



## Family Service Bureau Sponsors Domestic Violence Conference

Domestic violence isn't always physical and can be as subtle as "little deprivations of rights and freedoms," a psychologist who works with victims said during a recent conference, "Living in Freedom," sponsored by NCC's Family Service Bureau.

"It's not always a big punch in the eye and a strangulation," said Cynthia Wilcox Lischick, a cognitive developmental psychologist affiliated with both Rutgers-Newark Graduate School and the UMDNJ-School of Public Health. "It's about manipulation and control," she added.

Wilcox Lischick made the statement during an all-day workshop held at the NCC Priory that was attended primarily by professionals who work with domestic violence victims. During her presentation, Wilcox Lischick revealed that she was a child victim of domestic violence. She would watch in horror as her step-father abused her mother and then beat her and her sister.

"He used metal spatulas, belts, you name it," she said.

Statistics show that almost half of all family violence is a crime against a spouse, with females being the victims about 73 percent of the time. Women between the ages of 16 to 24 have the highest rate of intimate partner violence.

"Women are experiencing real fear and terror," said Wilcox Lischick. "They are afraid of being assaulted. They are afraid of their partner."

Domestic Violence can also adversely affect children in many ways, resulting in problems like lack of focus and acting out in school, as well as low self esteem and a diminished sense of safety.

"This can totally change a child's world," said Eloise J. Berry-McBride, a psychologist who works with child victims of domestic violence at the Audrey Hepburn Children's House at Hackensack University Medical Center.

New Jersey law requires anybody who reasonably believes a child is being abused to report the information to authorities, who must investigate.

Also featured on the program were Robin Eubanks, a psychologist and motivational trainer who has also worked with domestic violence victims and Lesley D. Leslie, the founder and executive director of Leap of Faith Communications, a motivational speaking company that aims to empower women and young girls to lead purpose-driven lives while overcoming obstacles.

Dolly Bonneau, a social worker at the 13th Avenue Avenue School in Newark who also has a private practice, said she found the conference very helpful.

"It reinforced the information that I had," she said.

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