MARICOPA ASSOCIATION of GOVERNMENTS
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November 25, 2014

TO: Members of the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council

FROM: Chief Steve Campbell, El Mirage Police Department, Chair

SUBJECT: MEETING NOTIFICATION AND TRANSMITTAL OF TENTATIVE AGENDA

Meeting - 2:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 4, 2014
MAG Office, Suite 200 - Ironwood Room
302 North 1st Avenue, Phoenix

The next Regional Domestic Violence Council meeting will be held at the MAG offices at the time and place noted above. Members of the Regional Domestic Violence Council may attend either in person, by video conference or by telephone conference call.

The meeting agenda and resource materials are also available on the MAG website at www.azmag.gov. In addition to the existing website location, the agenda packet will be available via the File Transfer Protocol (FTP) site at: ftp://ftp.azmag.gov/RegionalDomesticViolenceCouncil. This location is publicly accessible and does not require a password.

Please park in the garage underneath the building. Bring your ticket to the meeting, and parking will be validated. For those using transit, the Regional Public Transportation Authority will provide transit tickets for your trip. For those using bicycles, please lock your bicycle in the bike rack in the garage.

In 1996, the Regional Council approved a simple majority quorum for all MAG advisory committees. If the Regional Domestic Violence Council does not meet the quorum requirement, members who have arrived at the meeting will be instructed a legal meeting cannot occur and subsequently be dismissed. Your attendance at the meeting is strongly encouraged.

Pursuant to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), MAG does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admissions to or participation in its public meetings. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting the MAG office. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

If you have any questions, please contact Amy Robinson at arobinson@azmag.gov or (602) 254-6300.

MAG REGIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL
TENTATIVE AGENDA
December 4, 2014

	COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED
1. Call to Order	1. Welcome and introductions.
2. Call to the Audience An opportunity will be provided to members of the public to address the Regional Domestic Violence Council on items not scheduled on the agenda that fall under the jurisdiction of MAG, or on items on the agenda for discussion but not for action. Citizens will be requested not to exceed a three minute time period for their comments. A total of 15 minutes will be provided for the Call to the Audience agenda item, unless the Regional Domestic Violence Council requests an exception to this limit. Please note that those wishing to comment on agenda items posted for action will be provided the opportunity at the time the item is heard.	2. Information.
3. Approval of the September 4, 2014 Meeting Minutes The draft minutes for the September 4, 2014 meeting are posted with the meeting materials.	3. Approval of the September 4, 2014 MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council meeting minutes.
4. Committee Evaluation and Goals Each year, the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council evaluates the performance of the Committee and discusses goals to guide the Committee's work in the coming year. An opportunity will be provided for the Committee to discuss priorities for the coming year.	4. Recommend approval of goals to facilitate the work of the Committee.
5. ACESDV Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Report of 2014 Will Gaona, Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence, will offer a report on the ACESDV Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Report of 2014 - Making the Connection Between Domestic Violence and Child Abuse.	5. Information and discussion.

6. Super Bowl and Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Efforts

   An update will be offered on anti-trafficking efforts in preparation for the Super Bowl.

6. Information and discussion.

7. Felony Protocol Model

   A report will be offered on the community meetings held in September to gather input for the Maricopa County Attorney's Office Felony Protocol Model.

7. Information and discussion.

8. Protocol Evaluation Project Training Resources and Outreach Activities

   An update will be offered on outreach and training activities including development of the 2014 Law Enforcement training video, Brown Bag Lunch training sessions, and the Domestic Violence Awareness Month press conference. Information will also be provided on the Domestic Violence Protocol Evaluation Project Training Event scheduled for December 9, 2014.

8. Information and discussion.

9. Request for Future Agenda Items

   Topics or issues of interest that the Regional Domestic Violence Council would like to have considered for discussion at a future meeting will be requested.

9. Information.

10. Comments from the Council

    An opportunity will be provided for Regional Domestic Violence Council members to present a brief summary of current events. The Regional Domestic Violence Council is not allowed to propose, discuss, deliberate or take action at the meeting on any matter in the summary, unless the specific matter is properly noticed for legal action.

10. Information.

Adjournment

MINUTES OF THE
MAG REGIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL MEETING
September 4, 2014
MAG Office Building, Saguaro Room
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

* Celeste Adams, Save the Family
Vice Mayor Robin Barker, City of Apache Junction, Vice Chair
Serene Carney, Apache Junction Police Department
John Belatti, City of Mesa Prosecutor's Office
Tamyra Spendly for Libby Bissa, City of Phoenix Family Advocacy Center
John A. Blackburn, Jr., Arizona Criminal Justice Commission
Yvonne Taylor for Allie Bones, Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence
Chief Steve Campbell, City of El Mirage Police Department, Chair
* Michael Celaya, City of Surprise
* Councilmember Samuel Chavira, City of Glendale
* Chris Christy, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
Lieutenant Brian Coley, City of Phoenix Police Department
Councilmember Ginny Dickey, Town of Fountain Hills
Hilary Weinberg for Jon Eliason, Maricopa County Attorney's Office
* President Diane Enos, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
Kristen Scharlau for Naomi Farrell, City of Tempe
Maria Garay, Sojourner Center
* Donna Gardner, City of Avondale
Patricia George for Will Gonzalez, City of Phoenix Prosecutor's Office
Laura Guild, Arizona Dept. of Economic Security
Constance Halonen, City of Apache Junction Police Department
Elizabeth Herbert, City of Chandler Prosecutor's Office
* Cmdr. Kim Humphrey, City of Phoenix Police Department
* Lynette Jelinek, City of Glendale Fire Dept.
* Mary Lynn Kasunic, Area Agency on Aging
Patricia Klahr, Chrysalis Shelter, Inc.
* Councilmember Suzanne Klapp, City of Scottsdale
* Councilmember Sheri Lauritano, City of Goodyear
* Councilmember David Luna, City of Mesa
Leah Meyers, Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families
* Maribel Gloria, Chicanos por la Causa
D.C. Ernst for Kerry Ramella, Phoenix Fire Department
Lynn Selby, City of El Mirage
Kathleen Sullivan, Town of Gilbert
* Sarah Youngblood, Community Legal Services

* Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.
# Attended by telephone conference call.
+ Attended by videoconference

OTHERS PRESENT

Catherine Solis, House of Refuge
Larry Grubbs, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission
Gabe Lopez, Phoenix Police Department
Carl Mangold, Private Practice
Sharon Taylor-Wood, Private Practice
Betty McEntire, Secretary of State's Office
Kate Henderson, Arizona Department of Public Safety
Rachel Brito, Maricopa Association of Governments
Nikki Oxford, Maricopa Association of Governments
Amy Robinson, Maricopa Association of Governments
Amy St. Peter, Maricopa Association of Governments

1. Call to Order and Introductions

   Chair Steve Campbell, El Mirage Police Department, called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. Chair Campbell asked the Committee members and audience members to introduce themselves. Introductions ensued.

