

Lt. Governor Guadagno Addresses Impacts of Domestic Violence at Department of Children and Families' Women on Wednesdays Symposium

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Trenton, NJ - Sharing a message of empowerment, Lt. Governor Guadagno today addressed the participants of the 2014 NJ Women on Wednesdays (WOW) "Chronic Health Impacts of Violence Against Women" Symposium in Parsippany. Hosted by Commissioner Dr. Allison Blake of the Department of Children and Families (DCF), today's event was the first of three NJ WOW Symposia that will be held throughout October.

More than 65,000 domestic violence offenses were reported by the police in New Jersey in 2012, according to the State Police's most recent report, with assault accounting for 42% and harassment accounting for 43% of the reported offenses. Children were involved or present during 29% of domestic violence offenses, and females were victims in 75% of all domestic violence offenses.

"Women must stand together against violence, for themselves and for their sisters, daughters, and friends," said Lt. Governor Guadagno. "Today, we reaffirm our pledge to provide a safe and supportive environment for victims of abuse to speak against their abusers without shame or fear of retaliation."

According to the CDC, approximately 29% of women in the U.S. have experienced intimate partner violence (IPV), which includes rape, physical violence and/or stalking by an intimate partner. In addition to the immediate negative effects of IPV, long-term physical, reproductive, psychological, economic and social damages can result. Women with a history of IPV are more likely to display behaviors that present further health risks, including alcohol or substance abuse and suicide attempts, than women without a history of IPV. Victims of severe IPV lose nearly 8 million days of paid work - the equivalent of more than 32,000 full-time jobs - and almost 5.6 million days of household productivity each year.

The 2014 NJ WOW Symposia is an empowering forum hosted by the DCF's Division on Women at no cost to participants. This exclusive learning and networking opportunity offers inspiring and dynamic speaker presentations, topical and informative plenary Q&A sessions with accompanying resources, and a broad community of successful leaders.

"With this event, our goal is to present innovative research, initiatives, and resources that address the chronic health impacts of domestic and sexual violence against women," said Commissioner Blake. "Additionally, it is a chance to gather feedback on ways that we can support New Jersey women going forward."

Previously a day-long conference, this year's NJ WOW Symposia is comprised of three half-day morning events held in Northern, Central and Southern New Jersey designed to give attendees throughout the state greater access to this valuable program. The Symposia will continue on October 8th with "Women's Leadership and Advocacy" and on October 22nd with "Women Business Leaders." More information on the Symposia can be found on its website at: <http://www.njwow2014.com/>.

More information on the Division on Women's efforts can be found at: <http://www.state.nj.us/dcf/women/domestic/>.

Transcript:

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