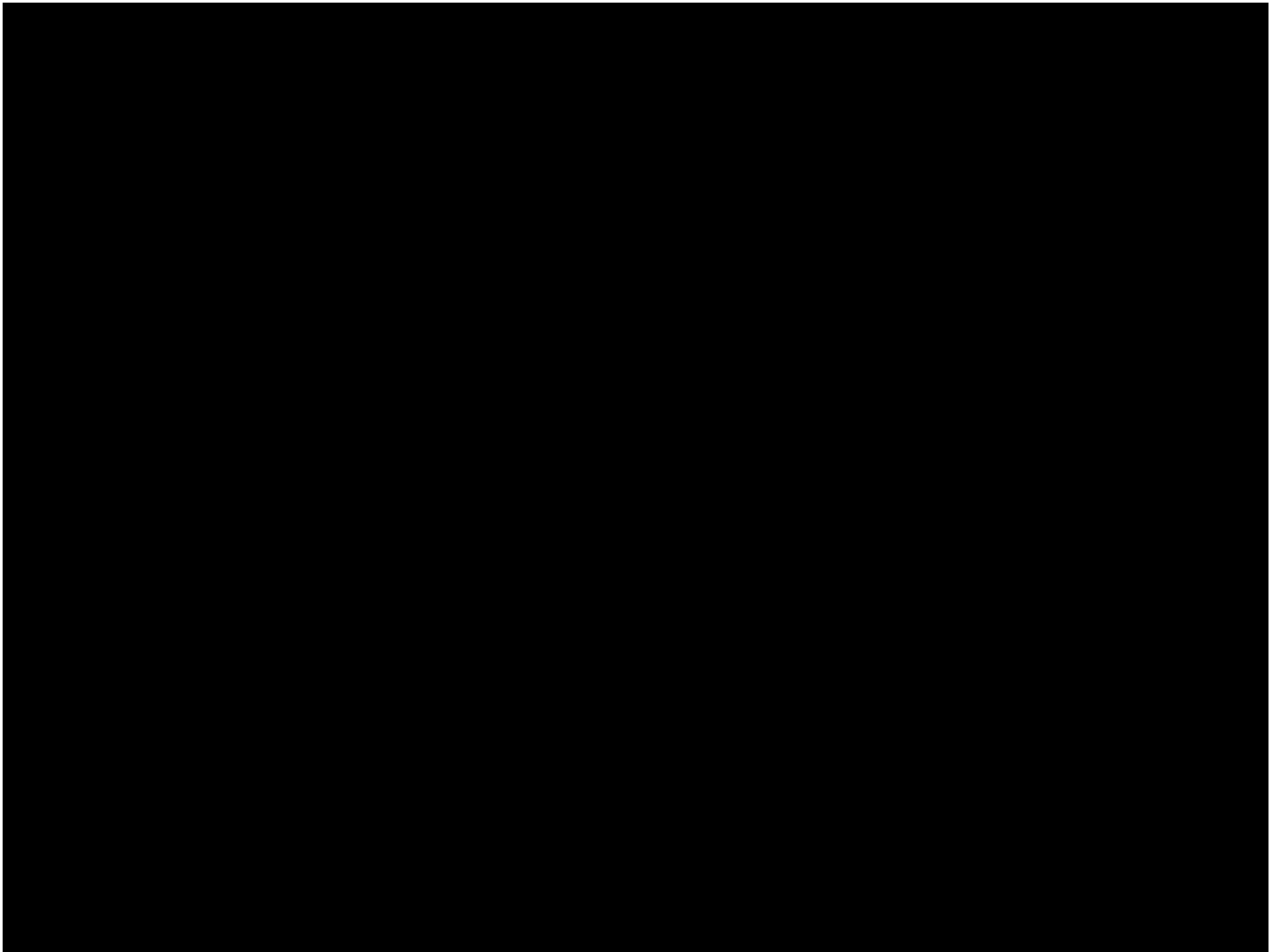


# Collaborative Response to Domestic Violence

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This training will address domestic violence issues as they relate to Child Protective Service providers. The focus will be on collaborations with other agencies to create safety for families and the children effected by domestic violence.



## **What is Domestic Violence??**

Domestic violence can be defined as a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner.

Sources: National Domestic Violence Hotline, National Center for Victims of Crime, and WomensLaw.org.



## **Domestic Violence IS...**

- A learned behavior
- About Power and Control

Most often when non violent methods of control fail to work, the person in power moves on to actual physical violence



# DV Definitions

## System definition According to MCA

(1) Partner or Family Member Assault (PFMA)

- (a) Purposely or knowingly causes bodily injury to a partner or family member
- (b) Negligently causes bodily injury to a partner or family member with a weapon
- (c) Purposely or knowingly causes reasonable apprehension of bodily injury in a partner or family member.