2. Call to the Audience

   An opportunity was provided to members of the public to address the Regional Domestic Violence Council on items not scheduled on the agenda that fall under the jurisdiction of MAG, or on items on the agenda for discussion but not for action. Chair Campbell requested audience members not to exceed a three minute time period for their comments.

   There were no comments made from the audience.

3. Approval of the Regional Domestic Violence Council Meeting Minutes

   Chair Campbell called for approval of the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council meeting minutes from June 5, 2014. Chair Campbell asked for any revisions to the minutes. Hearing none, Chair Campbell entertained a motion to approve the minutes. Vice Chair Barker, City of Apache Junction, made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilmember John A. Blackburn, Jr., Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, seconded the motion. All voted and the motion passed.

4. MAG Regional Plan to End Domestic Violence Annual Report

   Amy St. Peter, MAG, thanked the Council for their collaboration on the Regional Plan to End Domestic Violence. St. Peter informed the council that approval of the Plan to End Domestic Violence had been tabled at the June, 2014 Council meeting, to be acted on at this

meeting. St. Peter asked if there were any questions or comments from councilmembers. Hearing none, she deferred to Chair Campbell to call for a motion.

Chair Campbell entertained a motion to approve the Regional Plan to End Domestic Violence Annual Report. Councilmember John Belatti, City of Mesa Prosecutor's Office, made a motion to approve the MAG Regional Plan to End Domestic Violence. Patricia George, Phoenix Prosecutor's Office, seconded the motion.

Councilmember John A. Blackburn, Jr., questioned the relationship of the Regional Plan to End Domestic Violence Annual Report to the STOP Violence Against Women grant which funds the Protocol Evaluation Project.

Ms. St. Peter responded, indicating that the Regional Plan to End Domestic Violence is not directly related to the STOP Violence Against Women grant funding.

Chair Campbell called for a vote on the earlier motion and second. All voted and the motion passed.

5. MAG Regional Misdemeanor Domestic Violence Protocol Model Revisions

Nikki Oxford, MAG, provided the Council with an overview of the revisions to the Misdemeanor Protocol Model made by the Council during their last meeting in June, 2014 as well as those revisions submitted directly to Ms. Oxford through email.

Ms. Oxford explained that the phrasing of the Misdemeanor Protocol Model had changed from "lethality and risk assessment", to "lethality and danger assessment". An additional phrasing change was made in response to legal and liability concerns, noting use of the Misdemeanor Protocol Model is "recommended" as opposed to "mandated" for use as a best practice. The recommendation that officers explain the results of the lethality and danger assessment to victims was also included.

Chair Campbell expressed his approval of the phrasing changes. Chair Campbell asked the Council if there were any questions. Hearing none, Chair Campbell entertained a motion to approve the Misdemeanor Domestic Violence Protocol Model revisions. John A. Blackburn, Jr., Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, made a motion to approve the protocol revisions. Vice Chair Barker, City of Apache Junction, seconded the motion. All voted and the motion passed.

6. Felony Protocol Model

Amy Robinson, MAG, informed the Council of revisions made to the Felony Protocol Model. Ms. Robinson stated that revisions were collected during a meeting of the Felony Work Group comprised of community partners, as well as through email and use of a shared access website. The noted changes included the addition of a chapter for strangulation response, as well additions noting recommendations to utilize body cameras during patrol response, and the use of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (S.A.N.E.) to the medical response.

Additional changes were made to the Felony Protocol Model to reflect the changes in Arizona Revised Statute § 13-3601.02 which states the timing for an aggravated charge of domestic violence has changed from three offenses in five years to three offenses in seven years. All community resource contact information was also verified.

Ms. Robinson informed the council that there would be three additional community meetings to discuss revisions to the model. These meetings will be held on September ninth, 23, and 30, 2014.

A question was raised on where the meetings were located. Amy St. Peter, MAG, provided the locations.

Mr. Belatti inquired how many persons had registered for each event. Ms. St. Peter responded that there were eight to ten people listed to attend each meeting. Ms. St. Peter also asked for increased dialogue about Felony Protocol community meetings to encourage increased community feedback.

Chair Campbell echoed Ms. St. Peter's request for promotion of these meetings. Chair Campbell then explained that everyone has a vested interest in eradicating domestic violence and injuries related to domestic violence situations. Chair Campbell asked Amy St. Peter, MAG, to highlight the differences between the misdemeanor and felony protocol models.

Amy St. Peter explained that the misdemeanor protocol was created by this Council in 2011 and has been updated each year while the felony protocol model was developed by Maricopa County Attorney's Office, and was last updated in 2005. Ms. St. Peter explained that the goal is to enhance the link between the two models. This will ensure that there is a consistent protocol in place when officers arrive to a domestic violence scene, as it is unclear whether it is a misdemeanor or a felony incident.

Chair Campbell asked if there were any questions. Vice Chair Barker, City of Apache Junction, asked how the felony protocol was being communicated to other areas outside of Maricopa County.

Amy St. Peter responded by stating that since it is only a model and is not mandatory, each jurisdiction will implement the portions they can. Additionally, Ms. St. Peter noted that further dissemination will be facilitated by statewide partners. Implementations will be tracked by an implementation survey facilitated in part by the Arizona Chief of Police Association.

Vice Chair Barker, City of Apache Junction mentioned that the last implementation survey was sent to 73 agencies, and only 30 responded. Vice Chair Barker asked how this will be accurate proof of implementation.

Amy St. Peter mentioned that not all 73 agencies were a part of Maricopa or Pinal counties. Ms. St. Peter noted that local agencies had a much higher response rate, and improving the statewide response rate will be an ongoing process.

Chair Campbell thanked Amy St. Peter and asked if there were any additional comments. John A. Blackburn, Jr. mentioned that perfecting the protocols will assist with expanding the reach of implementation and noted that Yavapai is one of the largest supporters of the Protocol Model.

