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### Where did we start?

- Family Violence Option – 1999
  - Task group formed to look at impact federal welfare reform would have on battered women living in poverty
  - Contracted to KCSDV
  - Orientation, Assessment, Referral and Safety (OARS) program created in KS
  - OARS program currently puts a DV advocate in 42 SRS offices across the state
  - Economic Employment Specialists (EES), Temporary Assistance to Families (TAF) and OARS

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### What We Noticed

- OARS advocates being used for CFS
- DV/SA programs began expressing need for involvement within child welfare
- Nicholson case - Found similar language being used in KS

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### Then what?

- KCSDV proposed Safety and Accountability Assessment (SAA)
  - Of child welfare system
  - First SAA of a state-wide child welfare agency
  - Examined SRS' approach to the intersection of DV and child maltreatment in its child protection caseloads

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### Elements of Safety & Accountability Assessment Agreement

- Confidentiality for SRS
- Files were redacted
- Text analysis of cases
- Worker focus groups conducted

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### Elements of Safety & Accountability Assessment

- Findings:
  - Child protection workers rarely identified DV in their caseloads
  - When DV was identified, it was often after the safety and lethality risks were high
  - Workers were not required to receive training on DV
  - Identified breakdown in linkages between DV/SA programs and child welfare systems

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**Elements of Safety & Accountability  
Assessment**

- Findings, cont.:
  - Risks related to DV were not considered in children’s “safety plan”
  - No safety planning with the adult victim
  - When DV was identified, non-offending parent required to comply with activities under threat of losing custody of her children
  - Identified DV as a mutual problem between the victim and batterer

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**Elements of Safety & Accountability  
Assessment**

- Findings, cont.:
  - Missed indicators of lethality risks related to DV, such as batterer’s suicidal threats
  - Failed to identify ways in which batterers used children to increase power and control over adult victims
  - Didn’t recognize batterer’s manipulation of the worker and child welfare system to increase power and control over the adult victim
  - Lack of awareness of how to use state statutes and other systems to increase safety of the adult victim and children

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**Elements of Safety & Accountability  
Assessment**

- Recommendations made:
  - Protocol development & pilot protocol implementation
  - Child welfare professionals receive training from a team of DV and child welfare experts
    - Including screening and referral, safety planning, batterer’s use of children and lethality risks
  - Cross-training of DV advocates on child welfare issues and collaboration
  - Build children’s programming capacity in DV/SA programs

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## Elements of Safety & Accountability Assessment

- **Additional Recommendations:**
  - Increase the awareness of confidentiality and safety
  - Improve services to victims with limited English proficiency, or other barriers
  - Institutionalize EES screening and referrals to OARS project
  - Develop and build support for BIPs
  - Increase attention to the meaning of “reasonable efforts”

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## State-Level Collaborative Project

- **2002 SRS-KCSDV Contract**
  - Included a Child Welfare Policy Coordinator position at KCSDV
  - Looked at overlap between OARS, EES and CFS
- **Safe at Home Committee formed**
  - Multi-disciplinary committee that looked at policies, procedures and regulations on the intersection of DV and child welfare

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## Collaborative Project

- **Safe at Home Committee**
  - Multi-disciplinary representation
    - KCSDV
    - SRS CFS Central Office
    - Office of Judicial Administration
    - DV/SA Programs
    - Local SRS offices
    - Community based child welfare agencies
    - Batterers’ Intervention Programming

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## Collaborative Project

- Ensuring cultural competency
  - Trainings
  - Resource development
  - Policy work

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## What Has Been Done

- Policy work to address the intersection of DV and child welfare
- KCSDV “core service” definitions and accreditation standards
- Technical assistance provided to child welfare and advocates
- “Successful Strategies” curriculum developed – basic level training

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## What Has Been Done

- Over 500 child welfare workers in KS trained on “Successful Strategies”
- Develop on-line training course
- Cross-training of advocates on child welfare system and collaboration
- Build children’s programming capacity in DV/SA programs
- Child welfare allied professionals trainings

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**Policy & Procedure Work**

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**Trainings & Learning Objectives**

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**Resource Development**

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## What We Are Doing Now

- Continue to look at policies and procedures
- Continue to provide technical assistance
- DV/SA programs surveyed regarding needs
- On-line training - "Successful Strategies"
- "Safe & Together" curriculum – advanced training for child welfare workers
- Skill enhancement webinars for child welfare workers
  - Building network of peer "experts" for future resource development

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## What We Are Doing Now

- Children's programming trainings for advocates
- Children's programming resource development for DV/SA programs
- Allied professionals trainings
  - Governor's Child Abuse and Neglect Conference
  - Supervisor's Conference
    - Praxis: Will You Hold My Child...?

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## Next Steps

- Continue to provide technical assistance
- Continue to look at policies and procedures
- Follow-up webinars for on-line training participants
- Convene DV/SA child welfare peer "experts" group to guide development of materials
- Resource Development: DV Desk Reference Manual, case planning and safety planning guide
- Continue "Safe & Together" advanced trainings

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## Next Steps

- Advocate cross-trainings on advanced topics
- ToT curriculum for child welfare agencies
- ToT training
- Supervisor's conference
- Child Advocacy Network & Network listserv
- Skill enhancement webinars
- Children's programming resource development
- Allied professionals trainings

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## *Greenbook* Guiding Principles

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## Successes & Challenges

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**One Thing We Have Learned**

Messaging

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**Additional Considerations for  
State-Level Collaboration**

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**Thank you!**

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