

Timothy Casey (Secretary to the Board)

From: Mazen Barakat <mazen.barakat@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 11:36 PM
To: CookCounty Board (Secretary to the Board)
Subject: Domestic Violence

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Hello Cook County President and Commissioners,

This situation is raised because we put together collective information from people's personal experiences which we received through Hyatt Magazine. People approached us for help and assistance hoping to receive guidance and asking us if we can publish their stories to show the pain and suffer.

Domestic violence (domestic abuse) is in the rise. In the past two years during the pandemic, violence reached new record.

Since COVID-19 outbreak, data and reports received from healthcare frontline shown that all types of violence particularly domestic violence has escalated.

The pandemic intensified many of the conditions which fuel intimate partner violence especially the families facing economic tension along with the stress and uncertainty created by COVID-19.

The risk factors including psychiatric illness, alcohol consumption, drug abuse and economic stress are part of the equation.

Pregnant women are also at higher risk of domestic violence, which can increase the risk of pregnancy-related complications, such as miscarriage, pre-term labor and low birth weight in infants.

Additionally, children who come from families with a history of domestic violence are at a greater risk of replicating or falling victim to those behaviors.

Domestic violence victims are not getting the necessary support because either they don't know what to do and where to go or the support is not available.

I'm urging Cook county president and the commissioners to take any necessary action to assist in this matter. It's an emergency situation so we need to step in to help our community.

Thank you for reading my email and I'm available for any future discussion.

Regards,

Mazen Barakat, M.D., MHA