Chair Campbell again asked if there were any comments. Hearing none, he moved on to the next agenda item.

7. Protocol Evaluation Project Training Resources and Outreach Activities

Amy St. Peter, MAG, thanked those members of the council who attended or presented at the Solutions for Safety Training on Tuesday August 12, 2014. Ms. St. Peter informed the council that there were more than 130 in attendance at the August training. Ms. St. Peter gave a brief summary of the event. Ms. St. Peter explained to the Council that there was a great response from event evaluations, attributable to the diversity of those in attendance, and the benefit of small group discussions.

Ms. St. Peter informed the Council that copies of presentations from the Solutions for Safety training are available on the MAG website. PowerPoints from the event are posted on mag website. Ms. St. Peter asked if anyone had additional comments related to the training.

Chief Campbell mentioned the dialogue in the breakout groups was very in-depth. Many new relationships were forged due to the great attendance at the training, and these new relationships will help to achieve the goal of eliminating domestic violence.

Amy St. Peter informed the Council that there will be three more trainings this year. The first is on Wednesday, September 10, 2014 on the subject of Evidence Based Prosecution. The second will be on Thursday, October 16, 2014 on the subject of Housing for Pregnant and Parenting Victims. There will be a third meeting scheduled by the end of the year, but at this time the details have not been confirmed.

John A. Blackburn, Jr., Arizona Criminal Justice Commission asked if registration was required for these events. Ms. St. Peter responded that registration is not necessary, although it is beneficial for planning purposes.

Chair Campbell asked if there were any other questions. Hearing none, he invited Ms. St. Peter to continue.

Amy St. Peter, MAG, informed the Council that there will be a press event taking place at nine a.m. on Tuesday, October 7, 2014 at the Arizona State University, College of Law, Mock Courtroom. This event is to launch Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and the subject is Voices of Justice, encouraging victims to speak up in the criminal justice system. Ms. St. Peter explained the press event will last approximately one-half hour, and parking costs would be covered.

As there were no comments from the Council, Amy St. Peter, MAG, continued her update on training resources and outreach activities.

Ms. St. Peter asked each member of the Council to complete an evaluation form for the Protocol Evaluation Project during the meeting. Evaluations were completed.

Chair Campbell asked for a digital copy to be sent to those attending the meeting by teleconference. Amy St. Peter opened the floor to comments and feedback regarding the Protocol Evaluation Project. John Belatti, City of Mesa Prosecutor's Office, asked Amy St. Peter for a final copy of the Misdemeanor Protocol Model to be sent to Council members. As there were no other comments, Ms. St. Peter continued.

Ms. St. Peter informed the Council of projected projects for the 2015 STOP Violence Against Women Grant. Ms. St. Peter mentioned that moving forward the goals will be similar to those currently in place, including continuing the work of the Regional Domestic Violence Council, as well as increasing capacity through trainings. These trainings will include brown bag trainings as well as a law enforcement training video. Ms. St. Peter went on to note the work on the Regional Misdemeanor Protocol Model will also continue.

Ms. St. Peter explained the new aspect of work under the 2015 STOP Violence Against Women grant will be evaluating the case transfer process. This evaluation is in three parts, identifying current process, identifying gaps and challenges in those processes and developing strategies to mitigate those gaps. Ms. St. Peter gave Hilary Weinberg, Maricopa County Attorney's Office, the floor.

Ms. Weinberg noted that a concern of the Maricopa County Attorney's Office is that there are often cases sent to the county that should be tried at the city level, and vice versa. Ms. Weinberg stated that the paperwork to transfer these cases needs to be filed as quickly as possible to prevent release of the suspect. This process necessitates a lot of phone calls and is altogether a very disjointed process. Ms. Weinberg stated that it is a goal to develop a system with faster and more effective communication between agencies.

Amy St. Peter, MAG, stated that this is a focus of the region's proposal for the STOP Violence Against Women grant for 2015, then opened the discussion to the floor for comments.

John A. Blackburn, Jr., Arizona Criminal Justice Commission expanded noting that several community prosecutors have mentioned the physical release of persons from jail is a problem when the suspect gets released and the agency that will be prosecuting the case has not been notified. Mr. Blackburn also mentioned that this increases the risk to victims.

Chair Campbell agreed with Mr. Blackburn, stating that in a prior conversation with Maricopa County Prosecutor Jon Eliason they discussed that this issue has a cascading effect. He continued; that social services are going to have to be duplicated as they will be called on again, as well as agencies being requiring to pay dual booking fees. This also raises the level of threat faced by the victims. By taking a look at these processes and creating this

communication link between the municipalities and the County will be beneficial in other avenues as well.

Hilary Weinberg mentioned that one important goal of evaluating the case transfer process would be to create a system that enabled a more effective way to immediately view a suspect's prior felony convictions, to allow those at the County to charge a count of aggravated domestic violence, as opposed to a traditional domestic violence charge. Amy St. Peter responded, informing the panel that there are plans to conduct a training on valid priors in the future.

Amy St. Peter, MAG, asked the Council if there was any additional input, or topics the Council felt should be covered in the STOP Violence Against Women grant proposal for 2015. Chief Campbell asked the Council if there were any Victim Advocates present who wished to weigh in on this issue.

Kristen Scharlau, City of Tempe, addressed the council. Ms. Scharlau mentions that the problem with case transfers is very prevalent, with this circumstance of an offender being released and the victim was unaware. Ms. Scharlau mentioned that there are still a significant number of issues with orders of protection. She explained that this issue is worse in some areas than in others.

Chair Campbell asked Ms. Scharlau if the issue surrounding orders of protection was one she wanted MAG to be involved with. Ms. Scharlau responded stating that she would like anyone who is willing and able to assist with this issue, and that she will continue to investigate on her end. Chair Campbell, said that he would take this issue to the Orders of Protection Taskforce. Amy St. Peter, MAG, mentioned that the training video currently under production focuses on orders of protection.

Amy St. Peter then asked for any further input on the Protocol Evaluation Project to be sent to her, and gave final thanks to those who have helped with this project. Hearing no further comment, Chair Campbell moved to the next item on the agenda.

