



January 15, 2014

**Domestic Violence
Study Group Report
2013 Legislative Session**

**Reference: Senate Resolution 95/
House Resolution 76**

2013 Legislative Session

Senate Resolution 95/House Resolution 76

Domestic Violence Study Group Report

SUBMITTED ON JANUARY 15, 2014

Introduction

Introduced during the 2013 Legislative Session, Senate Resolution 95 by Senator Walsworth, and House Resolution 76 by Representative Schroder requested that the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) collaborate with stakeholders to study and develop a comprehensive statewide plan for the delivery of domestic violence services and to report its recommendations to the House and Senate Committees on Health and Welfare on or before January 15, 2014. In Appendix I of this report the full texts of both SR 95 and HR 76 are included, and Appendix II provides a list of the participants in the study group.

In constructing a comprehensive statewide plan for the delivery of domestic violence services, the study group was charged with including four of the following directives:

- (1) Development of a state needs assessment and a comprehensive and integrated service delivery approach that meets the needs of all domestic violence victims.
- (2) Establishment of a method to transition domestic violence service providers towards evidence-based national best practices focusing on outreach and prevention.
- (3) Development of a plan that ensures that Louisiana laws on domestic violence are being properly implemented and provides for training on domestic violence and its many dimensions to law enforcement and the judiciary.
- (4) Development of a framework to collect and integrate data and measure program outcomes.

Group Methodology

The study group formed work groups to examine different components of the study group directives: a Needs Assessment & Data Collection Work Group, a Law Enforcement/Judicial Training and Law Implementation Work Group, and an Evaluation System work group. These work groups conducted seven telephone conference calls. The entire domestic violence study group held five meetings. This included two day-long meetings, where the work groups' findings were reviewed, presentations on national best practices currently being implemented in parts of Louisiana and the differences between various regional plans and regional funding were discussed, and four different states' (Texas, Florida, Georgia and Michigan) domestic violence plans were reviewed, before initial recommendations were drafted.

Domestic Violence in Louisiana

Louisiana consistently ranks in the top ten nationally for domestic violence-related homicides. The homicide rate among females murdered by males in Louisiana was 1.67 per 100,000 women in 2011, ranking us 9th highest in the nation for homicides of female victims murdered by men,¹ the statistic used nationally in tracking the occurrence of domestic violence-related homicides. According to the Louisiana

¹ Violence Policy Center, "When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2011 Homicide Data. Females Murdered by Males in Single Victim/Single Offender Incidents," September 2013

Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV), in 2012 their member domestic violence service providers

- provided almost **91,000 nights of emergency shelter**, and
- took over **38,000 crisis calls**, but
- documented more than **1,800 unmet needs**, due to low staff and full shelter beds.

Appendix III features state maps with the locations of the domestic violence and sexual assault programs funded by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement (LCLE) and the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) Office of Public Health, the three main funders for domestic violence services in the state.

These statistics highlight the need for Louisiana to make the prevention of domestic violence, the availability of necessary services to victims, and the effectiveness of state law enforcement and justice system efforts to properly address domestic violence crimes a priority. With these concerns in mind, the domestic violence study group set out to craft recommendations that could serve as concrete next steps in our state's efforts to positively impact the issue of domestic violence.

General Findings

Overall, the members of the domestic violence study group found that the group's formation was an excellent first step in constructing a strong statewide plan for coordination among the many parties that service domestic violence survivors and their families in Louisiana. Therefore, it is recommended that the study group be developed into a standing group so that it can play a role in the implementation of the recommendations housed in this report and those that will result from a statewide needs assessment, and so Louisiana can further strengthen its statewide Coordinated Community Response to domestic violence.

Through the study group's meetings, the study group found that study group stakeholders are doing a great deal that other stakeholders were not aware of. From data collection to new training initiatives, the study group found that there are many best practices already in place in Louisiana. Family Justice Centers are one national best practice with which Louisiana has had notable success. There are currently two Family Justice Centers operating as part of the initial *President's Family Justice Center Initiative, Best Practices*, created in October 2003. The first Family Justice Center established in Louisiana was the Family Justice Center of Ouachita Parish, which was opened in August 2005. It was one of the first fifteen of the now eighty Family Justice Centers operating nationwide. The second Family Justice Center in Louisiana, the New Orleans Family Justice Center, opened in August 2007, and was the 16th federally-funded Center. A third Family Justice Center is currently being created in Alexandria to support victims of domestic violence and plans to open its doors in March 2014. These Centers provide a "one-stop" location for all services needed for victims of domestic violence. Several partner agencies including law enforcement, prosecution, judiciary and victim service providers work collaboratively with these Centers in their respective service areas to develop, improve and implement a coordinated, integrated community response to combat domestic violence.

A second example of a national best practice being replicated in Louisiana is Supervised Visitation Centers. The Office on Violence Against Women's (OVW) Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant Program provided opportunities for communities nationwide to support supervised visitation and safe exchange of children in situations involving domestic violence. There are five supervised visitation programs in the state that provide supervised visitation and safe exchange of children by and between parents in situations involving domestic violence; protect children from the trauma of witnessing domestic violence or experiencing abduction, injury, or death during parent and child visitation exchanges; protect parents or caretakers who are victims of domestic violence from experiencing further violence, abuse, and threats during child visitation exchanges; and protect children from the trauma of experiencing sexual assault or other forms of physical assault or abuse during parent and child visitation and exchanges.

