

State officials reveal gross mishandling of state funding by FCADV

The Shelter for Abused Women & Children announced today that an investigation by Florida State House Public Integrity and Ethics Committee has revealed a gross mishandling of funding by the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The ongoing investigation into the state program revealed exorbitant compensation payouts, abuse of state dollars, withholding of information, and breach of public trust.

"We are gravely concerned and shocked at what we have learned," said Linda Oberhaus, CEO of The Shelter for Abused Women & Children, "These are millions of dollars in misappropriated funding that could have gone directly to helping victims of domestic violence."

Although it receives funding from the FCADV, The Shelter for Abused Women & Children is accredited by the Department of Children and Families, the agency now tasked to oversee state funding for Florida domestic violence centers.

Oberhaus said she is grateful to legislative leaders, especially Sen. Kathleen Passidomo, for working diligently to bring this injustice to light and for their continued

efforts to ensure sound oversight of Florida's 42 domestic violence centers.

"We want to assure the Naples community that we remain focused on serving our participants," Oberhaus said. "There will be no interruption of services as a result of this ongoing investigation."

Oberhaus said the ongoing findings of this investigation do not reflect upon the life-saving programs and services provided by Florida's domestic violence shelters.

"Basically, we have all been betrayed by the outrageous actions of these individuals," she said. "The Shelter fully supports this investigation. We want transparency and accountability."

As Collier County's only certified domestic violence center, The Shelter is leading the community to prevent, protect and prevail over domestic violence and human trafficking through advocacy, empowerment and social change. For more information, contact Communications Manager Kaydee Tuff at ktuff@naplesshelter.org or Linda Oberhaus at loberhaus@naplesshelter.org or go to www.naplesshelter.org

Collier County Road Watch

I-75 at Rest Area (mile marker 63): Construction project: Crews will be installing a parking detection system in the north and southbound rest area parking areas. Motorists should use caution as crews work near the roadway. Estimated project completion is spring of 2020. The contractor is Florida Safety Contractors, Inc.

US 41/Tamiami Trail from SR 951/Collier Boulevard to Greenway Road: Construction project: Crews will be installing lighting along the northbound and southbound lanes. Work will occur during daytime and nighttime hours. Motorists should expect intermittent lane closures. Motorists and pedestrians should use caution while travel-

ing in this area. Estimated project completion is spring of 2020. The contractor is Horsepower Electric, Inc.

SR 951/Collier Boulevard from north of the Judge Jolley Bridge to south of Fiddlers Creek Parkway: Construction project: Crews will be widening existing turn lanes, milling and resurfacing, placing sidewalk at the Mainsail Drive intersection, installing signing and pavement markings, and making signalization improvements. Work will occur during daytime and nighttime hours. Motorists should expect intermittent northbound and southbound lane closures during nighttime/overnight hours from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. Motorists and pedestrians

should use caution while traveling in this area. Estimated completion is end of 2020. The contractor is Preferred Materials, Inc.



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