8. Request for Future Agenda Items

Chair Campbell asked the Council for any requested topics or issues of interest to consider for future agendas. Chair Campbell presented to the council an issue relating to data for domestic violence, and how the council can better understand the current trends. He addressed this issue to those present from Arizona Criminal Justice Commission. Amy St. Peter mentioned that she has a report from Arizona Criminal Justice Commission released in 2010 that contains useful data.

Ms. St. Peter then informed the council that MAG is still seeking partners to the Memorandum of Understanding for the STOP Violence Against Women grant for 2015 or those willing to write a Letter of Participation. She invited councilmembers to join in support of this grant.

9. Comments from the Council

Council members were given the opportunity to present a brief summary of current events. The Regional Domestic Violence Council is not allowed to propose, discuss, deliberate or take action at the meeting on any matter in the summary, unless a specific matter is properly noticed for legal action.

Councilmember Ginny Dickey, Town of Fountain Hills informed the Council that she did not run for reelection and has asked the Council if they would like to recommend a replacement. Ms. Dickey also noted that she has a greater appreciation for the work done to help combat the issue of domestic violence. Ms. Dickey thanked the members of the Council. Chair Campbell thanked Ms. Dickey for her service to the Council.

Chair Campbell asked the members of the Council if there were any upcoming events they would like to discuss. Yvonne Taylor, Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence informed the council that there is an upcoming conference on Monday, September 22, 2014 to Wednesday, September 24, 2014. Chair Campbell added that this is a very full event with a large number of workshops.

Maria Garay, Sojourner Center, added that the Sojourner Center's Annual Hope Luncheon will be taking place on Wednesday, October 22, 2014. She noted this will be a brief luncheon.

Amy St. Peter, MAG, asked that members of the council submit a list of their events for inclusion on the Domestic Violence Awareness Month event calendar. Chair Campbell mentioned the fingerprint committee will be moving forward with their plans to restructure the fingerprinting procedures. Chair Campbell added that this plan will also include a method for patrol to be able to access release conditions on patrol computers.

Chair Campbell asked if there were any other topics for discussion. Hearing none, he moved to the next item on the agenda.

Adjournment

Chair Campbell thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m. The next MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council meeting is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 4, 2014.

Making the Connection Between Domestic Violence and Child Abuse

Table of Contents

Introduction 3
Domestic Violence 3
Types of Abuse 4
Co-occurrence of Domestic Violence and Child Abuse 5
Children's Exposure to Domestic Violence 6
Procedural Recommendations 7
Early Identification 8
Domestic Violence Specialists 9
Training 10
Safe and Together™ 10
Practices for Caseworkers 11
Conclusion 13

Introduction

On January 13, 2014 during the State of the State address, Governor Brewer issued an executive order removing the current Child Protective Services (CPS) from the Department of Economic Security (DES) and establishing a separate department to handle child abuse and neglect cases. This was the culmination of an on-going crisis that had plagued CPS for years. Throughout the 2014 Legislative Session, CPS continued to be the number one priority and ended with the Legislature passing legislation to create and fund the Department of Child Safety (DCS). As DCS begins the arduous process of separating from DES and becoming its own agency it is important to acknowledge the need for new policies and procedures to avoid repeating the same struggles and challenges that CPS faced.

The effort by the legislature this year is not the first time the discussion around reforming CPS has surfaced. In previous years the legislature as allocated additional funding to the agency in order to address the growing backlog of cases. Governor Brewer, in her State of the State in 2011, created a taskforce on CPS for the purpose of strengthening Arizona's child protection system. Efforts in the community have also been conducted with the focus on how CPS interacts with certain populations. In 2011, a conference was held to discuss the correlation between domestic violence and child abuse. The purpose of this conference was to identify necessary changes to the child protection system in order to appropriately address domestic violence in those cases.

While many efforts have taken place in the past, very few substantive changes have been made to the way domestic violence is addressed in the child protection system. With the creation of DCS there is a concerted effort to focus on cases involving domestic violence, and how the child welfare system should respond in those cases. This report serves to provide information about domestic violence, child abuse, and the intersection between the two. It will also provide recommendations for child welfare policy and the need to appropriately address cases that have a co-occurrence of domestic violence. The purpose of developing this special report is to support and encourage the current collaborative efforts amongst both systems that will make safety and non-violence a possibility for families.

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one intimate partner to gain and/or maintain power and control over another intimate partner.[1]

A common misconception is that domestic violence consists exclusively of physical abuse. There are various types of abuse that victims experience that are destructive, potentially dangerous and a threat to the safety of the victim, their children, families and the community as a whole. Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, psychological actions, or threats of actions, that are aimed to influence another person. This includes any behaviors that intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, isolate, frighten, terrorize, coerce, threaten, blame, hurt, injure, or wound someone.

[1] USDOJ: Office on Violence Against Women: Crimes of Focus: Domestic Violence. (2013, March 1). *USDOJ: Office on Violence Against Women: Crimes of Focus: Domestic Violence*. Retrieved May 5, 2014, from http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/domviolence.htm

Types of Abuse

- Physical Abuse: Hitting, slapping, shoving, grabbing, pinching, biting, hair-pulling, biting, etc. Physical abuse also includes denying a partner medical care or forcing alcohol and or/drug use.
- Sexual Abuse: Coercing or attempting to coerce any sexual contact or behavior without consent. Sexual abuse includes but is certainly not limited to marital rape, attacks on sexual parts of the body, forcing sex after physical violence has occurred or treating one in a sexually demeaning manner.
- Emotional Abuse: Undermining an individual's sense of self-worth and/or self-esteem. This may include but is not limited to constant criticism, diminishing one's abilities, name-calling, or damaging one's relationship with his or her children.
- Economic Abuse: Making or attempting to make an individual financially dependent by maintaining total control over financial resources, withholding one's access to money, or forbidding one's attendance of school or employment.
- Psychological Abuse: Causing fear by intimidation; threatening physical harm to self, partner, children, or partner's family or friends; destruction of pets and property; and forcing isolation from family, friends, or school and/or work

Domestic violence exists in all communities, and affects people of all socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels. Domestic violence can occur in both opposite-sex and same-sex relationships and can also happen to intimate partners who are married, living together, or dating. Among victims of domestic violence, 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men have experienced severe physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime[2].