The study group found that many organizations around the state have already had successes implementing national best practices to better serve domestic violence survivors in their area. However, the group concluded that there is a need to enhance, expand and support training efforts, mentoring, and other best practices for victim service providers at a statewide level.

Chief among the study group's findings was the need for statewide data collection and, as a key feature of that, the need for a statewide needs assessment completed by an independent entity, such as an academic institution, that would be used to further inform policies, and which would survey a wide range of stakeholders. Without the current existence of data from such a needs assessment, the study group feels that the recommendations in this report should be considered preliminary recommendations, which would be subject to change according to the findings of a formal statewide needs assessment. The study group therefore worked to provide broadly-defined recommendations that can be initiated and then adjusted once the needs assessment is completed.

Charges to the Domestic Violence Study Group

Charge No. 1

Development of a state needs assessment and a comprehensive and integrated service delivery approach that meets the needs of all domestic violence victims.

Findings:

The study group determined that the need for a formal statewide needs assessment is the study group's top recommendation, as it would provide data essential to the construction of a meaningful domestic violence strategy for the state to best meet the needs of survivors and their families. Ideally, the state would contract with an independent researcher, such as an academic institution, to conduct the needs assessment. The independent researcher would create an online needs assessment survey that includes questions addressing the major needs of victims and how well they are presently being met, as well as questions that assess the knowledge base of responders/service providers. A listening tour, focus groups, and other assessment methodologies may also be incorporated into the statewide needs assessment. The needs assessment should be given to a wide array of stakeholders, including law enforcement, the judiciary, domestic violence survivors, prosecutors, and service providers. The independent researcher would be expected to meet with the different organizations represented on the domestic violence study group (Louisiana District Attorneys Association, Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police, Louisiana Public Defender Board, etc.), to coordinate efforts. Demographics information should be included in the survey's questions, but necessary confidentiality requirements should also be observed. Data analysis should be integrated into the work of the needs assessment, so that statewide needs and large-scale policy suggestions can be extrapolated from the needs assessment, and other states' data plans should be consulted in constructing the study.

Three main state agencies provide funds to domestic violence service providers: the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement (LCLE), and the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) Office of Public Health. In addition, domestic violence service providers can apply for other federal and local foundation grants and can fundraise.

DCFS will administer about \$6.6 million in domestic violence funds in the coming year. This is a combination of both federal and state funds: \$1,371,388 in Family Violence Prevention and Services Program (FVPSA) federal funds, \$2,350,000 in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) federal funds, as well as \$2.4 million in state general funds, approximately \$425,000 annually from marriage license fees and approximately \$92,000 annually in civil fees collected by 23 participating parishes. These funds are administered in coordination with the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV). Programs are assessed using the Committee on Quality Assurance (COQA) system. The COQA Committee

is made up of five peers (Executive Directors from state domestic violence service programs), a DCFS staff person, and an LCADV staff person. The programs receive a score calculated through four different types of submissions: a provider self-study, provider documents submitted to COQA, a site visit, and contract performance and reporting. Site visits are conducted by a group made up of one DCFS staff person, one LCADV staff person, and one peer. Domestic violence service providers who receive grants from DCFS are required to secure matching funds of twenty percent of the grantee's contract amount. Such matching funds may be in the form of cash, certified expenditures or in-kind contributions. Matching funds must be derived from unduplicated sources other than the program or other federal funding and be provided after the date of the grant award to the recipient. Funds used to match a previous DCFS, federal or other grant award may not be used to match a subsequent grant.

The Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement (LCLE) will administer about \$1,371,363 in Fiscal Year 2013 for domestic violence programs. These funds are federal, and are derived from two funding streams: \$1,086,957 in Victims of Crime Act, Victim Assistance Program under the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Program (OJP) funds and \$284,406 in Violence Against Women Act's S.T.O.P. (Services – Training – Officers – Prosecutors) Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program under the Violence Against Women Program Office, Office of Justice Program (OJP) funds. VOCA funds' primary purpose is to support the provision of services to victims of crime, and requires programs to provide direct services to victims, while VAWA STOP funds' primary purpose is the reduction of violence by developing and strengthening effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies to combat crimes against women.

LCLE provides funds to victim service providers as well as law enforcement, prosecution agencies, and courts. LCLE partners with the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV) and the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault (LaFASA) to administer VAWA STOP funds to nonprofit victim service providers. LCADV divides their victim services allocation evenly among member programs and LaFASA bases the division of their victim services allocation by population and area served. On-Site Monitoring visits for all programs are conducted by both the LCLE STOP and VOCA CVA Program Managers each year. Each program has its own benchmarks when applying for the funding in the Goals, Objectives, and Activities section of their funding application. Programs are assessed based on the quality of services they provide and proper grant management. Criminal justice agencies and victim service providers are required to collaborate and coordinate. Domestic violence service providers who receive VOCA funds from LCLE are required to secure matching funds of twenty percent of the grantee's contract federal amount (Indian Tribes have a five percent match requirement). No waivers are permissible, and cash-in-kind matches are permitted. For VAWA STOP funds, a twenty-five percent match is required for all law enforcement, prosecution, and court programs (excluding Tribes and nonprofit victim service agencies); cash or in-kind matches are permitted. Match waivers for victim service providers must be requested in writing from the Federal Office of Violence Against Women each funding year. If the waiver is not granted, law enforcement, prosecution, and court agencies would be required to provide the twenty-five percent match for the funds designated for victim service agencies. However, beginning with FY 2014 STOP funds, the procedures of requesting a waiver for the victim services agencies share of the award will no longer be necessary.

