

# The TIMES

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*Courtesy Syntax Communication*

Lisa Longnecker of The Retreat Inc. presents a domestic violence survivor's story to an audience of 80 during a recent MCPL panel discussion.

## Targeting domestic abuse

The Middle Country Public Library recently hosted a domestic violence panel discussion as part of the yearlong Allstate Foundation Readiness Series. Health and public services providers and small-business owners and operators were among those who attended.

The panel's topic, titled Domestic Violence: A Discussion of the Physiological, Sociological and Financial Factors Enabling Abuse and Undermining Personal Empowerment, explored the risks and social factors associated with domestic violence, as

well as ways that education and therapy can aid survivors. The group also identified tactics utilized by abusers and victims of abuse.

Presenters included Alice Agostini of the Suffolk County Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Kaitlyn Pickford of Brighter Tomorrows Inc., Lisa Longnecker of The Retreat Inc., and Alyson Ryan of VIBS Family Violence and Rape Crisis Center. Gregory Blass, commissioner of the Suffolk County Department of Social Services, served as moderator.