



NJCBW UPDATE

September 2009

HEALTH SCREENING STUDY MISLEADING, EXPERTS SAY

The Family Violence Prevention Fund (FVPF) has cautioned against reading the findings of a study published in the August 4th edition of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* as a definitive rejection of screening for intimate partner violence in health care settings.

Calling the study's negative conclusions about screening "unjustified" and noting problems with its design and implementation, experts at the FVPF warned that failure to continue and enhance programs that screen patients for domestic violence will cost lives. The FVPF runs the National Health Resource Center on Domestic Violence, funded by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

Methodological Problems

The new study, by researchers at McMaster University in Ontario, Canada, set out to examine the effectiveness of screening for intimate partner violence in preventing repeat violence and improving quality of life.

However, the intervention and control groups were both asked about abuse using the same self-administered written survey. If a woman in the "screened" group reported intimate partner violence (IPV), the information was given to her clinician before her visit. Whether the clinician used – or ignored – that information was not monitored in a uniform manner.

In fact, according to women who were questioned immediately after their visits, fewer than half the "screened" women said their clinician discussed violence with them.

Thus, the study only measured the difference when positive results were communicated to clinicians vs. when clinicians were not given this information, FVPF leaders noted.

Nonetheless, all the abused women in the study who completed the assessment and received an information card showed some improvement in repeat violence and quality of life, and none reported harms from screening.

The study found statistically significant improvements in psychological quality of life and depression for patients whose providers were told that

that they reported domestic violence and it found no harms associated with screening. Unfortunately, a large proportion (more than 40 percent) of the women were lost to follow-up and when this was taken into account in post hoc testing, the differences in quality of life and depression disappeared.

An editorial in the same issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* concludes: "Specific interventions to prevent the recurrence of abuse for women at risk of violence should be implemented and rigorously tested" without further delay so we can truly understand the impact of health interventions in the lives of women.

START STRONG KICKS OFF

Nearly 100 of the nation's top health and youth experts, including two dozen youth leaders, gathered in San Francisco in late July to launch the largest initiative ever to promote healthy relationships among 11-to-14-year-olds. The *Start Strong: Building Healthy Teen Relationships* first annual meeting included the release of new research on teen dating violence and parent attitudes. Funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Blue Shield of California Foundation, with the Family Violence Prevention Fund serving as National Program Office, the \$18 million initiative is working in 11 diverse sites across the country to identify and evaluate the most promising ways to stop dating violence and abuse before it starts.

Research psychologist Shari Miller released findings from a new study of 2,824 ethnically diverse sixth graders. It found that half say they are dating, and 42 percent of these young teens report experiencing aggressive behavior from their partners, including threats, physical and sexual abuse.

Research from Peter D. Hart Research Associates for the *Start Strong* initiative reinforces the need to engage parents in prevention. It finds that parents rank being in unhealthy or abusive romantic relationships last on the list of problems that their pre-teen children face. But studies show parents should be more concerned. In 2008, the National Council on Crime and Delinquency reported that approximately one in three adolescent girls in the United States is a victim of physical, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner.

Start Strong is working to rally parents along with caregivers, older teen mentors, educators, coaches and community leaders to build environments that support healthy relationships and ensure violence and abuse are never tolerated.

TWO NEW RESOURCES

A new curriculum can help trainers of foster and adoptive parents and kinship caregivers promote resilience among children who have been exposed to violence. Produced by the Family Violence Prevention Fund with support from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, [Connect: Supporting Children Exposed to Domestic Violence](#) is a basic training session on the dynamics of domestic violence, the impact of exposure to domestic violence on children, and strategies for supporting children who have been exposed to violence. It includes a trainer's guide and toolkit with a curriculum, power point, mini-magazines and optional training videos.

Email childrensteam@endabuse.org for free copies of the CD and learn more at <http://endabuse.org/content/features/detail/1314/>.

Violence Against Women: Classic Papers, edited by Raquel Kennedy Bergen, Jeffrey L. Edleson and Claire M. Renzetti back in 2005, is now available free, online at the Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse (MINCAVA). The original content includes personal reflections by some of the world's leading researchers and advocates for battered women on their early work. Find it on MINCAVA's site at <http://www.mincava.umn.edu/classics/>.