The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) Office of Public Health will administer \$682,519 in sexual assault-focused funds in the coming year. They fund fourteen sexual assault centers, five of which are dual sexual assault/domestic violence programs. They administer two federal funds: \$109,436 in Preventive Health Block (PHB) funds (\$25,055 of which goes to dual domestic violence/sexual assault service providers), and \$493,083 in Rape Prevention and Education (RPE) funds (\$97,568 of which goes to dual domestic violence/sexual assault service providers). In addition, they manage \$80,000 in state supplemental funds, which are used to cover state administrative expenses. PHB funds are evenly distributed among the state's fourteen sexual assault centers. RPE funds are administered by LaFASA, using a new SAC Score points system. Five factors are designated to determine points, and include compliance with standards, size of population served, size of geographic area, number of direct

service contacts (victim services) and number of contacts in prevention work. The SAC Score is calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{SAC Score} = 0.3[\text{Accreditation}(\text{Prevention})] + 0.1[\text{Accreditation}(\text{Intervention})] + 0.2[\text{Contract Compliance}(\text{previous year})] + 0.2[\text{Contract: Prevention Framework}] + 0.1[\text{Contacts}(\text{Prevention})] + 0.05[\text{Population}] + 0.05[\text{Square Mileage}].$$

LaFASA's Executive Director scores service providers on these different factors annually.

State agencies have not been in the business of opening or closing domestic violence shelter programs, and the current system of domestic violence shelters in Louisiana reflects a tendency of state agencies to fund shelter programs that have already traditionally existed in communities. However, it is important to note that domestic violence shelter programs are not required to be approved by state funders in order to operate or provide services, and while the three state agency funders have standards for programs that they will fund, domestic violence service providers with other funding sources can operate without state oversight.

The majority of domestic violence funds administered in the state are federal funds, and federal grants require that state administrators "provide an assurance that there will be an equitable distribution of grants and grant funds within the state and between urban and rural areas within such state." Funding issues identified by the domestic violence study group include that funding amounts have not been calculated based on a universal scoring system used by the three main funding agencies; programs are held to different assessment standards by each funder; and some funders provide funds to domestic violence programs that other funders have elected not to, perhaps missing an opportunity to best leverage all available funds. While domestic violence-related services are provided in most parishes through the programs that DCFS, LCLE and DHH fund, because funds available for domestic violence programs are not divided regionally, the study group found that there are rural parishes in central and northeastern Louisiana where there are no physical domestic violence shelters in existence, and the victims in these areas currently have unequal access to services (see Appendix III for state maps featuring the locations of the domestic violence and sexual assault programs funded by DCFS, LCLE and DHH). Additional work can be done to collectively create funding synergies between the funds administered by DCFS, LCLE and DHH, as well as to help identify additional funding sources (e.g., grants, public-private partnerships) for domestic violence service providers in our state, in order to better serve survivors in all areas of Louisiana.

Fiscal Year 2013 Domestic Violence-Related Funding in Louisiana

Organization	Funds Administered	Amount of Funds
<i>DCFS</i>	FVPSA	\$1,371,388
	TANF	2,350,000
	State General Funds	2,400,000
	Marriage License Fees (approx.)	425,000
	Civil Fees (approx.)	92,000
	Total (federal)	3,721,388
	Total (state)	2,917,000
	TOTAL	6,638,388
<i>LCLE</i>	VOCA	1,086,957
	VAWA STOP	284,406
	Total (federal)	1,371,363
	Total (state)	\$0
	TOTAL	1,371,363
<i>DHH</i>	PHB	25,055
	RPE	97,568
	State Supplemental Funds	80,000
	Total (federal)	122,623
	Total (state)	80,000
	TOTAL	202,623

Total Federal Funds: **\$5,215,374**

Total State Funds: **2,997,000**

Total Funds: \$8,212,374

Recommendations:

State needs assessment:

1. Hire an independent data evaluator to conduct domestic violence-related data collection and analysis in the form of a formal statewide needs assessment, which would survey a wide array of stakeholders and which would include questions meant to ascertain the level of baseline knowledge subjects have around domestic violence best practices.
2. The Domestic Violence Study Group created by SR 95/HR76 in 2013 should continue to exist and should become a standing work group that participates in statewide planning and implementation of the recommendations that result from a statewide needs assessment.

Comprehensive and integrated service delivery approach:

3. Encourage collaborative efforts between the Department of Children and Family Services, the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement, and the Department of Health and Hospitals by creating a joint committee with representation from the three agencies, which would meet quarterly. The joint committee would develop methods to create assessment synergies that ensure the most equitable distribution of federal and state resources, and that best serve all areas of the state.
4. Define the elements of a comprehensive and integrated service delivery system based on nationally accepted best practices and the outcome of the statewide needs assessment.

