

MORNING WORKSHOPS, APRIL 18, 2002

Master Workshop: Family Violence

Does research support common statements made about the extent and etiology of family violence? Can all acts of family violence be explained by a common set of facts? How can research be used to develop and provide interventions? Aimed at practitioners, educators, and trainers, this workshop moves participants beyond that which is ordinarily known about family violence to a more in-depth understanding of this social problem with implications for practice.

Richard Gelles, Ph.D., Interim Dean, School of Social Work, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Roots of Cruelty and the Psychology of Abuse: Recognizing the Relationship Between Animal Abuse, Child Abuse, and Elder Abuse

Is there a demonstrable relationship between the abuse of animals and abuse of elders and children? This presentation is an examination of the etiology of animal abuse, characteristics of the abuser, and manifestation of these factors in the commission of acts of child and elder abuse. Primary prevention of some acts of child and/or elder abuse may be possible through an understanding of and intervention with people who abuse animals. Workshop presenters address this connection and discuss the "First Strike" campaign launched by the Humane Society of the United States, as a way that animal groups and social service agencies can work together to combat violence among humans and animals.

Joanne Bourbeau, Humane Society of the United States
Paul Johnston, Boston Police Department

Violence Begins at Home: The Correlation between Gang Involvement and Family Violence

Many youth join gangs because the gang offers support and feelings of belonging and protections that are sometimes absent in the family. Workshop participants will learn about the different forms of violence and their impact on Latino families and youth. Participants will be exposed, through sharing and interaction, to experiences and skills that facilitate effective intervention with Latino families, youth, and possible gang members.

Michael Borrero, Ph.D., University of Connecticut School of Social Work

Shedding Light on A Little Known Problem: Domestic Violence in Gay and Lesbian Relationships

Domestic violence occurs among all income levels, all ethnicities, geographical locations, genders, and sex. However, except in limited situations, domestic violence in lesbian and gay relationships is rarely discussed. Abuse among these populations is the focus of this presentation. Social and political factors that prevent or limit disclosure and service provision are discussed along with possible intervention strategies.

Joanne Bunch, Prevention Case Manager, Attic Youth Center, Philadelphia, PA

It is Written...In The Midst of Family Violence: The Role of the Clergy

Faith and religious practices exert a strong influence on a victim's help seeking response to battery. Often, the first person consulted for guidance and assistance is the clergy. This workshop examines the role and responsibilities of clergy and pays particular attention to the interplay between scripture and secular intervention.

Rev. Shelley D. Best Copeland, M.A., M.Div., Executive Director,
Capital Region Council of Churches, Hartford, CT

Sowing the Seeds that Perpetuate Violence and Abuse: The Role of the Popular Media

The popular media is powerful. It sets behavior standards for many and may dictate the life styles of others. Its influence may be positive or negative. This workshop examines the role that the popular media plays in presenting, facilitating, and/or supporting interpersonal violence and abuse, some of the negative influences exerted by this institution.

Anita Ford-Saunders, M.A., Senior Communications Officer,
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving

Family Violence Goes to Work

Most victims of spousal/partner abuse are employed outside of the home. Studies indicate that 96% of victims of family violence who are employed experience some type of problem in the workplace as a direct result of their abuse. This workshop considers how this problem is manifested in the workplace and offers model workplace programs and policies and examples of ways employers and unions can provide assistance to victims of domestic violence.

Kevin Grunwald, MSW, ETP, East Hartford, CT

Healing the Wounded Spirit: The Correlation between Substance Abuse And Domestic Violence Among Women

Workshop participants will be presented information that illustrates the relationship between substance abuse and trauma and the role and use of spirituality in recovery.

