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For Immediate Release:

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The Domestic Abuse Council of Volusia County, Inc. has been selected by the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence (FCADV) to implement the Child Protection Investigation (CPI) Project.

The Florida Legislature allocated funds to create staff positions for a co-located domestic violence advocates in CPI units with the greatest need. Because Volusia County has a high rate of child removals in child welfare cases in which domestic violence was a factor the Domestic Abuse Council was selected for this progressive approach to services and is one of 33 agencies in the state to implement the program beginning in July.

FCADV has worked with the Department of Children and Families over the past years to create a paradigm shift from focusing on non-offending parents to stop abusive partners' violence to focusing on partnering with survivors of domestic violence while holding batterers accountable to enhance child safety.

Protecting children from the effects of domestic violence is a mutual priority of the FCADV and DCF and the office of the Attorney General (OAG). 'Family violence threatens child' is one of the highest maltreatment offenses reported to the Statewide Florida Abuse Hotline. With this in mind, and the knowledge that children in foster care system often have additional needs, FCADV, DCF and the OAG worked together to create a groundbreaking program focused on reducing removing children from the non-offending parent in domestic violence cases.

To implement the project, the Domestic Abuse Council will find common ground with DCF and other providers of child services by facilitating cross training to staff at the respective agencies and creating a model of service for children that includes advocacy, referrals and case management for the children. There will also be a thrust to enhance family safety by working together to support the non-offending partner and hold domestic violence perpetrators accountable.

To learn more about Domestic Abuse Council go to www.domesticabusecouncil.com. The Domestic Abuse Hotline is 1-800-500-1119.

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Services

- ❖ Emergency Shelter ❖ Transitional Housing ❖ School Based Prevention Programs ❖
- ❖ Court/Legal Advocacy ❖ Community Education and Professional Training ❖