1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> conviction-Misdemeanor

3<sup>rd</sup> or subsequent conviction-Felony



## **DV is not a problem of the poor**

DV occurs in all demographic groups:

- Ages
- Ethnic backgrounds
- Faiths
- Socioeconomic status
- Educational status
- And sexual orientations



## Do Drugs cause Domestic Violence??



*"I'm starting to really like the smell of cocaine."*



## **Domestic violence is NOT**

- Genetically inherited
- Caused by illness
- Caused by drugs or alcohol
- The result of stress or anger
- Due to a “bad temper”
- Due to behavior of a victim, children, or a relationship problem



# Domestic violence

➤ Physical

➤ Sexual

➤ Emotional

➤ Psychological (To include Stalking,  
Economic, Spiritual)



## **Our Children**

**Studies show that child abuse occurs in 30 to 60 percent of family violence cases that involve families with children. (J.L. Edleson, "The overlap between child maltreatment and woman battering." *Violence Against Women*, February, 1999.)**



## **Our Children**

**A survey of 6,000 American families found that 50 percent of men who assault their wives, also abuse their children. (*Pagelow, "The Forgotten Victims: Children of Domestic Violence," 1989*)**



## **Our Children**

**In families where the mother is assaulted by the father, daughters are at risk of sexual abuse 6.51 times greater than girls in non-abusive families (*Bowker, Arbitell and McFerron, 1988*)**



## **Our Children**

**A child's exposure to the father abusing the mother is the strongest risk factor for transmitting violent behavior from one generation to the next. (*American Psychological Association, Violence and the Family: Report of the APA Presidential Task Force on Violence and the Family, 1996*)**



## **Our Children**

**In a 36-month study of 146 children, ages 11-17 who came from homes where there was domestic violence, all sons over the age of 14 attempted to protect their mothers from attacks. Some 62 percent were injured in the process. *(Roy, 1988)***



# Effects of Violence on Children

➤ Behavioral, social, and emotional problems.

Higher levels of aggression, anger, hostility, oppositional behavior, and disobedience; fear, anxiety, withdrawal and depression; poor peer, sibling, and social relationships; and low self esteem

Child Welfare Information Gateway, "Children and Domestic Violence", Updated September 18, 2008,  
<http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/factsheets/domesticviolence.cfm>



# Effects of Violence on Children

## ➤ Cognitive and attitudinal problems

Lower cognitive functioning, poor school performance, lack of conflict resolution skills, limited problem solving skills, pro-violence attitudes, and belief in rigid gender stereotypes and male privilege.



# Effects of Violence on Children

## ➤ Long-term problems

Higher levels of adult depression and trauma symptoms and increased tolerance for and use of violence in adult relationships



## **Protective factors**

- **Social Competence**
- **Intelligence**
- **High self-esteem**
- **Outgoing temperament**
- **Strong sibling and peer relationships**
- **Supportive relationships with an adult**



## **Additional assessment factors that influence the impact on children:**

- Nature of the violence
- Coping strategies and skills
- Age of the child- Younger children may have higher level of emotion and less developed coping skills.



## **Additional assessment factors that influence the impact on children:**

- Elapsed time since exposure- Heightened levels of anxiety and fear immediately after a violent event. Fewer observable effects are seen in children as more time passes after a violent event.
- Gender-In general, boys exhibit more “externalized behaviors” (e.g., aggression and acting out) while girls exhibit more “internalizing behaviors” (e.g., withdrawal or depression).
- Presence of Child physical or sexual abuse



## **Thurman Case Video Clip**

“A cry for help”

Lifetime Movie

Graphic-Think how this incident would effect both children involved





## **Thurman Case**

- **Torrington Connecticut in 1983**
- **Successful lawsuit in 1985 with a settlement of \$1.9 Million based on failure to protect.**
- **Landmark case before anti-stalking laws**



# **Battering Tactics**

Power and control tactics are a system of physical and psychological violence used to maintain power and control over another person.





# Colluding

Work secretly with somebody

:To cooperate with somebody with somebody secretly in order to do something illegal or undesirable.