Valerie Leal, Director of Women's Services, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Hartford, CT

Services for Children with Physical and Developmental Disabilities: Responding to and Reducing the Heightened Risk for Abuse

There is little research that documents risk factors and incidence of abuse of children with physical and developmental disabilities. The research that does exist yield mixed results some view a disability as increasing the risk of abuse; other research say that incidence and vulnerability are the same as those for children without physical or developmental disabilities. This workshop outlines reasons why children with disabilities are at increased risk of abuse and emphasizes the needs for abuse detection skills for human service practitioners. Implications and considerations for reporting, strategies for reducing risk, and other intervention issues are also explored.

Shelia Mansell, Ph.D. Psychologist, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Adult Protective Services

Discussion of the purview and types of services provided to adults in need of protection. This workshop is a presentation of the Texas model used to assess and intervene in reported cases of neglect and/or abuse of vulnerable adults. (APS in Texas plans and provides the annual National Adult Protective Services Conference)

Betty Mitchell, Director, Adult Protective Services, Texas Department of Human Services

Physical Evidence in Cases of Domestic Violence

Physical evidence is often present in cases of domestic violence when there is timely reporting. Forensic evidence can be used to link a suspect or an object to the victim. In addition, patterns of injury, blood spatter patterns, bite marks, and other evidentiary patterns may serve to support the victim's story or refute a suspect's statements concerning the cause of injury. This presentation will examine the various types of physical evidence, discuss the importance of recognizing those items of evidence, and offer case examples to demonstrate those principles.

Elaine Pagliaro, JD, State of Connecticut Forensic Laboratory, Meriden, CT

Children, the Fathers, the Fatherhood Initiative, and Child Support:
Recognizing the Domestic Violence Factor

Child Support has traditionally been viewed as economic support. New research dictate that children need financial, emotional and social support. This workshop focuses on the Connecticut model of the Fatherhood Initiative bringing together the three aspects of children's needs, with special emphasis on the process used to meet challenges presented by domestic violence.

Patricia Wilson-Coker, JD, MSW, Commissioner, Department of Social Services

Developmental Disabilities and Domestic Violence

Domestic violence crosses all racial, socio-economic, religious, cultural and cognitive levels. This presentation will address the complexities of assessments, interventions, and safety planning with women with Developmental Disabilities who are in abusive relationships with intimate partners.

Dan Sheridan, Ph.D., RN, Johns Hopkins University

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS, APRIL 18, 2002

The Impact of Domestic Violence: Implications for Working
with Child Witnesses

There is a growing body of literature that indicates that children, regardless of age, are impacted by exposure to violence in the home. This workshop presents information related to working with children who have been victims of or witnessed spousal/partner abuse. The focus is on understanding common symptoms and clinical themes. Strategies to help children and parents cope with the experience will also be discussed.

Michelle Acker, Ph.D., Child Witness to Violence Project, Boston Medical Center, Boston, MA

Violence Begins At Home: Family Violence Begets School Violence

Children who have witnessed or been victims of family violence may not act out their feelings at home. They often choose a place that is safe. Too often the school becomes the safe place. This workshop will draw from experiences and data collected over a six-year period in a violence reduction program conducted in a middle school in Connecticut. The relationship and effect of family violence, school performance, and school violence is the focus of this workshop.

Michael Borrero, Ph.D., University of Connecticut School of Social Work,

Dating Violence Among Homosexual and Heterosexual Teens

This workshop is an examination of contributing factors, prevalence and impact of violence in dating relationships among homosexual and heterosexual teens. Recognition and intervention strategies will also be discussed.

Joanne Bunch, Prevention Case Manager, Attic Youth Center, Philadelphia, PA
Co- Presenter: TBA

Financial Exploitation of the Elderly: The Legal Perspective

Vulnerable elders are subject to financial exploitation by family members, care takers, and strangers. This workshop explores various types of financial exploitation, profiles perpetrators through case examples, examines the referral process, and provides an overview of Connecticut's legal response.

