
From: Schimsa, Rebecca
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 3:23 PM
To: Haley, Nikki
Cc: Patel, Swati; Philpott, Katie; Mottel, Haley
Subject: FW: DV Task Force At Work

Governor – Please see a testimony below from Dr. Daniel Saad who serves on the Medical Board and has been a part of our Task Force, which was forwarded to us by Director Richele Taylor.

From: Daniel Saad [<mailto:dsaad@paladinpediatricsurgery.org>]
Sent: Sunday, June 12, 2016 5:45 PM
To: Richele Taylor
Subject: DV Task Force At Work

Richele,

The DV Summit was very informative and a testament to the hard work of you, your staff and all involved. I wanted to share a brief story that exemplifies how the SafePlaceSC website has already helped a mother and child in need.

I have been on pediatric surgery and trauma call at Palmetto Richland Children's Hospital this past week. We admitted a precious little 2yr old girl who incurred an inexplicable skull fracture and left humerus arm fracture. After much due diligence and assistance by the South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS), it was determined with the help of law enforcement that the toddler was physically abused by her mother's live in boyfriend.

When confronted with this, the girl's mother was passionately defending her boyfriend. She was defensive and refused to exclude him from her household, as ordered by DSS and the police before the girl could be discharged home. This behavior was perceived as odd and confusing by the nursing staff, who brought it to my attention. Looking back at all that I have learned about DV from being a part of the DV Task Force (ie online tutorials by Brian Bennett, spending time with Safe Harbor staff), I realized that the mother was likely a victim of domestic violence.

I spoke to the nurses about the new SafePlaceSC website and printed the main page. We asked to speak to the mother outside the girl's hospital room and explained that as health care workers we must look out for the health and well being of patients and their families. I gently explained that I am concerned about her safety, briefly discussed the new SafePlaceSC website resources and its secure search engine capabilities, and gave her a copy of the main page to look over. I was expecting her to dismiss me, but she actually broke into tears and thanked us for the information. The girls mother admitted to us that she too is a victim of emotional and physical abuse. She requested assistance on how to obtain an order of protection against her violent boyfriend.

This is just one instance of how vital the DV Task Force efforts are and how they will change the lives of South Carolinians in need. I am honored and thankful to be part of such a benevolent calling.

Thank you for all that you have and continue to do in the battle against domestic violence in our state. You may have just saved the life of my little patient and her mother.

"Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well being." 1 Corinthians 10:24

Respectfully
Dan

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