Further Work of the Study Group:

The Study Group's future work could include:

- Explore possible technical assistance available to Louisiana from federal funders and their partners to assist the Domestic Violence Study Group in using the results of the statewide needs assessment and domestic violence-related data collection to help create a comprehensive and integrated service delivery system based on nationally accepted best practices, and to develop intrastate networking strategies meant to improve services to victims of domestic violence.

Charge No. 2

Establishment of a method to transition domestic violence service providers towards evidence-based national best practices focusing on outreach and prevention.

Findings:

The terms “best practices,” “promising practices,” “evidence based practices,” and “evidence informed” are all terms linked to the idea of Best Practices, so the study group used the term broadly in its discussions to look at what ideas and initiatives are backed by research and the limited empirical evidence available. The study group reviewed current national best practices in four states (Florida, Texas, Georgia and Michigan). Rather than looking only at national models at work in other states, however, the study group also reviewed best practices already being utilized in some Louisiana communities, with the goal of zeroing in on successful local practices to expand statewide. Ensuring safety and support of victims, holding abusers accountable for their behavior, providing a network of intervention and prevention, and engaging the whole community in efforts to change societal attitudes and behaviors that contribute to domestic violence are the key goals of any domestic violence related best practices. The study group reviewed primary prevention strategies that work to prevent violence before it happens and to change societal norms or conditions. For example, school-based programs and public education campaigns can be utilized to raise community awareness about the causes and effects of domestic violence. Secondary prevention strategies that decrease the prevalence of domestic violence and which are directed at individuals, families and communities that are considered high risk for experiencing violent behavior were discussed. In addition, the study group identified tertiary prevention best practices, where service providers are intervening when violence has occurred. Offering counseling and support groups, batterers’ intervention programs, different types of sheltering services including long-term housing, supervised visitation centers, and assistance with protective orders and other legal services were some of the best practices the study group reviewed.

Rather than selecting best practices that should be uniformly instituted in all regions of the state, the study group concluded that a formal statewide needs assessment would assist in identifying which communities could most benefit from the implementation of specific best practices that best address their communities’ unique needs. However, the study group did identify that, statewide, enhancements could be provided to services to traditionally underserved domestic violence victims (women of color; disabled women; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) victims; rural victims; culturally specific communities; and male victims). The study group recommends that consideration be given to methods to provide increased access to services for these victims.

Recommendations:

5. Update existing quality assurance standards to include the most up to date federal guidelines.
6. Prioritize the incorporation of cultural competency best practices into the training of domestic violence service providers and in the services offered survivors to better serve traditionally underserved communities.
7. Enhance the capacity of domestic violence service providers to implement best practices through increased technical assistance, fund development, training, and mentoring.

Further Work of the Study Group:

The Study Group’s future work could include:

- Exploring ways to improve outcomes for non-offending parents in the child welfare system.

- Identifying partners for updating quality assurance standards and measurable goals consistent with the requirements of federal law and the conditions of the funding streams.

Charge No. 3

Development of a plan that ensures that Louisiana laws on domestic violence are being properly implemented and provides for training on domestic violence and its many dimensions to law enforcement and the judiciary.

Findings:

The need for more consistent laws, more training for law enforcement, prosecutors and the judiciary, and more accurate data collection were all issues the domestic violence study group identified. The lack of statewide electronic systems for law enforcement and court records makes it very difficult for those in law enforcement, prosecution and the judiciary to access the histories of offenders, and may make it difficult for them to adequately deal with perpetrators who have records of abuse in other jurisdictions. Improving electronic systems to code cases that involve domestic violence, even if the charges are not explicitly labeled as domestic violence within the charge, would help compile much-needed data on Louisiana domestic violence rates and would help provide a more accurate view of how much of our resources are being used towards dealing with domestic violence crimes. Other states have these systems, and while these recommendations have financial implications, they would also have the potential to save the state significantly in the long-term.

Discussing national best practices led to several additional law enforcement/judiciary-related study group recommendations. A need for additional trainings on specific domestic violence-related topics like T- and U-Visas (nonimmigrant visas for victims of certain crimes that provide temporary legal status and work eligibility in the United States) was identified. The creation of more dedicated dockets statewide (where a judge handles all domestic violence cases in a region, providing more consistent, quick responses to domestic violence cases), the creation of a lethality assessment tool that all police first-responders would use with victims, and a standing task force to assess existing and potential trainings would also help Louisiana better serve victims and better allocate limited resources.

Recommendations:

Law implementation:

8. Establish a statewide data system for law enforcement/judiciary information.
9. Implement a policy for officer-involved domestic violence cases for all sheriffs and police departments.
10. Increase funding available to provide civil legal representation for victims, and prioritize providing more domestic violence training to civil attorneys.
11. Increase funding available to provide victim advocates, which support victims during court proceedings.
12. Explore new methods for accessing outside funds to help provide more victims with civil legal assistance.
13. Review inconsistencies in laws for the numerous types of civil and protective order provisions as they relate to domestic violence.
14. Encourage courts to explore creating dedicated dockets for domestic violence in criminal misdemeanor civil and family court protective order cases.

