

RURAL ROUTES TO CHANGE WEBINAR

We will begin shortly. While you wait...

Child Protection Services:
Advocating for Safety for Battered Mothers and their Children Together
Rose Thelen, Praxis Technical Assistance Partner and
Jessica Nelson, Wright County Health & Human Services CPS Supervisor

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

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Horizontal lines for notes

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Child Protection
Services: Advocating
for Safety for Battered
Mothers and their
Children Together

Rose Thelen, Praxis Technical Assistance
Partner and Jessica Nelson, Wright County
Health & Human Services CPS Supervisor

Horizontal lines for notes

Webinar tips

Accessibility

- Closed Captions are displayed at bottom of screen. Due to limitations of real-time captioning, mistakes are possible.
• Use Q&A box for questions/comments at any time. Phone lines are muted.

Logistics

- Click on Q&A box icon to adjust text size/color settings.
• Webinar recording available on the Rural Recording webpage.

Sound quality

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Webinar assistance:

- Send an individual message to TA2TA host(s) or Liz Carlson within Q&A box.

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Horizontal lines for notes

Research on impact of battering on children

- Children are at great risk of physical harm when living in homes with batterers (Straus, M.A. & Gelles, R.J., 1990)
- A large number of severe and fatal injuries to children occur where there is battering (Oregon Department of Human Resources, 1990, MA Department of Social Services, 1993.)
- Children are harmed emotionally, as well as physically, by batterers (Edleson, J.L., 1999)

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Gaps in Child Protective Services for Battered Mothers

- Pressure on battered mothers to stop the violence
- Considers battering a relationship problem and charges “failure to protect”
- Separation of adult partners can increase risk to both adult and child victims
- Mandating extensive list of services for battered mothers
- Lack of ability to control the offender/hold the batterer accountable
- Services mandated do not match the need of battered mothers and their children
- What else?

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Advocacy efforts to close gaps

- Nicholson v. Williams
- The Greenbook and
- 5 year Greenbook Demonstration Initiative
- Praxis Safety and Accountability Audits
- David Mandel, Safe and Together Model
- Center for Social Policy: Child Welfare institutional analysis
- Praxis Guide: with partners: NCJFCJ, CSP, OVW

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Guiding principles for CP intervention:

- Safety, well-being, and stability for children and families is central;
- Risk of staying or leaving, protective factors, impact on the child needs to be accounted for
- Priority is given to children remaining in the care of their non-offending parent(s);
- Batterers, not their victims, should be held accountable for stopping their violence and coercively controlling behavior;
- Community service systems should offer many points of entry to fair and capable services for people of diverse backgrounds; and
- Differential response should be available that does not require opening a child protection investigation or findings of maltreatment to access help.

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Another Praxis International Tool for Change-Oriented Advocacy:

Supporting the Safety of Battered Mothers and Their Children Together

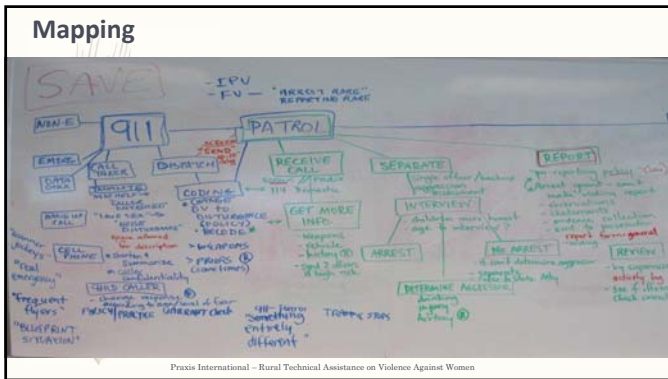
Supporting survivors' efforts to secure safety, recovery, rights, and autonomy while also working to reform the social institutions, public policy, and community norms that support battering and other forms of violence against women

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Key activities in the assessment guide



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The Discussion Series: Exploring our differences (and similarities) non-defensively

Six Topics

- The Greenbook Principles
- What is Safety?
- Power and Control: Use of Children
- Children's Experiences with Domestic Violence
- Mother's Protective Strategies
- Essential Understanding and Information

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Text analysis

Analyzing policies, forms, checklists, case files

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Text analysis...case file review worksheets
...whether and how does the case file:

Accurately identify & distinguish between adult victim and perpetrator	Concretely describe the violence
Identify victim parent's protective strategies	Secure safety of children and adult victims together

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Case notes


	Police report of incident	CPS intake notes	Revised CPS intake notes
Case 1	An anonymous complainant stated that a female was being hit and was then drug inside the residence...I observed minor injuries to Victim. Victim was very reluctant to speak about anything due to Suspect's criminal past [two prior felony domestic assault convictions within 10 years].	It was reported that child was present during domestic between mother and father.	Child present and observed father hit mother and drag her inside the house. Mother reluctant to speak about anything due to Suspect's criminal past [two prior felony domestic assault convictions within 10 years].
Case 2	Victim told me: Suspect was being mean and punched me 6 times in the right knee. I was seated on the recliner in the living room and it tipped back as I was being punched. My son stood up for me and told Suspect not to hit me and Suspect hit my son in the leg.	It was reported that Child was punched in the knee while intervening a fight between his parents.	Boyfriend punched mother in knee 6 times in front of child. Child intervened and boyfriend punched child in the leg.

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Wright County Outcomes

- Improved relationships and better communication
- Use of a new language and approach to seeking systemic change
- Lethality assessment from law enforcement reports now sent child protection
- Revised and new procedures for child protection workers
- Strengthening linkages with other agencies, e.g., Probation
- Use of specific language to describe battering in ways that hold the batterer accountable
- New position for a child protection worker with specific focus on cases involving domestic violence

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To do a full readiness assessment


<p><u>Relationship status</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strangers? • Antagonistic? • New? • Can talk to each other • Common understanding • Shared commitment & problem-solving 	<p><u>Coordination and facilitation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to policies, forms, and case files • Inside or outside facilitator • Funding • Partnering agencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Police ○ Probation ○ Culturally specific programs ○ Others
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To do full assessment...commitment

- Openness and willingness to learn from each other and change
- Non-defensive and non-accusatory approach
- Stay focused on enhancing safety and well-being
- Coordinator and admin support
 - Gather documents
 - Document duplication and assembly
- But mostly time of a few CPS staff, a few advocates, and any other agency practitioners
 - Could range from 4 months to a year
 - Coordinator = 216 hours (roughly)
 - Team member = 80 hours (roughly)

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In closing...

- Recommendations for domestic violence advocates in approaching CPS?
- Recommendations for CPS to be open to this approach?

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Contact us for more information and support

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Thank you!

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