Domestic Violence and Child Welfare Reform

A Three-Part Teleconference Series

CWLA, The Family Violence Prevention Fund, and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges are pleased to announce the Fall 2007 series Domestic Violence and Child Welfare Reform, a teleconference series supported by the Office on Violence Against Women and the Department of Health and Human Services. This forum will discuss the critical issue and prevalence of the overlap of domestic violence and child maltreatment cases within child welfare, share lessons learned from the national Greenbook Initiative, disseminate emerging research on the issues of domestic violence and childhood exposure to violence, and inform the field about innovative policy and practice. This three-part series will focus on the following topics: providing an overview and lessons learned from the 5 year national demonstration initiative to implement the guidelines released in 1999 by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges in Effective Interventions in Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment: Guidelines for Policy and Practice (also known as “The Greenbook”); discuss promising strategies in collaborating across child welfare, domestic violence agencies, batterer’s intervention programs, and Family and Dependency Courts to enhance services for families experiencing domestic violence and child maltreatment; and to share innovative policy and practice changes that have been made across the country.

The Heart, Mind and Soul of the Greenbook Initiative

Tuesday, October 2nd, 2007
2-3:30pm (EST)

Family violence erupts in a home. A mother is battered. Her children witness the abuse. One child is struck and bruised. A neighbor calls the police, who arrest the batterer. The family enters the court system. What happens next? Too often, the answer is a disjointed and ineffective set of interventions from several different courts and social service agencies that treat adult domestic violence and child maltreatment as separate, unrelated phenomena. To address these scenarios and issues, the United States Departments of Health and Human Services and the Department of Justice collaborated to fund six demonstration sites across the country to encourage more collaboration among agencies, and to implement more effective interventions for families. This presentation will focus on the real lives of survivors and their children who are involved in the child protection system, data and strategic thinking that was behind the creation of the initiative, and the overall operation of the demonstration sites. Participants will benefit from the knowledge and experience from nationally respected experts as they share the challenges, successes and lessons learned in undertaking such reform efforts.

Presenters: Sharuline Nicholson, Susan Schechter Leadership Development Fellow; Jeffrey L. Edleson PhD., Professor in the University of Minnesota School of Social Work and Director of the Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse; Ruth Houtte M.A., Former Project Director of Grafton County, New Hampshire Greenbook Initiative, and currently the District Director for the Department for Children and Families, Family Services Division in St. Johnsbury, Vermont.
Leadership Development and Effective Strategies to Create Systems Change through Collaboration
Tuesday, November 6th, 2007
2-3:30pm (EST)

This session will focus on engaging child welfare agencies to take leadership in building collaborative partnerships across systems and how such collaboration can enhance reform efforts around the issue of domestic violence. Presenters will share successes and challenges faced in undertaking such collaboratives and discuss promising strategies to overcome obstacles. Topics discussed will include promising leadership strategies, relationship building, addressing racial disproportionality, and organizing communities. Participants will hear first hand the perspectives and experiences of child welfare, domestic violence agencies, and the court system on the philosophical and logistical implications of collaboration and coordination to improve services for families experiencing domestic violence and child maltreatment.
*Presenters: Hon. Katherine Lucero, Superior Court Judge, Santa Clara County Superior Court, and Representatives TBD--- from Child Welfare, and Domestic Violence Organizations.*

Innovative Policy and Practice to Enhance Service Delivery
Tuesday, December 11th, 2007
2-3:30pm (EST)

The third session will focus on providing child welfare agency staff with innovative strategies for increasing safety and accountability for families experiencing domestic violence through policy and practice implementation. Topics will include: family engagement (mothers, children, and fathers), risk and safety assessment tools, family group meetings, structured decision making tools, service planning, batterer accountability, and meeting the needs of all family members. Participants will gain knowledge on how to incorporate new policy and practice into their daily work to improve outcomes for families.

Registration Information

To register online, visit [www.cwla.org/conferences/2007teleconference-coc.htm](http://www.cwla.org/conferences/2007teleconference-coc.htm). You will need to provide the following information:

- Name
- Agency
- Address
- Phone
- Email

You will receive an e-mail confirmation, as well as all the course materials, approximately one week before each session. For questions about registration or program contact, contact Alice Martz at 617-769-4019 or amartz@cwla.org.

*** Note: This teleconference series is being offered at no cost thanks to the generous support of the Office on Violence Against Women and the Department of Health and Human Services. There are, however, a limited number of spaces available. We recommend that you register early and strongly consider having multiple staff listen in on a single phone line.