In Arizona, domestic violence is not a substantive, standalone crime, but rather is a "tag" which is added to other crimes when statutorily-defined relationships are present. Those relationships are: marriage, currently or have resided in the same living space, one party is pregnant by the other party, the parties have a child in common, the parties have or had a dating relationship that can be defined as romantic or sexual, or are family through blood or adoption.[3] There are thirty different crimes under Title 13 that qualify as domestic violence crimes.[4]

The impact of domestic violence throughout the state of Arizona is undeniable.

Every year the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) conducts a national census of domestic violence services that reports domestic violence services used in a given 24 hour period. In a 24 hour period in 2013, 1,796 victims were served in 35 local domestic violence shelters. Although the majority of victims were able to have access to services, there were still 187 unmet requests for emergency shelter, transitional housing, attorney/legal representation and or legal advocacy/accompaniment services in one day. According to the Arizona Department of Economic

[2] Breiding, M.J., Chen J., & Black, M.C. (2014). Intimate Partner Violence in the United States — 2010. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

[3] Ariz. Rev. Stat. §13-3601

[4] Ariz. Rev. Stat. §13-3601

Security, 9,833 victims were able to access emergency and transitional shelter in FY 2013.[5] Still, there were 5,681 unmet requests for shelter.[6]

Co-occurrence of Domestic Violence and Child Abuse

Though child protection agencies and domestic violence service providers share the common goal of protecting victims of violence and abuse, they have historically tried to reach that goal through widely different means. These divergent approaches have led to a lack of mutual understanding between the two groups about the other's approach and mission.[7] The mission or purpose of child protection agencies is usually legally defined, whereas domestic violence providers are freer to define themselves outside of a formal political process. For years, the purpose of CPS in Arizona has been "to protect children by investigating allegations of abuse and neglect, promoting the well-being of the child in a permanent home and coordinating services to strengthen the family and prevent, intervene in and treat abuse and neglect of children."[8] The "primary purpose" of the Department of Child Safety, the successor agency to CPS, ""is to protect children."[9] To this end, the Department will "focus equally" on the following:

1. Investigate reports of abuse and neglect.
2. Assess, promote and support the safety of a child in a safe and stable family or other appropriate placement in response to allegations of abuse or neglect.
3. Work cooperatively with law enforcement regarding reports that include criminal conduct allegations.
4. Without compromising child safety, coordinate services to achieve and maintain permanency on behalf of the child, strengthen the family and provide prevention, intervention and treatment services pursuant to this chapter.[10]

Despite differing approaches among those seeking to address the issues of child abuse and domestic violence, these problems are often co-occurring within households. Research has shown that between 10% and 20% of children witness domestic violence every year.[11] Another study points out that child abuse occurs in 30% to 60% of families where domestic violence is also present.[12] The overwhelming majority of these children can give detailed accounts of the violence they see and hear.[13]

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[5] Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2014). *Domestic Violence Data*. Retrieved May 5, 2014, from https://www.azdes.gov/daas/community/dvinfo/

[6] Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2014). *Domestic Violence Data*. Retrieved May 5, 2014, from https://www.azdes.gov/daas/community/dvinfo/

[7] Bragg, H. (2003). Child Protection in Families Experiencing Domestic Violence. Office on Child Abuse and Neglect, United States Department of Health and Human Services.

[8] Ariz. Rev. Stat. §8-800 (Repealed 2014)

[9] Ariz. Rev. Stat. §8-451

[10] Ariz. Rev. Stat. §8-451

[11] Carlson, B. (2000) Children Exposed to Intimate Partner Violence: Research Findings and Implications for Intervention. Trauma, Violence, & Abuse, 321-342.

[12] Edleson, J. (1999) The Overlap Between Child Maltreatment and Woman Battering. Violence Against Women, 134-154.

[13] Doyne, S. E., Bowermaster, J. M., Meloy, J. R., Dutton, D., Jaffe, P., Temko, S., & Mones, P. (1999). Custody disputes involving domestic violence: Making children's needs a priority. Juvenile and Family Court Journal, 50(2), 1-12; Jaffe, P., et al. (1990)

Domestic violence and child abuse often occur in the same family and can be linked to negative impacts on the children. Studies have also shown that children exposed to domestic violence can develop long term behavioral problems such as anxiety and depression.[14] These impacts can carry on into adulthood in the form of substance abuse, juvenile pregnancy and becoming a victim or perpetrator of violence.[15]

Beyond long-term effects on children and families, child welfare workers should be especially concerned about domestic violence because the safety of a child is often linked to the safety of the child's mother.[16] The mother's behavior and strategies typically focus on the child's well-being.[17] Applying this to the mission of CPS, adopting policies and practices that ensure the safety of adult victims is an important way to promote stability and permanency for a child.[18]

Children's Exposure to Domestic Violence

A child's exposure to domestic violence does not necessarily indicate that a child is the victim of abuse or neglect. Yet throughout the country, it is not uncommon for non-offending parents, almost exclusively women, to be accused of neglect under failure-to-protect laws and policies.[19] This is not only a harmful outcome for the child, but ultimately fails to promote accountability among offending parents by holding a non-offending parent responsible for abuse which she often faced herself.

Research on exposure to domestic violence have demonstrated the negative impacts that child may experience. Those impacts can include behavioral problems, changes in the child's emotional well-being, problems at home or school, depression, anxiety, and more[20]. However, many of these studies failed to exam children's resiliency or the benefits of time spent with the non-offending parent. While the response to child exposure to domestic violence has often centered around removing the child from the home it has been met with negative effects. In 1999 the Minnesota Legislature changed state law to define exposure to domestic violence as maltreatment, which was met with disastrous results[21]. The Minnesota Legislature later removed the language from statute. In contrast the

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[14] Silvern, L., Karyl, J., Waelde, L., Hodges, W. F., Starek, J., Heidt, E., & Min, K. (1995). Retrospective reports of parental partner abuse: Relationships to depression, trauma symptoms and self-esteem among college students. Journal of Family Violence, 10(2), 177-202.

[15] Ganley, A. L., & Schechter, S. (1996). Domestic violence: A national curriculum for children's protective services. San Francisco, CA: Family Violence Prevention Fund.

[16] Schecter, S. & Edelson, J.L. (2000). *Domestic Violence and Children: Creating a Public Response*, New York, NY: Center on Crime, Communities & Culture of the Open Society Institute.

[17] Schecter, S. & Edelson, J.L. (2000). *Domestic Violence and Children: Creating a Public Response*, New York, NY: Center on Crime, Communities & Culture of the Open Society Institute.

