

## Prince George's Healthcare Action Coalition Domestic Violence Work Group



Meets twice each month by conference call.

Co-Chairs are Dr. Glenda Hodges, PhD, JD, M.Div. (CEO, Still I Rise, Inc.) and Dr. Rita Robinson, MD (Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, Still I Rise, Inc.).

The Domestic Violence Work Group operates under Priority 6 of the Local Health Action Plan for 2011-2014 in Prince George's County, to *"ensure that Prince George's County social environments are safe and support health."* As such, the Work Group has selected the following County Outcome Objectives to work towards achieving each year:

- (1) Reduce domestic violence or non-fatal physical assault injuries by five percent (5%)
- (2) Reduce fatal and non-fatal child maltreatment by five percent (5%).

The work group's primary strategy for 2014 from the Local Health Action Plan, 2011-2014 is to *"enlist the faith-based community and other groups to establish support for victims and potential perpetrators of domestic violence."* The Domestic Violence Work Group's 2014 goals are:

- (1) Print and distribute the Domestic Violence Assessment tool brochures (one for adults; one for children and adolescents)
- (2) Develop an outreach program to provide education in schools and around the community
- (3) Develop a public service announcement that is targeted to high risk families.

In order to increase outreach to the community, the work group is identifying opportunities to disseminate information regarding domestic violence around the county, such as through print advertising on receipts at grocery stores as well as possibly distributing educational information through employers, health fairs, associations, schools and churches in the county. The group is continuing to research best practices to promote the PGHAC Domestic Violence Work Group as a resource in the County. Also, the group is researching the necessary steps to pursue the inclusion of "Domestic Violence" as a topic in the Prince George's County Public Schools curriculum.

The Group is already witnessing positive outcomes from their efforts. Work Group Co-Chair Dr. Glenda Hodges (CEO, Still I Rise, Inc.) is working with the Faith Community Partnership of DC to establish community liaisons to connect victims of domestic violence to counseling, shelter and other resources in the County. There are now thirty-four churches in the Prince George's County and the DC metropolitan area that have designated two liaisons each (one male; one female) for victims of domestic violence to get connected to resources in a discrete, culturally sensitive manner. In addition, group members are working with various council members to determine the resources that can be provided to support efforts to curb domestic violence. Finally, the group has developed and designed a self-assessment tool (one for adults and one for youth) that will be distributed in School-Based Wellness Clinics and throughout the County. Currently, the adult brochure is in the final approval stages to begin printing and distribution in Prince George's County. The youth brochure is available on the Health Department's website:

<http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/Health/PGCHI/Coalitions/Pages/Domestic%20Violence%20Workgroup.aspx>