Domestic Violence, Child Well-Being And Child Welfare

- Pregnancy
  - 3.4% of women report perinatal domestic violence
    - 82% of women who report perinatal domestic violence also report perinatal abuse

- Adverse Childhood Experience (ACES) Domestic Violence Data
  - As frequency IPV witnessing increased, "powerful graded increase in the prevalence of every category of ACE" and "nonrelated guided risk for self-reported alcoholism, illicit drug use, H IV drug use and depression ACEs".
  - "It strengthens the idea that IPV is usually (95% probability) associated with some form of child abuse or neglect or other serious family dysfunction.
  - Moreover, the number of ACEs have been shown to have a positive graded relationship to negative outcomes during adolescence and adulthood, including problematic health behaviors, poor mental health, and unhealthy relationships..."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.***

- Multiple studies indicate that child fatalities or critical incidents may have domestic violence as 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
  - 54% had domestic violence exposure

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The ‘cardinal’ question

Given the totality of the system’s relationship with adult and child domestic violence survivors, is it likely that they see us as being on their side?

*adapted from Hodas, 2006
Moving Systems to Becoming More Domestic Violence-Informed

Perpetrator pattern

Survivor strength-based

Child centered

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*

Multiple pathways to harm

Perpetrator's Pattern

- Coercive control toward adult survivor
- Abductation of children

Children's Trauma

- Victims of physical abuse
- Witnessing or learning about the violence

Effect on partner's parenting

- Loss of income
- Loss of contact with extended family
- Interference with day to day routine and basic care
- Depression/PTSD/anxiety/substance abuse

Effect on family ecology

- Loss of income
- Loss of contact with extended family
- Interference with day to day routine and basic care

Harm to child

- Loss of income
- Loss of contact with extended family
- Interference with day to day routine and basic care
Intersectionality of DV perpetrator behavior and other issues

Perpetrator Pattern-Based Approach to Domestic Violence and Children

- Looks at the perpetrator’s behavior, not the relationship, as the source of the domestic violence
- Highlights the choice(s) to be violent, abusive, and controlling as parenting choices
- Beyond current relationship: 360-degree assessment of perpetrator pattern
- More than adult-on-adult behavior: Strong nexus between domestic violence perpetrator’s behaviors and child safety and well-being.

Perpetrator Pattern Based Approach

“Traditional Batterer Accountability”
- Arrest/Prosecution/Probation/Incarceration
- Enforcement of Court Orders
- Batterer Intervention Programs

“Beyond Batterer Accountability”
- Includes “Traditional Batterer Accountability”
- Focuses on patterns of behavior and nexus with child safety and well-being
- Domestic violence perpetration as parenting choice
- Gender role analysis
- Necessary practice skills, knowledge, and policy for diverse groups of professionals/disciplines
- Emphasizes intersectionality

2/27/2015
Low Standards for Fathers

Weak Nexus Between Perpetrator Pattern & Harm to Children

Foundation for “Failure to Protect” approach to intersection of domestic violence and child maltreatment

High Standards for Fathers

Strong Nexus Between Perpetrator Pattern & Harm to Children

Foundation for perpetrator pattern-based approach to intersection of domestic violence and child maltreatment

Model Characteristics

- Child centered approach to domestic violence
- Fact based
- "Beyond services"
- Gender responsive
- Integrative & interdisciplinary
- Strength broad
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™ Critical Components

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

Safe and Together Ohio Data

- Ohio 3rd Party Evaluation: Study coordinated by Ohio IPV Collaboration with support from
  - HealthPath Foundation
  - NCALP
  - ODJFS
- 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:
  - an online pre/posttest survey of 837 CPS caseworkers and supervisors
  - semi-structured interviews with 16 supervisors
  - semi-structured interviews with 8 community stakeholders
  - desk reviews of 191 CPS case files
  - review of written policies from 15 counties that had completed Safe and 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
  o Multi-site work with DCF in Florida since 2008
  o Relationship with Florida Coalition since 2006
  o Different projects
    • Subject Matter Experts
    • Co-located Advocates
    • Children’s Legal Services
    • Cultural & Linguistically specific work
• Panhandle
  o 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, FL)

- Jan-Jun 2012
- Jul-Dec 2012
- Jan-Jun 2013
- 0
- 5
- 10
- 15
- 20
- 25
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.

Materials Available

http://endingviolence.com/protecting-delawares-children/
Safe and Together Model Resources & Educational Events

- **Open Events**
  - Thursday Webinar Series

- **Resources**
  - Website: www.endingviolence.com
  - Safe and Together videos:
    - https://www.youtube.com/user/SafeandTogetherModel
  - Safe and Together model blog: safe-and-togetherendingviolence.com/blog/
  - Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/DavidMandelAndAssociates
  - Twitter: https://twitter.com/SafeandTogether

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Save the Date October 14-16, 2015
Safe Together 3rd Annual Symposium
Domestic Violence and Children

Wyndham Grand Bonnet Creek, Orlando, FL

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For more information