[18] Schechter, S., & Edleson, J. L. (1999). *Effective intervention in domestic violence & child maltreatment cases: guidelines for policy and practice*. Reno, Nev.: National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

[19] Annette R. Appell, Protecting Children or Punishing Mothers: Gender, Race, and Class in the Child Protection System, 48 S.C. L. Rev. 577, 585 (1997); Fugate, J., Who's Failing Whom? A Critical Look At Failure-To-Protect Laws, New York University Law Review, 76(1), 272-308.

[20] National Child Traumatic Stress Network 2013

[21] Hobart, M. (2007). *Assessing the Impact of Domestic Violence on Children's Safety.* The Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Washington State Legislature clarified in 2013 that exposure to domestic violence alone does not constitute neglect[22].

While acknowledging that exposure to domestic violence is harmful to children, there is a need for more emphasis on the children's coping skills as well as the protective factors the non-offending parent may take to keep the child safe. Children's resilience is strengthened by remaining with their non-offending parent and by creating plans with the non-offending parent that will support the children's overall emotional and physical well-being[23].

Procedural Recommendations

In 1999, the National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators (NAPCWA) identified the intersection of domestic violence and child abuse as a priority in its strategic plan. During this time, the NAPCWA along with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges began developing Effective Intervention in Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment Cases: Guidelines for Policy and Practice, more commonly known as The Greenbook. This publication recognized the need to develop guidelines that would enable child welfare agencies to develop new ways to intervene and support families and children who are affected by domestic violence and child maltreatment.

Best practices for child welfare agencies nationwide indicate that early identification of domestic violence is the first step in achieving positive and safe outcomes for both the child and the adult victim.[24] Properly identifying the presence of domestic violence during an initial screening can allow DCS caseworkers to thoroughly conduct their assessments while also creating an effective safety plan for the child and the non-offending parent. Failure to properly address domestic violence in child protection cases can potentially compromise the safety of the child and the victim.

In cases involving domestic violence, the goal for DCS should be the overall safety of the children. The recommended method of achieving this goal is by working with the non-offending parent while collaborating with local domestic violence agencies throughout the safety planning process and holding the abuser accountable. It is recommended that DCS collaborate with domestic violence programs, the criminal justice system, and batterer intervention programs. It is important that case workers understand and protect the privacy of all involved parties as protected by law. Given the rates of co-occurrence between child abuse and domestic violence already discussed, it is necessary for there to be comprehensive policies and procedures in child protection that addresses domestic violence.

Recognizing the common co-occurrence of domestic violence and child abuse, many states have created a special protocol for child welfare workers to follow in cases where both issues are

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[22] Hobart, M. (2007). *Assessing the Impact of Domestic Violence on Children's Safety.* Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

[23] Hobart, M. (2007). *Assessing the Impact of Domestic Violence on Children's Safety.* Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

[24] Magen, R. H., & Conroy, K. (1997). Domestic violence in child welfare preventative services: Results from an intake-screening questionnaire. Paper presented at the 5th International Family Violence Research.

present.[25] Though these protocols vary in scope and level of detail, they all serve to coordinate a community intervention in co-occurrence cases. An examination of these protocols reveals that they contain many common components, such as:

Early Identification

Several protocols include a procedure for identifying domestic violence during the initial screening.[26] Identifying domestic violence at an early stage is an important step in ensuring a safe outcome for children and non-offending parents.[27] In many states, hotline operators are required to ask the caller if he or she is aware of any domestic violence occurring within the family.[28] Some model protocols even include specific questions for initial screeners to ask.[29] By identifying "red flags"[30] or specific behaviors for initial screeners to watch out for, co-occurrence cases can be more easily identified, even when reporters may not have a nuanced understanding of domestic violence. When one or more of these red flags, which typically identify coercive controlling behaviors, is identified, the initial screener will probe for more information regarding domestic violence within the household. The initial screener will inquire about things such as:

- If a parent is being hit, threatened, or coerced
- The whereabouts of child(ren) during incidences
- The child(ren)'s behaviors and responses due to witnessing domestic violence
- If the child(ren) or parent have been injured
- The frequency and severity of incidences
- If weapons were involved
- The presence of weapons in the home
- The presence or use of alcohol and/or other drugs
- The alleged batterer's access to the adult victim and child(ren)
- The steps taken to ensure safety for both child(ren) and the adult victim
- Measures taken to minimize the impact of child(ren)'s exposure to domestic violence[31]

Identifying the presence of domestic violence at an early stage allows caseworkers to appropriately adjust their approach when working with the family, ensuring the safety of both child

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[25] Colorado (http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDHS-ChildYouthFam/CBON/1251588267351); Connecticut (http://www.vawnet.org/Assoc_Files_VAWnet/SafeTogetherReport2008.pdf); Massachusetts (http://aspe.hhs.gov/HSP/cyp/dv/pt4.htm); New Hampshire (http://www.doj.nh.gov/criminal/victim-assistance/protocols.htm); New York (http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/dv/child_welfare.asp_) Oregon (https://apps.state.or.us/Forms/Served/ce9200.pdf) (List not exhaustive)

[26] State of New Hampshire. (2009). *Domestic Violence Protocol.* Concord, NH. Governor's Commission of Sexual and Domestic Violence.

[27] Magen, R. H., & Conroy, K. (1997). Domestic violence in child welfare preventative services: Results from an intake-screening questionnaire. Paper presented at the 5th International Family Violence Research. Conference, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH

[28] State of New Hampshire. (2009). *Domestic Violence Protocol.* Concord, NH. Governor's Commission of Sexual and Domestic Violence. Page 8; CO page 43

[29] Office on Child Abuse and Neglect, Children's Bureau., Caliber Associates. Bragg, H. Lien. 2003

[30] State of New Hampshire. (2009). *Domestic Violence Protocol.* Concord, NH. Governor's Commission of Sexual and Domestic Violence. Pages 7-8.

[31] State of New Hampshire. (2009). *Domestic Violence Protocol.* Concord, NH. Governor's Commission of Sexual and Domestic Violence. Page 8.

and adult victims. When an initial screener determines a case does not meet criteria for child abuse and neglect, but does find domestic violence to be present, the screener should refer callers to available resources, including the local domestic violence hotline number.