NATIONAL NEWS

Online sensations Jill and Kevin Heinz, the couple who enchanted more than 18 million YouTube viewers by dancing down the aisle to Chris Brown's "Forever" at their wedding, are encouraging their fans to donate to a domestic violence prevention agency. On their web site, the couple says, "Due to the circumstances surrounding the song in our wedding video, we have chosen the Sheila Wellstone Institute. Sheila Wellstone was an advocate, organizer and national champion in the effort to end domestic violence in our communities." Watch Jill and Kevin's wedding dance and donate to the Sheila Wellstone Institute at www.jkweddingdance.com/.

UPCOMING TRAINING

September 9, 2009 **10:00am-1:00pm**
Proposal Writing I: Tailoring Your Proposal Writing for Success
Ronice Bruce
This workshop is geared for beginners who wish to understand how to match their proposals to the

guidelines of donor agencies and begin writing grants that will result in procuring funding for their projects. Equally, it is a refresher course for experienced grant writers who wish to augment their skills on the latest approaches now needed for successful grant research and writing. Participants will understand how to navigate the world of grant procurement, focus on the key sections of successful proposals and demonstrate that their projects merit the excellence and innovation that bring them to the top of other submissions. They will also understand the diversity of the funding community and how to respond to various guidelines. The sessions will cover the overall strategic plan of grant-writing, including, but not limited to, a needs statement, mission, goals, objectives, activities, evaluation, key personnel and budgets. All sessions engage the attendees in interactive exercises, writing, lectures and discussions so that all participants will leave the class understanding how to research, write and develop their specific project.

3 DVS Credits: Community Resources & Networking
\$10 program staff; \$35 non-program staff

September 17, 2009 **10:00am-12:00noon**
Statistics Are Fun **Eleni Patsaros & Barbara Price**
Why do we keep all those statistics and what do they mean? Learn how the state and federal government use the statistics you collect and send to the Coalition each month, and why they are so important. Get clarification of the definitions for each cell in the program and gain a better understanding of Excel. Ask questions and get answers to technical problems and what the statistics mean for your program. Workshop is for staff who submit statistics and new staff who want to learn.
Free

September 23, 2009 **10:00am-1:00pm**
DVS 100 **Sally Scheidemantel**
This workshop is a hands-on tutorial with the DVS Coordinator to introduce you to the Domestic Violence Specialist Initial Application process. There is no perquisite to register for the workshop. Bring your applications, certificates, and questions. The workshop is limited to 15 participants.
3 DVS Credits: Community Resources
There is no charge for this training

~~September 16, 2009~~ - **RESCHEDULED TO**
SEPTEMBER 24, 2009 **10:00am-1:00pm**
The Co-occurrence of Child Abuse and Domestic Violence
Leslie Malkin
Between 30% & 70% of the men who batter their wives also physically and/or sexually abuse their children. More than 3.3 million children each year witness violence against their mothers. Many fathers inadvertently injure children while hitting their mothers, or when throwing household objects while abusing their

female partners. Children who suffer direct abuse or who witness the abuse of their mothers may show physical, emotional, and behavioral effects. Some research says witnessing abuse of a parent is the strongest clinical predictor of battering behavior in adults.

This three hour training will explore the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child abuse. We will define the term "witnessing domestic violence," discuss its behavioral, physical, and emotional effects on children, and the signs that indicate children may need additional or therapeutic services.

3 DVS Credits: Intervention

\$10 program staff; \$35 non-program staff

September 28, 2009

10:00am-12:00noon

Statistics Are Fun Eleni Patsaros & Barbara Price

Why do we keep all those statistics and what do they mean? Learn how the state and federal government use the statistics you collect and send to the Coalition each month, and why they are so important. Get clarification of the definitions for each cell in the program and gain a better understanding of Excel. Ask questions and get answers to technical problems and what the statistics mean for your program. Workshop is for staff who submit statistics and new staff who want to learn.

Free

October 7, 2009

10:00am-1:00pm

Proposal Writing II: Advanced Grant Development Workshop

Ronice Bruce

This 3 hour workshop is for the experienced grant writer who wishes to refresh his/her knowledge of how to capture the interests of federal, foundation, corporate and individual donors; develop working relationships with grantmakers; and submit winning proposals. Workshop sessions will focus on the new trends in grant making and the behind the scenes decisions that determine funding. Each session is specifically tailored for the professional who wishes to augment funding for his/her organization; the education, public sector and nonprofit administrator who writes proposals and who wishes to understand how to motivate and assist staff to develop successful grants; and the researcher who is interested in receiving funding for his/her research.

