

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

A second, and equally essential step for public-policy makers to take is to establish treatment services for those individuals who inflict this societal pain, to teach abusers how to modify their behavior.

(Note: References in the above text are incorporated into a bibliography which will be available in limited quantities at the panel discussion. Or, send \$1.50 to cover production and mail costs to the return address shown on this flyer.)



## ANNOUNCEMENT

The Wayne County Men's Task Force will sponsor a panel discussion on Monday evening, April 13, 1987, in the courtroom of Judge Robert J. Conway, Wayne County Court House, Honesdale, PA.

Speakers will describe the painful problem of family violence and address proposals for establishing a local program for the therapeutic treatment of those who inflict physical assault upon their loved ones, following incarceration.

Some of the agencies and departments represented will include: Judge Robert Conway, Wayne County Court; District Attorney's office, Sheriff's Department, Wayne Memorial Hospital, Women's Resource Center, and others.

The Men's Task Force is an ad hoc organization established to host this event and assist in formulating a program proposal for adoption locally.

*The professional community, the public, and members of the press are invited to attend.*

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

TO:

WAYNE COUNTY MEN'S TASK FORCE  
P.O. Box 47  
Milanville, PA 18443

FIRST  
CLASS



# WAYNE COUNTY MEN'S TASK FORCE

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PANEL DISCUSSION

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Court House  
Honesdale, Pennsylvania

April 13, 1987  
7:30 p.m.

## FAMILY VIOLENCE FORUM

HONESDALE — Wayne County Commissioners signed a resolution last week supporting the work of the newly-formed Wayne County Men's Task Force, organized to help in what one representative described as "one of the most painful social problems in Wayne County."

Coordinators Jim Reilly, director of the detox center at Wayne County Memorial Hospital, and Tom Rue, a former houseparent at the county's youth home, emphasized that while Women's Resource Center aids victims of spouse abuse, it cannot, by charter, work with the batterers.

Reilly noted that in his work at the hospital's detox center, he came in contact with the many abusers because of their alcoholism. But the center could not work to change their abusive behavior after they left the program.

In the absence of another agency to help batterers stop their chronic behavior, Reilly and Rue have announced the task force's first project: a panel discussion on April 13th at 7:30 p.m. in the small courtroom at the Wayne County Courthouse.

According to Rue, the discussion will involve representatives of several criminal justice and human services agencies in Wayne County, among them the Pennsylvania State Police, Children and Youth Services, Trehab, Wayne Memorial Hospital, Wayne County District Attorney Ray Hamill and Northeast Pennsylvania MH/MR.

In a statement to the press Rue said, "To punish the offender and even grant a divorce to the victim does not solve the situation. When prison terms expire, a person is released back in to society who is probably at least as violent and maladjusted as when first incarcerated."

Both discussed the use of peer counseling and self-help groups as one means to address the problem of family violence.

*The above is reprinted from the February 5, 1987 RIVER REPORTER, by Andrea Henley Heyn.*

For further information call:

- James Reilly, M.A.  
Wayne Memorial Hospital Detox Program  
(717) 253-1300, ext. 321
- Thomas S. Rue, M.A.  
Sullivan County Probation Department  
(914) 794-3000, ext. 240 or (717) 729-7762 - home

## COMMISSIONERS OF WAYNE COUNTY

EARL J. SIMONS, CHAIRMAN  
HONESDALE, PA.  
DONALD E. OLSOMMER  
STERLING TOWNSHIP, PA.  
ROBERT V. CARMODY  
TEXAS TOWNSHIP, PA.



COURT HOUSE ANNEX  
HONESDALE, PA. 18431  
717-253-5970 EXT. 144

REG WAYMAN  
CHIEF CLERK  
LEE C. KRAUSE  
SOLICITOR

WHEREAS, a significant problem is known to exist in this county in the area of domestic violence,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commissioners of Wayne County do hereby support the Wayne County Men's Task Force in its efforts to increase public awareness of the problem, and to identify solutions and treatments for abusers.



*Earl J. Simons*  
Earl J. Simons, Chairman

*Donald E. Olsommer*  
Donald E. Olsommer

*Robert V. Carmody*  
Robert V. Carmody

*Resolution of Wayne County Commissioners, January 27, 1987. The Men's Task Force has also been given the support of the Wayne County Human Resource Council.*

## IN SEARCH OF SOLUTIONS

Numerous researchers have documented that differences exist in the manners in which women and men are socialized to express or ventilate angry emotion (or not to do so), particularly toward each other (Frodi, Macaulay & Thome, 1977; Macaulay, 1977; Taylor & Epstein, 1967).

Gelles (1974) addressed the question of which spouse is more likely to inflict physical battery on the other. Gelles' and others' findings showed that while reported chronic wife-beaters far outnumbered reported husband-beaters, the wives studies could be equally as aggressive in marital conflicts, but tended to assert themselves in different ways.

With this in mind, it is inferred that the ideal "healthy" couple is the one in which both partners have reached a compromise within themselves regarding their expression orientation; each defining for themselves a balanced androgyny (Bem, 1974) in their manner of dealing with their subjective feelings of anger which unavoidably occur in the course of living together.

Taking this a step further, Symonds (1976) distinguished between two styles of expressing anger or hostility: vertical and horizontal.

VERTICAL aggression, he said, "is most often used by men or by those of either sex who have had early exposure to violence". Vertical expression is typical of the animal world, and is also the basis for the behavior of predatory criminals among humans.

However, when moderated responsibly, vertical behavior can also be positive and self-assertive, when the purpose is to directly and clearly express one's wants, needs, feelings, or attitudes.

The second expression orientation outlined by Symonds is HORIZONTAL aggression, which he described as consisting of "lying-down behavior where the person on the ground dramatically indicates where and how the other has injured him" or her.

Reliance on this style of expression is rooted in perceived or actual rejection, or nonfulfillment of the dependency needs of a person who sees themselves as helpless and powerless to control the events which shape their lives.

Perpetrators of domestic violence have been found to benefit from therapeutic programs designed to "resocialize" abusers. Groups such as EMERGE in Boston (McCormick, 1980; Watts & Courtois, 1981) or RAVEN in St. Louis (Gon-dolf & Russell, 1986) aim to change sex-role stereotypes that contribute to men's tendency to control men.

Still another successful approach has been used at SECOND STEP in Pittsburgh (Russell, 1984), involving theme-centered discussions of battering.

As the name of the Pittsburgh agency suggests, a community with the conscience to provide social resources to its victims has taken the first step toward being truly civilized.