Domestic Violence Specialists

The inclusion of domestic violence specialists on staff is a best practice which enables child protective systems to provide more comprehensive services. These specialists can coordinate services for families and provide resources and ongoing training for staff.[32] States have approached this practice in different ways. Some states employ domestic violence specialists directly on staff, sometimes as part of a multidisciplinary team.[33] Other states have created innovative partnerships with the local domestic violence programs to share staff, allowing child protection agencies to retain these specialized employees in an efficient way.[34] States have found ways to fund these positions in different ways, including the use of federal funds.[35] These specialists can serve many purposes within the agency. Three important functions that have been identified are client support and advocacy, systems change, and batterers' compliance.[36]

Specialists can provide client support and advocacy both through interaction with caseworkers, as well as through direct contact with families. Caseworkers receive little domestic violence training under current policies, and may not be aware of all services available to victims of domestic violence. Having a specialist on staff with extensive knowledge of these services will enable caseworkers to develop more comprehensive, holistic case plans for their clients. Specialists can also visit with clients independently to help them understand the services available, create safety plans, and even provide support at court proceedings. By working with both caseworkers and clients, specialists can ensure that victims receive the support they need.

Specialists can also work on systems change. In order to constantly improve not only the way DCS responds to cases involving domestic violence, but also the various systems that DCS clients interact with, specialists can provide trainings for caseworkers on the more nuanced aspects of domestic violence. Specialists can also collect data and provide feedback to periodically refine and improve the Department's domestic violence protocol, allowing it to adjust to community needs. The involvement of domestic violence specialists on these cases will help to ensure that a clear and consistent message is being delivered system-wide.

It is beneficial for specialists to work not only with victims, but with the offending parent. By coordinating services for the perpetrator, the specialist is able to ensure accountability, while at the

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[32] Rosewater, A. (2008) Building Capacity in Child Welfare Systems: Domestic Violence Specialized Positions. National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and Family Violence Prevention Fund. 2008.

[33] The state of Vermont employs this model. Available at: http://promising.futureswithoutviolence.org/files/2012/10/VT-Coalition-DV-and-CPS-Child-Protection-Teams.pdf

[34] For an example of such an agreement, see State of New Hampshire. (2009). *Domestic Violence Protocol.* Concord, NH. Governor's Commission of Sexual and Domestic Violence. Appendices E & F available at http://www.doj.nh.gov/criminal/victim-assistance/documents/dcyf-protocol.pdf

[35] Rosewater, Anne. Building Capacity in Child Welfare Systems: Domestic Violence Specialized Positions. National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and Family Violence Prevention Fund. 2008.

[36] Rosewater, Anne. Building Capacity in Child Welfare Systems: Domestic Violence Specialized Positions. National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and Family Violence Prevention Fund. 2008; To see a job description of a domestic violence specialist who works in these identified areas, see NH DV Protocol Appendix F.

same time promoting the safety of victims. The specialist can monitor perpetrator compliance, and maintain the data in a manner which can later be used to evaluate the services provided to the offending parent. In criminal cases, domestic violence offenders are often required to participate in domestic violence offender treatment programs. Requiring offending parents in these cases to complete this treatment is one way to promote accountability. Because as few as 25% of the men referred to these programs actually complete them, having a specialist to ensure compliance is a great resource.[37] Beyond treatment for violence, the offending parents often need to learn to be nurturing parents, not just non-violent parents.[38] This type of education is something that is typically not addressed in offender treatment.

One area of concern for these specialists is confidentiality. These concerns require policies to be clear about the specialist's role within the agency. In Arizona, the communication between a victim and a person who qualifies as a domestic violence victim advocate is privileged.[39] Victim advocates are, however, mandatory reporters.[40] States define the role and responsibility of domestic violence specialists differently, which impacts the nature of the confidential relationship between specialist and client.[41] The expectation of confidentiality is often important for the rapport between advocates and victims. Therefore, when developing a specialist position, confidentiality must be thoroughly contemplated.

Training

Training on domestic violence is currently a part of the curriculum for child protection workers. It is recommended that DCS increase their training on domestic violence from the current amount of training that is being given. Also, it is recommended that training on domestic violence be expanded to all workers, including supervisors, and not just included during the Core Training that workers get when they are first hired. Since domestic violence occurs at such high rates in the cases that intersect with the child welfare system, training on domestic violence must also be ongoing in order for child welfare staff to stay current on best practices. Also, in order to fully expand knowledge on domestic violence and how domestic violence intersects with child welfare it is recommended that DCS look at available best practice models such as Safe and Together™.

Safe and Together™

The Safe and Together Model™, developed by David Mandel and Associates, is designed for the specific purpose of promoting safety, permanency, and the well-being of children.[42] This model is child centered with a focus on the victim parents' strengths and the perpetrators' pattern of abuse.[43] The model was initially developed for the child welfare system, but can be utilized by domestic

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[37] Goodmark, Leigh. Achieving Batterer Accountability in the Child Protection System. 93 Ky. L.J. 613, 644 (2004).

[38] Goodmark, Leigh. 93 Ky. L.J. 613, 653 (2004).

[39] ARS 12-2239A; It is unclear if a domestic violence specialist would qualify as a domestic violence victim advocate, and would likely depend on the specialist's status as an employee and the duties performed by the specialist.

[40] ARS 12-2239D

[41] Rosewater, Anne. Building Capacity in Child Welfare Systems: Domestic Violence Specialized Positions. National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and Family Violence Prevention Fund. 2008

[42] David Mandel and Associates. Safe & Together. *See generally* http://endingviolence.com/our-programs/safe-together/safe-together-overview/assumptions-principles-critical-components/

[43] David Mandel and Associates. Safe & Together. *See generally* http://endingviolence.com/our-programs/safe-together/safe-together-overview/assumptions-principles-critical-components/

violence advocates, courts, additional systems that work with children.[44] The model itself is evidence-based and has been shown to reduce the number of out of home placements for children in the child welfare system where domestic violence has also been identified.[45] Other states have begun to adopt the Safe and Together Model including, but not limited to, Florida, Ohio, and Connecticut.

Practices for Caseworkers

Interviews

Whether domestic violence is identified during the initial assessment, or at a later point in the case, caseworkers must shape their client interaction and case planning in order to ensure the safety of all victims. Protocols often provide extensive guidance for conducting interviews in co-occurrence cases.[46] Protocols often go so far as to identify the specific questions which should be posed to the non-offending parent, offending parent, and children.[47] When conducting interviews in these cases, caseworkers should always interview the parents separately, to ensure both the safety of the non-offending parent and the accuracy and completeness of the information provided during the interview.

