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Acting Governor Guadagno Urges Increased Coordination, Cooperation in Community Response to Domestic Violence

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Roundtable Focuses on Prevention, Protection and Support

Trenton, NJ - As part of the State's ongoing efforts to stem domestic violence and support violence victims, Acting Governor Kim Guadagno today joined the Attorney General's office, legislators and practitioners at a public policy roundtable discussion arranged by the Jewish Federation of Greater Metrowest. The event brought together various stakeholders to work collaboratively on solutions.

More than 20 years after the passage of the Violence Against Women Act, domestic violence remains a pervasive issue nationally and in New Jersey. According to the New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women, 23 domestic violence agencies in New Jersey served 17,500 women, children, and men in New Jersey in 2014, and 90,000 hotline calls were received.

"We face a huge challenge as we work to empower domestic violence victims to stand up for themselves, find them the assistance they need and end the associated stigma they face," Acting Governor Guadagno said. "But we'll do it together. And remember the bottom line - these discussions will lead to solutions. And these solutions will save lives."

Acting Governor Guadagno discussed the importance of programs for children who have been victims of or witnesses to domestic violence, safe havens where victims can report abuse without fear of consequences, and increased awareness of the signs of abuse and education on how to safely offer help to victims.

"The Acting Governor is a strong advocate to end domestic violence and has supported our efforts to hold the first Domestic Violence Roundtable since we conceived the idea last November," said Melanie Levitan, Chair of the Rachel Coalition Legal Committee and member of the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest. "We appreciate her involvement and leadership on this matter. We believe that the best way to tackle domestic violence, an issue which is pervasive in our society, is to have a common vision of what it means to be safe that is carried out by all branches of government in coordination with the practitioners working on prevention, protection and supportive services."

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