

FCADV is pleased to introduce an exciting new project created to assist Florida's domestic violence advocates, sexual violence and rape crisis advocates, and runaway and homeless youth service providers with the issue of teen dating violence. One portion of the project involved creating a user-friendly curriculum complete with practical information regarding the complexities and dynamics of dating violence. One goal of the project is to increase domestic and sexual violence advocates' and runaway youth workers' knowledge of and competency in direct service provision to runaway adolescents who experience dating violence. Both intervention and prevention strategies are explored and a wealth of resources is provided including protocols for working with youth experiencing teen dating violence. The curriculum was presented in both Advocate and Train the Trainer formats. The trainings will be repeated soon, so check out FCADV's website for detailed information: www.fcadv.org.

Speaking of the website, FCADV has created a link titled, "Teen Dating Violence" which will include a map of Florida referrals, model intervention protocols, model collaborative protocols, and other information pertinent to the project.

FCADV formed an Advisory Board consisting of experts from the following organizations to assist in the project: Florida Network of Youth and Family Services and Florida Council Against Sexual Assault. The Advisory Board also consists of representatives from a Tallahassee-based youth shelter and two FCADV Caucuses including the Child and Youth Caucus and the Hispanic/Latin Caucus. The Advisory Board was responsible for providing guidance and expertise on the development of the curriculum and model intervention protocols for working with runaway or homeless youth experiencing dating violence.

Be sure to look for brochures, posters and palm cards detailing the Teen Dating Violence Among Runaway and Homeless Youth project coming to your local center soon! Another exciting aspect of the project includes creating teen runaway focus groups across the state to assist in determining additional needs. The project will continue to bring together domestic violence advocates, sexual assault advocates and runaway youth workers to build relationships that will

ultimately foster enriched service delivery to runaway and homeless youth. If you have questions about the project including inquiring about technical assistance related to the project contact Julie Ann Rivers-Cochran at 850-210-5359.