Caseworkers should only ask an adult victim about the existence of domestic violence outside the presence of the offending parent.[48] The non-offending parent should always be interviewed first, to ensure that adequate safety planning can take place.[49] Given that the strategies employed by non-offending parents are often centered on the child's safety, it is important for caseworkers to understand that if a parent denies that violence has taken place, or is reluctant to participate in services, the parent may be trying to avoid angering the alleged batterer.[50] For this reason, before starting the interview, caseworkers should inform the adult victim about confidentiality rights, reminding him or her that the information provided will not be provided to the alleged batterer.[51]

Questions for the non-offending parent should focus around the offending parent's pattern of abuse. This can include questions around the frequency of the abuse, as well as more details around the effects of the abuse, and coercive controlling behaviors. When case workers fail to ask more in depth questions about the offending parents pattern of power and control, case notes may not accurately reflect the abuse that is going on in the home. Additionally, case workers should ask questions around the non-offending parent's protective skills. Rather than asking "do you keep your children safe?" it is better to ask "how do you keep your children safe?" This type of question will

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[44] http://endingviolence.com/our-programs/safe-together/safe-together-overview/assumptions-principles-critical-components/

[45] Chaney Jones, S., Steinman, K. Ohio Intimate Partner Violence Collaborative: Final Evaluation Report of the Safe and Together Training Program. (2014) Available at: http://endingviolence.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Ohio-Safe-and-Together-Model-Training-Final-Evaluation-Report-March-2014.pdf

[46] Oregon Department of Human Services: Children, Adults and Families Division (2010), *Child Welfare Practices for Cases with Domestic Violence*.

[47] Oregon Department of Human Services: Children, Adults and Families Division (2010), *Child Welfare Practices for Cases with Domestic Violence*.

[48] Oregon Department of Human Services: Children, Adults and Families Division (2010), *Child Welfare Practices for Cases with Domestic Violence*.

[49] Ganley, A., Schecter, S. Domestic Violence: A National Curriculum for Child Protective Services. Family Violence Prevention Fund, 1996 (pg 223). NH Protocol pg 15;

[50] CO DV Protocol pg 37

[51] Ganley, A., Schecter, S. Domestic Violence: A National Curriculum for Child Protective Services. Family Violence Prevention Fund, 1996 (pg 223).

provide more information for caseworkers about the abuse that is happening in the home as well as efforts the non-offending parent has taken to keep children safe in the home. It may also lead to better case planning with the non-offending parent as the caseworkers will have already learned what efforts the non-offending parent has made that have worked or not worked. An example of this may be the non-offending parent disclosing that they had gone to shelter with the children for a period of time, but ending up returning because the non-offending parent continued to receive threats of harm from the offending parent. Given this information, it would be counterproductive for the case worker to only offer, or require, the non-offending parent to go to shelter as it has already proven to not be a safe way to protect the children.

When interviewing the offending parent, caseworkers must be careful to not indicate anything that was learned from the non-offending parents, even by implication. For example, when asking the offending parent about domestic violence, caseworkers should remind the offending parent that the questions are standard in all cases.[52] Use of the term "violence" may inhibit the offending parent from being open and honest during the interview.[53] If an offending parent seems to blame the adult victim or the children for his behavior, this may indicate that he would be open to that parent and the children receiving services.[54]

Caseworkers must be sure to consider their own safety when interviewing the offending parent/partner.[55] It can be frightening and intimidating to interview someone you have evidence of being abusive and even violent. Caseworkers' safety is paramount in these situations and should be taken seriously. If a caseworker has hesitation about working with the offending parent or has safety concerns about working with the offending parent, those concerns should be talked through with a supervisor who has also received domestic violence training to come up with a safety plan for engaging the offending parent rather than putting all of the focus and treatment on the non-offending parent. If possible, it is recommended that two caseworkers be available when conversation and on-going interviews need to take place with the offending parent.

Partnering with the Non-offending Parent/Adult Victim

A best practice for ensuring permanency and stability for a child is to keep the child in the care of the non-offending parent whenever possible.[56] Keeping a child with the non-offending parent provides stability while at the same time removing the child from the risk of harm.[57] The Department should have policies which detail the requirements for a child to remain in the care of the non-offending parent.[58] These requirements should include things like safety assessments, safety planning, and supportive services.[59]

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[52] Oregon Department of Human Services: Children, Adults and Families Division (2010), *Child Welfare Practices for Cases with Domestic Violence,* page 55.

[53] Oregon Department of Human Services: Children, Adults and Families Division (2010), *Child Welfare Practices for Cases with Domestic Violence,* page 55.

[54] Oregon Department of Human Services: Children, Adults and Families Division (2010), *Child Welfare Practices for Cases with Domestic Violence,* page 56.

[55] Bragg, C. Child Protection in Families Experiencing Domestic Violence (2003).

[56] Schechter, S., & Edleson, J. L. (1999). *Effective intervention in domestic violence & child maltreatment cases: guidelines for policy and practice*. Reno, Nev.: National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.; Bragg, C. Child Protection in Families Experiencing Domestic Violence (2003).

[57] Schechter, S., & Edleson, J. L. (1999).

[58] Schechter, S., & Edleson, J. L. (1999).

[59] Schechter, S., & Edleson, J. L. (1999).

Conclusion

Child abuse and neglect is a complex issue for which a simple response will not suffice. By taking into account additional challenges within the home, such as domestic violence, our child welfare system can craft responses that are appropriate, effective, and are in the best interest of children. Recent statutory changes, including the creation of the Department of Child Safety, are encouraging. These changes lay the framework for our child welfare system to fulfill its duty to keep Arizona's children and families safe. However, without the proper rules, policies, and staff to accompany these changes, the Department will struggle to change the status quo by which it has been plagued for years.

The statutory changes allow for the development of family assessment protocols. Given the known rates of co-occurrence, one such protocol should be a domestic violence protocol, as discussed in this paper. In a new Department looking for transformative change, it often makes sense to do things in innovative, cutting-edge ways. Resources are available for DCS to truly make Arizona's children a priority and keeping them safe and stable when there has been domestic violence. It is time for DCS to keep the promises made to the community on their efforts to reform and improve the system that has been damaging for domestic violence victims and their children for years.