Training:

15. Incorporate T- and U-Visa information into trainings for law enforcement/prosecutors/the judiciary.
16. Create a domestic violence training task force to ensure training consistency, track types of trainings being offered and to whom, and to prioritize new topics on which to develop training.
17. Adopt a standard, simple lethality assessment for police to use with victims, as well as providing victims with information on additional community resources available to them including shelter.

Future Work of the Study Group:

The future work of the Study Group could include:

- Identifying the best method of tracking criminal charges which are related to domestic abuse but which are not defined as domestic abuse.
- Exploring funding streams for civil legal representation for domestic violence victims.
- Exploring funding streams for victim advocates to accompany domestic violence victims to court.

Charge No. 4

Development of a framework to collect and integrate data and measure program outcomes.

Findings:

Many stakeholder organizations represented on this study group compile useful data on domestic violence in Louisiana, but the data’s usefulness is limited as long as it is not aggregated. By establishing standing groups that look at data from around the state collectively, through the lens of identifying trends and needs statewide, the state can more accurately ascertain needs as well as identifying issues about which additional data collection is required. Establishing resources such as a single website for Louisiana’s domestic violence data and resources could be a first step towards making it easier for stakeholders to attain up-to-date information on domestic violence in Louisiana.

Opportunities to coordinate prevention efforts in the state was an additional concern of the study group. Having a report on the types and frequency of prevention efforts already occurring around the state would enable stakeholder groups to better utilize their prevention resources. An ideal report would include information on primary prevention strategies (preventing violence before it happens and changing societal norms), secondary prevention strategies (decreasing the prevalence when you see early signs of domestic violence), and tertiary strategies (intervening when violence has occurred).

Currently, the different domestic violence programs in the state do not all use the same software or systems to collect data on their programs, and making these efforts more consistent through the adoption of one software system could be a possible solution. After discussion, the study group decided that before the uniform adoption statewide of a particular software could be recommended, it needed to first be assessed which systems all domestic violence service providers use, since some have invested heavily in software and adopting a new system would likely mean additional costs.

Recommendations:

18. Create a standing group that collects and analyzes domestic violence-related data from national and state organizations annually, reviewing it for trends and recommendations for further data collection needs or actions.
19. Designate a location on the web where links to all available data sources for domestic violence in Louisiana are provided.
20. Report annually on prevention activities and other best practices occurring in the state.
21. Complete a statewide assessment of current data software used by domestic violence service providers, and explore the feasibility and cost implications of adopting a uniform software.

Future Work of the Study Group:

The future work of the Study Group could include:

- Developing a set of established standard terms that could be used by all major domestic violence funders and all service providers to more consistently collect data on domestic violence in Louisiana.

Conclusion

Creating a long-lasting impact, stronger connections between stakeholders and more targeted use of our resources is necessary to address the issue of domestic violence. Conducting a formal statewide needs assessment is a first step to developing a comprehensive statewide plan for the delivery of domestic violence services. A statewide needs assessment will provide data-driven information regarding current

areas of greatest need, so that our continued efforts to address domestic violence can be strategic. Implementing the study group's recommendations to improve data collection, institute best practices, and increase available training will help ensure that Louisiana can better serve survivors and their families.

Regular Session, 2013
HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 76
BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHRODER

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Children and Family Services to collaborate with stakeholders to study and develop a comprehensive statewide plan for the delivery of domestic violence services and to report its recommendations to the House Committee on Health and Welfare on or before January 15, 2014.

WHEREAS, domestic violence is detrimental to the safety and psychological well-being of Louisiana's citizens; and

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana must maximize its resources to provide services to the victims of domestic violence in a manner that prioritizes safety and results in long-term, sustainable outcomes; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence funding in Louisiana is currently based on a model which is mainly focused on shelters instead of means such as prevention, education, and outreach which address the root cause of the problem before the victim is forced to utilize a shelter; and

WHEREAS, the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act encourages states to implement comprehensive plans for domestic violence response.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Children and Family Services to collaborate with the following stakeholders to study and develop a comprehensive statewide plan for domestic violence services:

- (1) A representative of the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence.
- (2) A representative of the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement.
- (3) A representative of the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault.
- (4) A representative of the Louisiana Women's Policy and Research Commission.
- (5) A representative of the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police.
- (6) A representative of the Louisiana District Attorneys Association.
- (7) A representative of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association.
- (8) A representative of the Louisiana Supreme Court, Judicial Administrator's Office, with expertise in the administration of the Louisiana Protective Order Registry.
- (9) A representative of the Louisiana Department of Justice, office of the attorney general.
- (10) A representative of the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, office of public health.
- (11) A representative of the Louisiana Public Defender Board.
- (12) A representative of the District Judges Association.
- (13) A representative of the Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.
- (14) A domestic violence survivor.
- (15) A domestic violence program director.
- (16) A representative of the Louisiana Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department along with the stakeholders shall develop a plan that includes but is not limited to all of the following:

- (1) Development of a state needs assessment and a comprehensive and integrated service delivery approach that meets the needs of all domestic violence victims.
- (2) Establishment of a method to transition domestic violence service providers towards evidence-based national best practices focusing on outreach and prevention.
- (3) Development of a plan that ensures that Louisiana laws on domestic violence are being properly implemented and provides for training on domestic violence and its many

dimensions to law enforcement and the judiciary.