John DeMattia, JD, Deputy Assistant State's Attorney, Office of the Chief State's Attorney, Statewide Prosecution Bureau, Elder Abuse Unit, Rocky Hill, CT

Dealing with Provocation, Anger, Rejection: Working with Caregivers of Children Who Have Been Abused

Children who have been abused or neglected present a range of emotional and/or physical responses. These responses do not automatically disappear when the child is removed from the abusive or neglectful situation, in fact, removal may trigger some unwanted responses. This workshop considers the type of support and training that persons who assume responsibility for these children require to effectuate optimal adjustment and effective relationships.

Ilene Gruenberg, Ph.D., Glastonbury, CT

Reducing Risk and Addressing the Outcomes of the Abuse of Adults with Physical Disabilities

Adults with physical disabilities have an increased risk for all types of abuse. The effects of the abuse vary and are influenced by the severity and type of disability. This workshop examines the reasons for heightened vulnerability and explores documented effects and indicators. Participants will engage in an abuse detection exercise to heighten awareness of potential abuse. Some emphasis will also be placed on reporting, risk reduction strategies, and intervention issues.

Shelia Mansell, Ph.D. Psychologist, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Planning and Providing Services to Vulnerable Adults:
Adult Protective Services

This workshop is a presentation of the how-to in planning, staffing, and providing protective services to the adult population. Consideration of policy and positioning programs and services to garner financial and legislative support will be explored with participants.

Betty Mitchell, Director, Adult Protective Services, Texas Department of Human Services

Michigan's Innovative Approach to Providing Family Preservation Services to Domestic Violence Survivors

Michigan's collaboration between the domestic violence shelter network and Family Preservation is showing positive outcomes. This workshop provides an overview of the development of the Families First of Michigan/Domestic Violence Program. The program was developed in order to reduce the likelihood of entry into the Child Protective Services system, and/or homelessness. Participants will develop a greater understanding of how family preservation programming may be integrated into services for Domestic Violence

Mary Jiordano, MSW, ACSW, Family Preservation Training Coordinator, Lutheran Child and Family Services, Oak Park, MI
Shelley Miler-O'Neill, MS Family Preservation Specialist, Michigan Family Independence Agency, Lansing, MI

Really... Police Are Our Friends: Helping Children Exposed to Violence

Police officers are often the first to respond to violent situations. In this workshop, the presenter will focus on the partnership and collaboration between the Boston Police Department and the Child Witness to Violence Project at Boston Medical Center. Insights and exercises from the training will be presented and audience participation will be encouraged.

Officer Paul Johnston, Boston Police Department, District 11, Boston, MA

Innovative Strategies for Working with Domestic Violence Survivors

This panel presentation will focus on innovative strategies being used with women who have sought help with their violent living situations. Presenters will discuss their programs, including economic development and new approaches to self-exploration for women and children.

RoseMarie Kitchell, Child and Parent Advocate, New Horizons Family Wellness Center Domestic Violence Program, Norwich, CT

Deb Hartley, Adult Advocate, New Horizons Family Wellness Center Domestic Violence Program, Norwich, CT
Charlotte Zietlow, Economic Development Program, Middle Way House, Bloomington, IN

Forensics: An Evolving Weapon Useful in Combating Abuse of Elders And Other Vulnerable Adults

Through a review of basic medical forensic terminology and a series of instructive slides of abused individuals, participants will learn to better differentiate accidental from intentional injury and primary aggressor from defensive (victim/survivor) injuries. Participants will also learn the basics of forensic written and photographic documentation.

Dan Sheridan, Ph.D., RN, Johns Hopkins University

The Responsibility of Schools in Cases Involving Teenage Dating Violence

This workshop examines the responsibility of a school system when domestic violence occurs during a teenage dating relationship. Students' needs and execution of legal orders are also explored.

Sally Lee, Court Manager, Domestic Violence Special Dockets, State of Connecticut, Judicial Branch
Barbara Glenn, Victim Advocate, Connecticut Judicial Branch