## **Barriers to leaving**

Safety

Fear

Children

Culture

Religion

Financial

Family

Lack of resources

Love

Too exhausted

No support

Rural issues

Transportation

Legal consequences



## **Barriers to Leaving**

**65% of intimate homicide victims physically separated from the perpetrator prior to their death.**

– American Bar Association Information



# **How do we work together??**

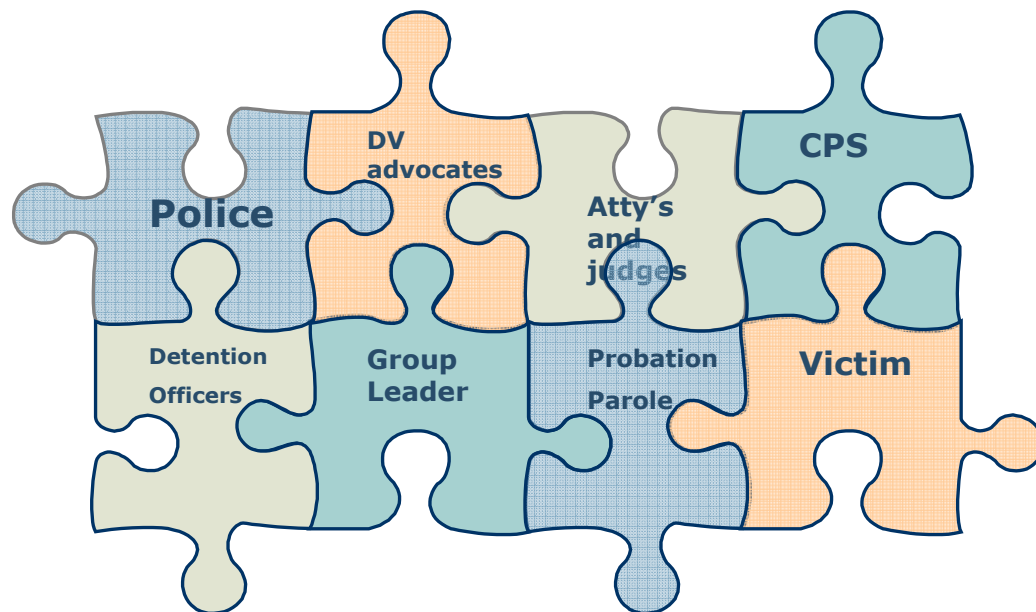
## **“Collaboration”**

The definition according to Merriam-Webster

**1 : to work jointly with others or together especially in an intellectual endeavor**



# Collaboration is the key





## **Training and knowledge about DV**

Everyone has a responsibility to keep updated on issues and laws relating to domestic violence.



# Communication

With strict regard for confidentiality and safety.

Child Protection Team Meetings

Collaborative Community Response Team

Daily communication on issues

Speak their language and don't expect them to know yours

Information sharing



## **Relationship building**

- Demonstrate the value of a partnership
- Proactive (build relationships day 1)
- Learn and Understand other roles
- Acknowledge and preserve unique strengths of all partners
- Demonstrate respect in your advocacy with your clients



## **Relationship building**

- Know how to contact other agencies and the structure of their organization
- Cross train
- Stay updated on DV issues and trends
- Keep your eye on the overall common goal
- Utilize resources from other agencies and offer your resources to others. Teamwork



## **What do we all have in common?**

Safe families

Need to protect victims

Peace in all homes

We all have different “rules” and different approaches but want same results

**NONE OF US CAN DO THIS ALONE!!!**



# Some Community Partnerships

- Criminal Justice Professionals
- Educators
- Housing programs
- Health Care Professionals
- Substance Abuse Programs
- Faith Based Programs and Clergy
- Economic Support Programs
- Domestic Violence Programs
- Neighborhood groups and community members
- Daycare and family support providers
- Survivors of domestic abuse and child maltreatment



## **Safety Considerations**

Be aware that some responses that protect victims and children can threaten the perpetrators control and authority over the home and family members. This can put you at risk. What do you do??



# Safety Considerations

Be aware of your surroundings, exits, and let others know where you are

Cell phones and safety planning are important

Educate yourself on batterers tactics

- *Why does he do that* by Lundy Bancroft (Inside the minds of angry and controlling men)

Communicate with others on where/when/and what you are doing



# **Child and Family Services Division Mission...**

**“KEEP CHILDREN SAFE AND  
FAMILIES STRONG”**





## **Websites**

The “Greenbook” Federal Initiative

[www.thegreenbook.info](http://www.thegreenbook.info)

Provides resources and information regarding the six federally funded communities implementing the National Council of Juvenile and family Court Judges guidelines, Effective Intervention in Domestic Violence and Child maltreatment cases: Guidelines for Policy and Practice.



## **Additional publications**

American Public Human Services Association (2001).

***Guidelines for public child welfare agencies serving children and families experiencing domestic violence.***

Washington, DC.

*David and Lucile Packard Foundation (1999). **The future of children: Domestic Violence and children, 9(3).** Los Altos, CA.*



**???QUESTIONS???**





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