

Intersection of DV and CA/N

Navigating the rough terrain of families involved in both domestic violence and child abuse/neglect

INTERSECTION OF DV AND CA/N

- Overview of the challenges, pitfalls, and bright spots of working with families experiencing the co-occurrence of domestic violence and CA/N

Objectives

- Understanding the best practices of each discipline
- Identify and building relationships with community partners
- Building a coordinated community response team

Conflicting Missouri Law

- 210.140 RSMo- info on mandated reporting requirements for CA/N INCLUDING DV SHELTER ADVOCATES/STAFF
- 455.220 RSMo – confidentiality of any information about individuals and families served by DV shelter. Individual can waive confidentiality in writing.

Hope House v Merrigan (2004)

- Juvenile Officer filed a protective custody case on M.M.'s children. Several months into the case, JO served subpoena for records from Hope House to prove the allegation that mother failed to maintain stable housing because she lived in 3 shelters in 4 months.

Best Practices: DV

- Maintaining confidentiality
- Gender specific Batterers Intervention Programs (BIP)
- Victim safety planning
 - Options for shelter
 - Risk management

How does CA/N fit into DV?

- Child protection services is working for what is in the best interest of the CHILD.
 - Child's best interest is to SAFELY live within the family system
 - Engage in family safety planning and service recommendations
 - Collaborate with local DV service providers and shelters
- CD can redact DV information within files

It is raining? Or sprinkling?

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3sKdDyyanGk>

Can't we all just get along?

- When systems have a genuinely positive working relationship, families will benefit.
- Know your “why”
- It's not PERSONAL
- Greenbook
 - Opportunity to grade ourselves across systems
 - Open discussion about the gaps in systems and services



Case Study

Case Study, cont.

- Big question:
 - Is it better to remove the child and increase lethality?
 - OR is it better to leave the child in the home to continue observing extreme violence and experiencing limited violence?

Systemic Challenges

- When DV has to call a hotline on a minimal CA/N event and it will draw more attention to the DV and service engagement.
- When non-offending parent reaches out for service and system deems it “only a custody battle”