(4) Development of a framework to collect and integrate data and measure program outcomes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall provide all recommendations of this study in the form of a report to the House Committee on Health and Welfare on or before January 15, 2014.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services.

Regular Session, 2013
SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 95
BY SENATOR WALSWORTH

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Children and Family Services to collaborate with stakeholders to study and develop a comprehensive statewide plan for the delivery of domestic violence services and to report its recommendations to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare on or before January 15, 2014.

WHEREAS, domestic violence is detrimental to the safety and psychological wellbeing of Louisiana's citizens; and

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana must maximize its resources to provide services to the victims of domestic violence in a manner that prioritizes safety and results in longterm, sustainable outcomes; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence funding in Louisiana is currently based on a model which is mainly focused on shelters as opposed to models directed at primary and secondary prevention programs with documented successful outcome measures; and

WHEREAS, research is warranted to determine whether Louisiana families would receive a greater benefit from programs that focus on the root causes of domestic violence, before victims are forced to utilize a shelter; and

WHEREAS, the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act encourages states to implement comprehensive plans for domestic violence response.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Children and Family Services to collaborate with the following stakeholders to study and develop a comprehensive statewide plan for domestic violence services:

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- (4) A representative of the Louisiana Women's Policy and Research Commission.
- (5) A representative of the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police.
- (6) A representative of the Louisiana District Attorneys Association.
- (7) A representative of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association.
- (8) A representative of the Louisiana Supreme Court Judicial Administrator's Office, with expertise in the administration of the Louisiana Protective Order Registry.
- (9) A representative of the Louisiana Department of Justice, office of the attorney general.
- (10) A representative of the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, office of public health.
- (11) A representative of the Louisiana Public Defender Board.
- (12) A representative of the District Judges Association.
- (13) A representative of the Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.
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prevention.

(3) Development of a plan that ensures that Louisiana laws on domestic violence are being properly implemented and provides for training on domestic violence and its many dimensions to law enforcement and the judiciary.

(4) Development of a framework to collect and integrate data and measure program outcomes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department shall provide its recommendations of this in the form of a report to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare on or before January 15, 2014.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services.

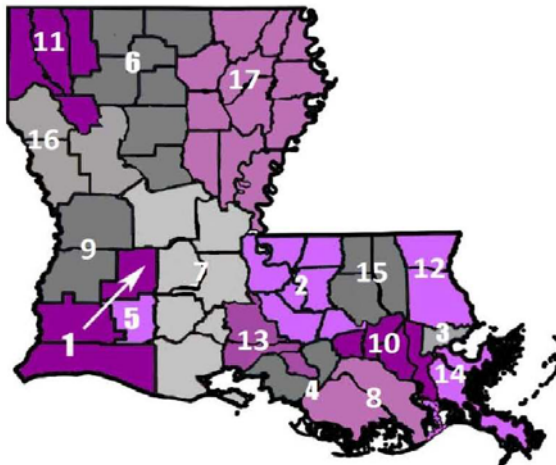
Appendix II. Domestic Violence Study Group Participants

The participants in the Domestic Violence Study Group Project were as follows:

Judy Bell	- Representative, Domestic Violence Program Director
Pam Baker	- La. Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges
Gwendolyn Brooks	- La. Dept. of Children and Family Services
Rutha Chatwood	- La. Commission on Law Enforcement
Tommy Clark	- La. Assn. of Chiefs of Police
Tracy Dahmer Farris	- La. Dept. of Justice, Office of the Attorney General
Melanie Fields	- La. District Attorneys Assn.
Ramona Harris	- La. Supreme Court, Judicial Administrator's Office
Vonnie Hawkins	- La. Foundation Against Sexual Assault
Cordelia Heaney	- La. Women's Policy & Research Commission; study group facilitator
Patricia Kock	- La. District Judges Assn.
Kim Matherne	- La. Dept. of Children and Family Services
Beth Meeks	- La. Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Richard Pittman	- La. Public Defender Board
Jimmy Pohlmann	- La. Sheriffs Assn.
Trashica Robinson	- Representative, Domestic Violence Survivor
Ebony Tucker	- La. Foundation Against Sexual Assault
Karen Webb	- La. Department of Health and Hospitals
Carmen Weisner	- La. Chapter of the Natl. Assn. of Social Workers
Paul Young	- La. Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges

Appendix III. Domestic Violence Programs in Louisiana

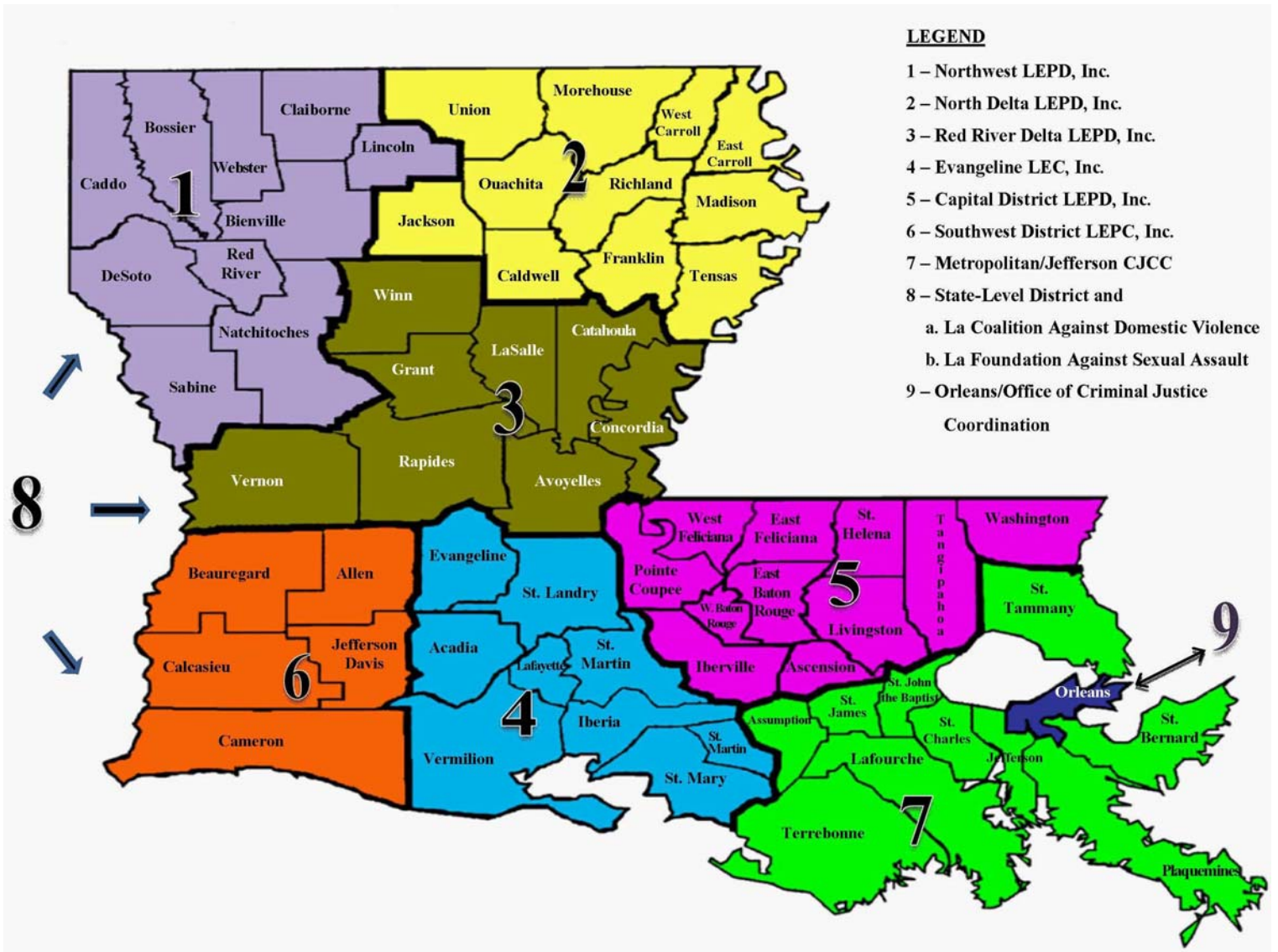
DCFS-Funded Domestic Violence Service Providers by Parishes Served



