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1010 West Lake Street, Suite 300
Oak Park, Illinois 60301
(708) 492-2000
TDD (708) 492-2002

Stephen A. Martin, Jr., Ph.D., MPH
Chief Operating Officer

For Immediate Release: October 13, 2010

Contact: Amy Poore 708-492-2015

Health Cares about Domestic Violence Day New Resource Available

On-line Domestic Violence Resource Locator Tool Developed to assist residents in Cook County.

Today is Health Cares about Domestic Violence Day and to assist health care providers and victims of domestic violence, the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) and its partners created an on-line Domestic Violence Resource Locator. The locator tool was designed as an easy-to-use, on-line resource for health care professionals to quickly find domestic violence (DV) services for Cook County families in need.

“The DV locator tool is a great resource for health care professionals when working with DV patients but we know it will only be a successful when our health care providers identify those in need and then use the tool,” said CCDPH chief operating officer Stephen A. Martin, Jr., Ph.D., M.P.H. “Domestic Violence resources are there to help victims become survivors and we need our health care providers to link patients in need to the resources listed in the locator tool.”

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), one in every nine female emergency room patients is being seen for domestic violence related injuries. The American Medical Association recommends asking questions about DV risk during all routine and emergency screenings with patients. However, it's reported that only six to 12 percent of physicians screen routinely for DV risk. DV causes immediate and long-term health effects. Health care providers are in a unique position to routinely inquire about domestic violence for the purposes of providing education, treatment and access to services to help survivors change their situation.

Victims of DV deserve a strengthened health care response to domestic violence. In addition to using the tool, health care professionals can make other important contributions to tackling domestic violence:

1. Have open dialogues with co-workers and help to dispel myths about domestic violence issues.
2. Have open dialogues with co-workers and help to dispel myths about domestic violence issues.
3. Form partnerships with local DV coalitions and become informed about local DV resources.
4. Become familiar with your organization's domestic violence policy and mandates.
5. Become familiar with strategies to interrupt the patient's cycle of violence

Make a difference in someone's life, help prevent domestic violence and stop the cycle of abuse. To use the DV locator tool and for more violence prevention information please visit www.cookcountypublichealth.org, or call CCDPH at 708-492-2000.

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