

The Symposium Series

Child Safety and OFI

Volume (June 2011)

Domestic Violence HOTLINES

- Statewide 24-hour crisis line: 1800-33-HAVEN (1-800-334-2836)
- National 24-hour crisis line: 1-800-799-SAFE (1-800-7233)
- 911

Domestic Violence and Child Welfare

Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behaviors by one or both partners in an intimate relationship such as marriage, dating, family, friends or cohabitation. Domestic violence includes: physical aggression (hitting, shoving, restraining, slapping, throwing objects), sexual abuse; emotional abuse; domineering; intimidation; stalking; and economic deprivation. Alcohol consumption and mental illness can be co-morbid with abuse and can present additional challenges. According to some studies, less than 1 percent of domestic violence cases are reported to the police. According to the Centers for Disease Control, domestic violence is a serious, preventable public health problem affecting more than 25 million American women.



Symposium Highlights:

Partnering for Child Safety in Domestic Violence Cases

- **Partner with the Victim:** Encourage a meaningful conversation, offer support, victim should identify her needs, identify the protective capacities (e.g. desire and ability to protect child from future harm, healthy attachment to her child, willingness to adhere to a safety plan and connections to supportive extended family and friends).
- **Partner with the Child:** Identify the emotional trauma as described by the child; identify physical abuse; safety plan.
- **Partner with Domestic Violence Providers:** Invite providers to case staffing; utilize their expertise for trainings; create local protocols for visiting families in shelter.
- **Batterer Accountability:** Collaborate with law enforcement and courts on holding the batterer accountable; substantiate against the batterer in cases of abuse/neglect; recommend attendance to a Batterers Intervention program.

Childhood Resiliency

Children's risk levels and reactions to domestic violence exists on a continuum where some children demonstrate enormous resiliency, others show signs of significant maladaptive adjustment. Protective factors in children include: Supportive relationship with a trusted adult, strong sibling relationships, high self esteem, outgoing temperament, and strong peer relationships.

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Resources to learn more about Domestic Violence:

Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence—www.gcadv.org; provides domestic violence materials and training; provides consultation and assistance to Georgia's 46 certified domestic violence programs.

Georgia Commission on Family Violence—www.gcfv.org; liaison with law enforcement, the courts and with legislators; programs include the Family Violence Intervention Programs, Domestic Violence Fatality Review.

Georgia Network to End Sexual Assault— www.gnesa.org; provide sexual assault training and materials; provide consultation and assistance to Georgia's Sexual Assault Programs.

DFCS Education and Training Section— Family Violence Training; provide education on awareness, assessing and making safety decisions on domestic violence cases.

DFCS Collaborative Partners Section—Kim Washington, Programs Liaison, provide technical assistance on consultation on domestic violence cases.

Why we need to GROW.....

- With the growing demand for our services, coupled with a reduced work force, we would not keep up with the pace of demand if we continued business as usual.
- By 2013, Georgia citizens will have faster access to Public Assistance delivered through a state wide process, which will increase our client-base.
- By 2014, Health Care Reform will significantly impact our business with an increase of clients and now's the time to plan how we will manage it.
- **READY or NOT.... Here We GROW!**

Voter's Registration—level: Important

One of our responsibilities is to provide the opportunity for families of Georgia to register to vote. Please review all current processes to ensure we are providing that opportunity. New procedures and policy changes will come out in the near future.

We're on the Web!

*[http://
everythingofi.dhr.state.ga.us/ofi](http://everythingofi.dhr.state.ga.us/ofi)*

It's important that we provide the opportunity to register to vote.

Lean Processing is a mindset - a way of thinking— From Lynne Boring

There are two foundational parts to Lean Processing: People and Process. People are our most valued resource; it's the reason we do the work we do. And the Process allows us the structure to be the most efficient and effective in our work. But along with the People and the Process, there needs to be:

Team Building
Open Communication
Focus on the common goal

Domestic Violence by the numbers: State and National

- In Georgia, about 13% which is 2,600 of 32,000 of all diversion cases completed in calendar year 2010 had Family Violence as a contributing factor.
- About 11% (2625/2473) of all investigations involved Domestic Violence and 60% of the 2,625 (1641) were substantiated.
- According to some studies, less than 1 percent of domestic violence cases are reported to the police.
- According to the Centers for Disease Control, domestic violence is a serious, preventable public health problem affecting more than 25 million American women.

Debbie Royal made the news!

In the **'Rant and Rave'** section of the Valdosta newspaper, a member of the public wrote this:

"There is no sweeter person than Mrs. Debbie Royal that works at Lanier Cty. DFCS. She goes the extra mile for everyone. She is truly a blessing to our com-

Wednesday's Child 11th Annual Red Carpet Celebration



Wednesdays' Child rolled out the red carpet for its' 11th Annual Red Carpet Celebration on Wednesday, June 15th. This spectacular event was held on the Henry W. Grady River Boat at the Historic Stone Mountain Park. Special guests included, youth that were previously featured on the Wednesday's Child program, as well as, Adoptive Families that included Wednesday's Child youth, local businesses and organizations that served as host sites for a Wednesday's Child segment. Our very own, Commissioner Clyde L. Reese, III, First Lady Sandra Deal were in attendance. In addition, Ralph Boyd, President and CEO of the Freddie Mac Foundation, Amanda Davis, Fox 5 Anchor and Wednesday's Child Host were all on-site to celebrate the success of the program.

To learn more about Wednesday's Child visit, www.wednesdayschildga.com

To view event photos, click the link below:

<http://gallery.me.com/yolandahill/100062>