Safe & Together
A perpetrator pattern, child centered, survivor strength based approach to the intersection of domestic violence and child maltreatment

Day 1

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Intersectionality of Domestic Violence, Child Well-Being And Child Welfare

• Pregnancy
  o 3-19% of women report perinatal domestic violence+
  o 48% mothers in one home visitation program revealed reported experiencing IPV since the birth of their child**

• Adverse Childhood Experience (ACES) Domestic Violence Data
  o As frequency IPV witnessing increased, "powerful graded increase in the prevalence of every category of ACE" and "positive graded risk for self-reported alcoholism, illicit drug use, IV drug use and depressed affect"
  o "It strengthens the idea that IPV is usually (95% probability) associated with some form of child abuse or neglect or other serious family dysfunction.
  o Moreover, the number of ACEs have been shown to have a positive graded relationship to negative outcomes during adolescence and adulthood including numerous health risk behaviors..., unintended pregnancy..., sexually transmitted diseases..., and many of the leading causes of death in the United States..."

• “DV has a measurable and substantial association with caregiver and family functioning, which in turn have a substantial association with child health and behavior.”

• 88% of a group of battered women described that their partner used their children to try to control her.
Intersectionality of Domestic Violence, Child Well-Being And Child Welfare

- Multiple studies indicate that child fatalities or critical incidents may have domestic violence as a factor (as high as 2 out of 3).
- Between 45-70% of children exposed to domestic violence are also victims of physical abuse.
- 34% of all substantiated CPS investigations included exposure to IPV as the primary category of maltreatment (Canadian study)*
- Recent data from National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well Being indicated that parents disclose rates of recent domestic violence (last twelve months) at a rate more than double what child welfare workers identified. (26% v. 12%)
- NCTSN study of children in foster care and trauma:
  - 54% had domestic violence exposure
  - Of the complex trauma group, 72% had domestic violence (consistent with ACES study)

Queensland

Respondents to the 1988 Queensland survey reported that children experiencing domestic and family violence were also victims of:

- Physical abuse in 68% of cases,
- Emotional in 70% of cases and
- Sexual abuse in 8% of cases

*Practice Paper 2012
Australia Context

- 31% of Australian women reported a physical assault by a current or previous partner in the last 12 months (2005 Personal Safety Survey)
- 2002 study of family violence in indigenous population
  - Assault rates double that of non-indigenous communities.
  - 1 in 2 hospitalization of indigenous women for assaults were likely to be for family violence.
  - 1 in 5 hospitalization of indigenous men for assaults were likely to be for family violence.
  - Indigenous women were 10 times more likely to die to due to assaults than non-indigenous women
- 61% of deaths of children known to child welfare = domestic violence as a factor in the case (NSW child fatality review)

Moving Systems to Become More Domestic Violence-Informed

- Perpetrator pattern
- Survivor strength-based
- Child centered

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Domestic Violence-Informed Continuum

Domestic Violence – Informed Child Welfare Systems

Domestic Violence Proficient

Domestic Violence Destructive

Domestic Violence Competent

Domestic Violence Neglectful

Domestic Violence Pre-Competent

Domestic Violence-Informed Systems & Perpetrator Pattern-Based Approach

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Weak

Perpetrator Pattern Nexus

Strong
Domestic violence perpetrators, in the context of the child welfare system, are parents and/or caregivers who engage in a pattern of coercive control against one or more intimate partners. This pattern of behavior may continue after the end of a relationship, or when the couple no longer lives together. The perpetrator’s actions often directly involve, target and impact any children in the family.
Perpetrator Pattern-Based Approach to Domestic Violence and Children

• Looks at the perpetrator’s behavior, not the relationship or the survivor’s behavior, as the source of the domestic violence child risk and safety concerns

• Beyond current relationship: 360 degrees assessment of perpetrator pattern

• Strong nexus between domestic violence perpetrator’s behaviors child safety and well being

• Highlights the choice(s) to be violent, abusive and controlling as parenting choices

Domestic violence perpetration is a parenting choice.
(whether the children are there to witness it or not)
Safe and Together™ Principles

1. Keeping child Safe and Together™ with non-offending parent
   - Safety
   - Healing from trauma
   - Stability and nurturance

2. Partnering with non-offending parent as default position
   - Efficient
   - Effective
   - Child-centered

3. Intervening with perpetrator to reduce risk and harm to child
   - Engagement
   - Accountability
   - Courts
Safe and Together Principles: Exercise

- Question 1: “Can you tell me one thing the survivor has done to promote the safety of the children?”
- Question 2: “Can you tell me one thing the survivor has done to promote the well-being of the children?”
- Question 3: “Can you tell me one thing the survivor has done to promote stability for the children?”
- Question 4: “Can you tell me one thing the survivor has done to nurture the children?”

Safe and Together™ Critical Components

- Perpetrator’s pattern of coercive control
- Actions taken by the perpetrator to harm the child
- Full spectrum of the non-offending parent’s efforts to promote the safety and well-being of the child
- Adverse impact of the perpetrator’s behavior on the child
- Role of substance abuse, mental health, culture and other socio-economic factors

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Safe and Together Ohio Data

• Ohio 3rd Party Evaluation: Study coordinated by Ohio IPV Collaborative with support from
  o HealthPath Foundation
  o NCALP
  o ODJFS
  o Supreme Court of Ohio

• Data collected from 12 of the counties trained during 2013, as well as 12 Ohio counties that had participated in Safe and Together training during previous years, and 7 local CPS from AR counties that had not yet participated in the training.

• 5 data collection activities:
  o an online pre/posttest survey of 837 CPS caseworkers and supervisors
  o semi-structured interviews with 16 supervisors;
  o semi-structured interviews with 8 community stakeholders;
  o desk reviews of 191 CPS case files; and
  o review of written policies from 15 counties that completed Safe &Together training. Exhaustive descriptions of each of these methods are appended to this report.

Strong evidence that:
• CPS staff assign less blame to victims for staying in a violent relationship;
• CPS staff increase their concern about, and documentation of the effects of children witnessing domestic violence.

Mixed Evidence:
• CPS staff increase their understanding of coercive control;
• CPS staff enhance safety planning for victims and children;
• CPS staff increase perpetrators’ accountability.

Little evidence that:
• CPS agencies change written policies; and
• Community stakeholders become more receptive to Safe and Together policies and principles.
Safe and Together Florida Data

- Work with both child welfare and domestic violence advocates
  - Multi-site work with DCF in Florida since 2008
  - Relationship with Florida Coalition since 2006
  - Different projects
    - Subject Matter Experts
    - Co-located Advocates
    - Children’s Legal Services
    - Cultural & Linguistically specific work

- Panhandle
  - Training and technical assistance for both child welfare and co-located domestic violence advocates

Domestic Violence Removals as Percent of Overall Removals (Bay & Gulf Counties)
Correlation between model implementation and keeping children in homes

In Jacksonville Florida, the child welfare department was able to track the number of filings and removals for cases where domestic violence was identified. The data indicated a significant drop in neglect petitions (approximately 70% decrease) and removals during a period (approximately 50% decrease) correlated with significant Safe and Together model training.
When Domestic Violence is the Concern……

The domestic violence perpetrator and his behavior* are the foundational source of the risk and safety concerns for children.

* not the adult survivor or her behavior

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