3 DVS Credits: Community Resources & Networking

\$10 program staff; \$35 nonprogram staff

October 14, 2009

10:00am-1:00pm

Emotional Freedom Techniques (EFT)

Carol Bemmels, MA

Emotional Freedom Techniques is the fastest growing of the many new systems of energy psychology that are revolutionizing how therapy is done. Often just called "tapping", it is acupuncture without the needles, a simple, gentle and fast acting tool to relieve the body of physical and emotional pain. From minor daily

irritations to PTSD, EFT often works when nothing else has. It's so easy and safe, even children can use it. Gary Craig, the founder of EFT, has a motto "Try it on everything!" And that approach has made for some surprising results with "incurable diseases" and long term intractable problems

Participants will come away from the 3 hour training session with enough personal experience and success to use it on themselves and share with others. Resources for further research will be provided.

3 DVS Credits: Mental Health

\$10 program staff; \$35 nonprogram staff

October 21, 2009

10:00am-1:00pm

Teen Dating Violence: 101

Leslie

Malkin

Teen dating violence is virtually an epidemic. One in five teens in a serious relationship report having been hit, slapped, or pushed by a partner. Forty percent of girls ages 14 to 17 reports knowing someone their age that has been beaten or hit by a boyfriend. Thirty percent of murdered teenage girls are killed by current or former partners. This course will examine the basics of teen dating violence. Participants will gain an understanding of the warning signs and ways to advocate for a teen victim. We will discuss the tensions between mandatory reporting requirements and confidentiality. Technology abuse including computers and cell phones will also be explored. Participants will receive a manual and other material they can use when working with teen victims, their families and communities.

3 DVS Credits: Special Populations

\$10 program staff; \$35 nonprogramstaff

October 28, 2009

10:00am-12:00pm

Deaf Sensitivity and TTY Training

Jason Weiland and Tracy Burton

This two hour workshop presented by Field Representatives from the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH) will explore the history of deaf advocacy in USA and highlight some of the barriers obstructing abused women from receiving domestic violence services. The use of video will position the participant in the unique perspective of the victim and walk them through the first moments in the shelter. The workshop will offer some insight on how to better serve abused women who are deaf. Explore issues related to safety planning, interpreting and support from the deaf community. Participants will receive hands on instruction of how to use the TTY and after demonstration be able to identify the sound of TTY call and respond to it using standard TTY code language.

2 DVS Credits: Special Populations

There is no charge for this training

SEPTEMBER 2009 MEETING SCHEDULE

Coalition Membership Meeting

Thursday, September 10, 2009, 10:30am-1:00pm

NJCBW Board of Trustees

Thursday, September 10, 2009 1:00-3:00pm

Women of Diversity Task Force Meeting

Friday, September 11, 2009 10:00am-3:00pm

DVRT (Domestic Violence Response Team)

Monday, September 22, 2009 10:00am-3:00pm

Legal Advocates Meeting

Friday, September 25, 2009 10:30am-3:00pm

OCTOBER 2009 MEETING SCHEDULE

Women of Diversity Task Force Meeting

Friday, October 2, 2009 10:00am-3:00pm

NJ Child Advocates Network (NJCAN)

Friday, October 9, 2009 10:30 am-3:30pm

Legal Advocates Meeting

Friday, October 16, 2009 10:30am-3:00pm

Call the Meeting Cancellation Line to check for training and meeting cancellations 609-584-8107, ext. 23

Special Event

Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., Essex County Executive
and the Board of Chosen Freeholders

In conjunction with

Rachel Coalition

Partners for Women and Justice

&

The New Jersey State Bar Foundation

invite you to a reception presenting

the publication of the SPANISH EDITION:

Surviving Domestic Violence: Your Legal Rights*

A handbook written to assist victims of domestic violence to navigate the legal system and learn of the many community resources available to them.

Monday, September 21, 2009

12 Noon

Essex County Hall of Records, First Floor

Lobby

465 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard

Newark, New Jersey

Parking in the Juror lot

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For additional information, please call Arleen Munez at Rachel Coalition, (973) 765-9050, Ext. 252 or by e-mail: amunez@jfsmetrowest.org