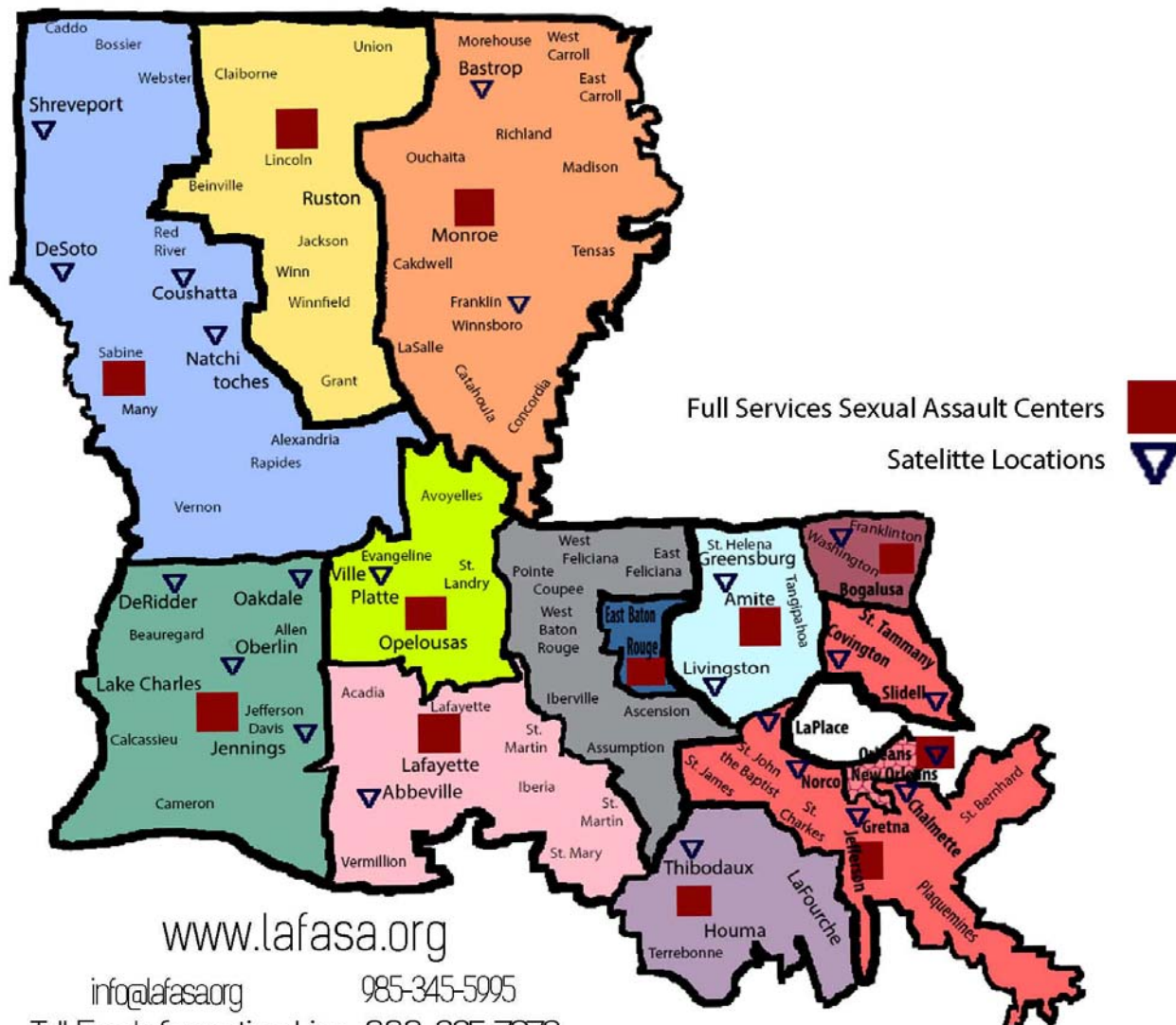
1. **Oasis A Safe Haven**
Parishes: Allen, Calcasieu,
Cameron
Crisis Line: (337) 436-4552
2. **IRIS Domestic Violence Center**
Parishes: Ascension, East Baton Rouge,
E. Feliciana, Iberville, Pointe Coupee, West
Baton Rouge, W. Feliciana
Crisis Line: (800) 541-9706/ (225) 389-3001
3. **New Orleans Family Justice Center,
Crescent House Healing and Empowerment
Center**
Parishes: Orleans
Crisis Line: (504) 866-7931
4. **Chez Hope Family Violence Crisis Center**
Parishes: Assumption, St. Mary
Crisis Line: (337) 828-4200
5. **Jeff Davis Communities Against
Domestic Abuse (CADA)**
Parish: Jefferson Davis
Crisis Line: (337) 616-9971
6. **Domestic Abuse Resistance Team
(DART)**
Parishes: Bienville, Claiborne, Jackson,
Lincoln, Union, Winn, Grant
Crisis Line: (318) 251-2255
7. **Faith House**
Parishes: Acadia, Evangeline, Lafayette, St. Landry,
Vermilion, Avoyelles, Rapides
Crisis Line: (337) 232-8954
8. **The Haven**
Parish: Terrebonne, LaFourche
Crisis Line: (985) 853-0045
9. **June N. Jenkins Women's Shelter**
Parishes: Beauregard, Vernon
Crisis Line: (337) 462-6504
10. **Metropolitan Center for Women and
Children**
Parishes: Jefferson, St. Charles, St. James,
St. John
Crisis Line: (504) 837-5400
11. **Providence House Domestic Violence and
Safe House Program**
Parishes: Bossier, Caddo, Red River,
Webster
Crisis Line: (318) 698-7273
12. **Safe Harbor**
Parishes: St. Tammany, Washington
Crisis Line: (985) 626-5740
13. **Safety Net for Abused Persons
(SNAP)**
Parish: Iberia, St. Martin
Crisis Line: (337) 367-7627
14. **St. Bernard Battered Women's
Program**
Parishes: Plaquemines, St. Bernard
Crisis Line: (504) 277-3177
15. **SAFE Program**
Parishes: Livingston, St. Helena,
Tangipahoa, Washington
Crisis Line: (985) 542-8384
16. **Taylor House, Sabine Shelter, Project
Celebration**
Parishes: Desoto, Sabine,
Natchitoches
Crisis Line: (318) 256-3403
17. **The Wellspring Alliance for Families**
Parishes: Caldwell, East Carroll, Franklin,
Morehouse, Ouachita, Madison, Richland,
Tensas, West Carroll, Catahoula,
Concordia, LaSalle
Crisis Line: (318) 323-1505

**Louisiana Domestic
Violence Hotline
1-888-411-1333**

LCLE-Funded Domestic Violence Service Providers by Funding Distribution Regions



DHH-Funded Sexual Assault and Joint Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Service Providers by Parishes Served



	Project Celebration, Inc.		Sexual Trauma Awareness & Response
	Pine Hills		Oasis
	The Wellspring Alliance		The Haven
	Tri-Parish Sexual Assault Center		Hearts of Hope
	Washington Parish Rape Crisis Center		St.Landry-Evangeline Sexual Assault Center
	Metropolitan Center for Women & Children		New Orleans Family Justice Center
	Unserviced Parishes		