

Join Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW as we learn about DC high risk response team.

DUTCHESS COUNTY'S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDE PREVENTION INITIATIVE

Thursday, February 14, 2019

7:00 pm

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie

Presented by Leah Feldman and Jason Mark

Dutchess County began implementation of their High Risk Case Management Program after a series of domestic violence homicides that highlighted the need for an improved response to domestic violence victims. Following research a systems review and recommendations report was submitted to the Dutchess County and NYS Legislatures. One of the recommendations for system improvement was to implement community wide, evidence based danger assessment protocols that would help identify and intervene in cases of domestic violence that were at high risk for escalation to homicide. Since 2012, Dutchess County has been implementing these protocols, modeling from and consulting with the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center to implement a High Risk Team, and most recently in 2014, expanding to work with the Maryland Network to End Domestic Violence to implement the Lethality Assessment Program with local police departments. **During this presentation members of the Dutchess County team will share experiences implementing both the High Risk Team model and Lethality Assessment Program model in New York State.** Both models have been found to be instrumental in connecting victims with services and providing increased safety measures throughout the community.

Leah Feldman, MPA

Director, Center for Victim Safety and Support, Family Services

Leah Feldman has been working in the field of interpersonal violence since 2005 and began her work in Dutchess County at Family Services in 2009. Currently, she is the Director of the Center for Victim Safety and Support at Family Services, overseeing non-residential rape crisis, crime victim, and domestic violence services. In this role, she has been instrumental in partnering with the community to implement and manage projects such as the High Risk Response Team, Lethality Assessment Project, and Domestic Abuse Response Teams. She participates in numerous local and statewide boards and committees. Prior to this role, Leah served as Project Coordinator of Universal Response to Domestic Violence. Leah holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Siena College and a Master's in Public Administration from Marist College and is a member of Poughkeepsie AAUW.



Chief Deputy Jason W. Mark

Dutchess County Sheriff's Office

Jason Mark began his career with the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office in 1991 and worked in the patrol division for the next 8 years assigned to the midnight to 8 am shift. In 1999 Jason was promoted to the rank of Detective and worked in the criminal bureau as a case detective until finding his niche in crime scene work. In 2002 Jason was tasked with the coordination of the Crime Scene Unit, handling all major crime scene cases. In 2009 Jason was promoted to the rank of Detective Sergeant where he coordinated the day to day operation/case management of the Detective Bureau including Detectives assigned to various task force initiatives. On January 3, 2017 Jason was appointed to the position of Chief Deputy where his duties in part include oversight of the following; Patrol/Admin Division, Detective Bureau, Internal Affairs Bureau, Specialty Units, and is the Domestic Violence Liaison. Jason serves on many committees including the Dutchess County Legislature's Citizens Advisory Committee on Domestic Violence since 2005, the Universal Response to Domestic Violence Steering Committee, the Domestic Violence High Risk Lethality Case Management Team, the Domestic Violence Lethality Assessment Project, and the Criminal Justice Council Victim Subcommittee. Jason has received commendations for life saving (2), meritorious service, multiple apprehension, exceptional police duty (2), educational achievement, and the CASADA appreciation award in 2013. Jason is a life member of the Dutchess County Deputy Sheriff's PBA, the International Association for Identification, and the International Homicide Investigators Association.

