: 15th Annual Conference on Crimes Against Women

We have been monitoring the evolving situation with COVID-19 closely, working with health experts and government entities at every level. **As safety is our first priority, we have decided not to move forward with the Conference scheduled for May 18-21, 2020 as planned.**

We are working on a contingency plan for the 2020 Conference and will have an update for you very soon! In the meantime, we have placed new registrations and modifications on hold.

To read more about this recent update, click HERE!

LINK LEADERBOARD

Congratulations to **Jessica Abbe** for being the most active fellow on ICCR Link this month!

Your Amazon gift card will be emailed to you shortly!

Jessica Abbe 1

Christine Labertew 2

Tara Avants 3

ICCR Link

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