

Life Crisis Center



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Director of Development & Marketing

LCC Names New Program Director

Salisbury, MD September 25, 2009 — The Life Crisis Center, a local 501(c) nonprofit organization which is the lead agency on domestic emergency assistance on the Lower Shore, has named Demetra Copeland as the Director of Sexual Assault Services. Copeland, who holds a M.Ed., N.C.C. and L.C.P.C., focuses her clinical practice on adult victims of rape, sexual assault and incest. In addition to individual counseling, support groups and anger management groups, Copeland oversees sexual assault outreach, community education and coordinates the activities of Sexual Assault Awareness month, including “Take Back the Night” held at Salisbury University.

Copeland joined the LCC clinical staff in 2002 as a therapist for sexual assault victims. Michele Hughes, executive director of LCC envisions part of Copeland's new role is to identify methods that will offer smoother communication among law enforcement, the courts and treatment agencies.

“Dee (Demetra Copeland) has outstanding credentials and a thorough understanding of the process that someone goes through when they are assaulted, including the flow between different reporting and follow up agencies. Knowing that 1 in 4 women will be raped, we recognize how Dee’s expertise can improve the lives of rape victims. To that end, we have moved her office to our downtown location for walk-ins,” explained Hughes.

In this new role, Copeland also hopes to assist in integrating more age appropriate educational materials in elementary schools and across all grade levels. “A study conducted by the Department of Justice and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, found that 22% of reported rapes were victims under the age of 12. My goal is to create and strengthen partnerships with local schools, universities, and community organizations to promote education and prevention,” Copeland noted.

About the Life Crisis Center:

The Life Crisis Center, Inc., a local nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1976. The Life Crisis Center (LCC) is a 24 hour facility which provides comprehensive support services to victims and child victims of domestic violence, rape, and sexual assault. The LCC also houses the suicide hotline and 2-1-1 Maryland resource hotline. The LCC licensed professional staff uses a national best practice treatment model to serve Wicomico, Worcester and Somerset counties.

Some of the comprehensive support services offered to the community include a 19 bed safe home, intensive case management, supervised visitation, counseling and legal services, victim support and abuser groups and outreach. The LCC is a United Way Agency serving Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester Counties.

For further information, please visit the Life Crisis Center’s website at www.LifeCrisisCenter.org. The site offers in-depth information about the agency, resource information and upcoming events.

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