

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2020

Pensacola, Fla. (October 5, 2020) – Domestic violence impacts the whole family. During the Coronavirus pandemic some of the actions critical to slowing the spread of COVID-19 may contribute to an increase in violence. For instance:

- Social isolation
- Financial, emotional and physical stress
- Lack of childcare
- Loss of job or income
- Depression or anxiety
- Substance misuse
- Reduced access to mental health or substance use services and supports

The result of these actions could result in child abuse and neglect, intimate partner violence and elder abuse. If someone is experiencing domestic violence the following steps can be taken to help ensure their safety:

- Create a safety plan to outline ways for remaining safe while in the current situation, planning to leave or after leaving.
- Practice self-care as much as possible.
- Reach out for help and try to maintain social connections through phone calls, texts, emails and social media platforms.

Locally, community members can call the Lakeview Center Victim Services 24-hour helpline at 850.433.7273.

The following additional resources also are available:

- Lakeview Center Certified Sexual Violence Program (Escambia and Santa Rosa counties) 850.469.3800
- National Domestic Violence hotline 800.799.7233 or text LOVEIS to 22522
- Report Abuse hotline 800.962.2873
- National Sexual Assault hotline 800.656.4673

CONTACT BELOW IS FOR MEDIA USE ONLY

For more information about this press release or to schedule an interview, please contact Tish Pennewill at 850.469.3621 or Tish.Pennewill@bhcpns.org.

About Lakeview Center, Inc. Behavioral Health

The Mission of Lakeview Behavioral Health is to help people throughout life's journey. We specialize in providing effective, research-based services for children and adults with mental illnesses, drug and alcohol dependencies, and intellectual disabilities. Our services range from inpatient and residential treatment to outpatient counseling, psychiatry, case management, day treatment, and round-the-clock support for those with serious mental illnesses. Additionally, Lakeview Behavioral Health provides specialized trauma services, medication-assisted treatment for opiate dependency, and medically supervised drug and alcohol detoxification. In all, Lakeview Behavioral Health offers more than 60 programs and services for people in the northwest Florida area. To learn more, go online to eLakeviewCenter.org.

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